

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

Nature Notes



Charter 2016

Vol 4 ISSUE 1 February 2019

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President's Note:

Greetings, Master Naturalists!

The Movement Continues

As the 2019 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist course begins with a new crop of students, now's a good time to reflect on the natural history movement. In today's world, wanting to study natural history is counter-cultural. You may not think of yourself in that way, with it bringing up visions of hippies and punk rock. However, natural history is far from the norm in a culture dominated by the online and the indoors. Dictionaries continue to remove words that were useful in a time of reliance on nature.

Calendar Quick View

Feb 2 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Feb 9 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Feb 16 Hollister/Rockefeller bird trail
 Feb 23 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Feb 27 Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery
 Mar 9 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Mar 15 LMNA Annual Rendezvous
 Mar 30 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Apr 4 SLAMN Meeting
 Apr 13 SLAMN Candidate Workshop



President's Note:

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However, the natural world always was and likely always will be an important part of every human culture around the world (whether we realize it or not). Everything from the locations of our cities to our favorite cuisines was determined by local environment. Natural history is about recognizing that, respecting the other creature inhabiting that environment, and strengthening your own connection to the natural world. Thus, our master naturalist role in this movement is to share that connection with our families, our friends, and the public as a whole.

We've got a few good opportunities to share that message coming up this spring. The first is at the SWLA GardenFest (Mar. 22–23) at Burton Coliseum, and the second opportunity is the City Nature Challenge (Apr. 26–29).

***Natural history***

*is a domain of inquiry involving organisms including animals, fungi and plants in their environment; leaning more towards observational than experimental methods of study. A person who studies natural history is called a **naturalist***

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Meeting Notes

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Upcoming Meeting Location and Date
April 3, 2019 Tuten Park at 5:30 P.M.
All members are invited to attend.

President: Irvin Louque**Vice-President:**

Tommy Hillman

Treasurer: Clay Ardoin**Secretary:** Barbara Morris**At-large Board Members:**

Chuck Battaglia,

David Booth,

Theresa Cross,

Robby Maxwell

Reminder: SLAMN yearly membership \$15.00.

Mail your dues to:

Clay Ardoin**SLAMN Treasurer****227 Fallis Rd.****Lafayette, LA 70507**

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/>

January 9th 2019 Meeting Highlights**Program****AMERICAN EELS IN LOUISIANA, presented by Robby Maxwell**

LDWF has received a statewide grant to study Louisiana Eels to determine the current populations. **Robby Maxwell** has been conducting field work to collect specimens. They are trying to determine the best method for catching eels in Louisiana. Eels are studied to determine age, sex, and general health. Robby Maxwell is also working on a project to assist eels in passing over the Bundick Lake Dam. A study of eels collected south of the dam indicates a smaller growth size. His work will be presented at a National conference.

Committee Reports**Course**

9 people are currently enrolled for the new course. One more is expected to register shortly. Registration is open through January 26, 2019.

Volunteer and Promotions

Upcoming events are the Boat Show on January 18-20, Arbor Day on January 19, and Garden Expo on March 22-23. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around.

Robby Maxwell gave a brief tutorial on using **Track It Forward** program to register for volunteer and CEU hours.

Publications Continue to send pictures and articles to Arlene for the newsletter.

New Business

LARE Calendar giveaway. SLAMN received two calendars for a donation made for advertising in the calendar. **Patty Palmer** received one of the calendars in a drawing. The other calendar will be given away during the first new class.

INSURANCE: **Clay Ardoin** gave an update on the purchase of D & O insurance. SLAMN is now a member of LANO (Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations). The last quote he received was for \$750 annually. He is going to get a few more quotes. Insurance is expected to be purchased by January 30.

Fundraiser: To help cover the cost of insurance, a fundraising raffle will be conducted at the Boat Show.

Upcoming Events

Rendezvous March 15-17 Registration information will be available shortly. It will be forwarded to membership. Members are encouraged to attend. CEU's and volunteer hours can be earned.

City Nature Challenge April 26-29 Lafayette, New Orleans, and Alexandria are participating. Let Irvin know, if you have any ideas about getting the public involved.

