

Trailblazer news

Volume 13 · Issue 4 · April 2023

good for the land . . . good for the people



Dear Friends,

March was an exciting month for Trailblazer RC&D. Six workshops! Great presenters! Great audiences! Thank you for your support!

If you enjoyed attending a workshop in March, check out our calendar below for April. I think you will find something that appeals to you. If you never attended one of our workshops, give us a try in April. We are featuring gardening, forestry, honey bees, pond construction, and selling timber. We have a great lineup of exceptional speakers and outstanding, timely topics. I hope to see you soon!

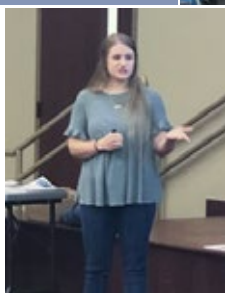
P. Ellzey Simmons, Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D

March workshops featured wild turkeys, Louisiana's birds, gardening, and NRCS program assistance. Don't miss the great workshops that are coming in April!



Many thanks go to Larry Savage, David Moreland, Mark Wilson, and Madelyn Cheatwood for their great presentations and support!

Photos from top:
Row 1: Wild Turkey Workshop, Ruston, LA
Row 2: Louisiana Birds Workshop in Homer, LA
Row 3: Your Soil/Your Garden Workshop, Minden, LA
Row 4: NRCS Programs Workshop in Ruston, LA
Photos by Trailblazer RC&D



Upcoming Events

April 4 - 6 p.m.
Your Soil and Your Garden
Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton
Ruston, LA

April 11 - 6 p.m.
Understory Management for Deer
Bossier Parish Library
2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, LA

April 20 - 10:30 a.m.
Honey Bees and Other Pollinators
Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton
Ruston, LA

April 21 - 8:30 a.m.
Pond Construction and Management
Red Oak Lake
1495 Potter Road
Haughton, LA

April 25 - 6:00 p.m.
Selling Your Timber
Webster Parish Library
521 East and West
Street
Minden, LA

TO REGISTER: Call or text (318) 237-8350

Events

April Workshop Sponsors/Partners

Drax
 Burnham Construction
 Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

APRIL WORKSHOPS

Register Today!

April 4, 2023	April 11, 2023	April 20, 2023	April 21, 2023	April 25, 2023
Your Soil and Your Garden With Mark Wilson	Understory Management for Deer With Terry Johnston	Honey Bees and Other Pollinators With Amy Weeks	Pond Construction/Management With Jeff Sibley and Jacob Paul	Selling Your Timber With Tim Holland
Lincoln Parish Library 910 North Trenton Street Ruston, LA	Bossier Parish Library 2206 Beckett Street Bossier City, LA	Lincoln Parish Library 910 North Trenton Street Ruston, LA	Red Oak Lake 1495 Potter Road Haughton, LA	Webster Parish Library 521 East and West Street Minden, LA
Workshop: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pizza at 5:15 p.m.	Workshop: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pizza at 5:15 p.m.	Workshop: 10:30 a.m. - Noon Lunch Provided	Field Day: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch Provided	Workshop: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pizza at 5:15 p.m.
				

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.

March 2023 Workshop Update

WORKSHOPS
6

ATTENDEES
191

RATINGS
68%
OUTSTANDING

SPONSORS
5

Wild Turkey Habitat
March 7, 2023 - Ruston
March 27, 2023 - Bossier City

Birds in Louisiana
March 13, 2023 - Homer
March 14, 2023 - Bossier City

Your Soil/ Your Garden
March 21, 2023 - Minden

NRCS Programs
March 22, 2023 - Ruston



WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?

