

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

Nature Notes



Charter 2016

Vol 4 ISSUE 2 April 2019

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President's Note:

Greetings, Master Naturalists!

If I had to pick the busiest month to be a naturalist, it'd be April. All of nature is finally awakening after a long winter, many birds and butterflies are migrating back to our area after spending the last 4-5 months in the tropics, and the weather is finally nice enough for even the most casual naturalists to spend quality time outside in nature. On top of all of that, families and friends are hosting outdoor gatherings to take advantage of the nice weather, and Easter/spring break is coming up.

With all the activities going on, don't forget about the City Nature Challenge on April 26-29! That weekend, also the weekend after spring break, will be the most exciting weekend to be a naturalist and to use iNaturalist. The City Nature Challenge is a competition between cities worldwide to see which city has the most nature (and by that the most dedicated iNaturalists). Our area is comprised of the 6 parish Southwest Louisiana area (Vernon, Beauregard, Allen, Jeff Davis, Calcasieu, and Cameron).

Calendar Quick View

Apr 3 SLAMN General Meeting
 Apr 4 Louisiana Iris Tuten Park
 April 6, LDWF Family Fishing Day at Lacassine Pool
 April 26-29 City Nature Challenge
 Apr 13 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 May 4 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 May 18 SLAMN Candidate Workshop



President's Note:

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Here's all you need to do to participate in the City Nature Challenge:

1. photograph (or record audio) **wild** organisms in our area
2. identify them the best you can
3. upload them to iNaturalist

Then naturalists from everywhere will work diligently to identify your observations by the end of that week when the announcements will be made. Last year, Southwest Louisiana ranked 37th in observations, 27th in species, and 44th in observers out of 68 cities. This year over 160 cities on 6 continents will be participating, including New Orleans! There will be a few master naturalist meetups across our area for the City Nature Challenge, including one at Wolf Rock Cave in Vernon Parish, and evening nature walks at Riverside Park and Tuten Park. Others may be more impromptu and bird banding may also take place at Sam Houston Jones State Park.

At its heart, the City Nature Challenge is about each person taking part in going out and observing the natural world, so we're focusing on encouraging everyone to go out on your own, with a friend, or even while you're at that family gathering or festival and finding nature to contribute to the effort. Each year, the City Nature Challenge has provided a snapshot of the world's urban biodiversity, so I encourage everyone in our chapter to spread the word and to participate so that Southwest Louisiana's biodiversity is represented!

Thanks,

Irvin Louque

April 26-29

**City
Nature
Challenge
2019**



Meeting Notes

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Upcoming Meeting Location and Date
April 3, 2019 Tuten Park at 6:00 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/>

Board Meeting March 7, 2019 Meeting Highlights

Committee Reports

Course

There are currently 11 people enrolled in the SLAMN course.

Volunteer and Promotions

Garden Festival booth setup by Arlene Cain and Linda Wygoda. Chet St Romain has volunteers lined up.

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

New Business

Robby Maxwell April 6, LDWF will be hosting a Family Fishing Day at Lacassine Pool. Robby Maxwell will send out an email asking for volunteers.

Barbara Morris brought up a discussion on making a display board for the presentation table. It would highlight different topics. Cutouts would be changeable. It was suggested that an email asking for a volunteer be sent out.

Upcoming Events

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. All SLAMN members are asked to volunteer for this event.

SLAMN Chapter Meeting Wednesday April 3, 2019

Dr. Jay Huner will present information about crawfish and the impact of crawfish farming on the bird communities of SWLA

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Chapter meetings are held quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month at Tuten Park at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

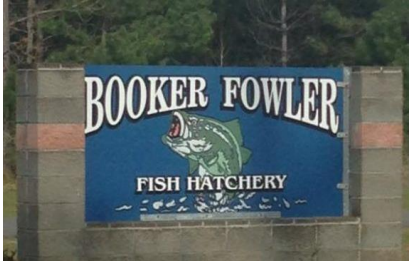
Chapter tentative meeting dates for 2019: October 2.



Local News:

[Back](#)**February 27th Spring Field Trip by Barbara Morris**

On February 27th a group of volunteers went to the Booker Fowler fish hatchery in Pollock, LA. Our volunteer role at the event was to escort school groups around the facility. The students are there to learn more about Paddlefish and to collect the Paddlefish eggs that they will raise in their schools. The fingerling fish will be released into a nearby river, helping to maintain their population.