Louisiana Native Plant Society is having a meeting on February 1-3 in Woodworth, LA Check the website for more information. www.lnps.org

Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts Field Trip February 10, from 9-3 at Fullerton Lake Campground in Kisatchie National Forest near Pitkin, LA www.louisianaherps.com

Water/Ways Exhibit January 10- Feb 4, Jennings, LA Ziegler Art Museum

Tentative Board Meeting Thursday March 7, 2019

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 2019: April 3, and October 2.

Local News:

[Back](#)**January 28th, 2019 ARBOR DAY Tuten Park**

It was a great turn out for the Arbor Day activities at Tuten Park. The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists were there to share information about the SLAMN program and Citizen Science opportunities.

AMERICAN EELS IN LOUISIANA presented by Robby Maxwell

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries has received a statewide grant to study Louisiana Eels to determine the current populations. **Robby Maxwell** has been conducting field work to collect specimens. They are trying to determine the best method for catching eels in Louisiana. Eels are studied to determine age, sex, and general health. Robby Maxwell is also working on a project to assist eels in passing over the Bundick Lake Dam. A study of eels collected south of the dam indicates a smaller growth size. His work will be presented at a National conference.



Local News:

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Welcome New 2019 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Candidates!

New 2019 SLAMN candidates attended the first introduction workshop at Tuten Park on February 2nd, 2019.

The next workshop will be February 9th at Tuten Park. The next workshop will focus on Citizen Science.



Continuing Education Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Bird banding at Sam Houston Jones State Park****Louisiana Bird Observatory Bird Banding**

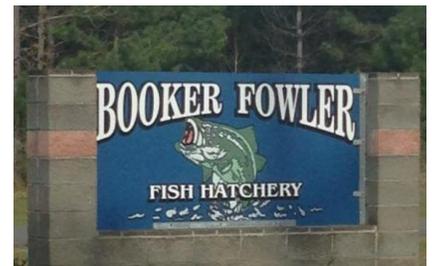
Irvin Louque holds bird banding activities at Sam Houston Jones Park on Saturdays. Volunteers are welcome! Learn how to set-up mist nets, age birds, and collect important data for conservation efforts. Please check with Irvin for dates and times. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Irvin Louque through email or phone (225)206-0400 irvinlouque@gmail.com



Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Volunteers Needed!**

On February 27, 2019, the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists have been asked to volunteer at the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery. The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists provides volunteers to help during the teacher/student workshop. Please lend a hand and volunteer. For more information, contact Barbara Morris – tblsjm5@yahoo.com



Volunteer Opportunities:



Volunteers Needed! The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana

We are having a work day volunteer event at our little Hollister Property in Cameron Parish coming up Saturday, Feb. 16. It will focus on planting a bunch of live oaks and perhaps installing a couple of benches along trails for birders and visitors to use. Depending on numbers we may also finalize another (finish connecting it to the back along the marsh), as well as do some tallow and chinaberry killing near our planted trees.

To make it more interesting, we intend to offer a morning where folks could observe mist netting and banding of migrants. This work is being done by researchers from Southern Mississippi as part of a larger study looking at habitat use and quality by neo-tropical migrants.

Will DeGravelles

William.degravelles@tnc.org or 225-931-7373

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. They are often able to complete work that the refuge would be unable to do. 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: **Diane Borden-Billiot** Volunteer Coordinator

1428 Hwy. 27, Bell City, LA 70630

337-598-2216



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

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:

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



iNaturalist Spotlight and Photos:

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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 by Irvin Louque

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*

Add your observations to the Southwest Louisiana master Naturalists Project

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



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>



Welcome to Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

← Projects

[Terms & Rules](#) | [Leave this project](#)



Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

“Gathering Moss” by Linda Wygoda

I realize the title of this article sounds like a retirement plan, but that’s only part of this story. In September 2018, I visited Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington State. This was my sixth visit to the Pacific Northwest, a region known for its volcanoes, old growth forests, salmon fisheries, and natural beauty.

