



Charter 2016

Vol 6 ISSUE 1 Feb 2021

**In This Issue:**

<b>President's Note</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Naturalist Notes:</b>	
<b><u>Meeting Notes</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b><u>Whoopers in Louisiana by Irvin Louque</u></b>	<b>11</b>
<b><u>Past President</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b><u>Homemade Baskets by Monica Cañizares</u></b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Local News:</b>		<b><u>"Owl Pellets" by Ralph Fletcher</u></b>	<b>16</b>
<b><u>Great Backyard Bird Count</u></b>	<b>5</b>	<b><u>A Poem Submitted by Connie McDonald</u></b>	
<b><u>Savanna Flashback</u></b>	<b>6</b>		
<b><u>Volunteer Opportunities</u></b>	<b>7</b>	<b><u>Upcoming Events</u></b>	<b>17</b>
<b><u>Continuing Education Opportunities</u></b>	<b>9</b>	<b><u>Resources</u></b>	<b>19</b>
<b><u>iNaturalist Spotlight</u></b>	<b>10</b>	<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b>20</b>

**President's Note:**

**Greetings, Master Naturalists!**

I am looking forward to being President of the SWLA Master Naturalists. There is an awesome group of people involved with our organization. We will work together to get outdoors together once again.

Let me introduce myself. I grew up in New Orleans. As a child I spent time in the marshes south of the city. I enjoyed fishing and crabbing. My mother was a scout leader and introduced me to birding, camping, and outdoor skills. My father, because he hunted and fished, introduced me to fish, mammals, and birds of South Louisiana.

**Calendar Quick View**

- February**
- 13 Field Trip
- March**
- 3 Board Meeting
- 13 SLAMN Class
- 27 SLAMN Class
- April**
- 3 Rendezvous
- 7 General Meeting
- 10 Field Trip
- 17 Earth Day
- 24 SLAMN Class
- 30 City Nature Challenge



## President's Note:

[Back](#)

When I met my husband Tom, he brought me to live in the Tunica Hills outside of St Francisville. It was in the woods that I studied the medicinal and edible plants and mushrooms of the hardwood forests. I have continued self-study throughout my life. I really enjoy being outdoors. I am very excited about all my new friends in the Master Naturalists organization and the adventures we will have in the coming year.

I want to encourage every one of you to get more involved with our organization. SLAMN offers us an opportunity to continue learning and to share our knowledge with others. Together we can get back to promoting an awareness, understanding and respect of Southwest Louisiana's natural resources.

I'll see you there!

Barbara Morris



**Time to renew your membership. Please complete the [membership renewal form](#) and mail it with your dues to:**

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

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

## Meeting Notes

[Back](#)President: **Barbara Morris**

Vice-President:

**Lori Marinovich**Treasurer: **Clay Ardoin**Secretary: **Patty Palmer**

At-large Board Members:

**David Booth,****Theresa Cross,****Tommy Hillman****Robby Maxwell**

Past President:

**Irvin Louque**

## Upcoming Meeting Location and Date General Meeting April 7, 2021 TBA

### January 20, 2021 SLAMN ZOOM Board Meeting

#### Committee Reports

**Course:** It is recommended to do part virtual class and fieldwork. - Motion deferred to poll students on their preference, possible zoom lecture component, and live field experiences

**Volunteer:** Volunteer committee needs chairperson

**Publications:** Articles for Nature Notes newsletter are needed.

**Rendezvous 2021** is virtual via email, Facebook, etc. on April 2nd, Fri – April 4th, Sun., 2021; will plan to end the event with a nature challenge.

