

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

Nature Notes



Charter 2016

Vol 4 ISSUE 3 June 2019

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President's Note:

Greetings, Master Naturalists!

June marks the end of our annual course and the beginning of summer. This spring we competed in SWLA's second City Nature Challenge, holding our own against much larger cities. Overall, we ranked 69th in observations, 49th in species, and 79th in observers. We also ranked 2nd among all cities for the percentage (66.0%) of our observations that were research grade by May 5th. That metric really represents the quality of our observations.

June is going to be another busy month with 4 workshops taking place this month (Reptiles and Amphibians, Aquatic Invertebrates, Fish, and Land Ethic). Additionally, the back of Tuten Park is opening. Around 15 volunteers met on June 1 to clean up the trail and the pollinator garden.

Calendar Quick View

June 8 Aquatic Invertebrates Class
June 22 Fish Study Class
June 29 The Land Ethic/Graduation Class
July 12 SLAMN meeting Tuten Park 6:00
July 13 Field Trip Kisatchie National Forest
Sept 14 Tentative Beach Sweep cleanup
Sam Houston Park
Oct 2 SLAMN meeting at Tuten Park 6:00
Oct 5 Field trip to Pintail Loop



President's Note:

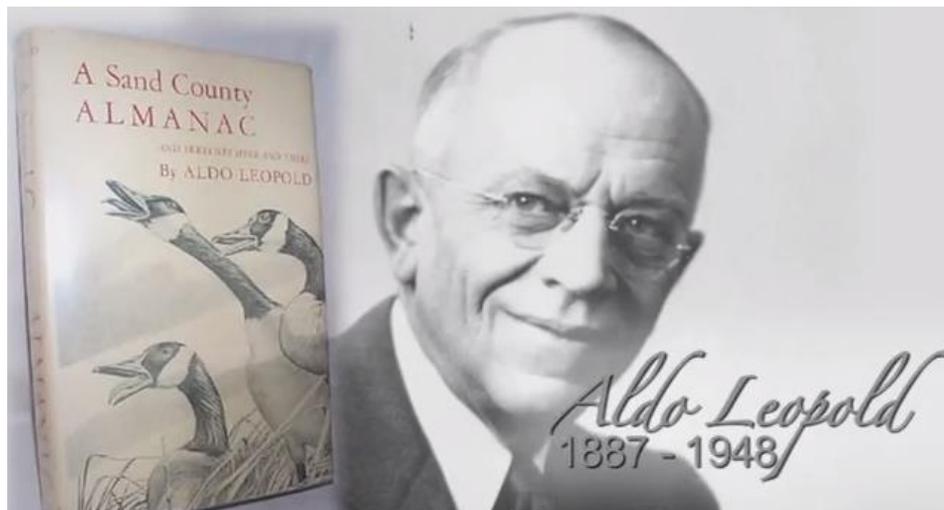
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On June 15, the back trails of Tuten Park is opening to the general public. The trails will have the same hours as the rest of the park. At our next meeting on July 10, Micha Petty will speak to us about herp outreach.

Our master naturalist group is the start of a conservation movement in Lake Charles. Other groups such as Healthier SWLA (they helped clean the trails at Tuten) are moving to make Lake Charles a more walkable place with a higher quality of life and the conservation of nature fits into this vision. Opening Tuten Park's trails fits with our goal of conserving SWLA's natural resources and Healthier SWLA's goal of improving the built environment for people to spend time outside exercising. Now it's up to us to spread that conservation message with the general public. So, while you're out enjoying the trails and nature, take a photo to post, share your passion with a passerby, and enjoy your time naturalizing.

Thanks,

Irvin Louque



Meeting Notes

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Upcoming Board Meeting Location and Date

June 12, 2019 Tuten Park at 6:00 P.M.

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/>

General Meeting April 3, 2019 Meeting Highlights

Committee Reports

Course

There are currently 11 people enrolled in the SLAMN course.

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

Old Business: Rendezvous: Clay Ardoin attended Rendezvous at Fontainebleau State Park. Five members came from SWLA. The weather was bad for outdoor activities however they had interesting presenters. The facilities were good. Clay is on the state LMNA Board. He asked that anyone with ideas for future Rendezvous sites to contact him.