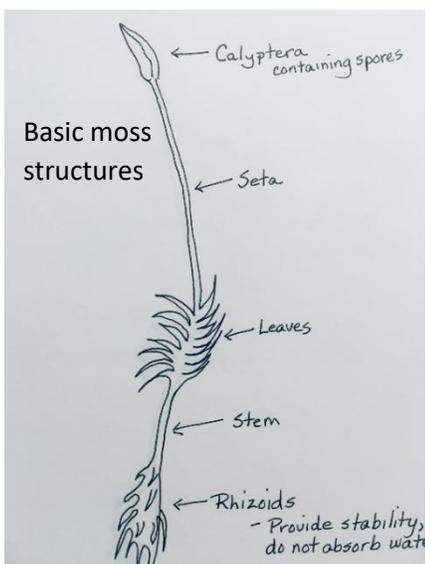
The old growth forests of the region are especially impressive. The spectacular trees in the Grove of the Patriarchs, immediately make an impression. In this small area, you have many trees that are more than 25 ft in circumference, at least one approaching 50 ft, and some over 1,000 years old. One thing is clear. This is a sacred place. A place to be humble. These ancient Douglas firs, western hemlocks, and western red cedars deserve respect and reverence. But as you walk through these forests you also notice the green plants beneath your feet: the mosses. These tiny plants are the oldest terrestrial plants on Earth.



The fog and heavy overcast clouds contribute to the high humidity and cool temperatures of the region. We didn’t get a great view of the summit of the mountain the day of my visit because of this, but it was still enjoyable to explore the mountain trails



In the visitor's center at the very aptly named Paradise Ranger Station, located at the base of the summit, I picked up a copy of the book: ***Gathering Moss, A natural and cultural history of mosses*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book is not a field guide about mosses but a series of personal essays that illustrate the characteristics of mosses and how they are such an important, but overlooked part of our environment. In the author's very poetic writing style, I enjoyed reviewing the many interesting facts about mosses. They do not produce pollen, seeds or flowers. They do not have roots, but have clusters of rhizoids that anchor the plant and provide stability. Water is absorbed through the leaves and stems. Though mosses are small, they are very successful: they inhabit nearly every ecosystem on Earth, and number as many as 22,000 species. Moss is a bryophyte, a division of non-vascular land plants that also includes liverworts and hornworts. The most fundamental way to distinguish a moss is that its leaves and stems are separate from one another. In each chapter, the author invites you to pick up a hand lens and forceps to explore these miniature plants for yourself. And so, I did.



Our cool, foggy, damp Louisiana winters remind me of the weather conditions in the Pacific Northwest. On my daily walks this winter, I've noticed that many mosses, and epiphytes thrive at this time of year. Mosses are in familiar places all around us. I've noticed interesting species in the cracks of sidewalks, on the sides of landscaping timbers, and at the base of live oak trees. Early morning or following a rain are the best time to look, and a magnifying lens is suggested to see the details in these tiny plants.

I am trying to learn more about these tiny plants. One of the first challenges has been to distinguish between moss vs. not moss. Moss is often confused with ferns, lichens, and epiphytes (air plants). This photo shows a fallen tree branch that contains mosses, lichens, and a resurrection fern. This indicates the diversity of organisms that can exist within a few inches.



In Louisiana, when you mention moss, Spanish Moss immediately comes to mind. But Spanish Moss, *Tillandsia usneoides*, is not a moss but an epiphyte, a plant that grows on another plant, but is not parasitic. Spanish Moss is also a bromeliad. Another epiphyte and bromeliad in southwest Louisiana is ball moss, *Tillandsia recurvata*. These are both flowering plants, that absorb water through their leaves not their roots, and are relatively cold tolerant. They are both found along the Gulf Coast.

Mature Ball moss in a tree



Mature Ball moss, with seed heads



Some gardeners consider ball moss a pest, but it is not a parasite and doesn't directly harm trees. A large number of these plants on a tree branch can weigh it down, and cause breakage in a winter storm. This is how I found my first ball moss, on the ground following a winter rainstorm.

I've enjoyed my new winter pastime on our cool, foggy, dreary days. Once I started looking I've noticed a variety of different mosses just in my neighborhood.

