# Trailblazer news

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### good for the land . . . good for the people











## The Secret to Happiness

Dear Friends.

Everyone wants to find happiness, but it is not always easy to find. You can't buy it, but you can find it in:

#### 1. GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Research indicates that relationships with other people give us the greatest happiness, help us live longer, and help us deal with stress.

#### 2. POSITIVE THINKING

It has been proven that when you focus on positive thoughts and reduce negative thinking, your overall happiness improves. Smile more and your mood improves!

#### 3. NEW ADVENTURES

New adventures can help reduce stress and anxiety, increase creativity, and help you feel more alive—and happy!

#### 4. THE PEACE OF GOD

Philippians 4:6-7

Trailblazer workshops offer great opportunities to venture into your community, meet your neighbors, build relationships, share your experiences, and learn something new.

I hope to see you soon!
P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer, Trailblazer RC&D

### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

Wildlife Habitat Management:
 Deer Habitat with David Moreland

March 4 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Claiborne Parish Library 909 Edgewood Drive Homer, LA

March 5 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Parish Library 910 North Trenton Street Ruston, LA

All About Roses

with Mark Wilson

March 12 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Bossier Parish Central Library and History Center, 850 City Hall Drive Bossier City, LA

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

LEARN MORE ON MARCH 4 IN HOMER OR MARCH 5 IN RUSTON

## WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

## A Wildlife Management Plan Will Get You Started

Every day landowners, gardeners, birdwatchers, farmers, ranchers, hunters, foresters, wildlife biologists, and others manage their land to help wildlife. Whether to increase populations or species, improve plant diversity, or beautify the landscape, conservation measures can be implemented to improve health, increase numbers, and optimize available resources. Many landowners work with natural resource professionals, such as foresters, conservationists, and biologists to implement wildlife management plans.

#### To get started with a wildlife management plan:

#### 1. Evaluate your land.

Learn about the animals that live on your land and their habitat needs. Develop a map of your land that indicates the type of habitats your land offers (forests, grasslands, cropland, streams, lakes, etc.), listing what species you might find in these habitats.

#### 2. Set and prioritize your wildlife goals.

Do you want to produce income? Provide hunting/recreation opportunities? Create natural beauty? Protect a rare species?

#### 3. Consider actions that will achieve your wildlife goals.

Consider the cost, time involved, impacts on neighbors and other wildlife, and benefits of implementing conservation measures to achieve your wildlife goals.

#### 4. Develop and implement a wildlife management plan.

Outline the steps to achieve your wildlife goals. Technical assistance is available from natural resource professionals to develop a wildlife management plan. Technical and financial assistance may be available from federal and state sources to help eligible landowners implement conservation practices included in a wildlife management plan.

#### 5. Attend a Trailblazer RC&D workshop.

Meet an natural resource professionals, discuss your goals/objectives, and meet your neighbors and learn what they are doing to improve wildlife habitat. Check out the March 4 and 5 Deer Habitat Workshops in Homer and Ruston!

#### **MAR 4 & 5 WORKSHOPS**

If you want to learn more about managing your land for deer, attend the upcoming Trailblazer workshop, "Wildlife Habitat Management: Deer Habitat" on March 4 in Homer or March 5 in Ruston. Call or text (318) 237-8350 to register to attend.

#### **Our Guest Speaker**

David Moreland is a retired wildlife biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He served as the State Deer Biologist for 13 years and as Chief of the Wildlife Division for 3 years. He has written 6 books and been published in numerous journals and magazines.



#### LEARN MORE ON MARCH 12 IN BOSSIER CITY

## MARCH GARDENING TIPS

## Is Your Garden Ready for Spring?

#### 1. Prune roses

Use sharp bypass type hand pruners and wear sturdy leather gloves—those thorns can be painful!

#### 2. Mulch landscape beds

Organic mulches, such as bark, wood chips, pine straw, and leaves, can benefit your gardens and landscape by regulating temperature, suppressing weeds, enhancing soil, and retaining moisture.

#### 3. Take a soil sample and fertilize as needed

If your soil does not have the nutrients it needs, your garden or lawn will not thrive. The LSU AgCenter says, "Don't Guess, Soil Test!" LSU AgCenter soil test kits are available throughout Louisiana. Check the link below for locations.

#### 4. Plant trees and shrubs

Spring is a great time to add new shrubs and trees to your landscape. Check out the LSU AgCenter's Shrubs for Louisiana Landscapes at

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/nr/rdonlyres/6afdfd6c-894a-482c-b0a7-80320c42a4cf/38053/pub1638shrubshighres1.pdf

#### 5. Attend a Trailblazer RC&D workshop

Check out the March 12 All About Roses workshop in Bossier City!

#### **MAR 12 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 Bossier City on March 12. Call or text to register at (318) 237-8350.

Are you interested in a soil test kit from the LSU AgCenter? Go to: https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/ou r\_offices/departments/spess/servicelab s/soil\_testing\_lab/links/soil-test-kits for locations where soil test kits are available.

**ALL ABOUT Featuring** NEW LOCATION! Mark Wilson **Bossier Parish Central Library & History Center** 850 City Hall Drive 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: Special Guest Speaker Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information **Mark Wilson** and name of workshop.

## 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

Congratulations go to the Bossier
Parish Library System for their NEW
Central Library and History Center.
The new library offers amazing
resources FREE to the public, such
as a music studio, film studio,
makers space with 3D printers,
sewing machines, and more! We
appreciate the Bossier Parish
Library's support of Trailblazer
RC&D events and look forward to
our upcoming events in the new
library! See you there on March 12!







Follow us on Facebook TrailblazerRCD

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"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

2 Peter 1:3 New International Version



