

# Trailblazer news

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good for the land . . . good for the people



Trailblazer RC&D



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**Garden Soil**  
**Urban Ag**  
**Wild Turkeys**  
**Louisiana Birds**  
**Soil Science**  
**Wildlife Habitat**  
**Conservation**

Dear Friends,

**Spring is a time of renewal.** It is a time for hands in the soil and outdoor quality time. Whether you are growing a crop for your family's use or growing it to sell at the local farmers' market, the spring gardening workshop on **March 21** at Minden's Farm and Garden is just the ticket to ensure your soil is ready for your crops. If your thoughts of spring take you to incoming migrating birds along the Mississippi Flyway, then don't miss our workshops on **March 13 and 14** with David Moreland. David will discuss the birds of Louisiana and how to develop and improve habitat for incoming species. Our first workshop in March keys in on one bird of interest to wildlife enthusiasts and hunters alike: the wild turkey. Join us on **March 7** to learn how to develop or improve a wild turkey habitat on your land. Check out Page 2 for locations, dates, and registration information for our March workshops. Hope to see you soon!

P. Ellzey Simmons  
 Chief Executive Officer, Trailblazer RC&D

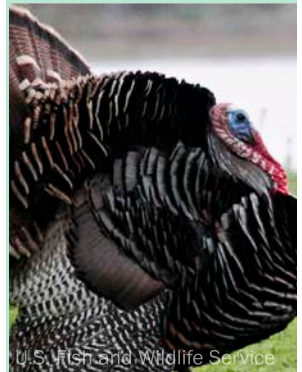
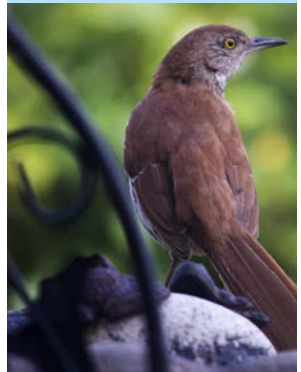



**Trailblazer  
 Workshops**  
**Timely  
 Topics**

| Upcoming Events                                      | March 7 - 6 p.m.   | March 13 - 6 p.m.  | March 14 - 6 p.m.  | March 21 - 6 p.m.  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>TO REGISTER</b><br>Call or text<br>(318) 237-8350 | <b>Wild Turkey Habitat Management</b><br>Lincoln Parish Library<br>910 North Trenton<br>Ruston, LA | <b>Birds in Louisiana</b><br>Claiborne Parish Library<br>909 Edgewood Drive<br>Homer, LA | <b>Birds in Louisiana</b><br>Bossier Parish Sheriff's Complex<br>2510 Viking Drive<br>Bossier City, LA | <b>Spring Gardening: Your Soil/Your Garden</b><br>Minden Farm & Garden<br>1307 Sibley Road<br>Minden, LA |

# Events

## MARCH WORKSHOPS

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>March 7, 2023</b><br/> <b>Wild Turkey Habitat Management</b><br/>                 With Larry Savage, Retired LDWF Biologist</p>   | <p><b>March 13, 2023</b><br/> <b>Birds in Louisiana's Woodlands, Fields, and Wetlands</b><br/>                 With David Moreland</p>   | <p><b>March 14, 2023</b><br/> <b>Birds in Louisiana's Woodlands, Fields, and Wetlands</b><br/>                 With David Moreland</p>  | <p><b>March 21, 2023</b><br/> <b>Spring Gardening Your Soil and Your Garden</b><br/>                 With Mark Wilson</p>   |
| <p>Lincoln Parish Library<br/>                 910 North Trenton Street<br/>                 Ruston, LA</p> <p>Workshop:<br/>                 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.<br/>                 Pizza at 5:15 p.m.</p> | <p>Claiborne Parish Library<br/>                 909 Edgewood Drive<br/>                 Homer, LA</p> <p>Workshop:<br/>                 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.<br/>                 Pizza at 5:15 p.m.</p> | <p>Bossier Parish Sheriff's Complex<br/>                 2510 Viking Drive<br/>                 Bossier City, LA</p> <p>Workshop:<br/>                 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.<br/>                 Pizza at 5:15 p.m.</p>                                | <p>Minden Farm and Garden<br/>                 1307 Sibley Road<br/>                 Minden, LA</p> <p>Workshop:<br/>                 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.<br/>                 Pizza at 5:15 p.m.</p> |
|  <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>   |   | <p><b>March Workshop Sponsors/Partners</b></p> <p>Drax<br/>                 Burnham Construction<br/>                 Mudd &amp; Holland<br/>                 Consulting Foresters<br/>                 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</p> |    |

**TO REGISTER FOR THESE WORKSHOPS:**  
 Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information and name of workshop.

Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing reasonable accommodations or who have questions about physical access may contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350 or ceo@trailblazer.org prior to the meeting or event.

**February 2023**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Soil Health and Your Garden</b><br>February 7, 2023<br>Ruston, LA | <b>Spring Gardening: Your Soil and Your Garden</b><br>February 14, 2023<br>Bossier City, LA |
| <b>Workshop Update</b>   |   |
| <b>WORKSHOPS</b><br>3  | <b>ATTENDEES</b><br>90  |
| <b>RATINGS</b><br>74%<br>OUTSTANDING                                 | <b>SPONSORS</b><br>5  |

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?**

“

- The focus on biologic solutions.
- The speaker was extremely knowledgeable.
- Planting schedule guidelines.
- Varieties of crops to plant in our area.
- Speaker was excellent.

Statistics represent a total or average for the two February workshops.

# Conservation Conversation



**To learn more about the soil on your land, check out the USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey.**

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world.

**For the Web Soil Survey, go to:**  
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Each year, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Soil and Plant Science Division releases a highly educational, calendar-style soil planner that is available free of charge to the public. The theme of the 2023 soil planner is “Twelve Tough Digs.”

Each month of the 2023 planner features descriptions and photographs of challenging locations that soil scientists have investigated. The twelve months/locations featured in the 2023 planner show the extreme conditions that soil scientists endure to collect data. The soil data they collected helps us understand the chemical, physical, biological, and mineral characteristics of the soil.

The soil planner is a great source of information about soil and soil science. If you are interested in learning more about “Twelve Tough Digs,” or soil science, go online and download the planner at:  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/2023-Soils-Planner.pdf>

If you are interested in accessing previous years’ soil planners, they are available online at:  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/education-and-teaching-materials/soils-planners>

To learn more about soils and soil health, visit the NRCS soil website at:  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soil>

**The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** provides America’s farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground. If you are interested in learning more about NRCS opportunities, contact your local field office or go to [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

**NRCS Local Contacts:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Bienville Parish:<br>(318) 377-3950, ext. 3           | Jackson/Lincoln Parishes:<br>(318) 255-3136, ext. 3 |
| Bossier Parish:<br>(318) 872-4949                     | Union Parish:<br>(318) 368-8021                     |
| Claiborne/Webster Parishes:<br>(318) 377-3950, ext. 3 | Winn Parish:<br>(318) 357-8366, ext. 3              |

**Unsure who to call? Contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350, and we will put you in touch with the right people.**



# News

## NRCS in Louisiana Opens Application Period Under Inflation Reduction Act Funding

In February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) in Louisiana announced that it is opening an application period for NRCS conservation programs resulting from funding provided to the agency under the Inflation Reduction Act.

**Interested Louisiana farm and non-industrial private forest landowners must apply by March 17, 2023, for the agency's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), offered under this funding allocation.**

The focus of this signup under the Inflation Reduction Act for EQIP and CSP is for voluntary conservation practices that help landowners implement climate-smart agricultural practices, such as cover cropping, conservation tillage, wetland restoration,

prescribed grazing, nutrient management, tree planting and more.

### How to Apply:

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but producers interested in EQIP or CSP should apply by March 17, 2023, to be considered for funding in the current cycle.

Funding is provided through a competitive process and will include an opportunity to address the unmet demand from producers who have previously sought funding for climate-smart conservation activities.

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Center online, visit "Find Your Local Service Center" on [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## USDA Seeking Applications to Expand Conservation Assistance to Underserved Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking applications for projects that will improve outreach to underserved producers and underserved communities about conservation programs and services and opportunities for students to pursue careers in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering up to \$70 million in cooperative agreements with entities for two-year projects that encourage participation in NRCS programs, especially in underserved communities and among urban and small-scale producers.

Eligible entities include:

- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal governments (State recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofit private institutions of higher education
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Conservation districts

**Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 27, 2023. See the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) announcement for details and application instructions.**

For more information on this funding and access to pre-recorded and upcoming interactive webinars, go to: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/partner-with-us/outreach-and-partnerships/equity-in-conservation-cooperative-agreements-2023>



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Did You Know ... ?