Rendezvous 2022 Camp Hartner confirmed

Rendezvous 2023 SLAMN still scheduled to host

#### New Business

As a refresher, each officer and board member's term lasts 1 year. Each year, after our course, a nominating committee nominates a slate of officers. This slate is then sent out to the membership giving them 10 days to make additional nominations prior to the election meeting. Here's the slate for 2021:

**President: Barbara Morris, Vice President: Lori Marinovich, Secretary: Patty Palmer, Treasurer: Clay Ardoin, Board Member: Robby Maxwell, Board Member: Theresa Cross, Board Member: David Booth, Board Member: Tommy Hillman, Past President: Irvin Louque**

### February 6, 2021 SLAMN ZOOM General Meeting

#### Mission:

- To promote awareness, understanding and respect of Louisiana's natural resources
- To provide scientific, research-based education to the general public for a better awareness and understanding of Southwest Louisiana's ecosystems.
- Volunteers provide education, outreach, and services dedicated to this purpose

#### To maintain Active Status

- Annual dues of \$15, are due on January 1. Dues are waived this year. Sign and return Membership form.
- Complete at least 20 hours of volunteer service in naturalist-related activities. Public outreach, Guest Speaker at club meetings, Educational Boards, volunteer service in the community.
- Complete 8 hours of continuing education. This includes anything that enriches your knowledge of the ecosystem, (such as classes, lectures, videos, field trips)
- Members are responsible for logging their hours on Track-it-forward.

#### Business

- **Annual dues of \$15, are due on January 1. Dues Waived this year. Please sign and return Membership form. Available on the website.**
- Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist Handbook 2021-2022
- Nature Notes will be published in February. Please get articles to Arlene Cain.
- Acorns of Hope Field trip to Bob's Tree Arboretum
- **Volunteers Invited to Participate in "Spring Clean LC" in March**
- **Rendezvous 2021 is Virtual.** You must register in advance. There will be Guest Speakers, a Photo Contest, and a Scavenger Hunt. Watch your email for more information.

#### Our 2021 Officers:

**President: Barbara Morris**

**Vice President: Lori Marinovich**

**Secretary: Patty Palmer**

**Treasurer: Clay Ardoin**

**Board Member: Robby Maxwell**

**Board Member: Theresa Cross**

**Board Member: David Booth**

**Board Member: Tommy Hillman**

**Past President: Irvin Louque**

**Reminder: SLAMN yearly membership \$15.00.**

**Please complete the [membership renewal form](#)**

**Mail your dues and form 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/>**

## PAST President's Note:

[Back](#)

Master Naturalists,

This year is a year of transition like no other, and I'm looking forward to it. After the year of the pandemic (which isn't over - keep those masks and get vaccinated!) and too many hurricanes, the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists will take on 2021 with a focus toward helping our region recover in the ways that we can. Our next field trip will be a visit to Bob Thibodeaux's arboretum so that we can meet Bob, learn about what he does, and offer our help to help Acorns of Hope replant Southwest Louisiana's tree canopy. We'll also restart our 2020 master naturalist course so that the students from last year can become certified master naturalists!

In another transition, I'll be transitioning to the role of immediate past president in which I'll assist the new president and officers in any way I can, help jumpstart an awards and recognition program, and help out with any special projects. I'm super excited to be moving into this role and super excited to leave the presidency in good hands! Though most of our charter board members and officers are still a big part of our master naturalist chapter, this will be the first year where every one of our officers are graduates of various courses. When a handful of wildlife professionals and environmental educators gathered in 2015 to figure out how we'd form a master naturalist chapter in Southwest Louisiana, I'm not sure we dreamed that this chapter would go on to number more than 50 naturalists, publish this amazing bi-monthly newsletter, and accomplish all that we have over the past 5 years. I can't wait to see what we can do over the next 5.

Let's go!

Irvin Louque



## Local News:

[Back](#)**Participate in: The Great Backyard Bird Count** <https://www.birdcount.org/>

Connect to Birds, to Nature, and with Each Other

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. **Join us, February 12–15, 2021**, when the world comes together for the love of birds.

**[How to Participate](#)****Be a Part of a Global Event**

Watch observation lists roll in from around the world. Each submitted checklist becomes a glowing light on our bird sightings map.

