

Trailblazer news

Volume 14 • Issue 5 • May 2024

good for the land . . . good for the people



Trailblazer RC&D Board President Steve Ramsey from Webster Parish (left) and **Board Secretary Glenn Benton** from Bossier Parish (right) at our February 14, 2023, Spring Gardening Workshop in Bossier City. Between the two of them, they have volunteered over 35 years of service to Trailblazer and the people of Louisiana—with no compensation—just because they enjoy helping the community. **Thank you for your service!**

4 Important Dates in May

Dear Friends,

- **On May 1**, May Day is celebrated to mark the return of spring;
- **On May 12**, we celebrate mothers and motherhood with Mother's Day;
- **On May 28**, we thank our military members for their service on Armed Forces Day; and
- **On May 27**, on Memorial Day, we honor and remember U.S. military personnel who died in service to our country.

Graduations, commemorations, beginnings, and endings. May is a month of celebration and reflection. At Trailblazer, we are celebrating 58 years of service to the citizens of Louisiana. In 1966, local people came together with a common goal of conserving and protecting our natural resources—and look how far we have come and how much we have accomplished!

This month, our events feature managing forests and open land for early successional wildlife habitat and managing fish ponds for healthy fish populations. We are still promoting conservation of our natural resources.

Join us and learn more about how you can improve your resources.

P. Ellzey Simmons
CEO Trailblazer RC&D



UPCOMING TRAILBLAZER EVENTS

May Events

- **Early Successional Habitat Management for Deer 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

**If you are planning to attend,
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR
TRAILBLAZER EVENTS**

**Food will be served, and we need to know
how many people to plan to serve.**

**To pre-register, please
call or text (318) 237-8350.**

Partner Events

- **LSU AgCenter Wildlife Field Day**
May 10

Featuring Bottomland Hardwood Management, Deer Management Assistance Program, and Forest Management for Wildlife

LSU AgCenter-Macon Ridge Research Station
212-B Macon Ridge Road
Winnsboro, LA
For more information, contact Luke Stamper, (318) 649-2663

Many thanks to Computer Solutions in Ruston, Louisiana, for providing a great presentation on computer security on April 2. Their presentation was very timely and very much needed.

On April 9, because of severe weather in Bossier City, our Lawn and Turfgrass Workshop was cancelled. Out of concern for library employees and patrons, the Bossier Parish Central Library closed early so that everyone could get home safely. We appreciate the library's support of Trailblazer events, and we apologize for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused.

WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT



USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Research Station, Bugwood.org

Food for Thought

Warm season food plots provide valuable nutrition for deer when they need it most. According to the LSU AgCenter, warm season forages that are commonly planted for deer include soybeans, cowpeas, and American jointvetch.

To learn more, go to:

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1593465321811#:~:text=Among%20the%20warm%2Dseason%20forages,demands%20of%20a%20deer%20herd.>

When a young forest grows into a mature forest, the process is known as a succession. **Grasslands, pastures, weedy areas, old fields, and young forests are often referred to as early successional habitats.**

Many wildlife species depend on open early successional habitats for food and shelter. Songbirds, turkey, deer, rabbits, and native bees are some of the species that call these areas home. Managing your land for wildlife includes managing early successional habitats.

Some of the ways you can improve and maintain your early successional habitat for wildlife include:

- Establishing native forbs, grasses, and shrubs on crop fields, non-native pasture, and abandoned fields
- Removing and controlling invasive species to help the establishment of native plant communities
- Using prescribed grazing or controlled livestock access
- Using prescribed burning
- Disking
- Mowing

A professional conservationist can provide more information and technical guidance about these methods and what would be the most appropriate for your land.

To meet an experienced conservationist and learn more about improving wildlife habitat on your land for deer, attend Trailblazer RC&D's upcoming Early Successional Habitat Management Workshop With Emphasis on Whitetail Deer with Terry Johnston on May 7, 2024, in Ruston, Louisiana. Workshop details are included below.

MAY 7 WORKSHOP



Trailblazer RC&D

Terry Johnston, speaker for May 7 workshop.

Did you know?