We witnessed dissection, learned to age fish, saw the Bass fingerling process, observed the Paddlefish swimming in tanks, and the collection and fertilization of the eggs. We also saw Robby Maxwell at work. It was a very interesting day.

Thanks to **Brittany Manuel, Julie Amy, Chet St Romain, Clay Ardoin, Barbara Morris, and Bette Talbot** for volunteering.

March 22-23, 2019 SLAMN at the Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival

A big shout out to **Chet St. Romain** for his great work organizing volunteers for the SLAMN booth at the Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival. Many of our members helped out at our booth talking to Garden Festival participants about our organization. We have a nice list of potential candidates for the next Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists program. A great thanks to all the **SLAMN members** that helped out at the booth.

We want to give a very special thanks to **Dea Manuel** for donating a beautiful garden

Congratulations to our Garden Festival raffle prize winner **Deborah Bertrand**.



**MEDIA CONTACTS:**Irvin Louque, irvinlouque@gmail.com, (225)206-0400**CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS ACROSS THE GLOBE COMPETE IN CITY NATURE CHALLENGE APRIL 26-29, 2019**

Fourth annual challenge grows to over 150 participating cities on six continents; results announced on May 6.

Lake Charles (March 30) – As citizen and community science initiatives build momentum around the world, this year's fourth annual [City Nature Challenge](#) will expand to more than 150 cities across six continents. Kicking off April 26 at 12:01 am in each time zone, the Challenge runs through April 29, 11:59 pm. The global event calls on current and aspiring citizen scientists, nature and science fans, and people of all ages and education backgrounds to observe and submit pictures of wild plants, animals, and fungi using the free mobile app [iNaturalist](#). Identification of photographed species will be crowdsourced through the online community April 30 – May 5 and results will be announced on May 6.

Nature exists in every city, and one of the best ways to study it is by connecting scientists and the community through citizen science. As global human populations become increasingly concentrated in cities, it's more important than ever to document urban biodiversity and help ensure the future of plants and wildlife. Large pools of data built through [iNaturalist](#), natural history museums, and science organizations help authorities make informed conservation decisions that allow humans to coexist sustainably with the plants and animals in their neighborhoods.

After launching the first-ever City Nature Challenge in 2016, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) and San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences (CAS) are hosting their fourth—and much larger—effort. Last year's five-day challenge invited U.S. participants in 68 cities to observe and submit pictures of wildlife they encountered using iNaturalist. Participants added over 400,000 observations of nature to iNaturalist, and scientists continue to use these data to understand and conserve urban wildlife.

This year, the Challenge is expanding, and organizers estimate that 750,000 observations will be made by over 25,000 people in over 150 participating cities. For both budding and veteran citizen scientists, participating is easy:

1. Find wildlife. It can be any wild plant, animal, fungi, slime mold, or any other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, carcasses!) found in your participating city.
2. Take pictures of what you find using [iNaturalist](#).
3. Learn more as your observations get identified!

Local News:[Back](#)

Scientists can't be everywhere at once, so without community observations, they'd miss some incredible finds. During the 2018 City Nature Challenge, an observation of a hammerhead worm in the San Francisco Bay Area marked the first-ever recording of this species, which is native to Asia, in the U.S. In central Texas, the bracted twistflower—a candidate for federal protection—bloomed in deep purple hues across its only known home in the Edwards Plateau. In Hong Kong, observations of an incense tree that inspired the city's name (Hong Kong translates to "scented harbor") helped document how the once-abundant tree has declined across its native range. And the observation of an endangered songbird flitting through swamps outside of Bogotá, Colombia renewed hope for the future of this rare bird. Many other endangered, endemic, or data deficient species were recorded during the City Nature Challenge: This influx of information gives scientists, educators, urban planners, and policymakers insight into the biodiversity of urban locales throughout the world.

More Information and Education Toolkit

Visit citynaturechallenge.com

iNaturalist

Signing up is easy and free. Visit inaturalist.org from your browser, or download iNaturalist from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) store.

Social Media

#CityNatureChallenge

Twitter handle: [@citnatchallenge](#)



March 15-17, 2019 Louisiana Master Naturalists Association Annual Rendezvous

Louisiana Master Naturalists held its annual Rendezvous at Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville, Louisiana. The Rendezvous' provide an opportunity for members across the state to meet and greet and get to know their fellow Louisiana Master Naturalists. Members have an opportunity to volunteer, learn from each other, and earn continuing education credit.

