

# Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Nature Notes



Charter 2016

Vol 3 ISSUE 4 August 2018

<u>President's Note</u>	1	<b>Naturalist Notes:</b>	
<u>Meeting Notes</u>	3	<u>Lyme: First Epidemic by Linda Wygoda</u>	9
<u>Local News</u>	4	<u>Water Institute of the Gulf by Deborah Frank</u>	13
<u>Continuing Education Opportunities</u>	6	<u>Close Encounters by Theresa Cross</u>	15
<u>Volunteer Opportunities</u>	7	<u>Upcoming Events</u>	17
<u>iNaturalist Spotlight</u>	8	<u>Resources</u>	19
		<u>Board Members</u>	21

## President's Note:

### Greetings, Master Naturalists!

We're in the heat of summer, but that doesn't mean things aren't exciting! Shorebirds are already starting to migrate through Louisiana on their way to their wintering grounds. Others like Wood Storks are dispersing into the drying crawfish ponds and swamps. Insects are everywhere, and semi-tropical invasive plants are taking advantage of the heat and humidity!

Air potato leaf beetles (*Lilioceris cheni*) are finally being released in Louisiana as a biological control for air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)! These beetles were discovered in Nepal feasting on air potato and were imported to Florida for extensive testing to make sure they'd only consume the species of air potato causing the most problems in Florida. It turns out, the adult beetles do nibble on 4 related species, but larvae can only develop successfully on air potato (*D. bulbifera*). After testing and field trials, Florida has been releasing thousands of air potato leaf beetles with good success throughout the state. The LSU AgCenter will release a few dozen air potato leaf beetles at Tuten Park on August 3 at 10:30 AM.

#### Calendar Quick View

Aug 11 Beginner Birding  
 Aug 13 Bird Study  
 Aug 25 Bird Walk  
 Sept 15 Pickup the Park  
 Oct 3 SLAMN Meeting  
 Oct 17 CalCam Festival



## President's Note:

[Back](#)

The goal with any biological control program is to reduce the invasive species to a level that native species can compete and thrive again. Complete eradication will likely never happen. Remember, the reason invasive species are able to outcompete natives is often due to a lack of natural predators. Biological control simply introduces a predator to even the playing field. For more information about air potato leaf beetles and air potatoes, including a new citizen science program, visit the Air Potato Patrol website: <https://airpotatobeetle.com/>

This fall, I'll be hosting classes from area schools periodically at Tuten Park and Riverside Park on a variety of natural history-related topics. If you'd like to help out with any classes, let me know, and I'll add you to a separate email list so you can stay informed. These are good opportunities to gain some volunteer hours.

If you plan on making your yard more wildlife-friendly, now is the time to start planning. Fall and winter are the best times to plant many native plants and wildflower seeds.

Lastly, if you know someone who might be interested in taking our 2019 course, send them a link to our website, tell them about your experience, and refer them to me or another board member! Consistently, most SLAMN members have found out about our chapter through existing members. Let's keep that up!

*Irvin Louque*



## Meeting Notes

[Back](#)

**Upcoming Meeting Location and Date**  
**Tuten Park, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 at 6:00 P.M.**  
**All members are invited to attend.**

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

Reminder: SLAMN yearly membership \$15.00.

Mail your dues to:

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



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

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

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

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

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

#### Committee Reports:

- **Course planning:** The committee is working on adding Mycology to the course study. During the new course, current members are needed to work with the presenters as hospitality. They will assist with sign up, class material, coffee, and assistance with lesson as needed. Volunteer hours can be earned.
- **Volunteer:** Watch your email and newsletter for volunteer opportunities
- **Publicity:** The Master Naturalists will have a booth set up at the Cal-Cam Fair. Volunteers are needed October 17-21.
- **Newsletter Committee:** Please continue to send pictures and articles of interest.
- **Nominating Committee:** At the next meeting there will be the Election of Officers. All positions are open for nominations. Contact Irvin Louque if you are interested in being nominated for a position. The nominating committee will announce a full slate of officers (one nomination per office) no later than September 3<sup>rd</sup>. After that time, the chapter has 10 days for any additional nominations send directly to the chair of the nominations committee. If there are additional nominations by the chapter, we hold official elections on those positions at the meeting.