Change is a characteristic of all ecosystems. The change in plant communities in a location over time is known as succession. Each stage of change alters the location's soil and microclimate—facilitating the establishment of the next group of plant species.

Managing Forests and Open Land for Early Successional Wildlife Habitat

with emphasis on land management for white-tailed deer

May 7, 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.

FREE REGISTRATION

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

workshop

Special Guest Speaker
Terry Johnston
 Conservationist and
 Biologist



Tony Permas, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

MAY 14 AND 24 WORKSHOPS—BOSSIER CITY AND RUSTON

FISH POND MANAGEMENT



When planning a new pond, there are lots of considerations: legal, intended use, design and construction, location, size and shape, and water supply to mention a few. Once you have a functioning pond, the list of considerations grows to include stocking, habitat development, habitat management, fertilization, weed control, diseases, oxygen levels, and more.

Many ponds are used for livestock watering, swimming, wildlife habitat, and fire control. Many ponds are developed as fishing ponds and stocked with bream, bass, and catfish.

When stocking your pond for fishing, you have to consider what your objectives are and how much time you have to spend on pond management.

Some fish species, such as bluegill, adapt well to pond conditions, consume insects, snails, occasional plant material, small worms, and microscopic animals while providing high quality food for largemouth bass.¹

Largemouth bass adapt well to ponds of one acre and larger. They use a variety of foods including fish, crawfish, insects, frogs, ducklings, rodents, and other animals.¹

Stocking: Bream-Bass-Catfish Combinations (Fish per Acre) For One-Acre or Larger Ponds¹

	Bream				
	Bluegill	Redear	Bass	Catfish Pond Fertilization	
	1000		100	100	fertilized pond
or	700	300	100	100	fertilized pond
or	500		50	50	unfertilized pond
or	350	150	50	50	unfertilized pond

If all these pond considerations leave your head spinning, consider attending an upcoming Trailblazer RC&D workshop on fish pond management.

Jeff Sibley, Fisheries Biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, will be in Bossier City on May 14 and in Ruston on May 24 to discuss proper fish pond management. Jeff delivers a wealth of information with an easy-to-understand delivery that everyone enjoys. See workshop details below.

¹Management of Recreational and Farm Ponds in Louisiana, LSU AgCenter, et al., <https://fisheries.tamu.edu/files/2013/10/Management-of-Recreational-and-Farm-Ponds-in-Louisiana.pdf>

MAY 14 & 24 WORKSHOPS



Jeff Sibley, speaker for May 14 & 24 workshops.

Did you know?

Private landowners use commercial fish hatcheries to stock their private lakes and ponds. On public

lands and in public waters, fish populations are enhanced by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). LDWF operates four warm water fish hatcheries in Louisiana that spawn, hatch, and raise Florida largemouth bass; black and white crappie; blue, channel, and flathead catfish; bluegill, redear sunfish; threadfin shad; and paddlefish. LDWF distributes fry and fingerlings from these hatcheries to public waterbodies throughout Louisiana.

Fish Pond Management workshop

- Vegetative management
- Water quality
- Nutrient issues
- Pond stocking
- Technical/financial help

May 14, 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.

May 24, 2024

Lincoln Parish Library Events Center
 910 North Trenton Street
 Ruston, Louisiana
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 On-site registration at 10:00 a.m.
 Workshop begins at 10:30 a.m.
 Lunch Provided

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

With Guest Speaker Jeff Sibley Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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.

Through the years, Trailblazer RC&D has been very fortunate to partner with many outstanding presenters. Their presentations have always been very engaging, and topics have always included a common thread of conservation of our natural resources. This is a heartfelt thank you to each and every speaker who shared your expertise with our audiences! Our world is better because of your dedication to conservation. Thank you for being part of Trailblazer's team!

Moving forward after May, Trailblazer will no longer be scheduling workshops. We will miss seeing each of you, but we would love to continue hearing from you. Contact us at ceo@trailblazer.org.

Thank you for your support. Stay tuned to our newsletter to learn more about what is next for Trailblazer.



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“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

Revelation 7:17
New International Version