**[Watch the Live Map](#)**

Great Backyard Bird Count results from 2020:

- 268,674 Estimated Participants
- 27,270,156 Total Birds Counted
- 6,942 Species of Birds Identified
- 194 Countries

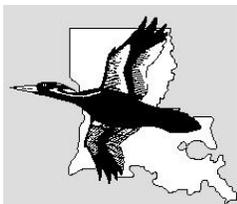
Photo by A. Cain

**Audubon Photography Awards****[Click here for more information](#)**

You're wild about birds and your camera. Now combine your passions by entering the 2021 Audubon Photography Awards, featuring two new categories this year: a video category and a female bird category. You could win a cash prize or, if you're our Youth winner, a special trip that will help you become an even better birder or bird photographer. Winning photos will be published in future issues of *Audubon* magazine.

**[Enter Now](#)****Entry Period**

**January 27, 2021–April 7, 2021 at 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

**Louisiana Ornithological Society**

<http://www.losbird.org/home.html>

Check out LOS. Join LOS and enjoy the wonderful field trips, newsletters, and meetings.

## Pine Savanna Flashback 2020 by Monica Canizares

Here is a flashback for our 2020 Master Naturalist class: Before the pandemic, we travelled to **David Daigle's** property to learn about longleaf pine savanna. **Mr. Daigle** explained how he uses fire and grazing to manage the prairie understory of the habitat. We saw longleaf tracks at different stages, and while it was a little early to see a great number of prairie flowers, the class enjoyed scouting out February blooms. Brian Early provided a botanical guide as we explored some of the understory on two longleaf tracks. I hope this gets everyone excited to restart the course soon!

Photos by Monica Canizares



## Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)

### Volunteer to serve on one of SLAMN's Committees

We want to encourage all SLAMN members to participate in one or more committees. Contact members on the committee of your interest to join or to provide suggestions or ideas. Each committee will keep us all informed through Nature Notes, our website, and email.

***We encourage all SLAMN members to participate with time and energy for all events sponsored by the Volunteer Committee and the Promotions Committee.***

#### Course Planning Committee

Contact Irvin Louque: [irvinlouque@gmail.com](mailto:irvinlouque@gmail.com)

Maximum number of members: 8

Duties:

- Develop schedules, finds speakers and coordinators for each workshop in the annual course.

#### Promotions Committee

Contact David Booth: [david@boothenvironmental.com](mailto:david@boothenvironmental.com)

Maximum number of members: 6

Duties:

- Keep SLAMN in the public eye and connect well with other affiliated groups.
- Maintain momentum of group developing interest and adding desired activities that are well attended by past graduates and new students

#### Publications Committee

Contact Arlene Cain: [arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com](mailto:arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com)

Maximum members: 4

Duties:

- Produce newsletter (Nature Notes) every 2 months
- Maintain and update website
- Produce brochures, flyers, and other organization documents as needed

#### Volunteer Committee: CHAIR NEEDED

Maximum number of members: no limit

Duties:

- Find, plan, and execute volunteer projects that have clear ecosystem benefits and/or publicity for our chapter and the natural world
- Priorities include outreach classes, natural space improvements for local nonprofits, public space improvements and improvements to private property.



## Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)

### Peveto Work Day by David Booth

We are so pleased that Gene Barnette and Bill Glover have taken the time and made the effort to provide some additional benches and installed them at the Peveto Sanctuary in Cameron Parish. They originally built and installed a large number of wooden benches which we enjoy all the time while down there. Not only that, but they sand and reseal them every year to help maintain their good condition. Many thanks, guys for all that you do for the birds and birders. You are appreciated. There are currently three hummers there now including a Buff-bellied and a female Anna's. Get down there and check them out.

---

### Volunteers Needed for another Peveto Maintenance

We are currently planning another maintenance day in a month or so before it gets much warmer. The tentative date is Saturday February 27th, 2021. Please be on the alert for final plans. I will be there and cook a Dutch Oven Lunch for all who come and help out. Last work day was well attended and we got a lot done.

