

Trailblazer news

Volume 14 • Issue 2 • February 2024

good for the land . . . good for the people



Trailblazer RC&D

January 11, 2024, Estate Planning Workshop Farmerville, Louisiana

**“This is the most interesting session
we have been to.”**

Workshop Participant

The January 11 estate planning workshop in Farmerville was GREAT! Everyone who attended agreed that Paul Spillers is an exceptional presenter who took lots of time to answer questions and discuss the intricacies of estate planning. The majority of reviews indicated participants would have loved EVEN MORE TIME with Mr. Spillers.

Thank you, Paul, for an outstanding presentation!



Trailblazer RC&D

Farmerville workshop attendees learned about:

- Life Insurance
- Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)
- Payable on Death Accounts
- Transfer on Death Accounts
- Donations
- Wills and Trusts
- Powers of Attorney
- Income Tax
- Estate/Gift Taxes

2 Ways to Improve Your Day

Dear Friends,

There are two ways you can improve your day:

1. READ THIS NEWSLETTER!

It is full of great information about things happening in your community. Did you know you have the nation's largest park dedicated to roses near you (see page 2) or deer love to eat pears (see page 3)?

2. GO TO OUR EVENTS!

We host fantastic, fun learning experiences (free of charge) in your communities with the most knowledgeable presenters in their area of expertise. Join us and make new friends/see old friends.

READ, ATTEND, CONNECT. LEARN, HAVE FUN!

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



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

• All About Roses with Mark Wilson

February 6 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lincoln Parish Library Events Center
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana

• Managing for Forestry and Wildlife with Dr. Rick Williams

February 13 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Bossier Parish Libraries History Center
2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, Louisiana

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

LEARN MORE ON FEBRUARY 6 IN RUSTON

ROSE GROWING TIPS

Everything is Coming Up ROSES!

Roses are some of the most beautiful flowers in the world with stunning blooms and amazing scents and colors.

However, a lot of gardeners shy away from growing roses because they require a bit of maintenance. In recent years, new rose varieties have been released that require less maintenance and make rose growing easier. Some easy-to-grow varieties for a low-maintenance garden include knock-out roses and drift roses, but even these roses need periodic maintenance in order to thrive.

Rose Growing Tips

1. Choose a rose variety that is disease resistant and appropriate to your USDA hardiness zone.
2. Place roses in a sunny area with well-drained soil: 6-8 hours of sunlight daily.
3. Prune in early spring after the last hard frost to remove any dead/dying/diseased areas and revitalize your rose.
4. Water established roses deeply once or twice a week. Check newly planted roses daily to determine if they need water.
5. Always water at the base of the plant. Do not wet the leaves. Wet leaves can be an invitation to disease.
6. Do research, ask experts, attend workshops (shameless plug).

The Gardens of the American Rose Center, located near Shreveport, Louisiana, are the nation's largest park dedicated to roses.

Home to the national headquarters of the American Rose Society, the gardens are open to visitors and feature a large variety of roses, companion plants, sculptures, and fountains.

American Rose Center
8877 Jefferson Paige Road
Shreveport, Louisiana
Open: Wednesday-Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<https://www.rose.org/visit-public-gardens>

FEB 6 WORKSHOP

If you would like to learn more about growing and maintaining roses in Louisiana, attend Trailblazer's upcoming "All About Roses" workshop with LSU AgCenter horticulture specialist Mark Wilson in Ruston on February 6. Call or text to register at (318) 237-8350.

Check out this great publication:

Roses: Selection, Planting and Care,
LSU AgCenter Publication 1587, 4/07 Rev.,
<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/4/0/7/d/407d2e36be30ab7adc3ba9c9df49f5b7/pub1587roseslowres1.pdf>

ALL ABOUT

FEB 6
2024

Roses

Lincoln Parish Library

Events Center
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
On-site registration and
pizza at 5:15 p.m.
Workshop begins at 6:00 p.m.

TO REGISTER:

Call or text (318) 237-8350 and
provide your contact information
and name of workshop.

FEATURING

LSU
AgCenter
Research · Extension · Teaching
HORTICULTURE
SPECIALIST
Mark Wilson



FREE
Workshop

Special Guest Speaker
Mark Wilson

LEARN MORE ON FEBRUARY 13 IN BOSSIER CITY

TREE PLANTING TIME

Add PEARS, ACORNS, and CHESTNUTS to Your Wildlife Habitat

Now is the time to plant!

Tree plots are great additions to your wildlife habitat. They add diversity, wildlife cover, and an additional food source for wildlife. While some trees will take 10-15 years to mature, many will provide fruit or forage within a few years of planting.

- Choose trees that provide nutrition for deer and are suitable for Louisiana; such as cow oak, white oak, pecan, hickory, Dunstan chestnut, pear, black cherry, crabapple, and persimmon.
- Plan the location of your tree plots to complement your existing food plot plantings, with annual maintenance access in mind.
- Protect young tree seedlings with cages, as deer will eat the leaves, twigs, and buds of your newly planted trees. This will impact tree growth.

1. February is the perfect time to plant your new wildlife tree plot—and to learn more about wildlife habitats (another shameless plug).



FEB 13 WORKSHOP

If you have questions about what to plant, where to plant, or when to plant, attend the upcoming Trailblazer workshop, “Managing for Forestry and Wildlife,” on February 13, 2024, in Bossier City. Call or text (318) 237-8350 to register to attend.

For more information on improving wildlife habitat for deer, check out this Trailblazer video:

Improving Deer Herd Nutrition with David Moreland

<https://youtu.be/zEFQIVOEWN4?si=d7SzmKqLzerxwtuH>

Managing for ^{FREE Workshop} FORESTRY and WILDLIFE February 13, 2024

**Bossier Parish Libraries
History Center
2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
On-site registration and
pizza at 5:15 p.m.
Workshop begins at 6:00 p.m.**

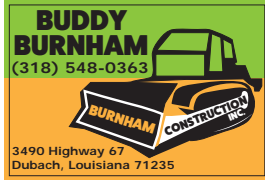
TO REGISTER:
Call or text (318) 237-8350 and
provide your contact information
and name of workshop.



**Special Guest Speaker
Dr. Rick Williams
USDA NRCS**

PARTNERS AND 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.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

A sincere thank you goes out to Trailblazer Board Member L.W. Nolan and Union Parish Police Jury Secretary/Treasurer Paula Strickland for their support of Trailblazer RC&D's January 11, 2024, Estate Planning workshop! Your assistance and partnership resulted in outstanding meeting location, meeting participation, and community involvement. You were integral to the success of this workshop in your community. Thank you!



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“The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”

Psalms 121:7-8
New International Version