These tiny plants live in communities, undergo ecological succession, and have complex life cycles.

Mosses don't usually have common names, only scientific Latin ones. And identification can be challenging. Fortunately, according to Robin Kimmerer in her book:

"Knowing mosses, however, does not require knowing their scientific names. The Latin words we give them are only arbitrary constructs. Often, when I encounter a new moss species and have yet to associate it with its official name, I give it a name which makes sense to me: green velvet, curly top, or red stem. The word is immaterial. What seems to me to be important is recognizing them, acknowledging their individuality."

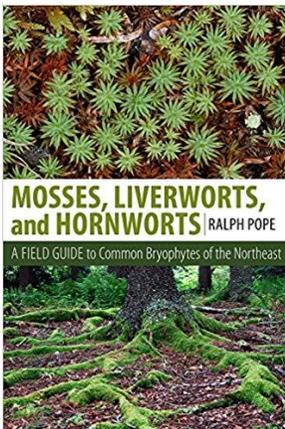
These are some great resources to get you started on your journey:

Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses, by Robin Wall Kimmerer; 2003, Oregon State University Press

Mosses of The Gulf South, by William Dean Reese, 1984, LSU Press; (this is a scientific key to the mosses).

Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts: A Field Guide to Common Bryophytes of the Northeast.
by Ralph Pope December 2016

<https://www.amazon.com/Mosses-Liverworts-Hornworts-Bryophytes-Northeast/dp/1501700782>



This beautiful photo-based field guide to the more common or distinctive bryophytes of northeastern North America gives beginners the tools they need to identify most specimens without using a compound microscope. Ralph Pope's inviting text and helpful photographs cover not only the "true" mosses but also the Sphagnaceae (the peat mosses), liverworts, and hornworts.



Know Your Watershed, but first: What Is a Watershed?

By Robby Maxwell

I've spent a lot of time over the past few months talking to people with a wide range of backgrounds about watersheds. One thing that has really struck me is how many people don't know what a watershed is, or where their local waters originate and flow to. That being said, it's time to write a little about watersheds, and why they're important to you, the community, and ecosystems.

First off, what is a watershed? Basically, a watershed is an area where every drop of water that runs off of it ends up in similar streams, rivers, and ultimately, large body of water like an ocean or terminal lake (lake that doesn't drain to the sea) (Figure 1). Watersheds are also known as drainage basins, river basins, catchments, or simply basins, and can be divided from basins down to sub-basins. In the USA, watersheds have been delineated by the USGS into Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs). The codes range from two to 14 digit codes that get larger as the watersheds get smaller (Figure 2).

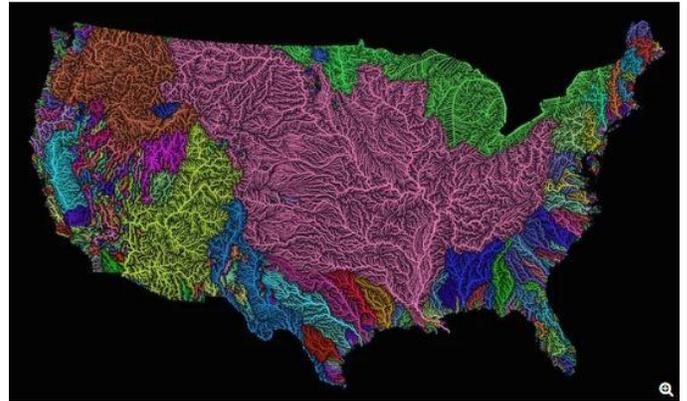


Figure 1. Color-coded watershed map of the U.S. by Robert Szucs, Fejetlenfej/Imgur



Figure 2. Calcasieu and Mermentau Watersheds delineated by HUCs. Source: USDA-NRCS, USGS, and EPA

Once you understand watersheds, you can get a handle on where any waters you're interested in come from, and where they go. This is important information when it comes to flooding, pollution, and anything else that can happen regarding surface water. Rainfall events can affect people hundreds or thousands of miles away thanks to watersheds. If an area has a small reservoir and a disproportionately large watershed, it will be prone to flooding. You can experience a local drought, but be subject to flooding, as happened in the Lower Mississippi in 2011 as record snow melt flowed down into an area experiencing extreme drought. How water flows in the watershed determines the flow and destination of pollution.