Attending the LMNA Rendezvous by SLAMN Master Naturalists Candidate Martha Hoag

As a newcomer to the SLAMN program, I really enjoyed the LMNA Rendezvous weekend and the opportunity to spend time with so many knowledgeable people who were eager to share their "pearls" of knowledge and experience. Their enthusiasm was contagious. The weather was cold and wet, and put a damper on the opportunity for nature walks, but fortunately Saturday afternoon and evening did allow for some interesting outings. During a walk with **Dr. Charles Allen**, we had the amazing experience of watching a Pileated woodpecker dive bomb us as he flew right over our heads into a dead tree where he quickly ducked right into a hollowed out area. It was a beautiful sight! The night hike with **Bob Thomas and Amy** revealed a variety of amazing night life that included observing frogs up-close. It was nice to see such a large group of folks conserving resources by bringing and washing their own dinnerware! I would definitely participate in this type of event again next year. Hope to see you all there next year!

Attending the LMNA Rendezvous by SLAMN Master Naturalists Candidate Debbie Davis

I love our parks and have always loved to explore outdoors. I loved the nature surrounding Fontainebleau State Park. Our great state is rich in natural resources, plants, and wildlife. You can tell the love of nature was shared by the large group of participants of various ages who attended the LMNA Rendezvous. Although Mother Nature wasn't that cooperative, no one felt like spending all their time indoors except for the indoor classes. The evening activities still took place except for the campfire and that was due to rain. Food was catered and great. We had great presenters! One could tell by their enthusiasm how well they loved what they do. The campground was comfortable which is where Martha Hoag and I stayed (camper). I would certainly recommend all members to attend the next Rendezvous no matter where it's held.



Photos by Martha Hoag



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



Earn Continuing Education credit. Complete eBird's free online course and learn how to use this popular citizen science bird reporting tool.

**eBird Essentials Free online course**

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>



Discover how eBird can support your passion for birds and how your participation can help us better understand them. Birder, bird watcher, or bird lover, it doesn't matter—this course is for you. Whether you watch birds at your feeder or on the way to work, or travel miles for that one bird you can't wait to see, eBird can help.

This free course guides you through how to get the most out of your eBirding experiences and invites you to become a part of this worldwide project.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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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.

SW LA NWR Complex Headquarters

Attn: **Diane Borden-Billiot** Volunteer Coordinator, 1428 Hwy. 27, Bell City, LA 70630; 337-598-2216

Volunteers Needed: Cameron Prairie NWR Family Fishing Day

Saturday April 6, 2019, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

We are looking for volunteers to help. Every year, as a joint effort of USFWS and LDWF, Cameron Prairie opens up a couple of fishing ponds for one day to the public to provide fishing opportunity which is very kid friendly, enjoyable, and educational. There are all kinds of tasks that you can help with if you don't want to do the fishing part of it, but we also need people to simply walk around and help people get fish off of hooks.

Saturday 4/6/19 with backup date of 4/13 in case of rain, time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge - ponds directly past the Headquarters

Contact: **Robby Maxwell, (512) 656-5155, rmaxwell@wlf.la.gov**

Louisiana Iris Citizen Science Project – Help preserve our native irises

<http://www.louisianairisgnois.com/CitizenScience/index.html>

GNOIS Louisiana Iris Location Citizen Science Project 2019

Instructions:

- A. Download **Ramblr** app.
- B. Create a user id and password.
- C. Turn on the app when you are driving to search for iris.
- D. Bring a measuring device – at least 3'. Wooden ruler or tape. Where possible use the ruler to measure the height of the whole iris (pic #1) and the spread of the falls and standards (pic #2)
- E. Take photos in the app, three when possible.
 - #1. Photo of the whole iris (side view) – from ground up
 - #2 Close-up photo of the flower from the top.
 - #3 Close-up photo of the flower from the side.
- F. Voice record observations, if you want, on **ramblr**.