#### Old Business

- Website is now available for recording volunteer and continuing education hours. [www.trackitforward.com](http://www.trackitforward.com)
- Continue to make purchases on Amazon Smile and give a donation to SLAMN.

#### New Business

- New T-shirts are available. A motion to sell them for \$10 and to give a free t-shirt to presenters. The t-shirts are printed at T-shirt Warehouse in Lake Charles.
- Rendezvous 2019 will be held at Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville, Louisiana. The dates are March 15-17. It was suggested that we may want to rent cabins as a group. Contact Irvin if you would be interested in staying in a cabin.
- The SLAMN handbook is now available online at <http://bit.ly/SLAMNhandbook>

#### News and Upcoming Events:

- Beginning Birding Class at Tuten Park August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am
- Tentative: Bat Workshop for October 20 with Theresa Cross
- Fear of Snakes
- September 15<sup>th</sup>: Clean Beach Sweep at Sam Houston Jones State Park
- October 17-21 Cal-Cam Fair Booth

#### Program:

**Green Storm water Management** presented by Irvin Louque

Lori Marinovich led a discussion of the Detention Pond being built behind the Crying Eagle on West McNeese Street. Her group has been contacted about providing ideas for landscaping the area. She shared the site plan of the project.

**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 date: October 3rd**

## Congratulations to our new Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist for 2018!



### SLAMN's 2018 Master Naturalists Graduates

#### **Congratulations to our 2018 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists graduates!**

Our 2018 SLAMN class graduated on June 23, 2018 at Tuten Park. The nine new graduates completed their final certification exam, and received their certificate, name tags, and T-shirts and a copy of Aldo Leopold's, *A Sand County Almanac*. The new graduates and other attendees were treated to pizza and tea cakes. After a fun time socializing, we watched the movie *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*. The new graduates are: **Brittany Manuel, Barbara DuPont, Clay Ardoin, Jackie Lanier, Gary Dula, Annale Manuel, Dick Myers, Gay Gomez, and Lori Marinovich.**

## Volunteer Opportunities:



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**Pickup the Park**  
**Sam Houston Jones State Park**

**September 15, 2018 8:00 am – 11:00 am**  
**Pickup the Park**

In conjunction with Beach Sweep events, you are invited to participate in the Annual Sam Houston Jones State Park Cleanup. Meet at the Overlook Platform. Bring Gloves, trash bags, boots, bug repellent, nets for getting trash in ponds, and drinks.

*For more information contact Barbara Morris:*  
**[tblsjm5@yahoo.com](mailto:tblsjm5@yahoo.com)**



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

**Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:**  
**<https://www.crcl.org/get-involved/volunteer.html>**

## Continuing Education Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Summertime Bird Study Group 2**

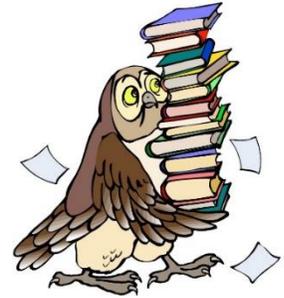
Lake Charles Central Library 411 Pujo Street 4:30 pm

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

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

Meeting dates are: August 13, and 20

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

**August 11, 2018 Beginner Birding Course at Tuten Park 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

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

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

**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](mailto:irvinlouque@gmail.com)



Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)

## Volunteers Needed! Audubon Louisiana - Become an Audubon Volunteer

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

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

Sign up to receive information about volunteer opportunities:

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

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



---

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

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

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

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

SW LA NWR Complex Headquarters

Attn: Volunteer Coordinator

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



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

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

**Cypress Island**

**The Northshore Field Office**

**Grand Isle**

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

Volunteer:

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



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

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

Check out the “Observation of the Week” post.

