

# Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Nature Notes



Charter 2016

Vol 3 ISSUE 3 June 2018

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## President's Note:

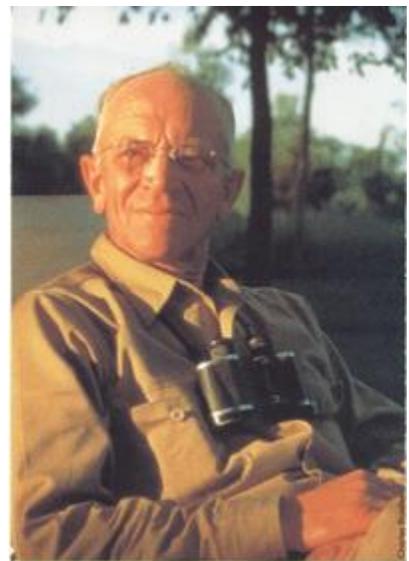
### Greetings, Master Naturalists!

As naturalists, it's often easy to notice the transition times in nature. Transitions sometimes happen quickly like our recent transition from a cool spring into a hot summer. Just like that quick transition, it's only a few weeks before our latest class is set to finish and complete their transition into being certified Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists! The remaining three workshops will take place this month.

The final workshop (June 23) will focus on Aldo Leopold's "Land Ethic" essay and how master naturalists can get involved in the *community* (in this sense, community includes people, animals, plants, soils, and the land). Good citizens in the human community vote, participate, and strive to improve their community for themselves and future generations.

### Calendar Quick View

- Jun 2 SLAMN Workshop
- Jun 9 SLAMN Workshop
- Jun 14 Green Fire viewing  
Calcasieu Parish Library
- Jun 18 Bird Study
- Jun 19 and 21 Pollinators at  
Tuten Park
- Jun 23 SLAMN Graduation
- Jun 27 SLAMN Meeting



## President's Note:

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The land community is no different. There are so many ways we can all be good citizens of the land community! Here are some examples of what some master naturalists in our chapter have done: planting native plants, volunteering to educate others about nature, contributing to citizen science projects, and volunteering to restore habitat.

This summer, think about some of the ways you and our organization can be a good citizen of the whole community. Share your ideas with me and with others however you like! Amid all this planning, don't forget to explore your neck of the woods (or prairie or river)! Just get out early before it gets too hot!

Irvin Louque

*"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*—Aldo Leopold in "Land Ethic"

**"There must be some force  
behind conservation..."**

...I can see only one such force:  
a respect for land as an organism...

...out of a **sense of love** for  
and **obligation** to this  
great biota we call America."

- Aldo Leopold, 1944

## Meeting Notes

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**Upcoming Meeting Location and Date**  
**Tuten Park, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 6:00 P.M.**  
**All members are invited to attend.**

**President:** Irvin Louque  
**Vice-President:** Tommy Hillman  
**Treasurer:** Robby Maxwell  
**Secretary:** Barbara Morris  
**At-large Board Members:**  
 Chuck Battaglia,  
 David Booth,  
 Theresa Cross,  
 Brian Sean Early,  
 Lori McGee

Reminder: SLAMN yearly membership \$15.00.

Mail your dues to:

**Robby Maxwell SLAMN**  
**Treasurer**  
**20333 Bourque Rd.**  
**Iowa, LA 70647**



**Log-in your volunteer and continuing education hours using Track It Forward**

**Set-up your account and start logging in your SLAMN CE&V hours.**

**Access Track It Forward on the SLAMN website:**

<https://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/>

### April 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Highlights

#### Committee Reports:

- Promotions: David Booth reported due to promotion events 60 people signed up as interested in SLAMN. The promotions table was set up at the RV and Boat Show, the Garden Expo at the Civic Center and Arbor Day at Tuten Park.

#### Old Business

- Rendezvous 2018: Irvin Louque shared information about Rendezvous held at Camp Hartner 70 people were in attendance. Next year Rendezvous will be held March 15-17, 2019. City Nature Challenge: April 27-30 Events will be scheduled during this time at Tuten Park. Flyers will be printed and distributed. Irvin will make them available to members to help get citizens involved.

#### New Business

- New Logo: Arlene Cain has contacted a company about designing a new logo for SLAMN that will work on T-shirts.
- Chapter Communications: Irvin Louque presented information about an online program that will track member volunteer/continuing education hours.
- Group Email: Robby Maxwell presented information about email services which would make it possible to group email selected groups; such as SLAMN members, or Board members, or interested parties.

#### Publicity and Fall Outreach Activities:

- David Booth shared information about upcoming festivals where we could have the SLAMN booth. Let him know if you are interested in working or have another festival in which we can participate.
  - Marshland Festival- July 27-28
  - CalCam Fair – October 17-21- David needs a good contact for this event
  - Cameron Fur and Wildlife Festival- January 2019
  - Chuck Fest- October 2018
- Library Presentation: Contact libraries about doing informational presentations on various topics. Irvin Louque has presentations he designed for Tuten Park classes that he is willing to share. People are needed to give the presentations. Contact David Booth if you would like to participate in educational outreach.

#### 2019 Course Preparations:

- Irvin Louque needs volunteers to help set up the Master Naturalist classes for next year. This will include finding guest speakers, helping with the classes, and helping to get out information about the class. Contact Irvin if you are interested in being on this committee or can help in any way.

#### Junior Naturalist 2019

- A discussion was held concerning the startup of a Junior Naturalist Program. Committee Volunteers are needed to help develop the program, work with youth in the program on Saturdays and/or possibly afternoons. Contact David Booth or Barbara Morris if you are interested in helping with this project.

**Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Chapter meetings are held quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month at Tuten Park at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.**  
**Chapter tentative meeting dates for 2018: June 27, and October 3**

## Local News:

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## City Nature Challenge Southwest Louisiana April 27-30, 2018

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2018-southwest-louisiana>

The City Nature Challenge 2018 is about people documenting observations of the wildlife and plant life in city areas using iNaturalist. The City Nature Challenge Southwest Louisiana was organized by the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists. The event included Allen, Beaufort, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vernon parishes.

SLAMN planned great activities to get everyone out scouting, observing and recording wildlife in iNaturalist. Southwest Louisiana sits at a crossroads of ecosystems – from coastal marshes and estuaries to flat Cajun prairies and winding rivers to hilly longleaf pine forests. Our area has a natural abundance and diversity of plant and animal life.

The City Nature Challenge is organized by Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and California Academy of Sciences. Originally it started as a friendly competition between LA County and San Francisco in 2016, spread to 16 U.S. cities in 2017, and is now worldwide!

City Nature Challenge events for our area were sponsored by the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists:

- April 27 Cajun Prairie Sites, Tuten Park Nature Walk
- April 28 Trip to Little Cypress, Tuten Park Beetle Experience
- April 29 Trip to Holbrook Park
- April 30 Riverside Park Nature Walk, Tuten Park City Challenge Watch Party

KPLC TV

<http://www.kplctv.com/story/38072598/swla-ranked-33rd-in-nature-challenge>

*The third annual City Nature Challenge is a showdown this year between 75 cities from six continents. Southwest Louisiana is currently ranked 33rd, beating places like Nashville, Tennessee, Maui, Hawaii, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with over 1,400 observations made using the iNaturalist app. The friendly competition is an international effort for people to find and document plants and wildlife in their cities and see who makes the most observations. So far, over 230,000 observations have been made across the world, identifying over 12,000 species of plants and animals.*

## Local News:

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## City Nature Challenge Results for Southwest Louisiana by Irvin Louque

From April 27 through April 30, 2018, the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists led our region's effort to compete in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual City Nature Challenge. Sixty-eight cities on five continents participated in the City Nature Challenge this year. SLAMN organized numerous events focused on the various taxa and habitats in our area. I promoted the City Nature Challenge on KPLC the day before the event started, and KPLC even filmed some of the fish sampling event at Holbrook Park.

Before the event started, I knew it'd be a tough challenge to compete with cities who'd participated in the City Nature Challenge before and many of which have much larger populations than Southwest Louisiana. Out of 68 cities participating, we put up quite a fight and finished ranked **37<sup>th</sup>** in observations (2,277), **27<sup>th</sup>** in species observed (866), and **44<sup>th</sup>** in number of participants (58).

SWLA ranked **3<sup>rd</sup>** in percentage of verifiable observations (98%) and **6<sup>th</sup>** in percentage of research grade observations (61%)! When the data for each city is adjusted by population, we ranked an incredible **7<sup>th</sup>** in observations and **2<sup>nd</sup>** in species (Cabarrus County, NC was 1<sup>st</sup> in species).

Naturalists in Southwest Louisiana encountered some unique sightings, including a fisherman-caught Bonnethead Shark photographed by Jody Shugart, the only Redfin Pickerel in the CNC caught by **Tom Morris**, and the first iNaturalist observation of *Timulla euterpe* (a species of velvet ant) seen by Irvin Louque. Brian **Sean Early** and **Robby Maxwell** recorded all the Cajun prairie plants they could find between Iowa and Kinder. Several birders in SWLA for the Louisiana Ornithological Society meeting contributed sightings to our effort as well.

All in all, the SWLA Master Naturalists contributed a ton of observations to the challenge and did a good job of getting the word out to the wider public. We also had some help from other Louisiana Master Naturalists who either came to SWLA to make observations or identified some of the organisms posted to iNaturalist during the CNC. We ranked among much larger cities and now we've got one City Nature Challenge under our belts. I'll continue to keep everyone posted about the City Nature Challenge 2019. Until then, stay tuned.

### Southwest Louisiana ranks 37<sup>th</sup>. The results of our observations:

<b>2,277</b> Observations	<b>866</b> Species	<b>175</b> Identifiers	<b>58</b> Observers
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Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
photographed by Barbara Morris

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**Holbrook Park City Nature Challenge activities**  
Participants of all ages sample the fish and aquatic organisms of the Calcasieu River with Avery Williams, professor at LSU-Eunice. Photos by Barbara Morris



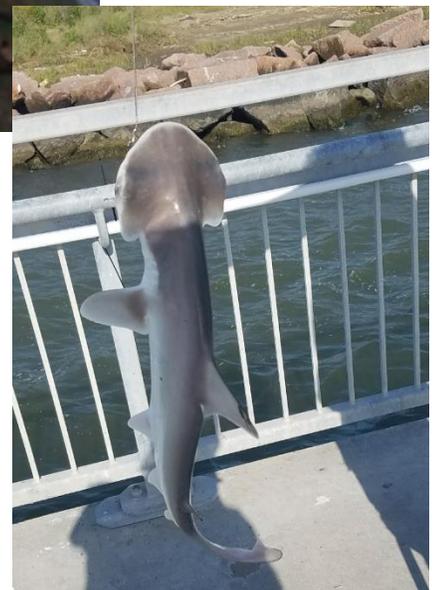
**Redfin Pickerel**  
photographed by  
Tom Morris