Volunteer Opportunities:

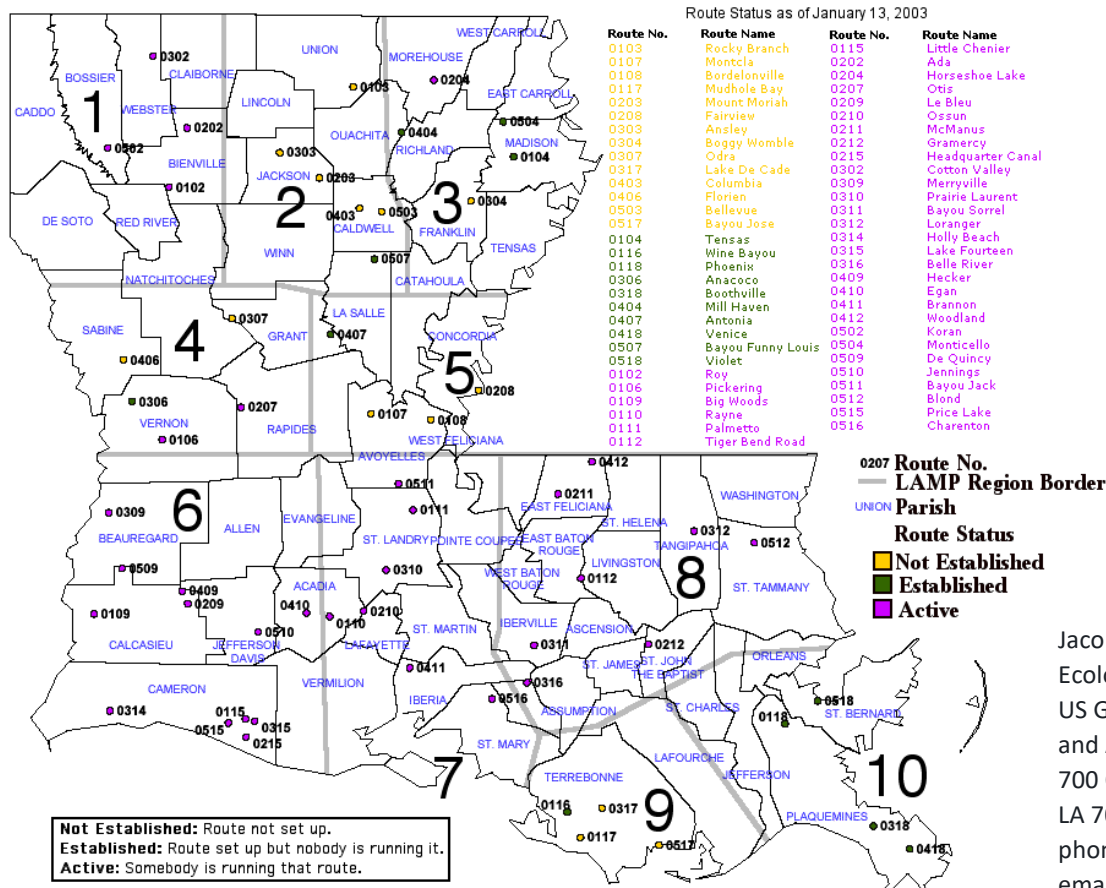
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Volunteers needed for Louisiana Amphibian Monitoring Program LAMP

This project monitors the location and activity of frogs in the Southwest Louisiana area. There are several routes that need volunteers to monitor frogs. This is a very worthwhile research program. Volunteers will make a valuable contribution to the understanding of amphibians in Louisiana. If you are interested in volunteering or would simply like more information contact Clay Ardoin cardoin@infolink-usa.com

Monitoring routes in Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis parishes:

Route Number	Route Name	Parish	Started	Last Run
0115	Little Chenier	Cameron	1998	2002
0314	Holly Beach	Cameron	1997	2004
0215	Headquarter Canal	Cameron	1998	2006
0515	Price Lake	Cameron	1998	2006
0315	Lake Fourteen	Cameron	1998	2011
0109	Big Woods	Calcasieu	1997	2015
0409	Hecker	Calcasieu	1997	2015
0209	Le Bleu	Calcasieu	1997	2015
0510	Jennings	Jefferson Davis	1997	2016



Jacoby Carter PhD., Research Ecologist
 US Geological Survey, Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
 700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506, USA
 phone: 337-266-8620,
 email: carterj@usgs.gov



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 Adrienne Edwards

Subtribe Spilosomina A member of Tiger Moths Tribe Arctiini

Add your observations to the Southwest Louisiana master Naturalists Project

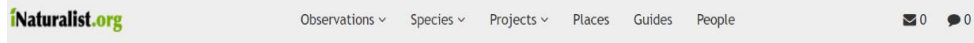
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/southwest-louisiana-master-naturalists>



