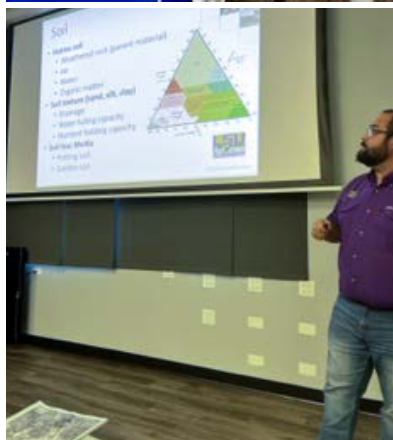


# Trailblazer news

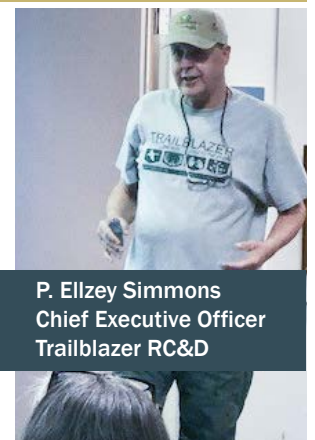
Volume 13 • Issue 6 • June 2023

good for the land . . . good for the people



Dear Friends,  
It's summertime! School is out, BBQ is on the grill, days are hot, and everyone is looking for something new to do. Are you interested in gardening? Have you thought about selling the timber on your land? Have you ever heard of brown cotton? Do you have questions about the trees on your land? We have just the thing for you—a Trailblazer workshop! Check out June's lineup of workshops, call or text us to pre-register, and join us to learn all about these subjects and more!

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



P. Ellzey Simmons  
Chief Executive Officer  
Trailblazer RC&D

Photos from May workshops, left to right top row: Top Ten Tree Tips, Ruston, May 2; Tree Troubles, Bossier City, May 9; Deer Management, Ruston, May 18; second row: Your Soil/Your Garden, Minden, May 23. All photos taken by Trailblazer RC&D.

**Many workshops featured forest health, tree diseases and pests, wildlife habitat for deer, soil health in your garden, and NRCS program assistance.**

Many thanks go to Ricky Kilpatrick, Daniel Colvin, and Mark Wilson for their great presentations and support!

## Upcoming Events

**June 6 - 6 p.m.**  
**Sarepta Brown Cotton**  
Lincoln Parish Library  
910 North Trenton  
Ruston, LA

**June 13 - 6 p.m.**  
**Community Gardens**  
Bossier Parish  
Libraries History Center  
2206 Beckett Street  
Bossier City, LA

**June 15 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Forestry Issues**  
Lincoln Parish Library  
910 North Trenton  
Ruston, LA

**June 19 - 6 p.m.**  
**Selling Your Timber**  
Claiborne Parish  
Library  
909 Edgewood Drive  
Homer, LA

**June 26/27 - 6 p.m.**  
**Vermin:**  
**What can you do?**  
June 26: Bossier City, LA  
June 27: Minden, LA  
See page 2 for locations.

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call or text (318) 237-8350**

# Events

**June Workshop Sponsors/Partners**  
 Drax  
 Canfor Southern Pine  
 Burnham Construction  
 Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## JUNE WORKSHOPS

*Register Today!*

June 6, 2023	June 13, 2023	June 15, 2023	June 19, 2023	June 26 & 27 2023
<b>Sarepta Brown Cotton</b> From Bolls to Blankets With Carol and Tony Mullins	<b>Community Gardens</b> With Dr. Grace Peterson	<b>Forestry Issues</b> Identifying and Addressing With Dr. Rick Williams	<b>Selling Your Timber</b> With Tim Holland	<b>What Can You Do? With David Moreland</b>
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	Claiborne Parish Library 909 Edgewood Drive Homer, LA	<b>June 26</b> Bossier Parish Sheriff's Complex Bossier City, LA <b>June 27</b> Webster Parish Library 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	Workshop: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Refreshments Provided	Workshop: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Refreshments Provided
 <small>Sarepta Brown Cotton</small>	 <small>Christophe Paul, USDA</small>	 <small>David Dickens, Univ. of Georgia, bugwood.org</small>	 <small>Forest Operations Research USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</small>	

### 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.

**MAY 2023  
Workshop  
Update**

**WORKSHOPS**  
4

**ATTENDEES**  
87

**RATINGS**  
52%  
OUTSTANDING

**SPONSORS**  
4

**Top Ten Tree Tips**  
May 2, 2023 - Ruston

**Deer Management**  
May 18, 2023 - Ruston

**Tree Troubles:  
Yard/Forest**  
May 9, 2023 - Bossier City

**Your Soil/Your  
Garden**  
May 23, 2023 - Minden

### WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?



- Planning stages.
- Information concerning diseases.
- Habitat management.
- Pollination and planting at different times.
- Good basic forestry information.
- Crepe myrtle diseases.
- Age comparison.
- Garden soil.
- Advantages of hiring a forestry consultant.
- Learning about . . . freeze damage.
- Practice/harvest stories.
- The amount of information.

Statistics represent a total or average for the four May 2023 workshops.

# Conservation Conversation



Trailblazer's June Calendar Includes  
 Two Forestry Workshops!  
 June 15 - Forestry Issues, Ruston  
 June 19 - Selling Your Timber, Homer

## FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: PRESCRIBED BURNING

Elizabeth Moss, West Virginia State University, Bugwood.org

**Prescribed burning** is a forestry management tool used to remove low-growing vegetation from the forest floor. By removing the low-growing vegetation, wildfire risk is reduced, wildlife habitat is improved, weeds are controlled, and the health of the forest stand is improved.