Watersheds are ecologically important. Aquatic species distributions are usually delineated on watershed levels. Some species of fish are restricted to one river basin with the sea and surrounding land preventing it from venturing into adjacent watersheds. A species can also be restricted to a sub-basin within a larger watershed when movement is restricted by high flows, temperature, water chemistry, or lack of suitable habitat from one sub-basin to another. This is why certain fishes are found in one area of a watershed, and not another. Watershed not only direct the flow of water, but also populations and genetics!

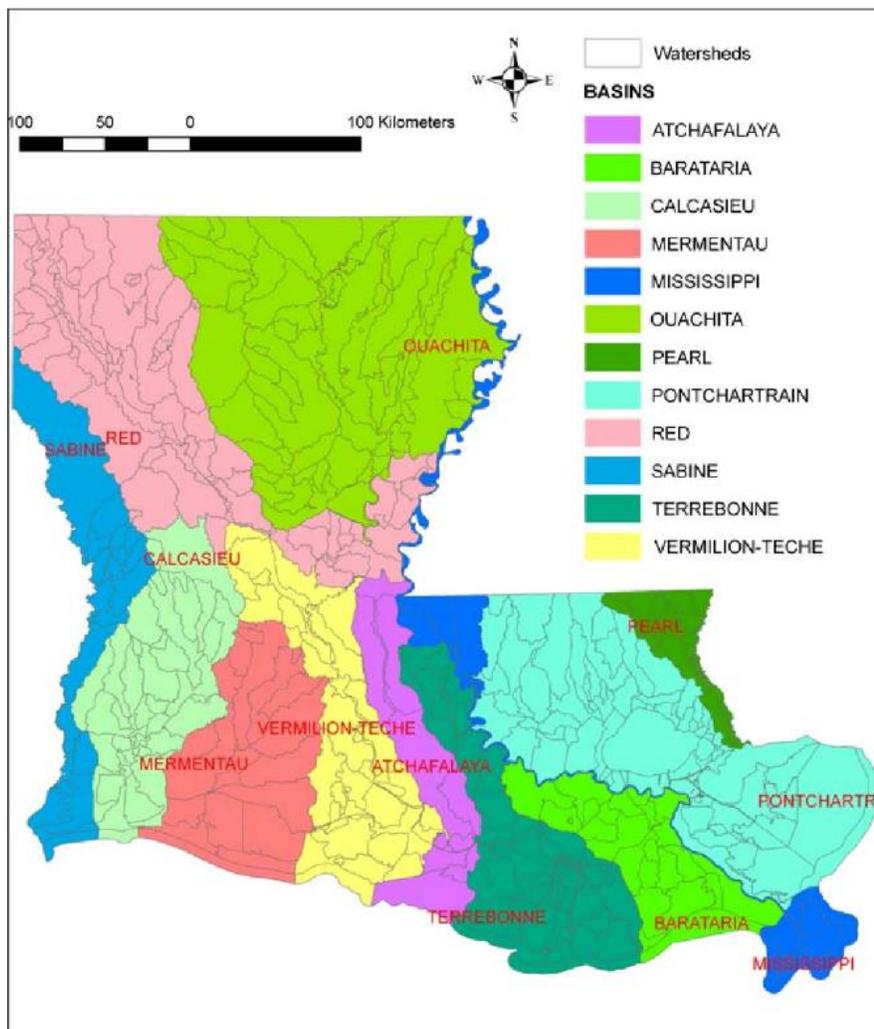
Now that you know what a watershed is, get to know your watershed. What makes it unique? What are the challenges it faces? Here are some links to help on your watershed journey:

The map in Figure 2, which is easy to navigate <https://databasin.org/datasets/f57141fecb9849bfa7ccd6ad6634c118>

LA Freshwater Network by The Nature Conservancy <http://maps.freshwaternetwork.org/louisiana/>

LA Stream Flow Conditions <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/la/nwis/rt>