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](#)



Naturalists Notes:

[Back](#)**Lyreleaf Sage – *Salvia lyrata* By Monica Canizares**

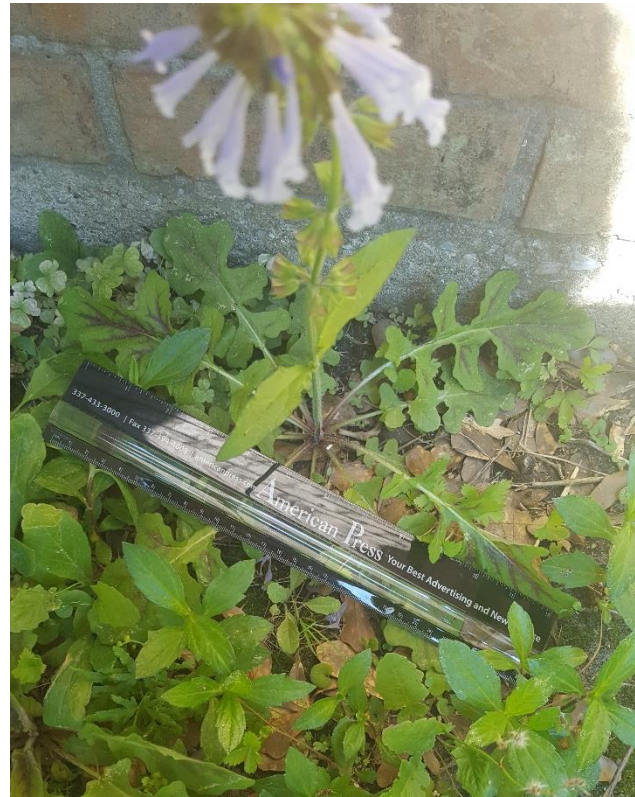
This February, I smiled at the first sighting of this purple-flowered plant in my yard. The color popped amidst the dead grass, various clovers and other “weeds” that covered the ground over the winter. I did not recognize the plant, but it reminded me of henbit (*Lamium applexicaule*), a weed that covered my yard back home in North Texas. After feeling the square stem, I knew it would also be in the mint family, so I snapped photos and uploaded them to iNaturalist. Other users identified the plant for me – *Salvia lyrata*, or lyreleaf sage.

As the month progressed, I began to see the plant wherever grass was growing; a couple times I wished I could stop on 210 to photograph the patches along the highway. Though attractive, the lyreleaf sage has the capacity to spread extensively. The parts of my yard that hold water were free of them, but the plant had emerged in sunny open sections and in shaded regions near the house. In fact, the USDA warns that lyreleaf sages can become invasive in areas if not properly managed. Once established, close mowing can help the plant because it cuts back competitors, but it does somewhat limit seed production (1).



Once I recognized lyreleaf sage, I noticed that the color of the leaves varied greatly on a spectrum from completely green to almost completely purple. The rosette of the leaves can range in size from a couple inches across to a little over a foot. Being able to recognize these plants in their various shades and sizes is important for those who forage lyreleaf sage. When I searched for the plant online, various websites list the plant as a source of herbal medicine, and some have documented its medicinal use by Native American tribes, specifically the Catawba and Cherokee (2, 3, 4). Others recommend adding the young plant’s leaves (before it flowers) to a salad for a mild, minty flavor. I personally tasted a couple different leaves from throughout my yard and was not sure if I detected mint, but the overall flavor was very mild. My biggest dissuasion from including them in a salad is the hairy texture on the leaves. The USDA makes no mention of the edible or medicinal qualities of the plant, but they list two other salvias on their page of “Culturally Significant Plants”, a project worked on in collaboration between the National Plant Data Team, Native American plant authorities, and NRCS resources (5).

My mom teaches 4th and 5th graders at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, Texas. When learning about prairies, her class goes to their prairie reserve area and splits into several groups with hula hoops. Each group throws the hula hoop on the ground and create a list of all the different species of plants and animals they can distinguish within its boundaries. I often think of this activity when I go through our neighborhood in Moss Bluff. It partly inspired my goal of documenting each different plant species I encounter on my daily walks. I started this list in iNaturalist, and the third plant I uploaded was the lyreleaf sage. I can understand being frustrated by its persistent growth if I wanted a manicured lawn, but I like the pop of color that lyreleaf sage plants bring to our yards and hope to see little pollinators near them soon.



