

Trailblazer news

Volume 13 • Issue 5 • May 2023

good for the land . . . good for the people



"I enjoyed it all!"

April Workshop Participant

April workshops featured gardening, wildlife habitat, forest management, bees and pollinators, pond construction and management, timber sales, and NRCS program assistance.

Many thanks go to Mark Wilson, Terry Johnston, Amy Weeks, Jacob Paul, Jeff Sibley, and Tim Holland for their great presentations and support!

Photos by Trailblazer RC&D

Photos from top:
Row 1: Your Soil/Your Garden Workshop, Ruston; Selling Timber, Minden; Selling Timber, Minden

Row 2: Honey Bees/Pollinators, Ruston; Pond Construction/Management, Haughton; Selling Timber, Minden

Row 3: Honey Bees/Pollinators, Ruston; Managing Forestland/Open Land for Early Successional Wildlife, Bossier City; Your Soil/Your Garden, Ruston

Don't miss the great workshops that are coming in May!

Dear Friends,
As predicted—April workshops were fantastic! As you can see in the pictures above, everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. May is bringing even more great opportunities to learn.

In May, **Ricky Kilpatrick** is joining us for two workshops: Top Ten Tree Tips and Tree Troubles. **Mark Wilson** is returning to

present Your Soil/Your Garden in Minden. And in a new workshop, Louisiana sportsman and consultant **Daniel Colvin** will share his knowledge of deer management. We promise you the best presenters—and we deliver!

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

Upcoming Events

May 2 - 6 p.m.
Top Ten Tree Tips
Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton
Ruston, LA

May 9 - 6 p.m.
Tree Troubles: Yard and Forest
Bossier Parish Library
2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, LA

May 18 - 10:30 a.m.
Deer Management
Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton
Ruston, LA

May 23 - 6 p.m.
Your Soil and Your Garden
Webster Parish Library
521 East and West
Street
Minden, LA

May 30 - June 1
Digging Deep Soils Teacher Workshop
ULL Cade Farm
St. Thomas More
Catholic High School

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

Events

May Workshop Sponsors/Partners

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

MAY WORKSHOPS

Register Today!

May 2, 2023	May 9, 2023	May 18, 2023	May 23, 2023	May 30-June 1 2023
Top Ten Tree Tips With Ricky Kilpatrick	Tree Troubles: Yard & Forest With Ricky Kilpatrick	Deer Management With Daniel Colvin	Your Soil and Your Garden With Mark Wilson	Digging Deep Soil Professional Development Workshop for Teachers
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	Webster Parish Library 521 East and West Street Minden, LA	ULL - Cade Farm Seedbank Facility St. Martinville, LA St. Thomas More Catholic High School Lafayette, 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	For more information or to register call or text (318) 237-8350.
				

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.

April 2023 Workshop Update

WORKSHOPS
5

ATTENDEES
167

RATINGS
57%
OUTSTANDING

SPONSORS
4

Your Soil/Your Garden
April 4, 2023 - Ruston

Managing Forest/Open Land for Early Successional Wildlife Habitat
April 11, 2023 - Bossier City

Honey Bees and Pollinators
April 20, 2023 - Ruston

Pond Workshop
April 21, 2023 - Haughton

Selling Your Timber
April 25, 2023 - Minden

WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?



Information on plants.

Plant species identification.

Learning bee species.

Learning about the siphon pipe.

Step-by-step instructions and slides.

Burn schedule benefits.

I enjoyed the informative answers to questions.

Good review of timber sale process.

Amount of information presented.

Information on disking.

Fish management information.

Pricing breakdown.

Statistics represent a total or average for the five April 2023 workshops.

Conservation Conversation

Conservation on Private Lands

Do You Have A FOREST?

If you have an acre or more of land with trees on at least 10 percent of it, you have a forest. If you own that forest as an individual, a couple, a family partnership, or some other grouping of unincorporated individuals, you are a family forest owner.

From: USDA Forest Service private landowner assistance information and tools, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/landowner-resources>

Help for Forest Landowners

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns on private forest land; conservation practices such as:

- Forest Management Plan
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Prescribed Burning
- Brush Management
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Access Control
- Riparian Forest Buffer

Join us on May 2 and 9 for two great workshops on trees. If you have trees in your yard you would like to learn about or you have acres of forestland, these workshops are for you. Call or text (318) 237-8350 for more information and to register.

To learn more about these conservation practices and forest management planning, visit your local USDA NRCS field office or go to nrcs.usda.gov. To find your local office, go to: offices.usda.gov



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.

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



Louisiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Receives Agreement Approval

In April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced awards of \$12 million in cooperative agreements for 49 projects that expand access to conservation technical assistance for livestock producers and increase the use of conservation practices on grazing lands. The funding is provided through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI).

Louisiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Inc., received one of these awards for their efforts to develop Louisiana conservation leaders. Their project seeks to build leaders in conservation through in-depth expert trainings. They plan to expand partnerships and digital resources through outreach and videos, strengthen their relationship with NRCS, allow agents to receive credits in their home state, and remove financial barriers for underserved producers to attend national events. For more information on this award and the NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, go to: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/glici-grazing-lands-conservation-initiative>



Wildlife Forum and Field Day

The LSU AgCenter will be hosting a Wildlife Forum and Field Day on Friday, May 12, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the LSU AgCenter, Northeast Research Station, 4589 Highway 605, St. Joseph, Louisiana. Featured topics for this field day will be chronic wasting disease, feral hog management, avian influenza, soil fertility, native habitat management techniques, and roadside plant management. This field day is a free event that will benefit private landowners, wildlife managers, avid outdoorsmen, lease holders, wildlife enthusiasts and natural resource professionals. To register, please call the LSU AgCenter at (318) 649-2663.

Eleven Deer Tested Positive for CWD During 2022-2023 Hunting Season

Eleven deer tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Tensas Parish during the 2022-23 hunting season, bringing Louisiana's total to 12 cases since the discovery of the disease in January of 2022. All 12 positive tests were in Tensas Parish.

A total of 2,370 hunter-harvested deer were tested for CWD in Louisiana during the 2022-23 season. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) discovered the state's first case of CWD in a hunter-harvested deer in Tensas Parish during the 2021-22 hunting season. LDWF established a CWD Control Area around the index case.



CWD is a neurodegenerative disease of white-tailed deer and other members of the family Cervidae. It is caused by a prion, an infectious, misfolded protein particle, and is 100 percent fatal in affected deer after an indeterminate incubation period. There is no treatment or preventative vaccine for CWD.

CWD is transmitted between deer through saliva, urine, feces, and decomposing infected carcasses. CWD-infected deer may exhibit signs of weight loss and emaciation, salivation, frequent drinking and urination, incoordination, circling, and lack of fear of people.

Although CWD has not been shown to be contagious to humans, the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend against human consumption of deer known to be infected with CWD. In addition, it is recommended that people hunting in areas known to harbor CWD-infected deer have their deer tested for the disease prior to consuming the animals.

LDWF will continue to test sick deer and hunter-harvested deer for CWD. LDWF will provide testing of hunter-harvested deer by request, free of charge at this time. To learn more about CWD and complete regulations, go to: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cwd>

For more information, contact Dr. Jim LaCour, LDWF State Wildlife Veterinarian, at jlaour@wlf.la.gov or by phone at 225-765-0823.

Did You Know ... ?

WILDLIFE HABITAT

New Wild Turkey Series

Larry Savage, retired biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, discusses turkey biology, habitat requirements, management objectives, and more in this new Trailblazer video series. Check these videos out at: <https://www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097>



Scan me to go to Trailblazer's YouTube



Managing Trees and Shrubs for Wildlife

Fruits, nuts, and seeds of woody plants are called mast. It is possible to manage mast-producing trees to ensure a continuous source of food for wildlife. In a recent workshop on land management for wild turkeys, biologist Larry

Timing of Mast Producing Fruiting Trees and Shrubs in Southeast Forests

Species	Fruiting Time	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Pine (cones)	Aug - Sep	█	█										
Sparkleberry	Aug - Oct	█	█	█									
Water Oak	Sep - Oct		█	█									
Blackgum	Sep - Oct		█	█									
Swamp Chestnut Oak	Sep - Nov		█	█	█								
Live Oak	Sep - Nov		█	█	█								
Sweet gum	Sep - Nov		█	█	█								
Hickories	Sep - Nov		█	█	█								
American Ash	Sep - Nov			█	█								
Holly	Nov - Jan				█	█							
Greenbriar	Dec - Feb					█	█						
Elm	Jan - Mar						█	█					
Maple	Mar - May								█	█			
Mulberry	May - Jun									█	█		
Blackberry	May - Jul										█	█	
Runner Oaks	Jun - Jul											█	█
Blueberry	Jul - Aug												█

Information 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.

Savage shared this fruiting chart for trees and shrubs in southeast forests. If you are interested in learning more, check out our wild turkey video series or attend our next wild turkey workshop. Watch our webpage for workshop dates: www.trailblazer.org

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Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



Natural Resources Conservation Service



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Special thanks go to:

Lincoln Parish Library
Bossier Parish Libraries
Webster Parish Library

for your support of
Trailblazer RC&D workshops.

Your facilities and hospitality are
outstanding. Your support makes
our outreach possible in your
communities.

Thank you for your support!

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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**



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"God is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present help in
trouble."

Psalm 46:1
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!