**Bonnethead Shark**  
photographed by  
Jody Shugart



**Timulla euterpe**  
photographed  
by Irvin  
Louque



## Local News:

[Back](#)**June 18-24, 2018 Pollinator Week at Tuten Park**

In celebration of Pollinator Week, Tuten Park manager and Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists **Irvin Louque** will be giving presentations on how to garden for pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Tuesday June 19, 2018, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM** “Planting Pollinators” There will be a walk through the pollinator garden at Tuten Park and a presentation about native Louisiana bees

**Thursday June 21, 2018, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM** “Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening” There will be a walk through the pollinator garden and see some hummingbird specific plants like Trumpet Creeper. There will be a short presentation about gardening for butterflies and hummingbirds

**Louisiana Bird Observatory Bird Banding at Sam Houston Jones State Park**

**On Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018** Master Naturalists **Irvin Louque** and other volunteers did bird banding activities at Sam Houston Jones Park on Saturdays. They banded several species of birds.

## Bird Banding Results:

4 Northern Cardinals (1 female, 3 males), 1 Carolina Wren (1 female)  
2 White-eyed Vireos (1 female, 1 male)



Bird banding at Sam Houston Jones State Park is held on Saturdays. Volunteers are welcome! Learn how to set-up mist nets, age birds, and collect important data for conservation efforts. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Irvin Louque through email or phone (225)206-0400 [irvinlouque@gmail.com](mailto:irvinlouque@gmail.com)

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Beach-Nesting Bird Conservation Workshop in Cameron**

Audubon Louisiana held a workshop on Beach-nesting Birds lead by **Erik Johnson** and **Sam Saunders**. The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists in attendance were **Deborah Frank, Arlene Cain, Linda Wygoda, and Brittany Manuel**. The presentation provided information about the history and importance of Louisiana’s coastal community of Beach-nesting Birds. Our field trip to Rutherford Beach was a great learning experience. We viewed the nesting Wilson’s Plover and Least Terns. We learned that there is a great need for volunteers to provide Stewardship for nesting areas along the Cameron Beaches.

Wilson’s Plover



Least Tern eggs



Least Tern



Photos by Arlene Cain

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### Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Candidates at Workshops

#### March 3, 2018 Coastal Ecology Workshop



#### April 21, 2018 Amphibians and Reptiles Workshop (photos by Lori Marinovich)



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**May 5, 2018 Cajun Prairie Workshop (photos by Jackie Lanier)**



**May 19, 2018 Pollinator Workshop (photos by Lori Marinovich)**



## Continuing Education Opportunities:

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## Summertime Bird Study Group 2

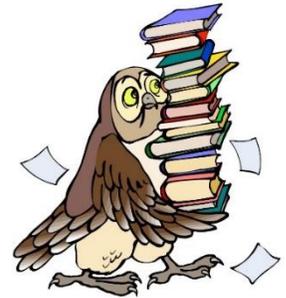
Lake Charles Central Library 411 Pujoe Street 4:30 pm

Join in the discussions and delve deeper into birding. The Summertime Bird Study Group is designed for those who wish to learn more and go deeper into birding and related topics. All interested are invited to attend.

The Bird Study Group is a special summer program sponsored by the Gulf Coast Bird Club.

Meeting dates are: June 18, July 2, 16, August 13, and 20

For additional information contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837



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## Encore Viewing of "Green Fire"

**June 14, 2018** Lake Charles Central Library 6:00 pm

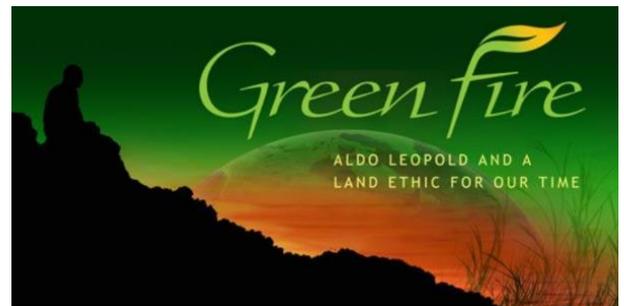
"Green Fire" The life and legacy of Aldo Leopold

All are welcome to attend the encore viewing of "Green Fire".

The meeting will be held at the

Central Library's DeBakey Room from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

June 14. The library is located in Lake Charles at 301 West Claude Street.



"Green Fire explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold and the many ways his land ethic philosophy lives on in the work of people and organizations all over the country today. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates Leopold's continuing influence, exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level.

Aldo Leopold's life and legacy defy easy categorization. He is most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Published posthumously in 1949, the book has become a catalyst for our evolving ecological awareness and a classic in Western literature. Trained as a forester, Leopold had been cited for his work as an educator, philosopher, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

This event is open to all members as well as the general public. Please attend and bring a friend to enjoy this important presentation.

Contact **David Booth** at: 337-526-0837

## Continuing Education Opportunities:

[Back](#)**August 11, 2018 Beginner Birding Course at Tuten Park 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

The Gulf Coast Bird Club announces a free summertime Beginner Birding Workshop to be held at Tuten Park in Lake Charles. Southwest Louisiana is a national hotspot for birding. In this workshop, participants will explore the fascinating and fun hobby of Birding.