Literature Cited

1. USDA NRCS Lyreleaf Sage Fact Sheet https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_saly2.pdf
2. Native American Ethnobotany Database <http://naeb.brit.org/uses/search/?string=lyreleaf+sage>
3. Dave's Garden, Identifying Wildflowers: Lyreleaf Sage <https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/5288/>
4. Foraging Texas, Lyreleaf Sage <https://www.foragingtexas.com/2006/02/lyreleaf-sage.html>
5. USDA NRCS Culturally Significant Plants <https://plants.usda.gov/culturalinfo.html#links>

Naturalists Notes:

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Hummingbirds and the Value of Mentorship by Irvin Louque

When I was a kid, I was never too far from the outdoors whether it was hunting or fishing with my dad or watching nature documentaries. I'd wanted to be a zoologist or paleontologist since I can remember.



However, birding or being a naturalist really wasn't something I thought I could do at any age (including as a kid or teen) until I came across the "Birds and Birding" column in the local weekly paper. It turned out that the column was written by Mr. Tom Sylvest, a friend of my grandparents since the 1960s. It was that column that sparked my interest in birds. It wasn't long before my mom recognized that and bought me the first field guide I ever held. It, along with all the tips from "Birds and Birding," helped me get started in learning how to identify the common birds, and I began keeping notes.

It was around this time that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds came onto my radar. I put out my first hummingbird feeders in June 2005, and it took over a month for the hummingbirds to find it. Finally a few regulars were coming by August. That was the year Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans (my parents and I lived about 40 miles west of New Orleans), and as soon as the worst of the storm had passed, we were immediately bombarded with dozens of hummingbirds. In the midst of hummingbird migration, the major disaster disrupted the hummingbirds' food supply. They'd found our feeders which needed to be filled multiple times a day. After a week or so, the hummingbirds had returned to their pre-hurricane levels, but a similar surge in hummers happened after Hurricane Rita. I'm sure that there were some interesting "Birds and Birding" columns since the region-wide surge in hummingbirds was well-known and noted by more casual birders in the community. I distinctly remember one of the "Birds and Birding" columns from around this time explaining the concept of hummingbird gardening and recommendations of a handful of proven hummingbird-attracting plants. That column inspired my goal for 2006: to build and plant a hummingbird garden.

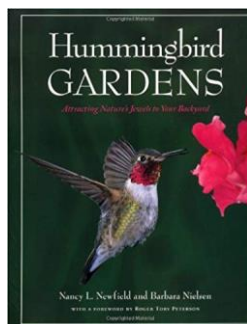
My first hummingbird garden wasn't much to brag about. It had a handful of plants that were decent at attracting hummingbirds, such as *Salvia splendens*, cape honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis*), and lantana (*Lantana camara*). After all, the best plants recommended by the hummingbird gardeners were hard to find in local nurseries. That summer, my mom and I ran into Mr. Tom Sylvest at Wal-Mart and talked for a few minutes. She and I were invited anytime to visit his home and check out his hummingbirds. Within weeks, we took him up on his offer and were able to experience Winter Hummer Land (Mr. Tom's name for his yard). His gardens were lush with tropical flowers, feeders, and dozens of hummingbirds. We left that day with 5 of his best plants for hummingbirds— winter shrimp plant ([Justicia brandegeana](#)), Turk's cap hibiscus ([Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii](#)), porterweed ([Stachytarpheta mutabilis](#)), firespike ([Odontonema strictum](#)), and flowering maple ([Abutilon pictum](#)). These plants grew quickly in their first year and enhanced the yard, bringing in many hummingbirds, including the first Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus* sp.) I ever saw in November 2006. Once I was able to closely observe their antics, from aggressively defending their feeders to their parabolic flights used by males to display their colors and fitness to females, I was hooked on hummingbirds and have been ever since.

That first year, I also joined HUMNET. In the years before social media, the local hummingbird gardening enthusiasts had built an email-based community that had spread out from southeast Louisiana (the epicenter of wintering hummingbirds in the US) to include members all over the country. It was through this listserv that I learned more about the plants Mr. Tom gave me and about the experiences of others who enjoyed gardening for hummingbirds.