New Business

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.

Community Engagement: Hillcrest Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project. **Irvin Louque** is looking for ideas on how to get the citizens surrounding the park interested in stormwater activities. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Irvin.

Upcoming Events

City Nature Challenge was held April 26-29 Lafayette, New Orleans, and Alexandria participated.

SLAMN Chapter Meeting Wednesday April 3, 2019

Dr. Jay Huner LA Crawfish History Summary: The Last Fifty Years presented information about crawfish and the impact of crawfish farming on the bird communities of SWLA

Board Meeting Wednesday, June 12, 2019

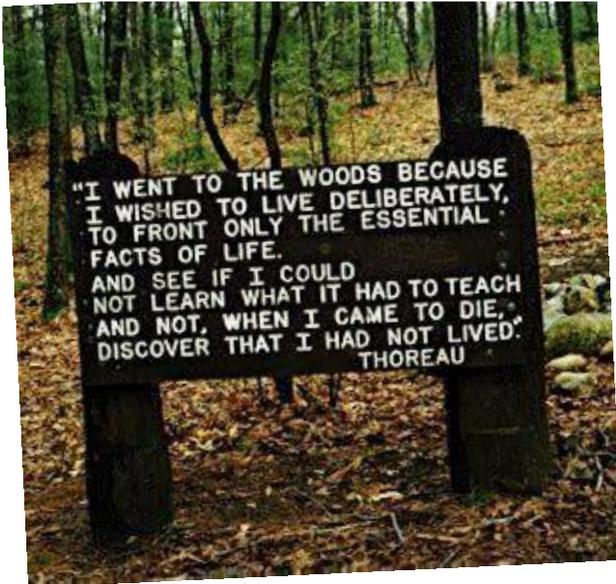
Next General meeting will be July 10 at Tuten Park

Chapter tentative meeting dates for 2019: October 2.

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.

Into the Woods Writing Project at Tuten Park

In 1845 Henry David Thoreau moved into a cabin at Walden Pond for a 2 year, 2 month, and 2 day experiment to live deliberately and many of his writings were based upon the experience.



Inspired by Thoreau, the Into the Woods Writing Project is a 26 month outdoor project for local writers to practice observation in the woods of Tuten Park at monthly meetups and in their own daily schedules. The project is led by **Julia O'Carroll** who was influenced by Thoreau's *Walden* in starting Tea at Walden, a business centered on "providing the tools to live a deliberate life."

Though the first outing has already taken place, anyone is welcome to participate in the project. The next meetup is scheduled for Thursday, June 27. To find the dates of future meetups, find Tea at Walden Writing and Tea on Facebook.

Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1101926196657911/>



May 4, 2019 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist Workshop Coastal Ecology Workshop



May 18, 2019 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist Workshop

The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists learned about fungi. The variety of mushrooms is astounding!



Local News:

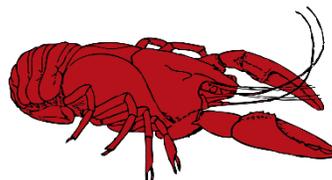
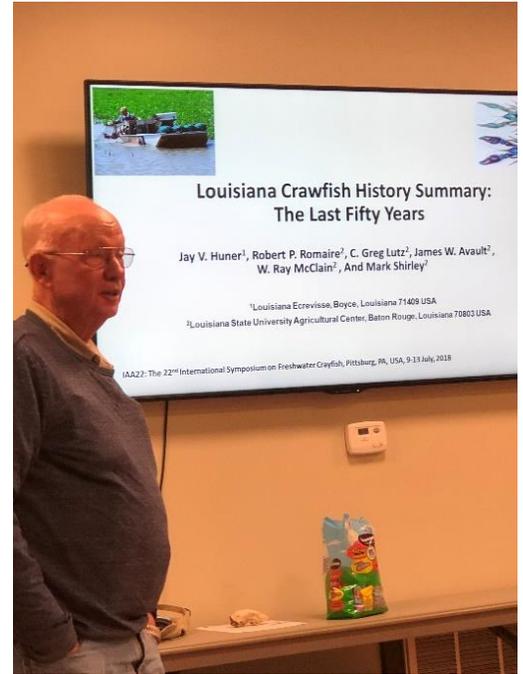
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April 3, 2019 General Meeting Highlights

Louisiana Crawfish History Summary: The Last Fifty Years by Dr. Jay Huner

Dr. Jay Huner presented information about crawfish and the impact of crawfish farming on the bird communities of Southwest Louisiana.

