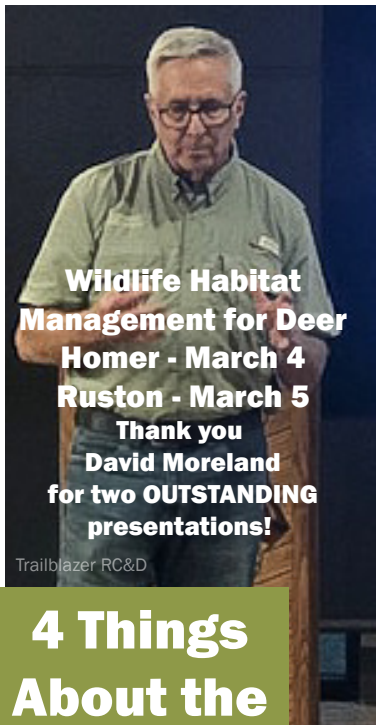


Trailblazer news

Volume 14 • Issue 4 • April 2024

good for the land . . . good for the people



Wildlife Habitat Management for Deer
Homer - March 4
Ruston - March 5
Thank you
David Moreland
for two **OUTSTANDING**
presentations!

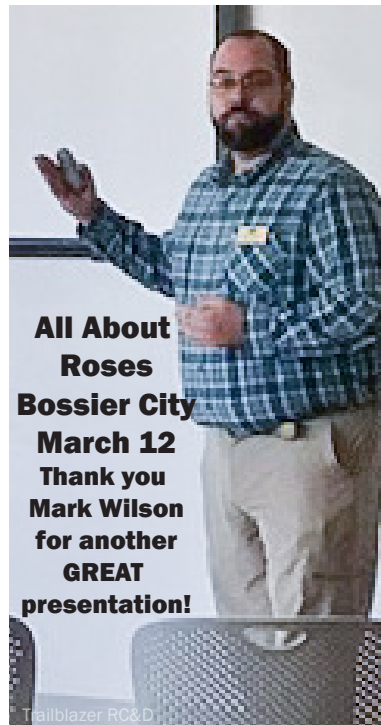
Trailblazer RC&D

4 Things About the Solar Eclipse

1. Everyone in the continental U.S. will see at least a partial eclipse.
2. The first person to see the total eclipse in the U.S. will be in Las Quintas Fronterizas, Texas, at 1:27:21 p.m. CDT.
3. The center line of the eclipse will cross through 15 states.
4. The eclipse lasts 4 minutes 28 seconds.

During the eclipse, the few minutes of darkness will trigger a small change in nature, slowing down photosynthesis. Do you think it will impact your lawn? Bet you never thought about it. Do turf grasses depend on photosynthesis? Join us on April 9 in Bossier City, to learn about photosynthesis and your lawn at Trailblazer's Lawn and Turfgrass Workshop (see page 3). See you there!

P. Ellzey Simmons
CEO Trailblazer RC&D



All About Roses
Bossier City
March 12
Thank you
Mark Wilson
for another
GREAT
presentation!

Trailblazer RC&D

Dear Friends,
On April 8, 2024, people in the United States will see the first solar eclipse in the continental U.S. in 7 years. Some people even say this eclipse has biblical significance. Check out these facts:



UPCOMING TRAILBLAZER EVENTS

April Events

- **You and Your Computer with Computer Solutions**
April 2 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, LA
- **Turf and Lawn Grasses with Dr. Ronald E. Strahan**
April 9 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Bossier Parish Central Library and History Center,
850 City Hall Drive
Bossier City, LA

May Events

- **Early Successional Habitat Management with Terry Johnston**
May 7 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Ruston, LA
- **Fish Pond Management with Jeff Sibley**
May 14 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Bossier City, LA
May 24 - 10 a.m. - 12 noon - Ruston, LA

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

Partner Events

- **Homesteader Series: Vegetable and Food Preservation Workshop**
April 27 - Gates open at 8:00 a.m.
Red River Research Station
262 Research Station Drive
Bossier City, LA
For more information, contact Donna Haynes, (318) 408-0971 or email dhaynes@agcenter.lsu.edu
- **LSU AgCenter Wildlife Field Day**
May 10
Macon Ridge Research Station
Winnsboro, LA
For more information, contact Luke Stamper, (318) 649-2663

LEARN ABOUT ONLINE SERVICES AND HAZARDS APRIL 2 IN RUSTON

COMPUTERS AND ONLINE SAFETY



Computer hardware; software; apps; social networking; online shopping; online classes; online banking; remote doctor visits; online medical records; streaming; zooming; and chatting open a virtual door to your personal information. That information can be used by you to accomplish great things without leaving the comfort of your home or office. That information can also be used by unscrupulous people to hack your bank accounts, medical records, personal information, and more.

