

# Trailblazer news

Volume 13 • Issue 11 • November 2023

good for the land . . . good for the people

## GREAT INFORMATION

## GREAT PRESENTERS

### Our October Presenters:

Left: Paul Spillers  
Senior Counsel  
Law Offices of  
Theus, Grisham,  
Davis & Leigh  
Monroe, Louisiana

Right: Mark Wilson  
Assistant Extension  
Agent of  
Horticulture  
LSU AgCenter



Trailblazer RC&D



Trailblazer RC&D

## October Workshop Recap

Paul Spillers (Who Gets My Land When I Die, Oct. 3) and Mark Wilson (Fall Gardens, Oct. 10) offered helpful and easy to understand information to audiences in Ruston and Bossier City during October. 59 people attended these sessions, and all left with a better understanding and appreciation of estate planning and fall gardening. Many thanks go to our presenters, partners, sponsors, and attendees for a round of great workshops.

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of 2023, at Trailblazer we have been reflecting on our accomplishments through the years. You have walked along side us, encouraged us, and participated with us in many, many activities. Together, we have shared messages of conservation, sustainability, and stewardship. It has been great! In January, I will share our annual report with numbers of events/people/etc. that will surely amaze you! It has amazed me!

In November, attorney Paul Spillers will share important estate planning information, Dr. Rick Williams will discuss wildlife habitat on forest lands, and Dr. Val West will give tips on planting trees in Louisiana. I hope you will continue your support of Trailblazer and join us for these great workshops!

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**  
November 2 - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Ringgold Library  
2078 Hall Street, Ringgold, LA
- **Managing for Forestry and Wildlife**  
with **Dr. Rick Williams**  
November 7 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Lincoln Parish Library Events Center  
910 North Trenton Street, Ruston, LA
- **Tree Planting Tips**  
with **Dr. Val West**  
November 14 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Bossier Parish Libraries History Center  
2206 Beckett Street, Bossier City, LA

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

# Conservation Conversation

## Louisiana Deer Report Hunter Harvest Survey

### Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Report

All deer harvested in Louisiana must be reported through the license tag reporting system or the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

**The Louisiana DMAP** program provides professional technical assistance to participating hunting clubs and private landowners and managers to manage their local deer populations and habitats through prescribed deer harvests. To learn more about DMAP, go to: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/dmap>

### Harvest data is instrumental in the development of deer season regulations.

In addition to deer tags and DMAP reports, additional harvest and participation data is gathered through an annual Hunter Harvest Survey. This survey is sent to randomly selected hunters, including senior and lifetime license holders by email. 2022 was the third year the survey was distributed by email; however, in previous years, dating back to 1970, the survey was mailed to hunters.

For the complete report, including deer harvest totals, top harvest parishes, deer health, and a wealth of other information, check out the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Louisiana Deer Report, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, at:

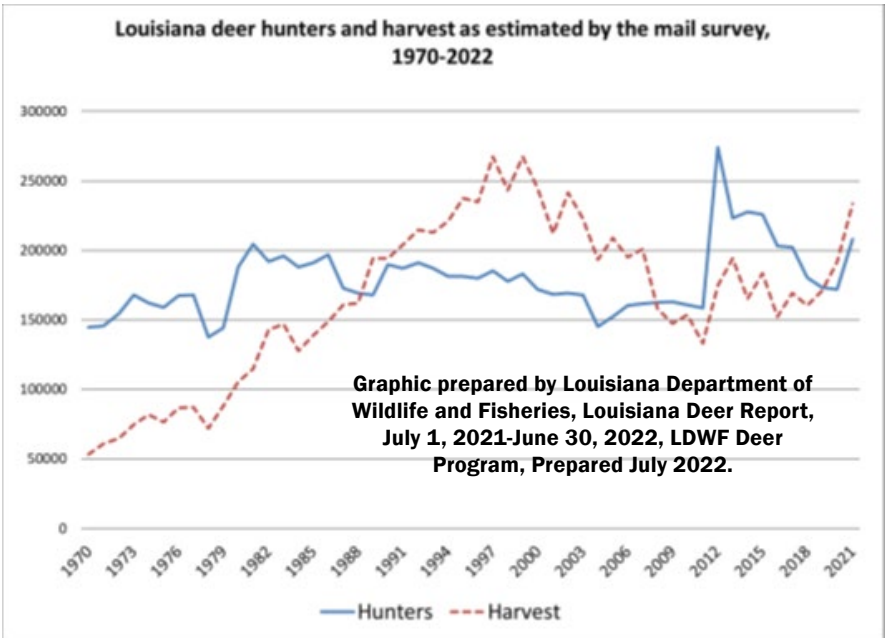
<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Deer/Annual-Louisiana-Deer-Report-2021-22.pdf>