---

### Volunteers Needed for Coastal Cleanup



The National Audubon Society is hosting a SWLA Coastal Cleanup at Rutherford Beach on Saturday, March 6, 2021, 8-11am. We hope that you join us in helping the SWLA community recover from the 2020 hurricane season. Our efforts will enhance coastal dune habitat for nesting birds, and provide a clean, healthy beach for recreational fishing, crabbing, and ecotourism. Details can be found at the link below and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [katie.barnes@audubon.org](mailto:katie.barnes@audubon.org)

CLICK HERE TO [REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER](#)

## Continuing Education Opportunities:

[Back](#)
**Conservation Biology Institute Webinar Series <https://consbio.org/>**

**[Understanding and Using New Tools for Conservation Planning for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation](#)**

Climate-driven shifts in species and ecosystems are complicating efforts to conserve biodiversity at the landscape scale. Recognizing this challenge, agencies and non-governmental organizations are increasingly searching for tools and information that allow identification of climate refugia, corridors, and ecosystems which store irrecoverable carbon, areas that are key to enhancing the resilience of natural systems under climate change.


**[SCGIS - Case studies from TNC addressing conservation in times of crisis](#)**

In this webinar by The Nature Conservancy present two case studies showcasing conservation in times of crisis. Montserrat Acosta-Morel will discuss TNC's work engaging communities and building resilient islands in the Caribbean using nature-based solutions (#1 below); and Yuta Masuda will talk about the effects of local warming from deforestation on the health and well-being of local communities in the pantropics


**[SCGIS - COVID-19: Rethinking our relationships with wild animals & wild places](#)**

The COVID-19 coronavirus has catapulted across the ever-evolving interface between humans and wild places, generating global impact and alarm. Quarantines have been imposed, and borders have been closed. Free movement of people, the pursuit of normal daily routines, economic well-being — and in too many instances, health and even life itself — have been dramatically curtailed by a virus that previously lived beyond the pale and a disease that was ...

**Bird Academy** | [COURSE CATALOG](#) | [VIDEOS](#) | [LEARNING GAMES](#) | [OPEN LECTURES](#)

Upcoming Events

 <p><b>January 28, 2021</b></p> <p>Webinar Series Conservation   Food - Foraging</p> <p>Study Battling Birds in Panama with Bird Cams Lab</p>	 <p><b>February 9, 2021</b></p> <p>Webinar Series Conservation</p> <p>Watch Birds and Share the Joy: How to Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count</p>	 <p><b>February 16, 2021</b></p> <p>Webinar Series Songs - Calls</p> <p>Explore Nature Through Sound and Music: Tropical Islands and Ocean</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Cornell Lab Bird Academy <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/>**

Cornell Bird Academy offers a wide range of birding courses from nature journaling, bird photography, and bird identification to bird biology. These courses are for a cost and are self-paced.

If you are interested in birds and conservation, you will enjoy listening to Cornell's Open Lectures:

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/live-events/>

Cornell's Open Lecture series are free. Most are about an hour in length.



iNaturalist Spotlight and Photos:

[Back](#)



## 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 Master Naturalists in training James T. Doucet Common Gilled Mushroom (*Bolbitius titubans ssp. olivaceus*)

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>

## Whoopers in Louisiana's Working Wetlands by Irvin Louque

iNaturalist Creative Commons



Throughout history (likely from the Pleistocene ice ages until 1950), Louisiana was home to resident and migratory Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes. Though that may sound surprising since the cranes are known to be migratory birds, there are still naturally-occurring resident Sandhill Crane populations in south Mississippi and Florida. Cranes can even be thought of as avian parts of the megafauna that frequented North America during the last Ice Age. Fossils of both species are found in the La Brea tar pits Los Angeles among mastodons and dire wolves. They were both some of the large and widespread birds that made Pleistocene North America reminiscent of the modern-day Serengeti Plain in Africa.

Cranes were likely always hunted by humans in some fashion, but that hunting and shooting ramped up in the late 1800s as habitat loss and better technology combined to decimate crane populations, particularly across the eastern United States. Local trappers reported that the cranes, both Whooping and Sandhill, nested in Southwest Louisiana with Whooping Cranes nesting in the marshes and Sandhill Cranes nesting in slightly drier areas.