Every computer user has the responsibility to learn how to protect themselves in the cyber world.

A few of the ways you can protect yourself and your devices are:

- Keep your system up-to-date.
- Use antivirus/antispymware software
- Use strong and complex passwords
- Be careful what you click. Phishing attacks seem genuine, but are designed to trick you to hand over your personal information.

If you are interested in learning more about protecting yourself in the cyber world, attend Trailblazer's upcoming workshop in Ruston on April 2: You and Your Computer (see below).

farmers.gov portal

Agricultural producers can manage conservation activities, and request assistance by logging into your farmers.gov account.

Through farmers.gov portal, you can:

- View, upload, download and e-sign documents;
- Request conservation assistance;
- Request financial assistance, including submitting a program application; and more!

For more information, go to : <https://www.farmers.gov/blog/manage-your-usda-business-online>

APRIL 2 WORKSHOP

If you want to learn more about spotting and avoiding online scams and protecting your personal information, attend the upcoming Trailblazer workshop, "You and Your Computer" on April 2 in Ruston. Call or text (318) 237-8350 to register to attend.

During the April 2 workshop, Computer Solutions of Ruston, Louisiana, will provide useful tips on improving computer security and enhancing your confidence in using a computer. Computer Solutions serves clients in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi with hardware and network services.

Technology Update

Free Workshop

You and Your Computer

Protecting yourself and your loved ones online

April 2, 2024

Lincoln Parish Library

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.

Special Guest Speaker

Computer Solutions

Representative

Ruston, LA

LEARN MORE ON APRIL 9 IN BOSSIER CITY

TAKING CARE OF YOUR LAWN

The GRASS is Always GREENER in my Neighbor's Yard!

Lawn Care Basics

It's SPRING! Grass is growing! Mowers are coming out, and lawns are demanding our time! Basic lawn care involves fertilization, watering, mowing, and MORE!



Lawn care also includes thatch control, insect control, lawn diseases, and weeds.

Fertilization

- A fertilized lawn is more resistant to weeds and pests and will recover better from stress.
- Soil testing is key to determining a fertilization plan for your lawn.
- Soil should be retested every three years.

Watering

- A healthy lawn requires an adequate supply of soil moisture.
- Irrigate to moisten the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.
- The best time to water is in the morning.

Mowing

- Do not remove more than the top one-third of the grass when mowing.
- Rotary blade mowers should have the blades sharpened 1-3 times each growing season.
- Removal of grass clippings is not necessary as long as you mow regularly.

Weed in Focus:

Smilax (deer thorn, catbrier)

Smilax vines are one of the toughest perennial vines that gardeners have to deal with. They have a thorny vine with waxy, heart-shaped leaves. It grows in moist shade, and it is an important food source and habitat for wildlife, including birds, rabbits, and deer. Smilax vines are very difficult to control. Herbicides can be used, but multiple applications are needed.

To learn more about basic lawn care, check out the LSU AgCenter's publication, Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices (BMPs) online at:

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~/media/system/7/c/8/e/7c8e4b17a12a51839443d9296bd03edc/pub2940louisianalawns_march2008.pdf

Or ask an expert! Attend Trailblazer's upcoming workshop on April 9 in Bossier City, "Turf and Lawn Grasses" with Dr. Ronald E. Strahan of the LSU AgCenter (see below).

APRIL 9 WORKSHOP

LSU AgCenter's Northwest Regional Director, Dr. Ronald Strahan, will offer information on turfgrass management, solutions to common problems, and answer all your lawn and turfgrass questions. Call or text to register at (318) 237-8350.

Our presenter, Dr. Ronald Strahan, oversees AgCenter personnel and programs in 12 parishes and three research stations. His experience includes development and implementation of weed management programs for forages, nursery crops, landscapes, turfgrass, vegetables, roadside, forestry, and abatement.

LAWN *and* TURFGRASS WORKSHOP

April 9, 2024

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.

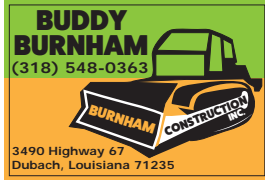
Workshop begins at 6:00 p.m.



FREE REGISTRATION:
 Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information 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.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Webster Parish Police Juror and Trailblazer Board of Directors member Steve Ramsey shares a moment below with 56th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Mike Johnson.



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(318) 255-3554
ceo@trailblazer.org

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16
New International
Version