Irvin Louque presented Dr. Jay Huner with a complimentary Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists T-shirt.



Tuten Park Nature Sanctuary Grand Opening: June 15!



Tuten Park will be opening to the public on June 15, 2019! The whole park was last open to the general public in 2007. In 2015, the first time I walk the trails, I encountered blackberry thickets and fallen trees where trails had been 8 years before. To build the current trails, we followed the old trails where possible and cut some new trails to make the walk from the east end of the park to the restrooms and parking lot quicker. We built a pond and outdoor classroom to facilitate nature study by master naturalists, schools, and anyone else. It's hard for me to see the progress we've made since I've seen the trails nearly every day, but I hear that it's a big improvement.

So, how do we keep Tuten Park safe and the gem of Lake Charles parks that it is? Use the park. That's what I always tell people when they ask me that question. It's not unusual for a city to have a nature park. Other cities in Louisiana have parks with nature trails that provide unique educational and leisure opportunities to those communities. Lake Charles is about to join in the benefits of having a nature park with winding trails that interact with native plants, wildlife, and fungi. All we need to do is to use it and promote it so that the stewardship of the land at Tuten becomes part of the consciousness of Lake Charles. Looking for a sit spot to observe the changing of the seasons of nature? Tuten Park can be your sit spot. Looking for a patch to observe the changing bird community over the course of a year? Tuten Park can be your patch. Looking for a pond to record dragonfly observations or frog call observations for citizen science projects? Tuten Park can be your pond.



So, I invite anyone reading this to come out to the grand opening at 8:00 am June 15 to take part! Lead or join a nature hike and meet Mayor Nic Hunter. Get some cool iNat observations! Share your passion with the public!

Local News:

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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

How do Individual Values, Attitudes, Knowledge, Skills, and Norms Predict Bird Conservation Behaviors Among Birders in the United States?

May 20, 2019

I am working on a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Boise State University. Through my research, I'm interested in discovering the link between the attributes of individual birders in the United States and the type and intensity of bird conservation action they take. Results will be used to improve public policies for bird conservation.

I am asking you and the members of your organization or partnership to complete this online survey.

https://boisestate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmwJXVKEWZb8JUN

Participation is voluntary, no personally identifiable information will be collected, and all responses will be kept confidential. This study is for educational purposes only and involves no foreseeable serious risks. Data will be accessible only to me and my advisory committee and will be used to produce scholarly and popular publications on the topic. If there are any questions that make you uncomfortable or that you would prefer not to answer, just skip over those. You may discontinue the survey at any time. This survey will require 10-12 minutes of your time.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me:

Terry Rich

208-867-5112

terrellrich@u.boisestate.edu

You may also contact my Committee Chair:

Dr. Monica Hubbard

208-426-5147

monicahubbard@boisestate.edu

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Boise State University Institutional Review Board (IRB), which is concerned with the protection of volunteers in research projects. You may reach the board office between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, by calling (208) 426-5401 or by writing: Institutional Review Board, Office of Research Compliance, Boise State University, 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725-1138.

If you would prefer not to participate, please ignore this request.

We did GREAT in this year's City Nature Challenge! Nature wins again! By Irvin Louque



Out of 160 cities around the world, we ranked 69th in observations, 49th in species, and 79th in observers! We did great, and we showed the world all about Southwest Louisiana's biodiversity and community of naturalists! You can find a great infographic of the summarized global results [here](#).

In Louisiana, we ranked ahead of Greater New Orleans in both observations and species while they ranked ahead of us in number of observers.

In total, we documented 2653 observations of 924 species by 62 observers. Additionally, we added 153 species never before observed in Southwest Louisiana (a 5% increase in total number of species). Some highlights included iNaturalist's first Research Grade [Violet Goby](#), the Gulf of Mexico's first [Striped Blenny](#), and Louisiana's [first](#) and [second records](#) of Abrupt Digger Bee. Several [threatened species](#) were seen during the City Nature Challenge as well, including regional specialties like [Sabine Map Turtle](#) and [Pale Pitcher Plant](#).