State wildlife agencies ask hunters to report the number of animals they harvest in order to monitor population growth and set management regulations. If the population of deer gets to large they may extend the season, or if the population of deer gets to low they may add restrictions.

For Louisiana's 2023/2024 hunting regulations, go to: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/seasons-and-regulations>



USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Bugwood.org



**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.**

# Video Resources

feral hogs

## TRAILBLAZER VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

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

Feral hog populations continue to rise at an alarming rate! Our featured videos address the latest research being conducted to control these invasive animals and the best tool every landowner needs to start the feral hog battle.

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.

Scan or click me to go to Trailblazer's YouTube Channel



### Feral Hog Research

Dr. Glen T. Gentry, LSU AgCenter, discusses the latest research being conducted at the LSU AgCenter to address the overpopulation of feral hogs.

<https://youtu.be/NIOLBazaxeQ>



### Best Tool for Controlling Feral Hogs

Walter Cotton, USDA APHIS, discusses the most essential tool needed for controlling feral hogs.

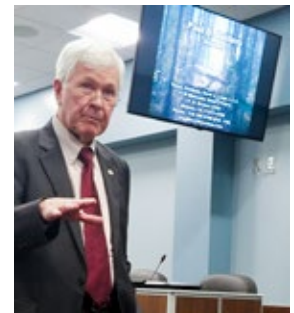
<https://youtu.be/5J0y7zTu0yk>



### ESTATE PLANNING videos with Attorney Paul Spillers:

**Estate Planning: Insurance**  
<https://youtu.be/B2qXVvPtVCE>

**Estate Planning: Retirement Accounts**  
[https://youtu.be/ZNIRA\\_XD9XI](https://youtu.be/ZNIRA_XD9XI)



Nov 2  
 Workshop  
 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ringgold

Watch the ESTATE PLANNING videos, then join us at Trailblazer's upcoming November 2nd workshop in Ringgold:  
**"Who Gets My Land When I Die? And What Can I Do About It?"**  
 with Attorney Paul Spillers

The workshop begins at 5:30 p.m. and concludes at 7:00 p.m.  
**Register today by calling or texting (318) 237-8350.**

And there are more! Scan or click the QR code above to find more ESTATE PLANNING videos!



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Congratulations to Trailblazer Board Members Re-Elected as Police Juror for Their Community!**

- Bienville Parish Police Jury  
**Jerry Bates**
- Bossier Parish Police Jury  
**Glenn Benton** and  
**Bob Brotherton**
- Lincoln Parish Police Jury  
**Glenn Scriber**
- Webster Parish Police Jury  
**Steve Ramsey**



The following is a press release from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry:

**LDAF Holds Unwanted Pesticide Collection Day Nov 2 - Monroe**

Agricultural producers, pesticide applicators, and homeowners can drop off pesticides for disposal during the Unwanted Pesticide Pick-Up Day on Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Monroe District Office in Ouachita Parish, 754 Highway 80 E. in Monroe.

LDAF's Unwanted Pesticide Pick-Up Program collects pesticide products for proper disposal at no cost to producers, applicators, or homeowners. The program, which is funded through fees associated with pesticide manufacturers' product registrations in Louisiana, is completely anonymous for those who wish to participate.

