

# Trailblazer news

Volume 13 • Issue 10 • October 2023

good for the land . . . good for the people



Trailblazer RC&D



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**Our September Presenters:**  
 Terry Johnston  
 Retired Conservationist  
 and Biologist, USDA  
 NRCS



Ricky Kilpatrick,  
 Retired LSU AgCenter  
 Area Forestry Agent

Denise Guyewski, LSU  
 AgCenter Associate  
 Extension Agent - 4-H  
 Youth Development,  
 Bastrop



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## September Workshop Recap

Terry Johnston (Fall Wildlife Food Plots, Sept. 5), Ricky Kilpatrick (Native Trees, Sept. 12), and Denise Guyewski (Raising Backyard Chickens, Sept. 29) offered very timely information that will help ensure enhanced success for hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, backyard gardeners, and urban farmers alike.

Many thanks and accolades to our presenters, partners, sponsors, and attendees for our great September workshops.



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Dear Friends,  
 Succession laws, gardening, forestry, and wildlife are topics featured during Trailblazer's upcoming workshop lineup.

Join us on October 3 to learn from Attorney Paul Spillers how to ensure division of your estate runs smoothly and according to your wishes after your death. Then, on October 10, get some great fall gardening advice from Mark Wilson, Assistant Extension Agent of Horticulture for the LSU AgCenter. Moving into November, Dr. Rick Williams, USDA NRCS State Forester, offers tips on best management practices to improve wildlife habitat in forested areas. Great topics! Great presenters!

I hope to see you this fall!

P. Ellzey Simmons  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Trailblazer RC&D



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- Who Gets My Land When I Die? And What Can I Do About It?**  
**with Paul Spillers**  
 October 3 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Lincoln Parish Library  
 910 North Trenton, Ruston, LA
- Fall Gardening Workshop**  
**with Mark Wilson**  
 October 10 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Bossier Parish Libraries History Center  
 2206 Beckett Street, Bossier City, LA
- Managing for Forestry and Wildlife**  
**with Dr. Rick Williams**  
 November 7 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Lincoln Parish Library  
 910 North Trenton, Ruston, LA

**Register today by calling or texting  
 (318) 237-8350.**

# Conservation Conversation

## FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A LOUISIANA SFI Certified Master Logger

### Louisiana's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

promotes land management practices that allow for the harvest of trees while enhancing the environment for wildlife and clean water and planting new trees for the future.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is an internationally recognized program that involves private landowners, independent loggers, forestry professionals, local government agencies, academics, scientists, and conservationists.

The Louisiana Forestry Association, through its Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, is the lead agency for the implementation of the Louisiana Forestry Initiative program in Louisiana. Other partners in Louisiana include:

- The Louisiana Department of Ag & Forestry
- Louisiana Tech University
- Louisiana State University
- Louisiana Forest Products Development Center
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- Louisiana Small Business Development Centers
- USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDA-Forest Service
- US Department of Labor-OSHA
- Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

**To learn more about Louisiana's Sustainable Forestry Initiative, go to:**  
<https://www.laforestry.com/sfi-guidelines>

Nov 7  
Workshop  
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Bossier City

**For a great workshop on Managing for Forestry and Wildlife, join Trailblazer and Dr. Rick Williams in Bossier City on November 7. Register today by calling or texting (318) 237-8350.**

### LOUISIANA SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE Master Logger Program

**Becoming a Louisiana Master Logger shows today's competitive market that you care about being environmentally responsible.**

Master Logger designation has great potential to be beneficial to your business—you enhance your company's reputation, gain access to new markets and promotional opportunities, and gain access to training and industry trends—all while ensuring the sustainability of Louisiana's forests. All logging contractors and foremen should participate in the Louisiana Master Logger Program.

To become a certified Master Logger in Louisiana you must attend two days of initial classes, then earn a minimum of 6 continuing education credits each year thereafter to remain certified.

**To learn more about becoming a Master Logger in Louisiana, visit the Louisiana Forestry Association website at:**  
<https://www.laforestry.com/training-program>



USDA Forest Service-Forest Operations Research. Bugwood.org

# Video Resources

Forestry  
Gardening  
Backyard Birding  
Honey Bees

## TRAILBLAZER VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

Check out our videos at: [www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097](http://www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097)

Timber management, gardens, backyard birding, honey bees, and wood ducks—what do they all have in common? They are all featured in Trailblazer videos!

Check out our catalog of interesting educational videos on our YouTube channel. You are sure to find something of interest—maybe pique your interest in attending an upcoming workshop! Check out our upcoming calendar of workshops on page 1.

### How Valuable Are Your Trees?

Dr. Rick Williams, State Forester for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, discusses how to place a value on your timber.

<https://youtu.be/vOAaKVJEbs>



### Planning Your Timber Harvest

Dr. Rick Williams, State Forester for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, discusses how to plan for a successful timber harvest.