Across the board, we did better than last year!

2018: 2277 observations of 866 species by 58 observers

2019: 2653 observations of 924 species by 62 observers

Also, huge thanks to the 208 people who spent time identifying our observations. We ranked 2nd overall with 66% of our verifiable observations that are now research grade! This is amazing and really helpful for researchers and land managers. If you're still up for it, there's around 800 observations that still need identification help: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/identify?project_id=city-nature-challenge-2019-southwest-louisiana

Most importantly, nature is the big winner. Each observation you make gives information about what organism is found in space and time, and when combined with other observations, we get a better idea of what's out there. Over time, as more observations roll in, this data becomes more useful. Each time you make an observation, you add a little bit more information to what is known about nature.

Land managers, policy makers, researchers, and citizens can then understand the biodiversity of the area and see that there's a community of naturalists in Southwest Louisiana!

Great job to everyone that participated in the City Nature Challenge! Don't stop observing nature and don't stop using iNaturalist! It's still spring and there's still tons of wildlife, fungi, wildflowers, etc. that need to be documented! Seriously, thanks to everyone who participated in this year's City Nature Challenge!

The results of our observations:

2,710 Observations	936 Species	253 Identifiers	64 Observers
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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.

The Cornell Lab
Bird Academy

eBird Essentials Free online course

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

Bird Academy

COURSE CATALOG | VIDEOS | ARTICLES | LIVE EVENTS | SIGN



eBird Essentials

FREE COURSE

Enroll Now

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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Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau is recruiting some additional tour guides to accompany visitors on the Creole Nature Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity for Master Naturalists to share your knowledge and love of Southwest Louisiana with visitors from around the world. The bureau provides the training and there is a small stipend for serving as guides. If interested, please contact Jamey Kadim, Group Services Coordinator for the Convention/Visitors Bureau at jkadim@visitlakecharles.org or by telephone 337.436.9588 or 337.240.5780.

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:

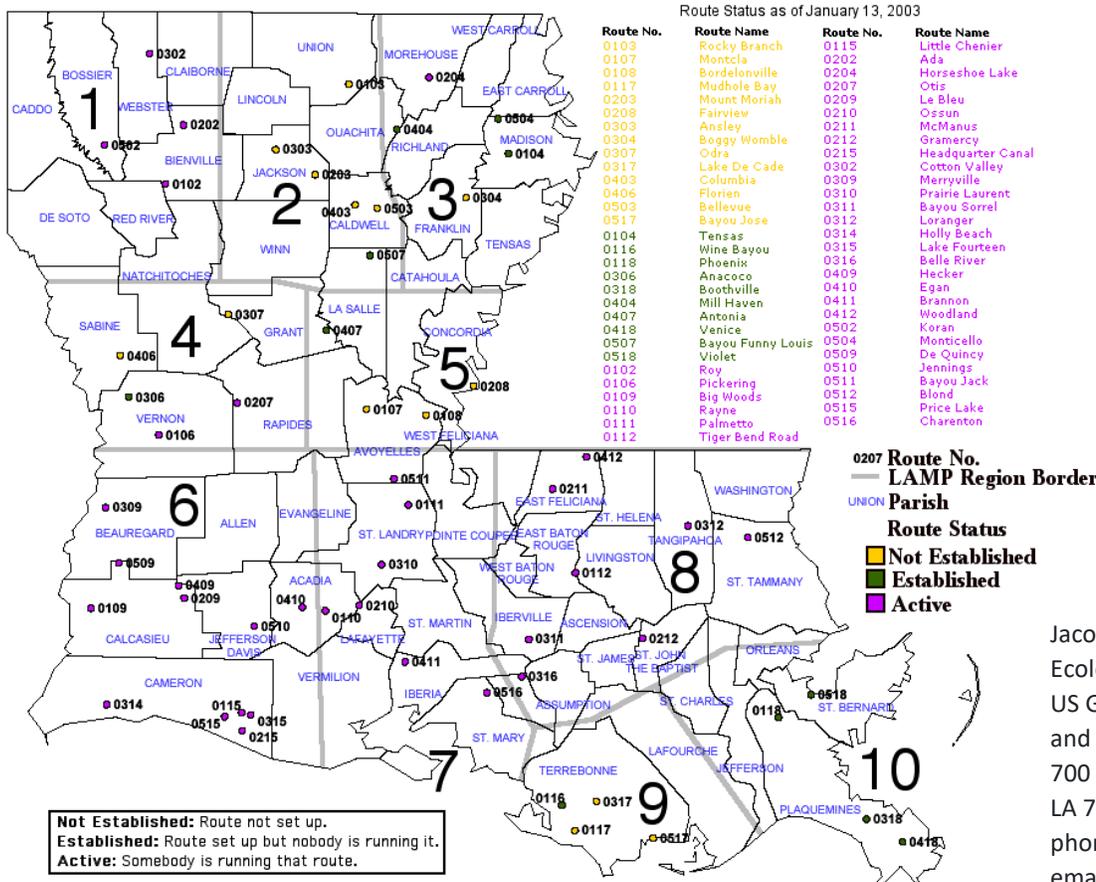
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Volunteers needed for Louisiana Amphibian Monitoring Program LAMP