This is a family friendly activity. All are welcome and school aged children are welcome with an adult participant. Bring your binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them. Activities and drills will help participants focus on the enjoyment of birds and their identification by size, shape, color and behavior. This will be a great workshop for those new to birding as well as experienced birders. Contact **David Booth** at: 337-526-0837

## Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Volunteers Needed! Audubon Louisiana - Become an Audubon Volunteer**

<http://la.audubon.org/get-involved/volunteer>

Audubon Louisiana welcomes volunteers in nearly all of their program areas. From helping one of the chapters across the state, to performing annual bird surveys, to participating in a Coastal Stewardship Program. Through Audubon Louisiana Bird Conservation Programs, volunteers engage directly in conservation by adopting an Important Bird Area in their community, participating in bird monitoring programs, and getting involved in stewardship activities: <http://la.audubon.org/get-involved/citizen-science>

Sign up to receive information about volunteer opportunities:

<https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/07GeHxIJ8U23E0p9o8B2Sw2>

For more information contact **Erik Johnson**: [ejohnson@audubon.org](mailto:ejohnson@audubon.org)

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services Southwest Louisiana NWR Complex**

<https://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex/volunteers.html>

Volunteers and student interns provide much needed assistance with refuge projects. The hours, work assignments, et cetera are tailored to meet the needs of both the refuge and the volunteer or intern. Refuge housing may be available to qualified interns and volunteers. Volunteer projects include conducting biological surveys, providing clerical assistance in the office, general maintenance of facilities and equipment, photography and art work, habitat restoration activities, and environmental education just to name a few.

Please contact the SW LA refuge complex headquarters for additional information regarding openings and how to apply.

SW LA NWR Complex Headquarters

Attn: Volunteer Coordinator

1428 Hwy. 27, Bell City, LA 70630, **Diane Borden-Billiot**, 337-598-2216

## Volunteer Opportunities:



**The Nature Conservancy** is looking for volunteers.

The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana uses volunteers, at various times throughout the year, at the following locations:

**Cypress Island**

**The Northshore Field Office**

**Grand Isle**

For additional information or opportunities in another areas, please contact [lafo@tnc.org](mailto:lafo@tnc.org).

Volunteer:

<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/louisiana/volunteer/index.htm>

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**CRCL**

<https://www.crcl.org/>

### **Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:**

<https://www.crcl.org/get-involved/volunteer.html>

**June 16, 2018 Mermentau River Cut Restoration 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Rutherford Beach, Creole, LA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mermentau-river-cut-restoration-tickets-45529787821>

#### **You Can Help Save the Cameron Coast Volunteer to help plant dune grass at Rutherford Beach.**

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) is looking for volunteers to participate in a dune restoration project along the Cameron shoreline at Rutherford Beach.

Volunteers are needed to help plant native dune grass – approximately 6,000 plugs – to help increase soil retention along the beach, promote dune growth, provide habitat for nesting birds, and enhance natural shoreline protection for residents.

The project will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 16 at Rutherford Beach (additional details will be provided to volunteers via email). The project will go on to no later than 4 p.m. All equipment (shovels, gloves, hammers etc.) will be provided. Lunch and drinks will be provided to all volunteers. The minimum age for volunteers is 10, but all minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers are asked register to let CRCL know if you plan to attend. You can complete an online registration form or call Kacie Wright at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 262-492-5257 for more information.



### **iNaturalist.org’s Journal Official Blog**

<https://www.inaturalist.org/blog>

Check out the “Observation of the Week” post.

### **iNaturalist Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Project Observation of the Month: Mississippi Diamondback Terrapin (Malaclemys terrapin ssp. Pileata)**

**By Master Naturalist Brian-Sean Early**



**Join the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists project.  
Add your observations and photos to our group project.**

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/southwest-louisiana-master-naturalists>

## Naturalists Notes:

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## A Louisiana Treasure -The Tunica Hills by Barbara Morris

Have you been to Tunica Falls at Clark Creek Natural Area? It is worth the trip. It is about a 2.5 hour drive. I like to take the back roads through New Roads, LA, which makes for a scenic, stress free drive.

We made reservations at the Tunica Hills Campground: <http://tunicahillscampground.com/> Tunica Hills Campground is located on Hwy 61 across from the turn off to Tunica Falls. They have very nice tent sites as well as three cabins to rent. At this location you are on the edge of the Tunica Wildlife Management Area.

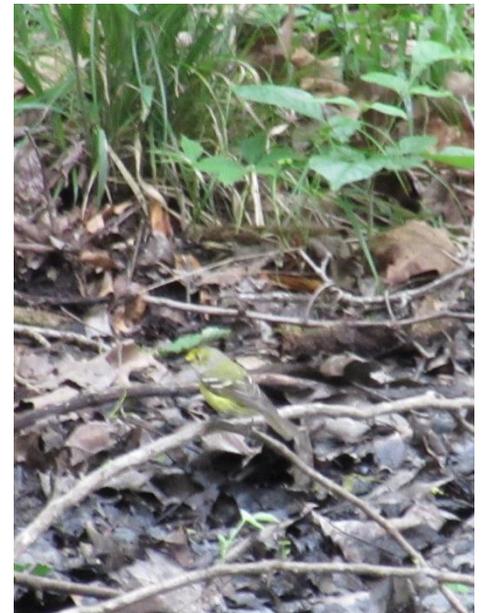
Tunica Falls has nice trails that follow the ridges through the woods. They built stairways on the steeper climbs making the trail easier for flatlanders. The climb down to the main falls is easy. The best falls are not too far from the parking area. The trails continue into the forest for those wanting a longer hike.

The woods are filled with bird songs. Creatures, including chipmunks, scurry in the underbrush. The trees are bigger than you can hug. The rich soil encourages growth of many exotic plants. It is a beautiful walk.