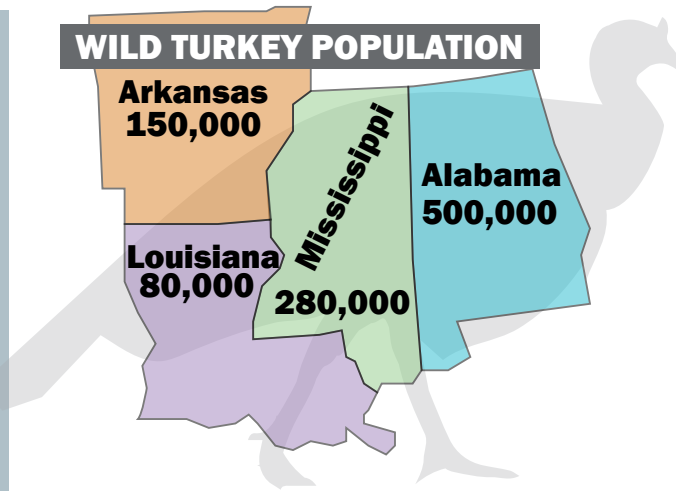


Discussion of space diversity. Mr. Savage's presentation--style and content were excellent.
 Seeing and touching examples. David Moreland was great! Everything was most informative.
 A lot of detail. Mark Wilson. Speaker was very lively. Madelyn's presentation of overall programs.
 Everything.

Statistics represent a total or average for the six March 2023 workshops.

Conservation Conversation

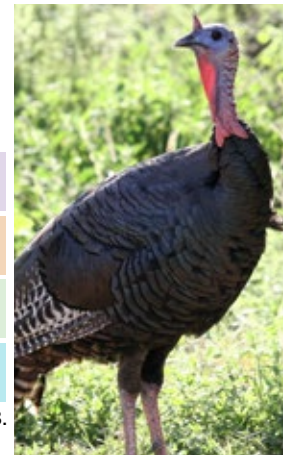
WILD TURKEY POPULATION



Louisiana’s Wild Turkey Success Story

After World War II, Louisiana’s wild turkey population was at its lowest point: 14 flocks with less than 1,500 wild turkeys in the entire state. Since 1962, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has worked with many partners to restock Louisiana’s turkey population. Today, wild turkeys are found across Louisiana in populations healthy enough for thousands of hunters to harvest turkeys during hunting season while maintaining a robust and thriving population.

To learn more about Louisiana’s wild turkey research and management, visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries webpage at: [https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/turkey-research-and-management#:~:text=The%20eastern%20wild%20turkey%20\(Meleagris,high%20as%20one%20million%20birds](https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/turkey-research-and-management#:~:text=The%20eastern%20wild%20turkey%20(Meleagris,high%20as%20one%20million%20birds or contact Cody Cedotal at ccedotal@wlf.la.gov) or contact Cody Cedotal at ccedotal@wlf.la.gov.



Why does Mississippi have more turkeys than Louisiana?

Comparing landscape ecology and wild turkey populations across the South is like comparing apples to oranges. The answer is in the chart below. Available habitat is the key.

State	Forest Acres	Human Population	Turkey Population	Turkey Harvest
Louisiana	14 million	103/square mile	80,000	9,000
Arkansas	20 million	51/square mile	150,000	15,000
Mississippi	19 million	61/square mile	280,000	30,000
Alabama	25 million	88/square mile	500,000	60,000

Statistics provided by Biologist Larry Savage during Land Management for Wild Turkeys Workshops in March 2023. Larry is a retired Biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

For more information on how you can improve your land for wildlife, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, or go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

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.

NRCS Local Contacts:

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

USDA Invites Public to Attend Urban Ag Virtual Meeting on April 18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages urban producers, innovative producers and other stakeholders to submit comments for and virtually attend the fifth public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Committee) on April 18, 2023.

Topics for the upcoming meeting will include:

- A new public/online database for grant and funding programs
- Farm Service Agency loan programs
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Food loss and waste; and
- Food labeling.

The virtual meeting runs from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern on April 18, 2023. To attend virtually, register by April 18 at: <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>

For special accommodations, contact Markus Holliday at UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov.

Additional details are available in the Federal Register notice at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/29/2023-06536/urban-agriculture-and-innovative-production-advisory-committee-meeting>

VIRTUAL
register to attend
MEETING



LDWF: Best Practice When Encountering Injured or Orphaned Wildlife is to Leave It Alone

With spring on the doorstep, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) would like to remind the public that the best thing to do when encountering injured or orphaned wildlife is to leave it alone and undisturbed.

