

Trailblazer news

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good for the land . . . good for the people



The Trailblazer
RC&D team wishes
you and your family
the gift of faith,
the blessing of hope
and the peace of
His love at Christmas
and always.



Dear Friends,
November was a great month filled with great workshops on estate planning forestry, wildlife, and tree planting. This month's newsletter is dedicated to sharing notes and information from these workshops. In these notes, you will find a sample of the great information provided at the workshops. This information will be a review for those who attended—and hopefully, an enticement to others attend upcoming workshops. Our presenters always provide the most up-to-date, useful, and timely information available.

We give many thanks to November's workshop presenters: Attorney Paul Spillers; Dr. Rick Williams, USDA NRCS; and Dr. Valerie West, LSU AgCenter. As you will see in the comments in this newsletter, their presentations were GREAT!

I hope you will join us in December for two more exceptional workshops: Forestry and Tax Issues with Attorney Paul Spillers and Timber Market Trends with Tim Holland (dates/times are below).

We appreciate your continued support of Trailblazer and wish you a blessed holiday season!

P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- **Forestry and Tax Issues**
with **Attorney Paul Spillers**
December 5 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lincoln Parish Library Events Center
910 North Trenton Street, Ruston, LA
- **Timber Market Trends**
with **Tim Holland**
December 12 - 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.**

Workshop Notes

Highlights from November Workshops

Estate Planning

Who Gets My Land When I Die? And What Can I Do About It? With Attorney Paul Spillers November 2, 2023 - Ringgold, Louisiana

On November 2, Attorney Paul Spillers led workshop participants in Ringgold, LA, through the twists and turns of estate planning in Louisiana. He discussed categories of property, planning techniques, income tax, estate/gift taxes, family partnerships/LLC, and what happens if you die without a will. To give you a taste of what was discussed, see the table below that was provided in handout materials.

Who gets what in Louisiana if you die without a valid will?

Under intestate succession, who gets what depends on whether or not you have a spouse, living children, parents, or other close relatives when you die. It also depends on whether you own separate or community property.

Here is a quick overview provided by Attorney Paul Spillers:

If you die without a will with:	Here's what happens:
Children but no spouse	Children inherit everything
Spouse but no children, parents, or siblings	Spouse inherits everything
Parents but no children, spouse, or siblings	Parents inherit everything
Siblings but no children, spouse, or parents	Siblings inherit everything
A spouse and children	Spouse has the right to use your share of the community property for life; this is called a "usufruct" Children inherit your share of community property subject to the surviving spouse's right to use it for life, plus all of your separate property
A spouse and parents	Spouse inherits all your community property Parents inherit your separate property
A spouse and siblings, but no parents	Spouse inherits all of your community property Siblings inherit your separate property
Siblings and parents, but no spouse or children	Parents have the right to use your intestate property for life, then your siblings inherit everything

"Great workshop. Enjoyed it all."

Workshop Participant



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For a great workshop on tax law changes for forest landowners, join Trailblazer and Attorney Paul Spillers in Ruston on December 5. Register today by calling or texting (318) 237-8350.

Ruston

Dec 5
Workshop
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Estate planning is organizing your property for your use and enjoyment and then, ultimately passing your property on to your intended beneficiaries with minimum shrinkage due to taxes, attorney fees, and other costs.

This information is provided by Attorney Paul Spillers. The information provided is intended for educational purposes only. Consult your legal advisor before relying on this information.

Workshop Notes

Highlights from November Workshops

Forestry, Wildlife, Trees

Managing for Forestry and Wildlife With Dr. Rick Williams November 7, 2023 - Ruston, Louisiana

Dr. Rick Williams led our November 7th workshop participants on a virtual tour of various forest stands, focusing on the nutrition needs of wildlife. He touched on the habitat requirements of whitetail deer and turkeys—as well, as forest management methods that benefit wildlife. Dr. Williams introduced a variety of wildlife conservation practices including stream habitat and improvement management, recreation area improvement, and integrated pest management, among others.

Dr. Williams offered specific tips on improving whitetail deer habitat.



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Tips to Improve Deer Habitat

Retain some hard mast trees on your property (oaks, pecans, beech, etc.)

Clearcut stands no larger than 40 acres and keep the shape irregular

Thin frequency to promote herbaceous and woody vine growth

Leave agricultural fields untilled after harvest

Create some small openings for vegetative growth

Seed open areas with legumes, clover, or grasses

Diversify your forest by age class and species of trees

This information is provided by Dr. Rick Williams, USDA NRCS.

“Speaker was great.”

Workshop Participant

Tree Planting Tips With Dr. Valerie West November 14, 2023 - Bossier City, Louisiana

“I learned a bunch!!”
Workshop Participant



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On November 14th, Bossier City workshop participants learned the “why, where, what, when, and how” of tree planting from Dr. Valerie West of the LSU AgCenter. Dr. West offered such advice as: don’t plant a \$50 seedling in a \$2 hole—dig the hole at least twice the diameter and no deeper than the height of the root ball; and research what tree to plant before you start.

Dr. West offered information on what types of trees to plant.

Tips for Planting Trees

Plant sawtooth oaks if you want acorn production. Plant multiple trees in an orchard fashion with 20- to 30-foot spacing. Solitary trees may not produce acorns.

Magnolia trees are easy to grow, but leaves make a mess. You must maintain these trees long-term.

Dogwood trees have very shallow roots and should be planted under the canopy of other trees. They are easy to die off with too much water or during drought.

Know what trees are considered invasive; such as Chinese Tallow Trees (*Triadica sebifera*, L.), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) shrubs.

Tips from Dr. Valerie West.

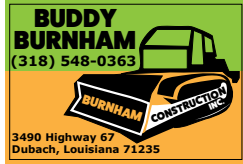
Bossier City

Dec 12 Workshop
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

For the latest information on marketing and selling your timber, don’t miss our December 12 Timber Market Trends Workshop with Tim Holland of Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters! The workshop begins at 6 p.m. and concludes at 7:30 p.m. Register today by calling or texting (318) 237-8350.

Partners & Friends

Thank you to our partners!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU TO OUR FORESTRY PARTNERS

Louisiana Forestry Association

Sustainable Forestry Initiative-Louisiana

Hunt Forest Products LLC

Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC

Burnham Construction

Thank you for supporting Trailblazer's efforts to bring the most up-to-date information on the forestry industry 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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"And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings
of great joy,
which shall be to
all people.

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11
New International
Version

Merry Christmas

Check us out on YouTube!