### *Outdoor Activities in Tunica Hills:*

<https://www.louisianatravel.com/articles/outdoor-activities-tunica-hills>

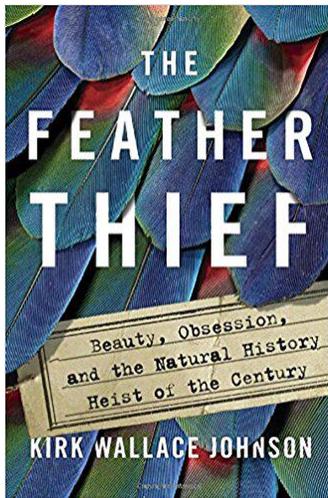
*“Tunica Hills a large area of over 5,906 acres and offers an extraordinary refuge for outdoorsy folks who love hiking, sightseeing, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and camping. The area has unique topography of rolling hills and a wide variety of animal inhabitants—some not found anywhere else in Louisiana. During fall, the vast upland hardwood forests explode in color and are perfect for viewing the changing colors. Stroll on the nature trail with the family or try any of the three different hiking trails to view the scenery. A variety of wildlife calls this area home, including white-tailed deer, squirrel, rabbit, wild turkey, eastern chipmunks and resident and migratory birds, including several rare in Louisiana, such as the worm-eating warbler and the Coopers hawk.”*



## Naturalists Notes:

[Back](#)**Naturalist Summer Reads 2018 by Linda Wygoda****The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century by Kirk Johnson**

[https://www.amazon.com/Feather-Thief-Obsession-Natural-History/dp/110198161X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527716229&sr=8-1&keywords=the+feather+thief](https://www.amazon.com/Feather-Thief-Obsession-Natural-History/dp/110198161X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527716229&sr=8-1&keywords=the+feather+thief)



This entertaining nonfiction book reads like a classic mystery as it describes the investigation into the theft of bird skins from the Tring Museum, a part of the British Museum of Natural History. These rare bird specimens were stolen by Edward Rist, an American student, musician, and master fly tier, in 2009. The book begins with the collection of the birds in Malaysia by Darwin's contemporary, Alfred Russel Wallace. The book goes on to describe the feather collecting in the early 1900's for women's fashion, especially hats. The author explains the resistance to ending the use of feathers by the fashion industry and how women actually led a change in attitudes toward the practice. While women of this Victorian period decorated their hats with snowy egrets, flamingos, ostriches, and hummingbirds, men developed the art of salmon fly-tying, which required combinations of rare bird feathers including: the Spangled Cotinga, the Red-ruffed Fruit Crow, the Resplendent Quetzal, and King Bird-of-paradise. Rist was motivated by greed and also a desire to replicate these Victorian styles of fishing flies, with authentic feathers described in several books from that time period.

Museum specimens of tropical birds such as these were stolen.  
Photo from Museum of Southwestern Biology



A fishing lure or "fly", made from feathers

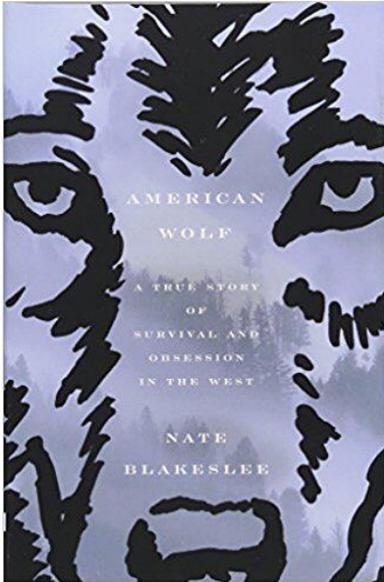


After Rist's theft, the specimen tags detailing the date, location, collector, and other information are removed. He then plucks the feathers he needs, separating them into plastic bags to sell online, and discards the bodies. Although Rist is caught, he never serves any time in prison. The author attempts to track the missing bird specimens around the world and return them to the museum.

I really enjoyed this page turner. I learned a great deal about the illegal feather trade and how it has continued into this century.

## American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West by Nate Blakeslee

[https://www.amazon.com/American-Wolf-Story-Survival-Obsession/dp/1101902787/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527716322&sr=8-1&keywords=american+wolf](https://www.amazon.com/American-Wolf-Story-Survival-Obsession/dp/1101902787/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527716322&sr=8-1&keywords=american+wolf)



I have visited Yellowstone many times, so when this book was recommended, I was immediately interested. The book describes the conflict between ranchers, hunters, wolf biologists, and wildlife enthusiasts over the management of wolves in Yellowstone National Park. The book chronicles the lives of several wolves from different packs that reside in the park. I learned about wolf pack dynamics, wolf social behavior, and the difficulties in trying to manage a population within the national park area. The pack, and the division of labor within it, gives wolves a survival advantage. However, when a pack member is killed, the entire pack is suddenly pushed to the edge of survival. The techniques and observations of park wolf biologists are well documented and interesting. The book demonstrates the inherent challenges in measuring success when managing endangered species



Gray Wolf 0-06

## Spineless: The Science of Jellyfish and the Art of Growing a Backbone by Julie Berwald

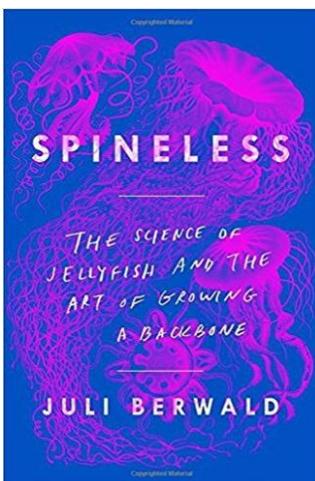
[https://www.amazon.com/Spineless-Science-Jellyfish-Growing-Backbone/dp/0735211264/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527716404&sr=8-1&keywords=spineless+book](https://www.amazon.com/Spineless-Science-Jellyfish-Growing-Backbone/dp/0735211264/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527716404&sr=8-1&keywords=spineless+book)

This book will take you into the strange world of jellyfish as the author travels the world interviewing scientists, observing jellyfish, and even learning how to cook them. Prepare yourself to learn how jellyfish swim, the different

types of jellyfish, and how their nervous system operates to produce the stings we associate with them.