LA Watershed Initiative, watershed based flood planning <https://watershed.la.gov/>



Upcoming Events:

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Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Workshop Dates and Description for 2019. (Times and dates are subject to change.) **Application and registration for New Members is required.**
Apply at: <http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/apply.html>

Date	Workshop	Title	Location
Feb. 2	Workshop 1	Introduction	Tuten Park
Feb. 9	Workshop 2	Citizen Science	Tuten Park
Feb. 23	Workshop 3	Backyard Wildlife Management	Tuten Park
Mar. 9	Workshop 4	Birds	Location to be Determined
Mar 15-17	LMNA Rendezvous		Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville
Mar. 30	Workshop 5	Longleaf Pine	Tuten Park/Reeves
Apr. 13	Workshop 6	Cajun Prairie	Eunice
May 4	Workshop 7	Coastal Ecology	Location to be Determined
May 18	Workshop 8	Fungi	Tuten Park
May 25	<i>alternative date</i>	<i>Fungi</i>	Tuten Park
June 1	Workshop 9	Amphibians and Reptiles	Sam Houston Jones State Park
June 8	Workshop 10	Aquatic Invertebrates and Habitat	Moss Bluff
June 22	Workshop 11	Fish	Vernon Parish
June 29	Workshop 12	The Land Ethic and Graduation	Tuten Park

Happy Valentines Day

Upcoming Events:

March 15-17, 2019 LMNA Rendezvous

Louisiana Master Naturalists will hold its annual Rendezvous Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville. The Louisiana Master Naturalists Association will hosts an annual Rendezvous where members meet to learn, volunteer, and get to know their fellow Louisiana Master Naturalists.

Rendezvous 2019 Registration Form found here: [Rendezvous 2019 Registration Form](#)

LMNA: <http://www.louisianamasternaturalist.org/>

Upcoming Education Programs at Tuten Park

Tuten Park 3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles

Sign up for any upcoming programs at: bit.ly/TutenEd or by email or phone: 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

Feb 1-3, 2019, Louisiana Native Plant Society meeting, <https://www.lnps.org/>

Feb 8, 9, 10 Tom Sawyer Days, Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

Feb 9, 2019 Winter symposium Master Gardeners New Orleans featuring two of our plothers, Tammany Baumgarten and Dr. Kiki Fontenot <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-symposium-2019-tickets-52964835248>

Feb 10, 2019 Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts Field Trip from 9-3 at Fullerton Lake Campground in Kisatchie National Forest near Pitkin, LA www.louisianaherps.com

Feb 15-18, 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Feb 16, 2019 Volunteers needed at Hollister Property Cameron Parish to help in clean-up, trail maintenance, and tree planting. Contact Will DeGravelles, William.degravelles@tnc.org or 225-931-7373

Feb 21 - 24, 2019, Whooping Crane Festival 2019 Port Aransas, Texas

<https://www.portaransas-texas.com/events/festivals/whooping-crane-festival-2019>

The Coastal Bend is the only spot in the United States where the endangered Whooping Crane can be viewed at close range, and the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce celebrates this astonishing natural wonder with an annual festival honoring these grand birds

Feb 23, 2019 Camellia Stroll, Hammond <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/jmorgan/articles/page1485461117416>

Upcoming Events:

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Feb 21, 2019 – Feb 23, 2019, Eagle Expo Morgan City, Louisiana

[13th Annual Eagle Expo and More](#)

The American Bald Eagle is a common visitor on the Cajun Coast. Join us to view these majestic birds perched in a tree, soaring overhead, tending their young, or hunting for food. Our annual Eagle Expo includes boat tours into various waterways to view eagles, a Birds of Prey educational program, presentations on wildlife, a walking/hiking trail, photography workshop, and keynote addresses. Admission and registration required. Contact: info@canjuncoast.com 800-256-2931, or 985-380-8224.