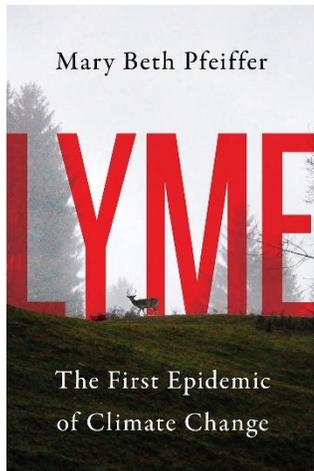
### **iNaturalist Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Project Observation of the Month: Common Whitetail (Plathemis lydia) By Master Naturalist Clay Ardoin**



**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>

## Lyme: The First Epidemic of Climate Change by Mary Beth Pfeiffer A Book Review by Linda Wygoda



This book is a little scary! The author begins describing a 2015 Christmas Day walk in upstate New York, with her adult son and 4 dogs. When they returned from their walk they checked for ticks. When they were done they had found twenty-one tiny blacklegged ticks, in winter!

This book chronicles the history of the Lyme disease, the spread of the disease throughout the world, the ecology of the disease, and the impact of climate change on the disease. The author does an excellent job describing the life history and ecology of the blacklegged ticks, the main vectors for Lyme disease. She also describes the challenges of correctly diagnosing and treating tick borne diseases.

The author explains that researchers now hypothesize that species diversity provides natural protection against disease because less diverse ecosystems support pathogen expansion. For example, in the case of Lyme disease, white-footed mice thrive in fragmented natural systems. Smaller, more fragmented areas had three times the number of nymph ticks and seven times the number infected with the Lyme pathogen compared to larger areas. This increase in ticks is explained by an increased number of mice because of a decreased number of mice predators such as foxes. Warmer temperatures also affect this balance in very interesting ways. Increased temperatures and more carbon dioxide increase the production of acorns. More acorns lead to more mice, and more mice, to more ticks, and more disease. Warmer temperatures also increase the survivorship of ticks throughout the winter.

In 2017, blacklegged ticks and the pathogens they carry have spread in all directions from the coastal Northeast U.S. where the disease first emerged. On the Outer Banks of North Carolina, the Lyme pathogen is now found in rice rats and marsh rats. In Georgia, infected birds have been found. The author also documents research demonstrating that the ticks are adapting as they spread.

The author hypothesizes that other infectious diseases, particularly those identified as vector-borne (spread by mosquitoes, ticks, etc.) are also trending upward due to climate change.

The book was very interesting, readable, and relevant to anyone spending time in the outdoors. I was shocked to learn of the impact of ticks on wild moose that were found harboring over 100,000 ticks!

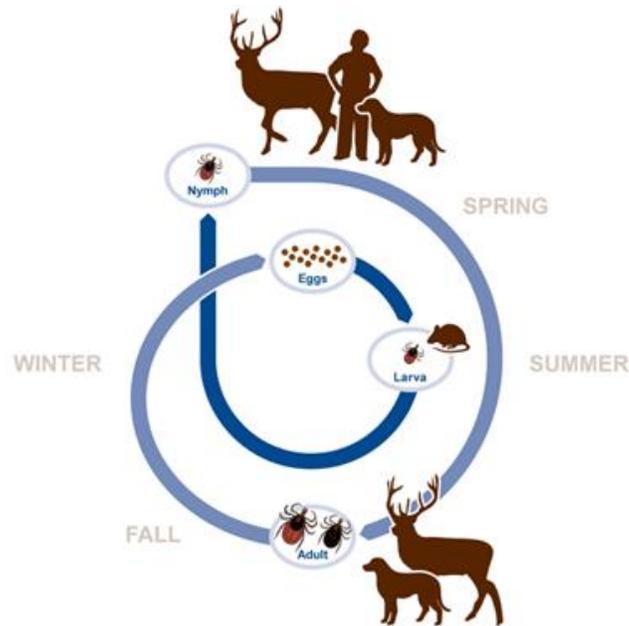
The author explains how dealing with ticks is now part of the outdoor experience in the northeast and are impacting natural systems throughout the country.