Jellyfish have an unusual life cycle. The fertilized egg develops into a larva, called a planarian that will eventually settle on the bottom of the ocean as a hydra. The sessile hydra will develop into a form resembling a stack of pancakes that will separate and develop into individual jellyfish.

Jellyfish are affected by pollution, increased shipping, warming ocean temperatures, and the removal of predators. A good read on your next beach vacation.



The Atlantic Sea Nettle, photo from the National Aquarium

## Hidden Jewel by David Booth

Gravel road, tall pines, wispy blue skies and then a crown jewel. It was such an unexpected find. As many times as I have driven the state of Louisiana south to north, I had never come across it before. I have hiked trails in the area but this was new to me. I had stumbled across one of central Louisiana's most well kept secrets, the *Catahoula Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden*, a must visit site for nature lovers.

Located between Bentley and Pollock, La off of Highway 8, the garden is very close to Stuart Lake Campground and hiking trail. The garden was initially created in 1995 by a cooperative effort between the Gardeners for Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service, which has a regional office nearby.

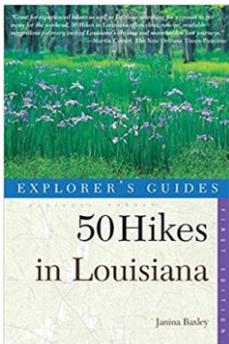
When you enter the parking lot, the bat dwelling hits you square on. Large and powerful, it is really a Bat Cave of sorts, constructed from large concrete culverts with creative openings and configuration. This was an Eagle Scout project by **Zif Clark** Troop 10 of the Boy Scouts of America in 2009. I can hardly wait to be there at dusk sometime to see the exciting bat exodus. The gardens themselves are located on what seems like a three acre haven with a nice 'edge' setting, having tall pines to the north and east with scrub and deciduous trees to the south and west. There is an inviting entryway which welcomes you into the gardens. Soft trails with flowering beds and shrubbery provide for visiting hummers, butterflies and many other species. An occasional shady bench provides for observer comforts. It was a real surprise to follow the trail to the west side and find a small gazebo and viewing area showcasing a pond and a nice babbling water feature.

The *Catahoula Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden* would make a very nice location for a picnic, photo shoot or a great spot for birding. I discovered later, it is listed as a 'hot spot' on eBird.org. There is a nice driving loop to the south and east from the gardens. It takes you through an experimental forest area, large meadows and then through the piney woods which has two or three colony sites for the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. These are identified by the large white rings painted on the trunks of the nest cavity trees. They can be seen from the road or from side roads along the way. The loop leads to Stuart Lake which is a cozy campground with a small lake and swimming area in the day use section. A small entry fee is required to enter and enjoy its benefits. Combined, this could make a nice weekend destination in the Kisatchie Forest for camping, hiking and nature viewing. There are several hiking trails which start from Stuart Lake. One is a short looped trail with blue blazes called the Dogwood Forest Walk and the other is the Glen Emory Trail which is a 3 mile 'out and back' hike through the piney woods. I hiked the Glen Emory Trail about 7 years ago. A detailed trail description may be found in the book 50 Hikes in Louisiana. The driving loop continues back to Hwy 8 from which you can access the main highways.

As I look back on this special place, it was evident that a lot of planning and effort went into this project by scores of dedicated people. Their vision and hard work is to be enjoyed by all and can be a tremendous inspiration to others. This should sound familiar. Right, Master Naturalists?

### ***Catahoula Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden***

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/kisatchie/recarea/?recid=34775>



50 Hikes in Louisiana by Janina Baxley

<https://www.amazon.com/50-Hikes-Louisiana-Walks-Backpacks/dp/0881505986>





## Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)

**Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Workshop Dates and Description for 2018.** (Times and dates are subject to change.) **Application and registration for New Members is required.**

**Apply at:** <http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/apply.html>

Date	Title	Time	Location	Coordinator
1/20/2018	1: Overview - Naturalist Skills	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Irvin Louque, Danielle Maxwell
2/3/2018	2: Backyard Wildlife Management	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Theresa Cross
2/17/2018	3: Longleaf Pine	8am-2pm	Tuten Park, David Daigle's Ranch	Chuck Battaglia, Chris Doffett
3/3/2018	4: Coastal Ecology/Geology	8am-2pm	Rockefeller SWR	Brian Sean Early
3/17/2018	5: Bird Study	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	David Booth
3/24/2018	6: Citizen Science	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Theresa Cross, Irvin Louque
<b>*4/6-8/2018</b>	<b>LMNA Rendezvous</b>		<b>Camp Hardtner</b>	
4/21/2018	7: Amphibians and Reptiles	8am-4pm	Sam Houston Jones State Park	Chuck Battaglia, Brad Glorioso
5/5/2018	8: Cajun Prairie	8am-4pm	Eunice	Tommy Hillman
5/19/2018	9: Pollinators	8am-4pm	Gray Ranch, Maxwell MicroPrairie	Chuck Battaglia, Chris Reid
6/2/2018	10: Aquatic Invertebrates	8am-4pm	Tuten Park, Calcasieu River	Danielle Maxwell, Robby Maxwell
6/9/2018	11: Riverine Ecology and Fish	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Theresa Cross, Robby Maxwell
6/23/2018	Land Ethic and Graduation	11am-3pm	Tuten Park	Irvin Louque