Feb. 23, 2019 Herb Day, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, 8am to 2pm <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/burden/events>

Feb 27, 2019 Learn and Burn Workshop, War Memorial Civic Center 250 West 7th St. DeRidder, LA 70634

For more information about this event Contact Chris Rice (The Nature Conservancy) Phone: (318) 237-5569, Email: crice@tnc.org Pre-registration is required and space is limited. The deadline to register for the field day is Wednesday, February 13, 2019 To register via check or credit card contact: Belinda Stewart, Louisiana Forestry Association: (318) 443-2558 Mail checks to: Louisiana Forestry Association LLP Field Day 2019 (Attention: Belinda Stewart) P.O. Box Drawer 5067, Alexandria, LA 71307 Make checks payable to "LFA" and include "LLP Field Day 2019" on the memo line

March 9, 2019, Sustainable Ag Conference, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana – Grassland Gardens, Healing the Earth by Marc Pastorek, <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>



March 15-17, 2019 Louisiana Master Naturalists 4th Annual Rendezvous

<http://www.louisianamasternaturalist.org/rendezvous.html>
Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville, Louisiana



March 22-23, 2019 Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2019

Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles
<https://10times.com/southwest-louisiana-garden>

Apr 5, 2019 to Apr 8, 2019, Great Louisiana BirdFest Mandeville, Louisiana

[23rd Annual Great Louisiana BirdFest](#)

Great Louisiana BirdFest is considered one of the premier birding events in the country. Birding trips by foot and pontoon boat in varied habitat, including swamps, wetlands, pine savanna, and hardwoods. Photography and other workshops, Southern food and hospitality. Contact: Rue McNeill, 985-626-1238, rue@northlakenature.org

April 6, 2019, Cajun Prairie meeting, <http://www.cajunprairie.org/>

WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS 2019

April 2-4, April 16-18, May 7-9, and May 28-30, 2019 Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656
337-328-2252, native@camtel.net, www.nativeventures.net

Upcoming Events:

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April 12, 13, 14, 2019, Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, 49 Ludwig Lane, Grand Isle, Louisiana 70358

[Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration](#)

See songbirds in oak-hackberry woods, shorebirds and waders on beaches and in the marshes, and raptors overhead. Grand Isle is an essential stop for songbirds during their spring and fall migrations across the Gulf of Mexico. The celebration is held annually to correspond with peak bird migration in April. Contact: 985-787-2229, email: jlandry@tnc.org

April 13, 2019, Festival des Fleurs, 8am – 4pm, Blackham Coliseum, Lafayette, LA,

<https://horticulture.louisiana.edu/outreach/festival-des-fleurs>

April 23-25 or May 21-23, 2019, GRAMINOID (GRASSES, SEDGES, AND RUSHES) IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

April 26-29, 2019, Lake Charles City Nature Challenge

May 3-4, 2019, Southern Garden Festival, 3502 E. Simcoe St., Lafayette, LA,

<https://www.lafayettetravel.com/event/southern-garden-festival/25079/>

May 9, 2019, Nacogdoches, Texas, Stephen F. Austin University, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, Les Reeves Lecture Series – Entertainment via Seed by Marc Pastorek, <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>

June 1, 2019 New Orleans Botanical Garden, New Orleans, Louisiana – The Best Natives for New Orleans Gardens by Marc Pastorek <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>

June 2-5, 2019 North American Prairie Conference, Houston, Texas <http://www.northamericanprairie.org/>

July 20-28, 2019 National Moth Week <http://nationalmothweek.org/>

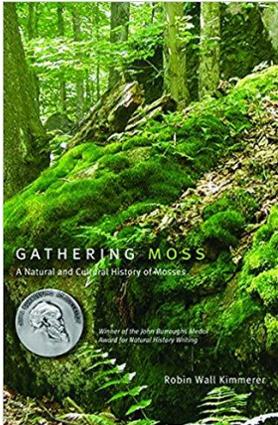
July 20-28, 2019 Bioblitz Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

July 25-28, 2019 National Bug Guide Gathering Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

September 21, 2019 New Orleans Botanical Garden, New Orleans, Louisiana – Collecting Seed from Louisiana Native Plants by Marc Pastorek <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>

October 14, 2019 International Plant Propagators Society Southern Region Conference – Baton Rouge, Louisiana – Botanical Landscapes by way of Seed by Marc Pastorek <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>