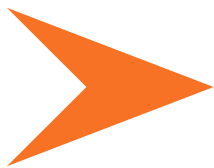
Prescribed fire controls undesirable vegetation; prepares sites for planting or seeding; controls plant disease and insects; removes slash and debris;

enhances seed and seeding production; facilitates distribution of grazing animals; and restores native plant communities.

There are many things to consider when using fire as a forest management tool, including fuel, burning techniques, proper tools, weather, smoke, liability, fire behavior, local fire regulations, and more. When using fire as a forestry management tool, it is important to work with a certified prescribed burner.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help you assess your forestland, develop a conservation plan, and plan for a prescribed burn. There is no charge for their assistance. To learn more about NRCS technical and financial assistance, visit your local NRCS office. To find a location near you, go to <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>.

**Go to page 5 for information on a great video on prescribed burning.**



### Louisiana Certified Prescribed Burner Program

In 1993 the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 589 authorizing the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to implement and administer the Louisiana Certified Prescribed Burner program. Certified Prescribed Burner Training is offered by the LSU AgCenter. To learn more about the training, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office.

**For more information on how you can improve your forest land, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, or go to [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://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](http://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 Streamlines Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is streamlining its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Specifically, NRCS is updating its processes around appraisals, land surveys, as well as certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land into easements. These changes are for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) as well as Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). NRCS is streamlining ACEP appraisals, land surveys, as well as certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land into easements.

ACEP is administered by NRCS and aids landowners and eligible entities with conserving, restoring, and protecting wetlands, productive agricultural lands, and grasslands at risk to conversion to non-grassland uses.

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs – including ACEP – year-round. Producers interested in easements should contact their local NRCS office. To find your local office, go to: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>.



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Two Louisiana WREP Projects Approved

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$17 million in five Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) projects, bringing together partners and landowners in a joint effort to return critical wetland functions to agricultural landscapes. **Two of the five projects include Louisiana wetlands.**

### Louisiana's 2023 WREP projects:

**The Nature Conservancy - Tri-State Conservation Partnership** (enrollment goal – 1,500 acres): This project focuses on enrolling underserved landowners and restoring forested wetlands within priority portions of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

**Mississippi River Trust - Lower Batture** (enrollment goal – 2,000 acres): This project aims to achieve more sustainable land and water management in the river's active floodplain, or Batture, and nearby flood-prone lands in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

To learn more about ACEP or WREP, contact your local NRCS office. To find your local office, go to: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## LDWF Announces: Applications Open for Alligator Lottery Harvests

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) will conduct alligator lottery harvests on 21 LDWF Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), 28 public lakes and one U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) property Aug. 30-Nov. 4, 2023. Applications are now available and are due by June 30.

Alligator lottery applications are only available on the LDWF website at <https://louisianaoutdoors.com/lottery-applications>. To apply click on the Lottery Applications tab, update or create customer details similar to purchasing a license and then submit an application. There is a \$5 application fee and a \$5 transaction fee.

Only one alligator lottery application may be submitted per customer. Applicants must be legal Louisiana residents and 16 years of age or older. If selected, you will be required to purchase an alligator hunter license (\$25) and to submit payment of \$40 for each alligator tag allocated. Do not purchase the alligator sport hunter license available online as this license type is not applicable to these lottery hunts.

For more information concerning lottery alligator harvests on LDWF WMAs or public lakes, contact the appropriate LDWF Field Office or email [LAalligatorprogram@wlf.la.gov](mailto:LAalligatorprogram@wlf.la.gov).

# Did You Know . . . ?

## Resources for Farmers and Gardeners

**The National Agricultural Library (NAL)** is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences.

NAL's online resources include curated resources and information on gardening, growing specialty crops, seeds, and plant breeding . . . **and it is all at your fingertips!**

[www.nal.usda.gov](http://www.nal.usda.gov)



## NAL Plant Production and Gardening Resources



### Vegetable gardening

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/plant-production-gardening/vegetable-gardening>

### Raised beds and container gardening

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/plant-production-gardening/raised-beds-containers>

### Seeds and plants

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/plant-production-gardening/seeds-and-plants>

### Raising specialty crops

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/legacy/afsic/specialty-crops>

## LEARN MORE ABOUT PRESCRIBED BURNING Check out this video!

Dr. Rick Williams, State Forester with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Louisiana discusses the benefits of prescribed burning and how the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service can help forest landowners with this conservation practice on their land.

To see more great videos, visit Trailblazer's YouTube page at:

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

For video, go to this link:

[https://youtu.be/IFGZ8FXy\\_w8](https://youtu.be/IFGZ8FXy_w8)



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# Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



Natural Resources Conservation Service



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

## PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

Special thanks go to our outstanding 2023 presenters:

- Rachel Stout-Evans
- Mark Wilson
- Larry Savage
- David Moreland
- Terry Johnston
- Amy Weeks
- Jacob Paul
- Jeff Sibley
- Tim Holland
- Ricky Kilpatrick
- Daniel Colvin
- Carol and Tony Mullins
- Dr. Grace Peterson
- Dr. Rick Williams
- and more to come!

Outstanding Presentations! Great Information!

Thank you for your support of Trailblazer RC&D workshops!



Follow us on Facebook TrailblazerRCD

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(318) 255-3554  
ceo@trailblazer.org

“Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:12  
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!



Scan me to go to Trailblazer's YouTube

