

Trailblazer news

Volume 13 • Issue 8 • August 2023

good for the land . . . good for the people

Workshops Returning!

Dear Friends,

In response to your continued interest in Trailblazer educational opportunities, the support of loyal sponsors and partners, and the commitment to our communities by our board of directors, we are excited to offer an abbreviated workshop schedule for the remainder of the year. We are currently working with presenters and facilities to line up a variety of workshops that will offer interesting and timely information. As soon as facilities/dates/times are finalized, the information will be posted to our website at: www.trailblazer.org. Just click on the "Events" tab to go to a list of current (and past) Trailblazer events.

Our workshop budget is still limited. We are hopeful our partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be renewed, and we will be able to offer a full schedule of events. The new abbreviated workshop schedule is only possible because of your support. We sincerely thank you for your continued interest in our workshops, sponsorship support, and prayers.

P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- **Vermin: When animals and birds invade your landscape.**

August 21 - 6:00 p.m.
Claiborne Parish Library - Homer

August 22 - 6:00 p.m.
Bossier Parish Libraries History
Center - Bossier City

- **Fall Food Plots for Wildlife**
- **Whitetail Deer Management**
- **Land Leasing With Paul Spillers**
- **Raising Backyard Chickens**

AND MORE!
Check our website for
more information.

www.trailblazer.org

Conservation Conversation

LDWF is Asking for Your Help in Counting Wild Turkeys in Louisiana

LDWF Public Wild Turkey Population Survey Available Online

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) would like to remind the public about the availability of its online Wild Turkey Population Survey, which debuted in 2022. LDWF developed it to expand how it tracks turkey in the state. In addition to increasing participation in the survey, the online component can also incorporate and track wild turkey sightings throughout the year.

LDWF has tracked wild turkey reproduction since 1994 with a survey conducted by volunteer participants during the summer. It provides important trend data with regard to reproduction and recruitment in Louisiana turkey flocks. However, over the years, the number of observations have declined resulting in less reliable data. The new online reporting component will augment the summer surveys, which will continue.

“This web-based tracking component will allow us to greatly expand our survey,” said LDWF Small Game/Wild Turkey Program Manager Cody Cedotal. “Now anyone can assist us in our effort to

keep track of Louisiana turkey populations. Whether you are sitting on your back porch in October, in your deer stand in December, turkey hunting in April or making a round through your property in August and see wild turkeys, we would like to know about it.”

The data obtained will allow managers to monitor population trends and help make regulatory recommendations as necessary to sustain populations.

The survey can be accessed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/81c20aa4e4524fbcbecc2c426d9d3e2a>

Once you have opened the portal to the survey, simply click the “LA Turkey Survey Data Entry” to review the specific instructions and log each separate wild turkey observation. You will be asked to provide your name, date, location, and the number of males (adults or juveniles), females, and/or poults seen.



If you are interested in keeping up with observations as they come in, check out the “Turkey Survey Dashboard” tab. Here you can view updates on how many observations have been reported so far during the year. You will be able to view reported observations by parish and track the number of birds seen by sex and age to an extent (poult, juvenile male, adult male).

For more information contact Cody Cedotal at 225-765-2361 or ccedotal@wlf.la.gov.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is responsible for balancing the needs of wild turkeys and those who hunt them—monitoring the state’s wild turkey population and harvests and conducting other research as well as managing the population through periodic restocking, recommending hunting seasons and regulations, and improving habitat.

If you would like to improve the wild turkey habitat on your land, contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350, and we will connect you with someone who can help.

Video Resources

TRAILBLAZER VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

Check out our videos at: www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097

Populations of wild turkeys were abundant in North America until the mid-1800's when settlers cleared large areas of forestland. During the 1930s and 1940s unregulated hunting and rapid land development led to steep declines in wild turkey populations. Because of the repopulation efforts and strict hunting regulations of state wildlife agencies, wild turkey populations began to increase in the 1970s. Learn more about wild turkey populations by watching these two Trailblazer videos.