[https://youtu.be/CVmq76wd5\\_A](https://youtu.be/CVmq76wd5_A)



### Planning Your Garden

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

### Eastern Bluebirds

[https://youtu.be/IET\\_JTQHAL0](https://youtu.be/IET_JTQHAL0)

### Planting for Honey Bees

<https://youtu.be/4PXmg9dEvqg>

### Wood Ducks

<https://youtu.be/m02DNcmbkRg>

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](http://www.youtube.com/@trailblazerrcd9097)

Oct 10  
Workshop  
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Bossier City

**Gardeners! Don't miss our October 10th Fall Gardening Workshop with Mark Wilson! The workshop begins at 6 p.m. and concludes at 7:30 p.m.**

**Register today by calling or texting (318) 237-8350.**



## LDWF Expands CWD Testing Drop-off Locations in Catahoula, Concordia, Morehouse and Union Parishes

from the LDWF News Room

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has added six new Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) drop-off locations in Catahoula, Concordia, Morehouse and Union parishes for deer hunters to submit CWD samples for testing. These new locations are in addition to the seven established last season within Franklin, Madison and Tensas parishes in response to the detection of CWD within Tensas Parish.

Important Reminder: Deer heads from deer harvested within the CWD Control Area, which consists of Tensas Parish and portions of Concordia, Franklin and Madison parishes, may not be transported outside of the control area. Hunters harvesting deer from outside the control area may utilize the newly added drop-off locations as well as the drop-off locations within the control area.

### CWD Control Area Sample Drop-off locations available for the 2023-24 season include:

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge – 0.3 miles south of I-20 at the Waverly exit on Hwy 577

Tallulah U-Pak-It - 120 HWY 65 South, Tallulah, LA 71282

Big Lake WMA - North of Louisiana Hwy 4, 12 miles east of Gilbert, LA 71336

Buckhorn WMA - 3217 HWY 128, St Joseph, LA 71366

Buck Fever Taxidermy - 3083 Hwy 65, Newellton, LA 71357

Wisner Location - 387 Kansas St., Wisner, LA 71378

Tensas Parish Sheriff's Resource Center - 8554 Hwy 65, Waterproof, LA 71375

### Additional CWD Sample Drop-off Locations available for the 2023-24 season include:

Town of Farmerville – 308 Thomas St., Farmerville, LA 71241

Northeast Union Fire District – 2252 LA-143, Marion, LA 71260

Crossett RD. U-Pakit – 10400 Crossett Rd. Bastrop, LA 71220

25 Feed and Seed – 203 Fairbanks St., Jonesville, LA 71343

LA DOTD Maintenance Facility – 2201 E. E. Wallace Blvd., Ferriday, LA 71334

Richard K. Yancey WMA – 21 mile South of Vidalia on Hwy. 15

Chronic Wasting Disease (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% fatal in affected deer after an indeterminate incubation period. There is no treatment or preventative vaccine for CWD.

**For more information on Chronic Wasting Disease, go to <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/cwd>.**

**For questions or more information, contact the nearest LDWF Field Office.**

## Burn Ban Still in Place for Most of Louisiana

from the LDAF News Room

As of September 27, 2023, all parishes except Caddo and Bossier continue to have burn bans in place.

For up-to-date information on current burn bans, the Louisiana

Department of Agriculture and Forestry publishes an online burn ban map. To view the map, go to: <https://louisiana.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=363fa05d91ee4d7d903c7167447785a2>

For the latest news release on burn bans, go to: <https://www.ldaf.state.la.us/news/update-statewide-burn-ban-modified/>

# Did You Know ... ? Succession Law

## Louisiana laws regarding the transfer of property to your heirs at death are very different from other States' laws.

Do you know the answers to these questions:

- What happens to property when someone dies without a will?
- What is separate property?
- What is community property?
- What is usufruct?
- What is a succession?
- Does all property have to go through a succession?
- What is a forced heir?




**Oct 3 Workshop**  
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
**Ruston**

For the answers to these questions and more, attend Trailblazer's October 3rd workshop in Ruston: **"Who Gets My Land When I Die? And What Can I Do About It?" with Attorney Paul Spillers**

The workshop begins at 6 p.m. and concludes at 7:30 p.m.

Register today by calling or texting (318) 237-8350.

### About Heirs' Property - from farmers.gov

Heirs' property is family owned land that is jointly owned by descendants of a deceased person whose estate did not clear probate. The descendants, or heirs, have the right to use the property, but they do not have a clear or marketable title to the property since the estate issues remain unresolved.

Land is passed down without a will or deed to prove ownership. Each successive generation generally results in more heirs being added to the land inheritance. The absence of the deed or will becomes more complicated and grows by generation as time and people pass.

Without proof of ownership, it may become difficult for heirs to obtain federal benefits for farms and could also force partition sales by third parties.

To learn more about how USDA is addressing these issues, visit:  
<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/heirs-property-eligibility>

**Free registration for Trailblazer RC&D's workshops and events is made possible by the support of our partners and sponsors.**

**Join us as a partner!**  
To learn more,  
email [trailblazerceo@gmail.com](mailto:trailblazerceo@gmail.com) or  
call/text (318) 243-9194.

# Partners & Friends

We Have The Best!

## 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.

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



### SOUTHERN PINE

Canfor Southern Pine is a forest products company that operates eleven southern yellow pine manufacturing facilities in Alabama, Arkansas, the Carolinas, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Canfor Southern Pine contributes to local communities and organizations to promote forestry education and sustainability. Through the years, Canfor Southern Pine has sponsored many Trailblazer RC&D workshops and events.

**Many thanks go to Canfor Southern Pine for their continued support of Trailblazer RC&D!**



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

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7  
New International Version

**Trailblazer RC&D is an equal opportunity employer and provider.**