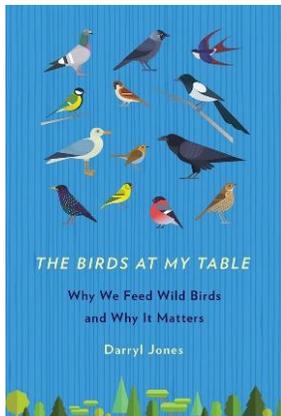
Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)**Books:****Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses by Robin Wall Kimmerer**<https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Moss-Natural-Cultural-History/dp/0870714996>

Living at the limits of our ordinary perception, mosses are a common but largely unnoticed element of the natural world. *Gathering Moss* is a beautifully written mix of science and personal reflection that invites readers to explore and learn from the elegantly simple lives of mosses.

Kimmerer clearly and artfully explains the biology of mosses, while at the same time reflecting on what these fascinating organisms have to teach us.

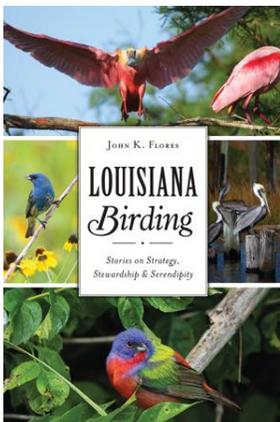
Drawing on her diverse experiences as a scientist, mother, teacher, and writer of Native American heritage, Kimmerer explains the stories of mosses in scientific terms as well as in the framework of indigenous ways of knowing. In her book, the natural history and cultural relationships of mosses become a powerful metaphor for ways of living in the world.

The Birds at My Table Why We Feed Wild Birds and Why it Matters by Darryl Jones<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100207600>

Darryl Jones is fascinated by bird feeders. Not the containers supplying food to our winged friends, but the people who fill the containers.

Why do people do this? Jones asks in *The Birds at My Table*. Does the food even benefit the birds? What are the unintended consequences of providing additional food to our winged friends?

Jones takes us on a wild flight through the history of bird feeding. He pinpoints the highs and lows of the practice. And he ponders this odd but seriously popular form of interaction between humans and wild animals. Most important, he points out that we know very little about the impact of feeding birds despite millions of people doing it every day.

Louisiana Birding: Stories on Strategy, Stewardship & Serendipity by John K. Flores, October 8, 2018

Arcadia publishing

https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467140942?fbclid=IwAR0NQ75X5519-FLI4SlD5SI333HFMQ98r290qUTv_D6aFm7ak18LSatI3Sw

From the bayous of the coast to prairies and rolling hills, Louisiana is home to a vibrant and thriving avian population. Herons, American goldfinches, snow geese and more call the state coastline home during the winter months. The music of neotropical songbirds like the Parula and the Prothonotary warbler fills the bayous every spring morning. Endangered species like the whooping crane and brown pelican have been reintroduced to the state to great success. The pragmatic conservation efforts of state, federal and private agencies not only led to the successful delisting of some endangered species of birds but also helped develop protocols for the future stewardship of others. Award-winning outdoor writer and photographer John Flores celebrates Louisiana's notable feathered inhabitants in their natural habitats.

Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)**Bumble Bee Watch**<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bumble-bee-watch/id1112626392?mt=8>

Bumble Bee Watch is a citizen science project dedicated to tracking and conserving North America's bumble bees. The Bumble Bee Watch app is the best way to learn and engage with bumble bees around you and to contribute sightings to this important citizen science project. It is a comprehensive and easy to use resource that is geared towards all levels of nature enthusiasts.

BugGuide Identification, Images and Information for Insects, Spiders and their kin, for the U.S. and**Canada** <https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>
Butterflies and Moths of North Americahttp://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/identification_tools
Nature's Notebook Mobil App<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/mobile-apps>

Nature's Notebook is a citizen science program for observing and recording plant and animal life cycle events, like flowering and bird migration (also known as phenology). Create an account, and register your location online first. Then use the app for going out into the field to record your observations through the seasons.

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

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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 you send a digital photograph, please include in the email the subject, your name, location, date and any interesting story or information about the photograph. Please send your email to the Newsletter Editor: 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.