Wild Turkey Population

Larry Savage, retired biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, discusses wild turkey population trends.

<https://youtu.be/FHHIGnyw084>



Urban Wild Turkeys

Larry Savage, retired biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, discusses wild turkey populations in urban areas.

https://youtu.be/5PtSX_NpKSO



GETTING STARTED WITH HONEY BEES

<https://youtu.be/TLt8sVEC4sU>

BACKYARD BIRDING EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

https://youtu.be/IET_JTQHALO

WHERE DOES THE WATER GO?

<https://youtu.be/t90RWpaKhYg>

BATS OF LOUISIANA

https://youtu.be/Sw_oE3H_JZk

Check out Trailblazer's YouTube channel for a variety of educational videos on topics ranging from the water cycle to backyard conservation and birds, bats, and bees!

Scan me to go to Trailblazer's YouTube



www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097



<https://youtu.be/9qJcWqQYgd0>

Trailblazer Videos Feature

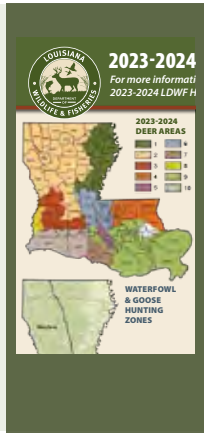
- Variety
- Excellent Content
- Great Presenters



https://youtu.be/IET_JTQHALO

News

Hunting Rules, Regulations, Season Schedules for 2023-24 Now Available on LDWF Website



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has released its 2023-24 hunting regulations pamphlet online at the LDWF website.

To see the upcoming season's regulations, go to:

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/seasons-and-regulations>.

The pamphlet contains hunting rules, regulations, and season dates for the 2023-24 season, including hunting information on LDWF's Wildlife Management Areas. It also

contains information on LDWF's licensing process and fees.

Printed copies of the pamphlets should be available in late August at LDWF offices throughout the state and at vendors where hunting and fishing licenses are sold. This season's regulation pamphlet also has season schedules for the state's 10 deer hunting areas and major changes for the 2023-24 season.

For more information, contact Tommy Tuma at ttuma@wlf.la.gov.

agniappe

Louisiana Culture, Geography, and History

Are you looking for something new to do in August? How about taking a road trip down one of Louisiana's 19 scenic byways? Scenic byways offer great Louisiana food, music, culture, and natural beauty. Louisiana's Office of Tourism offers a website that provides detailed descriptions of each route and stops along them. You can also get free printed versions of maps at any of Louisiana's Welcome Centers and visitor information areas.

Louisiana Scenic Byways

Bayou Teche National Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/bayou-teche-byway>

Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/boom-or-bust-byway>

Cajun Corridor Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/cajun-corridor-byway>

Cane River National Heritage Trail Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/cane-river-national-heritage-trail-scenic-byway>

Creole Nature Trail All-American Road

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/creole-nature-trail-all-american-road>

Historic US 80

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/historic-us-80>

Flyway Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/flyway-byway>

Longleaf Trail Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/longleaf-trail-byway>

Louisiana Colonial Trails Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/louisiana-colonial-trails-byway>

Louisiana River Road – All-American Road

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/louisiana-great-river-road>

Myths and Legends Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/myths-and-legends-byway>

San Bernardo Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/san-bernardo-byway>

Southern Swamp Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/southern-swamp-byway>

Toledo Bend Forest Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/toledo-bend-forest-scenic-byway>

Tunica Trace Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/tunica-trace-byway>

Wetlands Cultural Trail

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/wetlands-cultural-trail>

Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/zydeco-cajun-prairie-byway>

Northup Trail

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/northup-trail>

Zachary Taylor Parkway

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/byway/zachary-taylor-parkway>

For more information, go to:

<https://byways.exploreloouisiana.com/sites/default/files/2021-02/Louisiana-Byways-Map.pdf>

Did You Know ... ?

It is time to start planning/planting your fall vegetable garden!