In 1939, John Lynch, a U.S. Biological Survey biologist, documented a pair of Whooping Cranes nesting near White Lake. The White Lake cranes were monitored for the next decade as the population slowly dwindled. Then, in the aftermath of major flooding from a hurricane, the flock was dispersed. The last wild Whooping Crane surviving near White Lake was captured from the wild in 1950 and relocated to Aransas NWR in Texas to be with the last wild Whooping Cranes but it died six months later.

As early as the 1970s, Louisiana's conservation community began working toward reintroducing Whooping Cranes, though the hunting and trapper culture that contributed to the demise of the birds was seen as a hindrance. Then, in two separate breakthroughs in 1999 and 2001, the detailed and insightful notes of biologist John J. Lynch of the U.S. Biological Survey were discovered. These notes contained further information about the White Lake population as well as several interviews with Southwest Louisiana locals which helped the conservation community better understand the general population size and which habitats they utilized.

One particular interview with O'Neil Nunez contained especially interesting information. Nunez began trapping and hunting alligators near Gueydan at the age of 8 in 1890. He remembered his father speaking of great droves of Sandhill Cranes and large numbers of Whooping Cranes in the area after the Civil War. As a boy, he'd see about a dozen Whooping Crane nests each spring. He was sure that the birds were resident in the area. When he was a boy, his father brought in 2 Whooping Crane eggs which hatched and the young grew to maturity. Then they were killed

because they were eating the young poultry. Interestingly, Nunez's wife's family also raised a pair of Whooping Cranes which stayed around the farm for a few years. Nunez remembered that crawfish, aquatic invertebrates, fish, and crow poison (*Nothoscordum bivalve*) were eaten by Whooping Cranes. Whooping Cranes don't bother crops such as corn, rice, or sweet potatoes like the Sandhill Cranes do. Gradually after 1900 the Whooping Cranes and later the Sandhill Cranes disappeared from Louisiana.

With the new information gleaned from John Lynch's notes and a non-experimental population designation under the Endangered Species Act, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the International Crane Foundation finally began releasing Whooping Cranes at White Lake Conservation Area in 2011. When the reintroduction plan was being formulated, LDWF made sure to talk with the area farmers and other stakeholders who needed to be on board with the Whooping Cranes potentially foraging in their crawfish and rice fields. And it's a good thing they did because the Whooping Cranes have been major users of crawfish fields for both foraging and nesting. The project is still in its infancy with relatively little success in fledging new cranes. Since cranes are such a long-lived bird, they still have a lot of time to get better at nesting and raising young. Along with nest failures, illegal shooting has been a major issue facing the population. Especially with long-lived species, shootings present a major challenge to population growth and can imperil the whole population.

This year, the International Crane Foundation will begin an outreach campaign statewide to try to eliminate the illegal shootings that have plagued this population. All in all, the future for Whooping Cranes is bright. Louisiana has a network of master naturalists, ICF is looking to work with social scientists to better understand the social impacts of Whooping Cranes and what we can do about it, crawfish farmers are on board mostly, and no one knows if Whooping Cranes will take advantage of a growing food source—apple snails. I suspect they might, knowing that they eat marsh periwinkle snails in coastal Texas.

Sources and other information:

To stay updated with Louisiana's Whooping Cranes, follow them on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lawhoopingcranes>

Some additional information about Whooping Cranes and the work of the International Crane Foundation:

<https://www.savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/whooping-crane/>

With special appreciation:

**Dr. Gay Gomez**, a 2018 graduate of the SWLA Master Naturalist program, wrote a series of articles outlining the history and reintroduction of Whooping Cranes in Louisiana. They were my main sources for this article, but they are certainly worth the read if you want to dive a little bit deeper into the subject. I learned a lot about the history of Whooping Cranes in Louisiana from reading her articles.

Gomez, Gay M. 1992. Whooping Cranes in Southwest Louisiana: History and Human Attitudes. North American Crane Workshop Proceedings. 262.