All pesticides will be accepted, and containers will be supplied for transportation to the collection site if old containers are damaged. Please note that this is a pesticide-only disposal pick-up event. Fumigants, waste oils, paints, and gasoline/diesel will not be accepted.

For more information, call LDAF's Girvus Johnson at 225-925-3763 or your local LSU AgCenter office.

The following is news from the LSU AgCenter:

**New Center of Research Excellence for the Study of Invasive Species Through the LSU AgCenter**

To better understand and control invasive species, the LSU AgCenter is developing a Center of Research Excellence for the Study of Invasive Species. The Louisiana Board of Regents approved the creation of the center on Sept. 20.

Invasive species cause \$120 billion in damage in the U.S each year, harming agricultural production, human habitation, forestland, wetland or native species. They threaten economic and ecological stability, displace native species and increase agricultural production costs.

Matt Lee, LSU vice president for agriculture and dean of the LSU College of Agriculture, said this center will provide pioneering and transformational solutions to problems associated with invasive species in the southern United States, with the aim of mitigating the harm these organisms cause.

In addition to the LSU AgCenter, the Center of Research Excellence for the Study of Invasive Species will involve LSU A&M and other Louisiana institutions of higher education with appropriate faculty expertise and will seek cooperation with fitting governmental and nongovernmental agencies.

The LSU AgCenter has several scientists conducting research on the identification, monitoring, management and economic impact of invasive species in Louisiana. LSU AgCenter entomologist Rodrigo Diaz has worked with invasive weeds and insects looking at biological control methods. Glen Gentry has devoted much of his recent research efforts to developing a bait for feral hogs, which cause more than \$90 million in agricultural damage annually in Louisiana (see page 3 for a link to a Trailblazer video on feral hog research with Dr. Glen Gentry).

For more information, go to: <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1695323836941>



# Did You Know ... ?

trees

## The Very First Arbor Day Was in the Nebraska Territory in 1872

As the pioneers arrived in the Nebraska Territory, the lack of trees was very disheartening. The settlers needed trees for windbreaks, fuel, building materials, and to prevent soil erosion—but Nebraska was mostly a treeless prairie region. J. Sterling Morton, newspaper editor and former governor of the Nebraska Territory, lobbied for a holiday to encourage the planting of trees. On April 10, 1872, the Nebraska Territory celebrated the very first Arbor Day, and it is estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on that day.

**Today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states. Dates are established to coincide with the best tree planting weather.**

**In Louisiana, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Friday in January. In 2024, Arbor Day will fall on January 19th.**

A farm family poses outside their sod house in Nebraska, circa 1888. Note the lack of trees. Photo is courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society to USDA.



# TIME TO PLANT SOME TREES

Nov 14  
Workshop  
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Bossier City

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Old Proverb

Don't miss our November 14th Tree Planting Tips Workshop with Dr. Val West, LSU AgCenter! The workshop begins at 6 p.m. and concludes at 7:30 p.m.

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



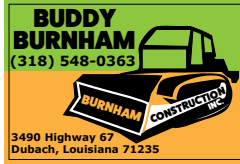
**Free registration for Trailblazer RC&D's workshops and events is made possible by the support of our partners and sponsors.**

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

**November through March is the ideal time to plant trees and shrubs in Louisiana. Learn more about tree planting at our November 14th workshop in Bossier City!**

# Partners & Friends We Have The Best!

## Thank you to our partners!



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The LSU AgCenter Extension Service delivers research-based information about agriculture, 4-H and youth development, healthy communities, and natural resources and the environment to the people of Louisiana. Trailblazer is fortunate to have many great partners within the Extension Service. This is a shout-out to three great partners in Bossier Parish:

- Dr. Ronald Strahan, Northwest Regional Director
- Dr. Valerie West, Northwest Region Forestry Agent
- Erika Derma, Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth and Family Development
- Mark Wilson, Assistant Extension Agent, Horticulture

Thank you for supporting Trailblazer's efforts to bring the most up-to-date information on timely topics to our audiences. You are a pleasure to work with, and we appreciate your partnership!

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.



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“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

James 1:2-3  
New International Version

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