### Upcoming Education Programs at Tuten Park

Tuten Park 3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles

Sign up for any upcoming programs at: [bit.ly/TutenEd](http://bit.ly/TutenEd) or by email or phone: [Irvin.louque@cityoflc.us](mailto:Irvin.louque@cityoflc.us) , 337 491 8770

Keep informed about what's happening at Tuten Park, sign up for the Tuten Park monthly newsletter by contacting Irvin Louque at: [Irvin.louque@cityoflc.us](mailto:Irvin.louque@cityoflc.us)

**June 2, 2018** – 9:30 am Edible plant walk and presentation by Dr. Charles Allen, Bonnie Blue Farms 83188 Press Sharp Rd Bush, LA 70431. <https://www.meetup.com/The-Northshore-Permaculture-Meet-up/events/250218423/>

**July 21-29, 2018** - National Moth Week - <http://nationalmothweek.org/>

**August 17-19, 2018** - Annual Lily Orchid Days at Allen Acres <http://www.nativeventures.net/>

**September 15, 2018** - Pollination Celebration Hammond - <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/lblack/articles/page1503086955839>

**September 22, 2018** - Butterfly Festival, Haynesville - <http://www.haynesvillela.org/attractions.html>

**September 28-30, 2018** - Butterfly Blast at Allen Acres  
Allen Acres, 5070 Hwy. 399, Pitkin, Email [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net) or call 337-328-2252 to register

## Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)**June 4, 18, July 2, 16, August 13, 20**

Bird Study Group 2 Lake Charles Central Library 411 Pujo Street 4:30 pm

Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837

**June 30, July 28 and August 25** Sam Houston Jones State Park Bird Walks meet at 8:00 am at the Picnic Area

Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837

**LOS Field Trip Series**

Trips are limited to LOS Members (non-members can join LOS in advance of a trip)

To register for a trip or cancel a previous registration, email [DonnaDittmann@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaDittmann@gmail.com)

**9 June 2018.** Vernon Parish Pineywoods Breeding birds with Rob Dobbs. Meet at 6 AM at intersection of LA-10 and Forest Rd 400 (14.5 mi. west of Pitkin, LA). Pre-trip option to join leader at 4:45 AM for nocturnal birding. Wear boots/pants for walking in woods. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Also bring lunch if you plan to continue birding into the heat of the day (afternoon plan TBD.) This trip is limited to 10 participants.

**21 July 2018.** Cajun Prairie Fall Shorebird ID with Steve Cardiff and Donna Dittmann. We will search for crawfish pond draw-downs and other shorebird habitat in the SW rice-growing regions where we can study plumages of shorebirds and other wading species. Meet Rayne McDonald's at 9:00 AM. Bring food and water; don't forget the insect repellent. May be hot and sweaty! Trip limited to 10 participants/5 cars.

**Tuesday June 19, 2018, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Tuten Park “Planting Pollinators”**

**Thursday June 21, 2018, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM “Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening”**

contact Irvin Louque: (225)206-0400 [irvinlouque@gmail.com](mailto:irvinlouque@gmail.com)

**June 14, 2018 Lake Charles Central Library 6:00 pm “Green Fire”****The life and legacy of Aldo Leopold**

All are welcome to the encore viewing of “Green Fire”. The meeting will be held at the Central Library's DeBaKey Room from 6:00 to 7:30 pm on June 14. The library is located in Lake Charles at 301 West Claude Street.

“Green Fire explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold and the many ways his land ethic philosophy lives on in the work of people and organizations all over the country today. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates Leopold's continuing influence, exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level.

Aldo Leopold's life and legacy defy easy categorization. He is most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Published posthumously in 1949, the book has become a catalyst for our evolving ecological awareness and a classic in Western literature. Trained as a forester, Leopold had been cited for his work as an educator, philosopher, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

This event is open to all members as well as the general public. Please attend and bring a friend to enjoy this important presentation.

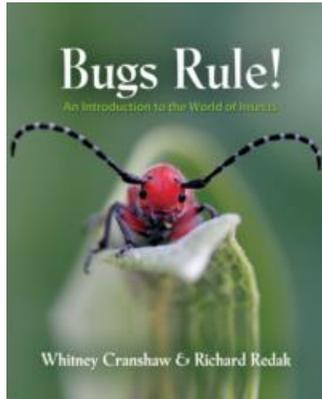
**Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837**

**August 11, 2018** Beginner Birding Course at Tuten Park

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837

## Resources for the Naturalists:

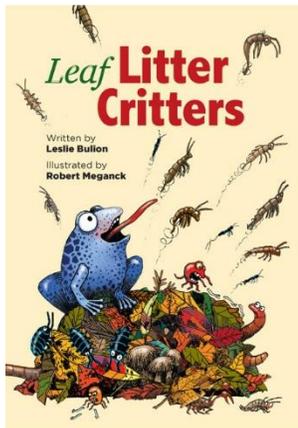
[Back](#)**Books:**

**Bugs Rule! An Introduction to the World of Insects**

Whitney Cranshaw and Richard Redak (2013)