Gomez, Gay M., Roderick C. Drewien, and Mary Lynch Courville. 2005. Historical notes on Whooping Cranes at White Lake, Louisiana: The John J. Lynch Interviews, 1947-1948. North American Crane Workshop Proceedings. 16.

Gomez, Gay M. 2014. The History and Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area, Louisiana. Proceedings of the North American Crane Workshop. 376.

Drewien, Roderick C., John Tautin, Mary Lynch Courville, and Gay M. Gomez. 2001. Whooping Cranes breeding at White Lake, Louisiana, 1939: Observations by John J. Lynch, U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey. North American Crane Workshop Proceedings. 50.

Photo by Arlene Cain Whooping Cranes at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area 2013





## Homemade Baskets: Pine Needle and Grapevine Creations by Monica Cañizares



When my mom became director of the Girl Scout camp near Mobile, Alabama, she was assured that the craft closet was well stocked. When she checked close to summer, she found that rats had made messy nests out of the paper, yarn, and other exposed supplies on the shelves. After a good bout of fuming, she remembered the Coushatta pine needle baskets she had seen growing up and decided to teach herself and her sister, who would spend the summer teaching girls how to make rudimentary baskets.

Decades later, with her own daughter to entertain in the summer on family visits to Southwest Louisiana, my mom taught me how to weave baskets using the fallen pine needles in my grandpa's yard. I loved the idea of free materials being available right there, giving a new life to something that would otherwise be mowed to pieces in a week. I made my first basket over six years ago on a trip to Moss Bluff, and I looked forward to making more.

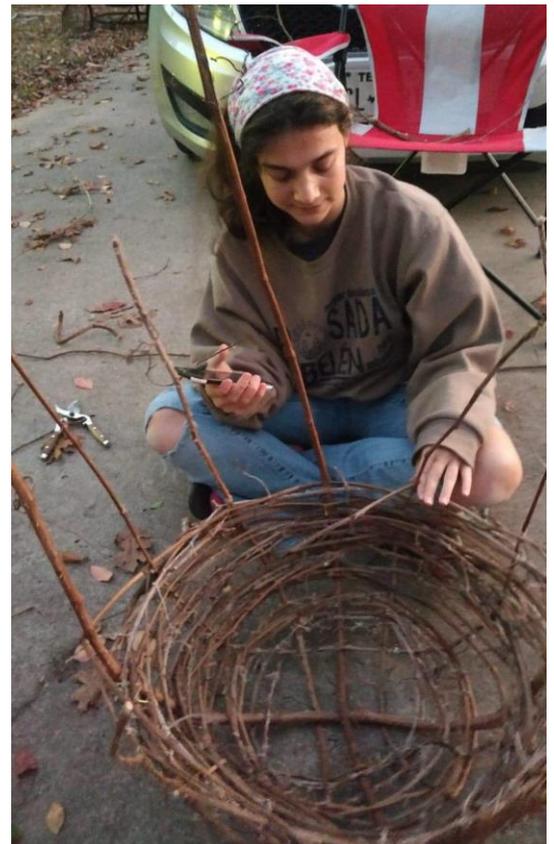
When I moved to Southwest Louisiana in the summer of 2018, I came in prime pine needle collecting season. My first baskets were simple, but I experimented each year until the fall, when the needles tended to be too brittle to flex. On summer evenings, I wove sitting on the floor, newspaper and pine needles spread in front of me, visiting with aunts and uncles or watching television with my grandpa. This past year, with so many pine trees down from the hurricanes, I was able to make pine needle creations during evacuations, gathering needles each visit back to the house. It's the small wins.



Staying with my parents in North Texas in December, I trimmed mustang grapevines down from their chimney area. I untangled and pried grapevines down from the yaupon bushes and ended up with yards of grapevines. After looking up instructions online, I started experimenting. I found that while the grapevines were a little unruly, these baskets were MUCH faster to make. Pine needle baskets are coil baskets, starting with a circular spiral and continuously going up the sides, stitching regularly along the way. With the thicker “fiber” and different style of weaving, I could make a grapevine basket in a day of work whereas my pine needle baskets usually took a couple weeks working each evening. The pine needle baskets are more tiring for my hands and required having a needle and lots of thread to make. With the grapevine baskets, all I needed were clippers to trim and gloves if I wanted to protect my hands from random scratches.