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 Brian-Sean Early Hop Sedge - *Carex lupulina*

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>

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.org interface for the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists project. At the top, there's a navigation menu with 'Observations', 'Species', 'Projects', 'Places', 'Guides', and 'People'. A yellow banner says 'Welcome to Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists'. Below that is a large photograph of a group of people walking on a sandy beach. An orange button with the text 'ADD OBSERVATIONS' is overlaid on the right side of the photo. At the bottom of the photo, the text 'Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists' is displayed next to a small logo.

Naturalists Notes:

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Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival by Arlene Cain

In May, I had the opportunity to attend the Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival in Cortez Colorado. It was a great experience to visit an area so totally different from where I live. The high deserts, canyons and mountains were a spectacular view. The southwestern area of Colorado, the four corners region, has intriguingly diverse ecosystems and provides habitat for a wide-spectrum of migratory and resident birds. The key species I was looking forward to viewing was Lucy's Warbler. This warbler is found no place else in Colorado. I was not disappointed. I was able to watch this tiny warbler forage and fly in its riparian habitat.

My first field trip was to Yellow Jacket Canyon and lower McElmo Canyons located in the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. It was overcast, chilly and we did get some light drizzle off and on during this birding trip. Our guides were very knowledgeable about the geography and history of the Yellow Jacket Canyon. This area cradles permanent riparian corridors with large cottonwoods and thick underbrush. This is the only known location in Colorado for nesting Lucy's Warbler. I also visited Canyon of the Ancients historic guest ranch. Our group was served a wonderful home cooked lunch at this western style ranch. During this field trip I saw a number of life birds. I saw Lucy's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting (what a beautiful bird!), Say's Phoebe, Gray Vireo, and Gray Flycatcher.

My next Field trip was called "Birding Among the Ancients". This trip took us birding out around several archaeological sites. It turned out to be a very nice sunny day a bit on the chilly side to start but as the day wore on we had to shed a few layers of clothing. Our guides not only helped us spot and identify birds but also provided history about the remnants of ancient dwellings and structures. This area is a high desert covered in sage brush, open fields with intermittent pinyon-juniper and cottonwood stands. We birded Yellow Jacket, Lowry Pueblos and Sand Canyon Pueblo Trail. During this field trip we saw Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow, White-crowned sparrow, Say's Phoebe, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Bewick's wren, Swainson's Hawk, Bald Eagles and Spotted Towhees.

Mountain Bluebird



Lucy's Warbler



My last field trip was on Mother's Day at Mesa Verde National Park. We went to a variety of birding locations in this world-famous national park. We got to our first stop, Morefield Campgrounds, early in the morning with dew still covering the ground. It was a beautiful morning for birding and we were treated to several species perched singing in the early morning light. We listened to and saw Gray Vireos, Bewick's Wrens, Vesper Sparrows, Mountain Bluebirds and Green-tailed Towhees. We traveled on to visit well-known archaeological sites and unique pristine habitats. We birded some beautiful scenic points in the park. Some of the highlight birds we saw were Golden

Eagles and their nesting site, Virginia Warbler, Dusky Flycatchers, Western Tanager, Broad-tailed and Black-chinned hummingbirds, and White-throated Swifts.