That winter I was able to attend a hummingbird banding at Winter Hummer Land where Nancy Newfield, co-author of [an excellent book](#) about hummingbird gardening, banded several different species of hummingbirds. I don't remember all the different species present, but there were definitely lots of Rufous Hummingbirds, a few Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and at least one Buff-bellied Hummingbird. I was able to attend a few more hummingbird banding sessions over the next couple of years, and Nancy informed me of the American Birding Association's (ABA) Young Birder Camp in the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona, a biodiversity hotspot for hummingbirds and lots of other wildlife. There were even two scholarships available (one through the ABA and one through the Louisiana Ornithological Society) that would cover some of the cost, and I was awarded both! While many of my high school classmates went on senior trips to the beach after graduation, I was hiking and birding in the mountains and canyons of Southeast Arizona. Over an eleven day span, I was privileged enough to see so many unique hummingbirds, including Blue-throated, Black-chinned, Magnificent (now Rivoli's), Broad-billed, Broad-tailed, Rufous, Violet-crowned, and Lucifer hummingbirds. I also saw numerous other species of birds on that trip that can be found nowhere else in the US, and I learned so much from the other teen birders, some of whom had been birding since they could walk.

I easily credit my experiences at Camp Chiricahua as what got me into birding and eventually into being an all-around naturalist, but it goes all the way back to hummingbirds, a mentorship with Mr. Tom Sylvest, some guidance from Ms. Nancy Newfield, and the welcoming community of hummingbird gardening enthusiasts in Southeast Louisiana.

Note: while HUMNET is relatively quiet these days, some of the most informative discussions are archived [here](#). I do encourage anyone looking to join the community of hummingbird gardeners and birders in Louisiana to join [HUMNET](#) and [LABIRD](#). All of the links after the hummingbird plants above are from discussions on HUMNET. Normally I'd use links to more credible sources, but in the context of this story the discussions between prominent members of the hummingbird gardening community seem more appropriate, especially since ugly shrimp plant is virtually unknown in the nursery trade.



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

Upcoming Events:

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

Apr 4, 2019 Tuten Park Nature in Focus: Louisiana Iris Conservation

<https://www.facebook.com/events/379045059348339/>

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, LDWF Family Fishing Day at Lacassine Pool

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

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

Mark your calendar! Get ready to add your observations and volunteer your time for a wonderful outdoors nature event.



April 26 – 28 LOS Spring Meeting Hackberry, Louisiana

Hackberry Community Center 986 Main Street, Hackberry, LA 70645

http://www.losbird.org/news/1902_247_news.pdf

Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)

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

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

May 4, 2019 Global BIG Day The Cornell Lab – Every bird counts: <https://ebird.org/globalbigday>

On **4 May**, will you join more than 30,000 others and become a part of Global Big Day? You don't have to commit to birding for 24 hours—an hour or even 10 minutes of watching birds makes you part of the team. Visit your favorite spot or search out someplace new; enjoy a solo walk or get some friends to join in the Global Big Day fun.

How to participate

- **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data for scientists to use to better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's 100% free.
- **Watch birds on 4 May:** It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert, or go out all day long. Even 10 minutes in your backyard will help. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report birds from anywhere in the world.
- **Enter what you see and hear on eBird:** You can enter your sightings [via our website](#) or—even easier—download the [free eBird Mobile app](#). You can enter and submit lists while you're still out birding, and the app will even keep track of how far you've walked, so you can focus on watching birds. While you're downloading free apps, try out the Cornell Lab's [Merlin Bird ID](#) app for help with identification. Please enter sightings before 8 May to be included in our initial results announcement.
- **Watch the sightings roll in:** During the day, keep an eye on how the lists are growing in different parts of the world. Follow along with sightings from more than 150 countries, including the Cornell Lab's Team Sapsucker in Florida, Alabama, and Texas. Stats will be updated in real-time on our [Global Big Day page](#).

May 9, 2019, Nacogdoches, Texas, Stephen F. Austin University, Pineywoods 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

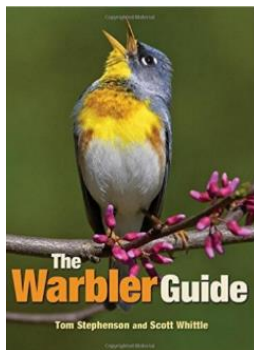
July 25-28, 2019 National Bug Guide Gathering Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

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:

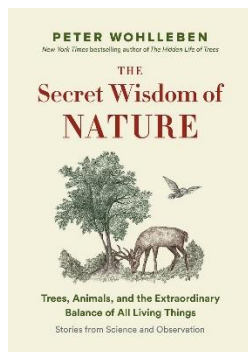
[Back](#)**Books:****The Warbler Guide By Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle - July 2013**<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9968.html>**Check out the FREE Downloadable Quick Finders from The Warbler Guide**<http://blog.press.princeton.edu/2013/07/25/downloadable-warbler-guide-quick-finders/>

The Warbler Guide is filled with a crazy amount of identification information and will be useful to all birders, regardless of skill level. You will love the photos of warblers from all angles and the comparison species.