## 2024 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) recently announced the rules and timeframe for the 2024 Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp competition. **2024 Louisiana Duck Stamp design entries will be accepted from October 16 through October 24, 2023.** The contest will be held in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room at the LDWF Headquarters building, beginning at 10 a.m. on October 25, 2023. The public is invited to attend.

The featured species for the 2024 Louisiana Duck Stamp is the ruddy duck. 2024 Louisiana Duck Stamp designs are required to feature the ruddy duck and its associated Louisiana wetland habitat.

LDWF outlines specific design requirements, criteria, and competition rules online at:

### Artist's Agreement

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Hunting/Waterfowl/Files/2024-Duck-Stamp-Artist-Agreement.pdf>

### Rules

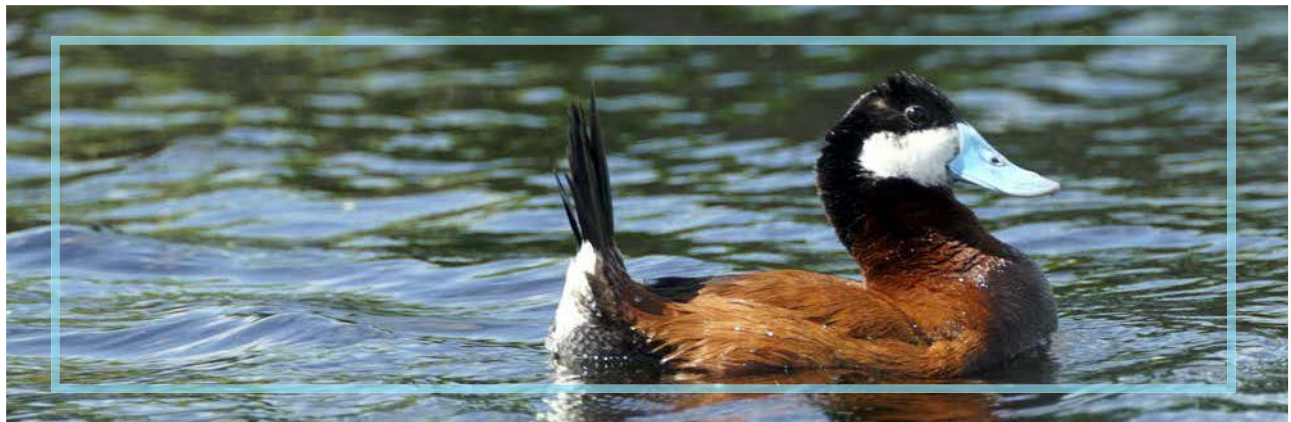
<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Hunting/Waterfowl/Files/2024-Duck-Stamp-Contest-Rules.pdf>

Created in 1988, the Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Program funds the creation, restoration, and enhancement of wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife in Louisiana. Through sales of licenses and collector stamps as well as contest entry fees, the program generates about \$350,000 annually for projects including land acquisition, wetland development and management on wildlife management areas, and wetland enhancement on private lands via the Louisiana Waterfowl Project, a cooperative endeavor among LDWF, Ducks Unlimited, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### For More Information

If you are interested in learning more about this contest, visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries online at:

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/louisiana-department-of-wildlife-and-fisheries-announces-2024-louisiana-duck-stamp-contest>



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



## Are you interested in becoming a Trailblazer sponsor?

Visit our website to learn more about Trailblazer RC&D:  
[www.trailblazer.org](http://www.trailblazer.org)

Contact us to become a sponsor:  
(318) 237-8350  
[ceo@trailblazer.org](mailto:ceo@trailblazer.org)

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

## Burnham Construction

Operating since 1979, Burnham Construction is a heavy equipment construction company in Dubach, Louisiana. They clear rights of way; build roads for timber companies; clear land; build oil field pads, ponds, and house pads; and haul dirt, rocks, etc. Owner/operator Buddy Burnham is committed to implementing Best Management Practices to minimize water pollution from forestry operations and promoting Best Management Practices by sponsoring Trailblazer RC&D conservation education activities.

**We appreciate Burnham Construction's support of Trailblazer and our communities!**



302 REYNOLDS DRIVE  
RUSTON, LOUISIANA 71270  
(318) 255-3554  
[ceo@trailblazer.org](mailto:ceo@trailblazer.org)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16  
New International Version



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. You should call a few business days before you begin any digging, including common projects like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes.

Check us out on YouTube!