<https://press.princeton.edu/titles/10163.html>

*Bugs Rule!* Provides a lively introduction to the biology and natural history of insects and their noninsect cousins, such as spiders, scorpions, and centipedes. This richly illustrated textbook features more than 830 color photos, a concise overview of the basics of entomology, and numerous sidebars that highlight and explain key points. Detailed chapters cover each of the major insect groups, describing their physiology, behaviors, feeding habits, reproduction, human interactions, and more



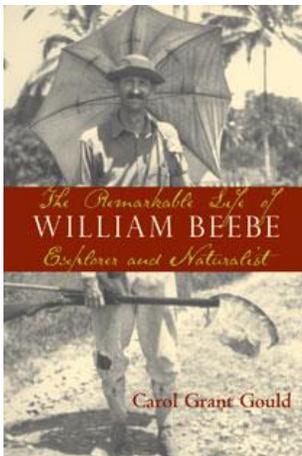
**Leaf Litter Critters**

Leslie Bulion, illustrated by Robert Meganck (2018)

<http://peachtree-online.com/portfolio-items/leaf-litter-critters/>

Have fun on this poetic tour through the leaf litter layer and dig into the fascinating facts about the tiny critters who live there

Nineteen poems in a variety of verse forms with accompanying science notes take readers on a decomposer safari through the “brown food web,” from bacteria through tardigrades and on to rove beetle predators.



**The Remarkable Life of William Beebe Explorer and Naturalist**

by Carol Grant Gould (2012)

<https://islandpress.org/book/the-remarkable-life-of-william-beebe>

William Beebe's curiosity about the natural world was insatiable, and he did nothing by halves. As the first biographer to see the letters and private journals Beebe kept from 1887 until his death in 1962, science writer Carol Grant Gould brings the life and times of this groundbreaking scientist and explorer compellingly to light.

Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)

Apps:

Getting Started with eBird Mobile

<http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/2411868-getting-started-with-ebird-mobile>



Want to keep track of your sightings on eBird, but don't have the time to enter them on the computer after birding? No worries—eBird Mobile makes it easy to record the birds you see in the field, and seamlessly link these observations with eBird.

This **free** resource makes it easy to keep track of what you see, while making your data openly available for scientific research, education, and conservation. eBird Mobile is the only app that passes information directly from iOS and Android devices to your eBird account on the web

Audubon Bird App Guide

<http://www.audubon.org/app>



The Audubon Bird Guide is a **free** and complete field guide to over 800 species of North American birds, right in your pocket. Built for all experience levels, it will help you identify the birds around you, keep track of the birds you've seen, and get outside to find new birds near you.

We've completely redesigned the app to make it easier and more fun to use for birders of all experience levels. You'll now find it easier than ever to access the field guide, keep track of sightings, find birds near you with eBird, share photos—and that's just the beginning.

Websites of Interest:

Guide to Louisiana Plants

<https://warcapps.usgs.gov/PlantID/>

Guide to the Plants of Louisiana

This guide to the vascular plants of Louisiana includes a database of plant characters, a search engine and plant images. Photographs include images of leaves, fruit, flower, stem, bark and other key identification features. Information about plants can be accessed by searching plant lists either by scientific name or common name. However, the best use of this application lies in identification of unknown plants.

Technical and non-technical characters can be selected in the "Character Search" feature resulting in a list of matching species with thumbnail images. Selecting a thumbnail image will take the user to information and images useful in verifying a plant's identity. A wealth of additional information such as wetland status, habitat, cultural information, wildlife (or animal) use, ethnobotany, distinguishing field characteristics, etc. are included for each species.



1,752 Available Species

Search by Scientific Name

Search by Common Name

Character Search



Pollinator Week  
June 18-24, 2018

Pollinator Partnership

<http://pollinator.org/>



Xerces Society  
Invertebrate Conservation

<https://xerces.org/>



Learn About Pollinators

Here you'll find general information on a variety of the most important pollinators. For more detailed information and guides to common North American bees, consider buying a copy of [Attracting Native Pollinators](#).



Native Bee Biology

There is an astonishing diversity of native bees across the USA. About



Bumble Bees

Bumble bees are important pollinators of wild flowering plants and crops. Loss of



Red List of Bees

Native bees are in decline, the red list includes detailed



Monarch Butterflies

The monarch butterflies of North America are renowned for their imm-

**Our Mission Statement:**

*The mission of the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Louisiana’s natural resources using unbiased, accurate, scientific information provided by a trained corps of volunteers. These volunteers provide education, outreach, and services dedicated to the conservation and management of our ecosystems*

Visit our website:  
**Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists**  
<http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/>



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 You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

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<b>LMNA Representative</b>	<b>Deborah Frank</b>	<a href="mailto:debrfrank@yahoo.com">debrfrank@yahoo.com</a>
3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, LA 70601 225 206 0400		

**IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

We welcome contributions of original writing of observations on nature in our area of Southwest Louisiana. We also welcome reports, reviews, poems, sketches, paintings and digital photographs. Please type "Newsletter" in the subject line of the email. When sending a digital photograph, your name, location, date and any interesting story or information about the photograph. Please send your email to: [arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com](mailto:arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com)



**iNaturalist.org** is a place where you can record what you see in nature, meet other nature lovers, and learn about the natural world.



From hikers to hunters, birders to beach-combers, the world is filled with naturalists, and many of us record what we find. What if all those observations could be shared online? You might discover someone who finds beautiful wildflowers at your favorite birding spot, or learn about the birds you see on the way to work. If enough people recorded their observations, it would be like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that *anyone* could use to learn more about nature.