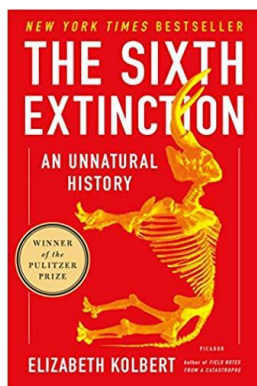
The Secret Wisdom of Nature<https://greystonebooks.com/collections/frontpage/products/the-secret-wisdom-of-nature>

Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things – Stories from Science and Observation

By Peter Wohlleben, translated by Jane Billingham



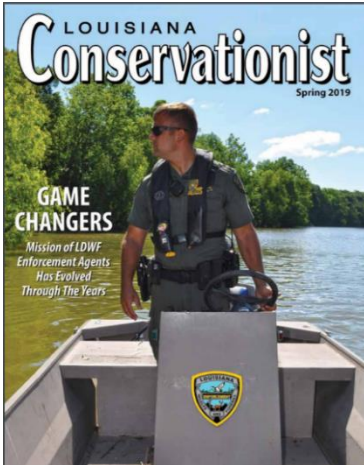
In *The Secret Wisdom of Nature*, master storyteller and international sensation Peter Wohlleben takes readers on a thought-provoking exploration of the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible. In this tour of an almost unfathomable world, Wohlleben describes the fascinating interplay between animals and plants and answers such questions as: How do they influence each other? Do lifeforms communicate across species boundaries? And what happens when this finely tuned system gets out of sync? By introducing us to the latest scientific discoveries and recounting his own insights from decades of observing nature, one of the world's most famous foresters shows us how to recapture our sense of awe so we can see the world around us with completely new eyes.

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert – January 2015https://www.amazon.com/Sixth-Extinction-Unnatural-History/dp/1250062187/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=The+Sixth+Extinction%3A+An+Unnatural+History&qid=1553816004&s=books&sr=1-1

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE, A NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST

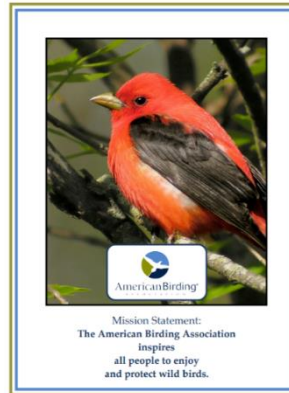
A major book about the future of the world, blending intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes. Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, *New Yorker* writer Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before.

Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)

Louisiana Conservationist Spring 2019 Free PDF download

http://laconservationist.wf.a.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LC_M_Low-Res_Spring-2019.pdf



ABA Birding Code of Ethics Free PDF download

This is a must read for beginning and experience birders alike for responsible birding.

<http://listing.aba.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/abaethics.pdf>



Warbler Guide App

<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10416.html>

The Warbler Guide App is the perfect companion to Princeton's revolutionary and widely acclaimed book *The Warbler Guide*, by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. The app allows you to identify birds by view or song, quickly and intuitively.

The Warbler Guide

<http://www.thewarblerguide.com/>



Seek by iNaturalist

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app



Description

This is a great app for families who want to spend more time exploring nature together.

Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Seek encourages outdoor exploration and learning by harnessing image recognition technology to help you identify plants and animals from your photos. Choose from a list of nearby plants, animals, and fungi and collect photographs of as many species as you can!

- **Earn badges** as you photograph new species.
- **Become more engaged** with the wildlife around you.
- **Learn cool facts** about the critters and plants that live right in your own backyard wilderness.



Ramblr

<https://www.ramblr.com/web/main>

Ramblr is a service to record and share your outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, skiing, kayaking, road trip, travel or any type of trip. By creating a trip with Ramblr you will be able to share your story with more than a track or a photo

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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- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

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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.