If you are unsure about planting dates/varieties, spacing, fertilizing, and more, the LSU AgCenter offers an online, printable vegetable planting guide for Louisiana gardeners. This guide answers these questions and provides a ton of useful information to make sure you have a great start for a successful garden.

Find this great online resource at:

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/d/e/3/e/de3e7516e68dfee4a21a84b38caa4df8/p1980_lavegplantguiderev_ai0520kfontenot_finalpdf.pdf

Fall Garden Recommendations for North Louisiana - LSU AgCenter Planting Guide

Crop	North LA Planting Dates	Depth to Plant Seeds	Between Plants	Days Until Harvest
Beans, snap, bush Direct-seed	9/1-10/1	1/2 inch	2-3 inches	48-55
Beets Direct-seed	9/15-11/15	1/4 inch	2-4 inches	55-60
Broccoli Plants	8/1-10/31	1/8 inch	18-24 inches	50-90*
Brussels sprouts plants	8/15-10/15	1/8 inch	12-18 inches	90*
Cabbage Plants	8/1 - 11/30	1/8 inch	12-18 inches	50-75*
Carrots Direct-seed	8/15-10/15	1/8 inch	1-2 inches	70-75
Cauliflower Plants	7/15-10/31	1/8 inch	18-24 inches	55-65*
Chard, Swiss Plants	8/15-10/15	1/4 inch	6-8 inches	45-55
Collards Direct-seed	7/15-10/31	1/8 inch	6-12 inches	75
Garlic Plant cloves	9/1-11/30	1 inch	4-6 inches	210
Greens (mustard and turnip) Direct-seed	7/15-10/31	1/8 inch	1-2 inches	35-50
Kale Direct-seed or plants	7/15-10/31		6-12 inches	50-70
Kohlrabi Plants	7/15-10/31	1/8 inch	6 inches	55-75
Lettuce Direct-seed or plants	9/15-10/30	1/8 inch	4-12 inches	45-80
Potatoes, Irish Potato pieces	7/15-9/1	4 inches	9-12 inches	90-120
For a Halloween harvest plant 6/15-7/10; Otherwise plant 4/1-9/15				
Pumpkins Direct-seed or plants	plant 4/1-9/15	1/2 inch	36-60 inches	60-120
Radishes Direct-seed	8/1-10/30	1/8 inch	1 inch	22-28
Spinach Direct-seed	9/1-11/15	1/8 inch	3-6 inches	35-45
Turnips for roots Direct-seed	7/15-10/31	1/8 inch	3-6 inches	40-50

The LSU AgCenter Planting Guide offers recommendations for both south Louisiana gardeners and north Louisiana gardeners. It is a "must have" guide for anyone considering a vegetable garden.



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 to our partners!



Special thanks go to the Lincoln Parish Library, Bossier Parish Library, Webster Parish Library, Claiborne Parish Library, LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and many other community partners for their continued support of Trailblazer RC&D.

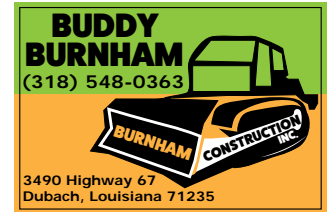
Join us as a partner!

To learn more,
email trailblazerceo@gmail.com or
call/text (318) 243-9194.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Burnham Construction

in Dubach, Louisiana, was founded in 1979 by Grover Allen Burnham, Sr. Today, it is owned and operated by Buddy Burnham.



Buddy Burnham is committed to good stewardship of the land, and he employs best management practices while meeting customer needs clearing rights of way, building roads, clearing land, building ponds, building oil field pads and house pads, and hauling soil and rocks.

Through the years, Burnham Construction has generously supported the conservation education efforts of Trailblazer RC&D. We appreciate their continued support and salute their conservation efforts! Thank you Burnham Construction!



Follow us on Facebook [TrailblazerRCD](#)

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

“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you
wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9
New International Version

Scan me to go to
Trailblazer's YouTube



Check us out on YouTube!