I had a wonderful time at this birding festival. It's great talking to like-minded people who love birds and nature. There were people from many different parts of the world and some that lived in the area all their lives. It's always an adventure and learning experience to visit areas that are quite different from what you are used to. When I come home I always have deeper appreciation for what we have here in Southwest Louisiana.

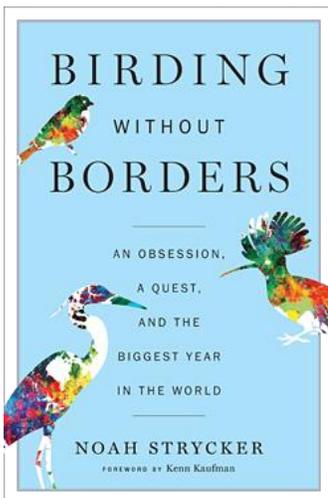
Mesa Verde Square Tower House



Colorado Rubberplant Asteraceae
Hymenoxys richardsonii var. *floribunda*



Green-tailed Towhee



Our Keynote Speaker was **Noah Strycker** author of *Birding Without Borders An Obsession, A Quest, and the Biggest Year in the World*. He gave a wonderful presentation about many of his "misadventures" during his world birding tour and an account of the great people who helped him along the way.

<https://www.amazon.com/Birding-Without-Borders-Obsession-Biggest/dp/0544558146>

Violet-green Swallows



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	Cameron Prairie
May 18	Workshop 8	Fungi	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:

[Back](#)**Upcoming Education Programs at 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

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

June 8, 2019 Graminoid Workshop Tylertown, Mississippi. <https://www.facebook.com/events/603627400048889/>

June 15, 2019, Marc Pastorek - The Louisiana Native Plant Society will meet June 15 in Folsom Louisiana at 10 a.m. at the home of Doug and Mary Green to experience their 3 acre prairie garden. This garden will be featured in the soon-published revised edition of Sally Wasowsky's Gardening with Native Plants of the South. Address is 320 Bienville Rd, Folsom, La.

<https://www.lnps.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, <https://www.ent.iastate.edu/bggathering/>

Aug 23-25, 2019 Annual Lily Orchid Days at Allen Acres, in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

September 7, 2019 Cajun Prairie Society Meeting, Eunice, <https://www.cajunprairie.org/>

September 21, 2019 Haynesville Butterfly Festival, <http://haynesvillela.org/attractions.html>

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/>

September 19-22, 2019 Rockport-Fulton Hummingbird Celebration

<http://www.rockport-fulton.org/HB>

Sept 27-29, 2019 Butterfly Blast, Allen Acres, in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

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/>

October 19-20, 2019 Ding Darling Days Birding and Eco-Festival Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island Florida <https://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/ding-darling-days>

October 17-20, 2019 Florida Birding and Nature Festival Tampa Hillsborough Community College

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

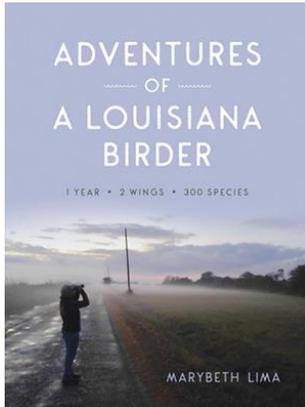
November 6, 2019, 26th Annual Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival

Harlingen MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM COMPLEX 1204 FAIR PARK BLVD. • HARLINGEN, TEXAS <https://www.rgvbf.org/>

Resources for the Naturalists:

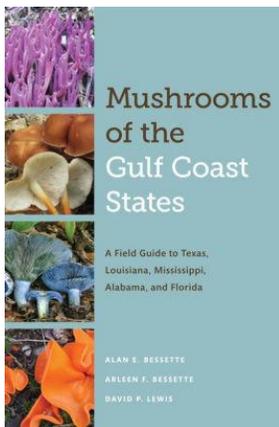
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Books:

**Adventures of a Louisiana Birder****One Year, Two Wings, Three Hundred Species by Marybeth Lima, May 2019**

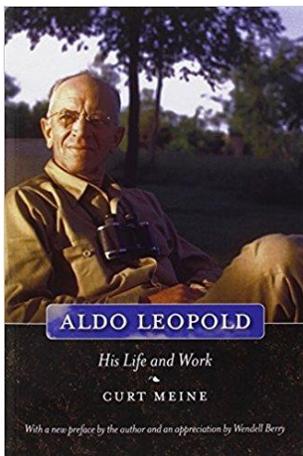
In *Adventures of a Louisiana Birder*, Marybeth Lima chronicles five years in which she chased and 'listed' birds across the state—from Shreveport to Slidell—with her spouse, Lynn. With many road trips over a 5-year span, Lima reveals both the arduous and uplifting sides of her travels—including nemesis birds and embarrassing misidentifications alongside the hardships of Lynn's near-death and Lima's mother-in-law's decline in health. A tale of competition and camaraderie within a community that traverses Louisiana's diverse, lush, and endangered habitats, *Adventures of a Louisiana Birder* shows how the joy of birding can bind people together, even in the face of adversity.

https://www.amazon.com/Adventures-Louisiana-Birder-Hundred-Species/dp/0807171379/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Adventures+of+a+Louisiana+birder&qid=1558718202&s=gateway&sr=8-1

**Mushrooms of the Gulf Coast States: A Field Guide to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida by Alan E. Bessette, Arleen F. Bessette, David P. Lewis, Available July 15, 2019**

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/mushrooms-of-the-gulf-coast-states-alan-e-bessette/1129540464?ean=9781477318157&st=PLA&sid=BNB_ADL+Core+Good+Books++Desktop+Low&sourceId=PLAGoNA&dpid=tdtve346c&2sid=Google_c&gclid=Cj0KCQjwitPnBRCQARIsAA5n84npE7jIYbipuo_4tAjXj_-b6YKUALddWb_iXgjWDwLg9CZiszMfyplaAteUEALw_wcB#/

Using easily identifiable characteristics and a color key, the authors enable anyone, whether amateur mushroom hunter or professional mycologist, to discern and learn about the numerous species of mushrooms encountered in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Wild-food enthusiasts will appreciate the information on edibility or toxicity that accompanies each description, and they will also find the book's detailed instructions for collecting, cleaning, testing, preserving, and cooking wild mushrooms to be of great interest. Providing encyclopedic knowledge in a handy format that fits in a backpack. *Mushrooms of the Gulf coast States* is a must-have for any mushroom lover.

**Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work by Curt D Meine, and Wendell Berry (Contributor), October 2010**

<https://www.amazon.com/Aldo-Leopold-His-Life-Work/dp/0299249042>

This biography of Aldo Leopold follows him from his childhood as a precocious naturalist to his profoundly influential role in the development of conservation and modern environmentalism in the United States. This edition includes a new preface by author Curt Meine and an appreciation by acclaimed Kentucky writer and farmer Wendell Berry.

Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)**Plantifier by TrendsCo.bvba**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/plantifier/id524938919?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

**Description**

Plantifier is a free crowdsourced plant recognition tool. It allows you to upload a photo of an unknown plant. The users of the MyGarden.org community behind it will try to recognize it as soon as possible and give you an answer to your question!

Easy and free of charge!

Check also the web version via <http://www.plantifier.com>

iPflanzen by Andreas Garzoto GmbH

<http://www.ipflanzen.ch/pages/en/home.php?lang=EN>

**Description**

Pflanzen allows you to identify more than 1500 garden, park, and forest plants using a simple identification key with traits such as flower structure, leaf shape, flower colour or fruit colour. Depending on the season or visibility of plant parts, additional

identification traits are available to classify a plant.

Identified plants are shown with images as well as common and scientific names.

To access detailed information about a plant, you can directly switch from iPflanzen to iForest or iGarten if those applications are installed on your smartphone. iPflanzen also shows you an example of information that is available in iForest and iGarten. It is the connecting App between iGarten (garden plants) and iForest (trees and shrubs). All three applications together form an ideal instrument for identifying plants or selecting plants for your plantings as well as looking up species or practicing your plant knowledge.

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

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



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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.