**If you have limited time, this is a good excerpt of the book:**

<https://aeon.co/essays/how-lyme-disease-became-the-first-epidemic-of-climate-change>

**Lyme: The First Epidemic of Climate Change by Mary Beth Pfeiffer**

<https://www.amazon.com/Lyme-First-Epidemic-Climate-Change/dp/1610918444>



Life Cycle of the Blacklegged Tick (from CDC)

### Ticks in Louisiana (*information excerpted from the CDC*)

There are 5 tick species found in Louisiana according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov). The following species, with the disease they cause are:

American Dog Tick (Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), Blacklegged Tick (Lyme Disease, and 5+ other diseases), Brown Dog Tick (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever). Gulf Coast Tick (a form of Spotted Fever), and the Lone Star Tick (erlichiosis). Of course not all individual ticks are disease carriers.

American Dog Tick



Blacklegged Tick



Brown Dog Tick



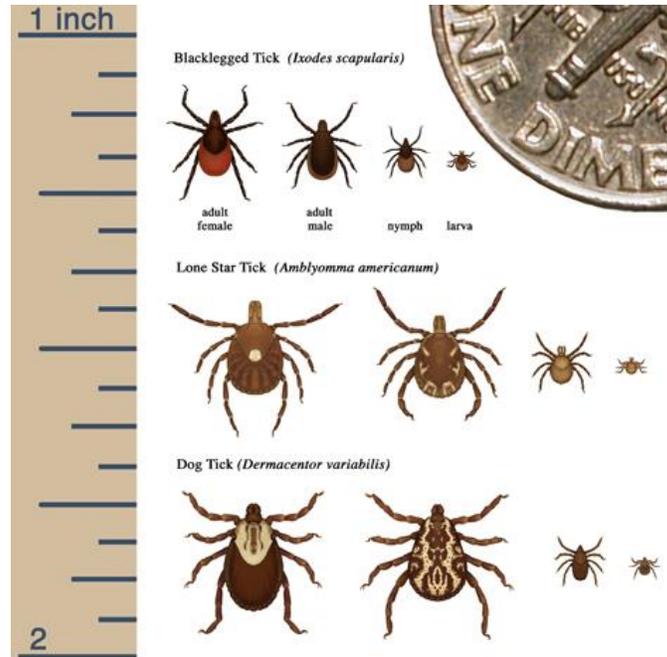
Gulf Coast Tick



Lone Star Tick



*Images from CDC*



## How to Prevent Ticks (summarized from the [CDC website](#))

### Before You Go Outdoors

1. Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. Many people get ticks in their own yard or neighborhood.
2. Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear and remain protective through several washings.
3. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. EPA's helpful search tool can help you find the product that best suits your needs. Always follow product instructions.
4. Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
5. Do not use products containing OLE or PMD on children under 3 years old.

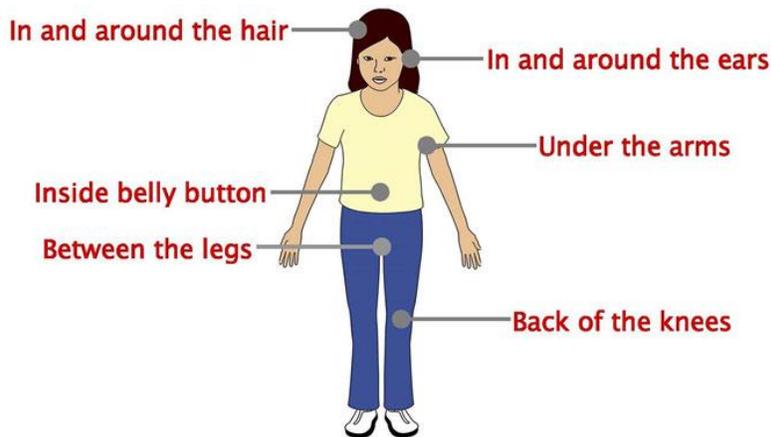
### Avoid Contact with Ticks

1. Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
2. Walk in the center of trails.
3. Tuck pants into boots or socks.