My first grapevine basket now sits waiting for me to turn it into a planter. The second I made as a picnic basket for my brother and his fiancée as a Christmas present. I sewed a red liner from an old t-shirt to make it more festive and cleanable. Here’s the website for grapevine basket instructions:

<https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/How-to-Make-a-Grapevine-Basket>



## Naturalists Notes:

[Back](#)**Owl Pellets by Ralph Fletcher**  
*Submitted by Connie McDonald*

A month ago  
in biology lab  
you sat close to me  
knee touching mine  
your sweet smell  
almost drowning out  
the formaldehyde stink  
which crinkled up  
your nose  
while I dissected a fetal pig.

Now I take apart  
this owl pellet  
small bag that holds  
skin and hair and bones  
little skeletons  
what the owl ate  
but couldn't digest  
and coughed back up

You sit with Jon Fox  
ignore me completely  
laugh at his dumb jokes  
let your head fall onto  
his bony shoulder  
while I attempt  
to piece together  
with trembling hands  
the tiny bones  
of a baby snake

Certain things  
are just about  
impossible  
to swallow

Photo by Barbara Morris - Owl Pellets



Photo by Arlene Cain - Eastern Screech Owl



Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)

## Southwest Master Naturalists 2021 Calendar

All dates are subject to change.

For more information and to sign up, go to [www.TrackitForward.com](http://www.TrackitForward.com)

January		February		March		April		May		June	
20	Board Meeting	6	General Meeting	3	Board Meeting	3	RENDEZVOUS 2021	1	Fungi and Mushrooms Class	2	Board Meeting
		13	Field Trip Bob Thibodeaux's Arboretum, Church Point	13	Coastal Ecology Class	7	General Meeting 5:30 PM	3	City Nature Challenge	12	Land Ethics and Backyard Habitat Class
				27	Amphibian and Reptile Class	10	Field Trip Kisatchie National Forest	15	Aquatic Invertebrates Class	26	Public Outreach and Graduation Class
						17	Earth Day Community Outreach	29	Riverine Ecology and Fish Class		
						24	Cajun Prairie and Pollinators Class				
						30	City Nature Challenge				
July		August		September		October		November		December	
7	General Meeting			1	Board Meeting Nominations	6	General Meeting Elections			2	Board Meeting
10	Field Trip					9	Field Trip Lacassine Pool				



## Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)

Feb 13, 2021, Trillium walk nature trail south of Columbia,  
<https://louisianamasternaturalistsnortheast.com/2021/01/08/trillium-walk/>

February 19-21, and February 26-28, 2021, Tom Sawyer Days at Allen Acres; email [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net) for details

February 21, 2021: Acadiana Native Plant Project native plant sale, <https://greauxnative.org/>

March 13, 2021, Old Growth Hardwood Forests of the South @ Sicily Island, LA. Matthew Herron's Coastal Plains Outdoors School. <https://www.coastalplainsoutdoors.org/about.html#/>

April 28-May 2, 2021, National BugGuide Gathering <https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>

May 14-16, 2021, 31<sup>st</sup> annual BBBB (bogs bird, butterflies, baygalls and more b's.)  
email: [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net) for details

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS**

Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252,  
[www.allenacresbandb.com](http://www.allenacresbandb.com)