It is not uncommon to find young wildlife alone while the parents are hunting/foraging or during a den relocation. Wildlife parents will return to the den site twice a day or more calling and waiting for a response from their young to then provide the necessary care of the young and/or move the young, one by one, to the new den site. The young will often be observed alone during the relocation and dispersal phases. Predators are less likely to find the young if the parents move the den location and doing so reduces the chances of entire den failure.

Individuals who encounter what appears to be orphaned wildlife should leave them alone and immediately leave the area, allowing the parents to return and continue to care for their offspring.

Individuals who encounter deer fawns should leave the area immediately. Do not touch or

interact with the fawn. Fawns are virtually scentless and use this advantage to avoid predation. Does often leave their fawns alone for hours to forage and to reduce attracting predators to the fawn.

You are most likely to see fawns in Louisiana from March-September. If you have encountered a fawn or deer which you believe to be orphaned or injured, note the location of the animal and leave the area immediately. Notify an LDWF biologist at the nearest LDWF Regional Office at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/contact-us> or call the 24-hour LDWF Enforcement Dispatch at 1-800-442-2511. Remember: IF YOU CARE, LEAVE IT THERE!

Individuals who believe they have encountered other orphaned or injured wildlife species, should likewise leave the animal alone and contact an LDWF biologist at the nearest LDWF Regional Office <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/regional-offices> or an LDWF licensed wildlife rehabilitator. A list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators can be found on LDWF's website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/injured-orphaned-wildlife>

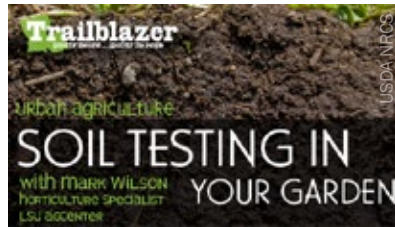
Individuals interested in the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program should contact Melissa Collins at mcollins@wlf.la.gov or 985-543-4777.

Did You Know ... ?

URBAN AGRICULTURE New Gardening Series

Trailblazer RC&D offers a wealth of gardening information to backyard gardeners as well as urban farmers in our new urban agriculture series with Mark Wilson. Visit our YouTube page to check them out.

<https://www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097>



Other great video series on Trailblazer's YouTube channel include:

- Wildlife Food Plots
- Backyard Birding
- Honey Bees
- Pond Maintenance
- Forestry
- Soil Health
- Estate Planning

Scan me to go to Trailblazer's YouTube



Opportunities

Check out these great opportunities from USDA.

\$1 Billion to Help Farmers, Ranchers and Rural Businesses Invest in Renewable Energy Systems and Energy-Efficiency Improvements

For more information, go to:
<https://www.usda.gov/media/pres-releases/2023/03/31/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-1-billion-help>

USDA Seeks Nominees to Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers

For more information, go to:
<https://www.usda.gov/media/pres-releases/2023/03/28/usda-seeks-nominees-advisory-committee-minority-farmers>

USDA Announces Cooperative Agreements for Compost and Food Waste Reduction

For more information, go to:
<https://www.usda.gov/media/pres-releases/2023/03/16/usda-announces-cooperative-agreements-compost-and-food-waste>

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, audiotope, 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. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



Natural Resources Conservation Service



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Established in 1959, Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters is one of the oldest consulting forestry firms in the ArkLaTex.



MUDD & HOLLAND
CONSULTING FORESTERS, LLC
Tim Holland (318) 286-2802

Mudd & Holland implements Best Management Practices to minimize water pollution from forestry operations and promotes Best Management Practices by sponsoring Trailblazer RC&D conservation education activities.

We appreciate Mudd & Holland's support of Trailblazer and our communities!

Would you like to receive a printed copy of this newsletter in your mailbox each month?

A donation of \$100 will ensure you receive a printed copy of the latest Trailblazer news mailed to you each month. Your donation will help us continue our conservation mission and may be tax deductible.

**Send your donation and address to:
Trailblazer RC&D
302 Reynolds Drive
Ruston, Louisiana 71270**



Follow us on Facebook TrailblazerRCD

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

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Psalm 147:3
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!