March 16-18, Plant ID Class

March 23-25, Plant ID Class

March 27, Edible Plant class,

March 30-Apr 1, Plant ID Class

April 6-8, Plant ID Class

April 13-15, Plant ID Class

April 17: Edible Plant Class

April 20-22, Plant ID Class

May 4-6, Plant ID Class

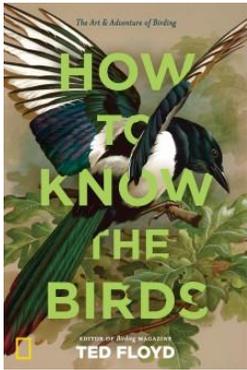
May 11-13, Plant ID Class

May 18-20, Graminoid ID Class

May 25-27, Plant ID Class

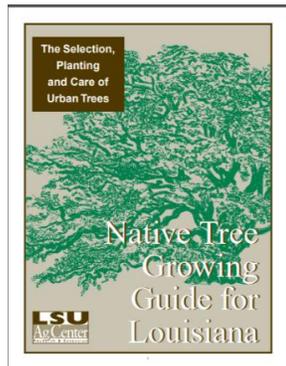


## Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)**How to know the Birds: The Art and Adventure of Birding by Ted Floyd March 2019**

<https://www.buteobooks.com/product/14908&affiliate=birderslib.html>

“How to Know the Birds is a storybook for bird lovers,” the author tells us. These stories come in the way of 200 single-page accounts, each dealing with a specific bird, each with a lesson. They are organized into six main sections, the accounts within each treating similar themes. These sections are labeled with months of the year – January-February, March-May, and so on.

**LSU Agricultural Center free PDF: The Selection, Planting and Care of Urban Trees**

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/F5E6FA92-D84F-4716-9176-355A62765838/18167/pub2926NativeTreeGuide.pdf>

**Trees for Me - Native Trees of Louisiana**

<http://www.treesforme.com/louisiana.html>

**USA National Phenology Network <https://www.usanpn.org/about>**

The USA National Phenology Network was established in 2007 to collect, store, and share phenology data and information.

The USA National Phenology Network consists of a National Coordinating Office (NCO), Thousands of volunteer observers and many partners, including research scientists, resource managers, educators, and policy-makers, Anyone who participates in Nature’s Notebook or collaborates with NCO staff to advance the science of phenology or to inform decisions as part of the USA-NPN.

**Nature’s Notebook**

[https://www.usanpn.org/natures\\_notebook](https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook)

Track seasonal changes in plants and animals. Share your data with the scientific community. Learn how your data is important and used by scientist. Join a featured campaign. Organize your own local Phenology program.

**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/>



Find us on Facebook

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists  
<https://www.facebook.com/SWLAMasterNaturalists/>

**AMAZON SMILE**

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47->



You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.  
 You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

**Board of Directors**

[Back](#)

<b>President</b>	<b>Barbara Morris</b>	<a href="mailto:tblsjm5@yahoo.com">tblsjm5@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Lori Marinovich</b>	<a href="mailto:Elleu1@yahoo.com">Elleu1@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Clay Ardoin</b>	<a href="mailto:cardoin@infolink-usa.com">cardoin@infolink-usa.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Patty Palmer</b>	<a href="mailto:pmpalmer8@hotmail.com">pmpalmer8@hotmail.com</a>
<b>LDWF</b>	<b>Robby Maxwell</b>	<a href="mailto:robjamax@gmail.com">robjamax@gmail.com</a>
<b>LDWF</b>	<b>Theresa Cross</b>	<a href="mailto:tcross@wlf.la.gov">tcross@wlf.la.gov</a>
<b>SLAMN</b>	<b>Tommy Hillman</b>	<a href="mailto:tommyhillman@att.net">tommyhillman@att.net</a>
<b>Gulf Coast Bird Club</b>	<b>David Booth</b>	<a href="mailto:david@boothenvironmental.com">david@boothenvironmental.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Irvin Louque</b>	<a href="mailto:irvinlouque@gmail.com">irvinlouque@gmail.com</a>
3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, LA 70601		225 206 0400

**About SLAMN Nature Notes**

Southwest Master Naturalists Nature Notes is published the first week of the following months:

**February, April, June, August, October, and December.**

We welcome contributions of original writing of observations, and topics on nature in our area of Southwest Louisiana. We welcome reports, reviews, and digital photographs. Send your news worthy contribution to the Newsletter Editor: [arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com](mailto:arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com)



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



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