## After You Come Indoors

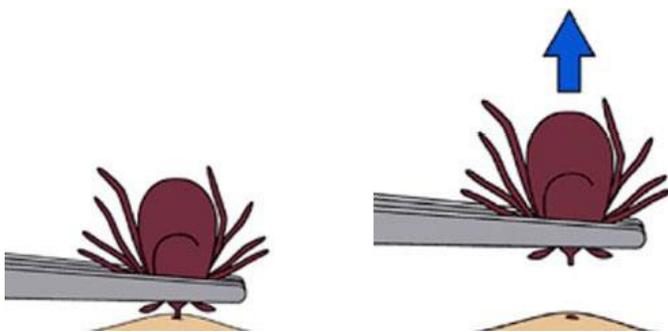
Check your clothing for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended. Cold and medium temperature water will not kill ticks.

Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tickborne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks and it is a good opportunity to do a tick check.



## How to Remove Ticks

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.
5. Don't use folk remedies such as heat, petroleum jelly, fingernail polish remover, etc. Remove tick as soon as you discover it.



*From personal experience, you may want to keep the tick (in alcohol, or in a baggie on ice) to help in identifying it later if you become ill. Male and female ticks, and immature ticks can look different. Proper identification of the tick may help medical professionals in prescribing a proper course of antibiotics should you become ill. And the tick itself can be tested for tick borne diseases should you become seriously ill.*

## The Water Institute of the Gulf by Deborah Frank



I first became interested in an organization based in Baton Rouge, The Water Institute of the Gulf, several months ago when my brother joined its Board of Directors. Intrigued by the name, I wondered about the organization's purpose and its impact on Southwest Louisiana, if any.

I turned to the organization's excellent website in search of information. The devastating Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 prompted officials in Louisiana to seek out a new path to address water management and river/coastal issues in the state. This led to a series of fact-finding trips

to Deltares, the renowned water management institute located in The Netherlands. The Dutch provided much needed assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Louisiana leaders believed that Dutch expertise in handling that country's water concerns would be of great use in meeting Louisiana's needs. Six years later in 2011, through the collaborative efforts of the State of Louisiana, Senator Mary Landrieu, and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF), the not-for-profit Water Institute of the Gulf became a reality.

According to its website, [thewaterinstitute.org](http://thewaterinstitute.org), the organization was formed with three guiding principles: "to increase understanding of natural and human aspects of deltaic, coastal, and water systems; to develop tools that apply knowledge to restore coasts and ecosystems; and to reduce risk for people and infrastructure." Furthermore, its mission is to support resilient coasts and sustainable water systems worldwide by connecting academic, public, and private research providers and conducting applied research to serve communities and industry. Along with a full-time administrative staff, the Institute is managed by an eleven member Board of Directors comprised of experts with backgrounds in energy and gas management; conservation; national parks; the US State Department; the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers; scientists in academia; and public relations. Currently, the Institute employs researchers in ecology, engineering, geology, numerical modeling, geography, social sciences, sediment, marine biology, river and coastal sediment processes, and hydrodynamics to conduct applied research in order to aid coastal communities and economies become more resilient to land subsidence, storms, rising sea levels, and other coastal threats. The Institute's services are available to government agencies, businesses, industry, foundations and philanthropic organizations.

Examples of research methods include field investigations; real-time data collection and monitoring design; integrated natural system modeling; analysis and integrated decision support, and spatial analysis of socioeconomic and ecosystem change. The applied research supports the Water Institute's mission by providing guidance to better inform policy makers, communities, and businesses so that they may thoughtfully plan for sustainable infrastructure, landscapes, economies, and emergency preparedness (a pressing concern very "close to home" here in Southwest Louisiana, especially June 1-November 30). Recent articles on the website in June and July of this year, "New Orleans: Ready or Not? The Storms Will Come" and

“Rising Risks: Baton Rouge emerges from devastating floods to lead the battle against rising water” highlight efforts being made by these two cities to better prepare for water damage from weather events.

While the Water Institute is providing technical work and support throughout the world – Latin America, Pacific Islands, the Mekong River Delta, and even closer to home in Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge- I was particularly interested in its work in Southwest Louisiana. In a press release dated May 15, 2018, the Institute announced projects in two Louisiana ports (Port Fouchon and the Port of Lake Charles) addressing how nature can be utilized to enhance both critical infrastructure and the environment. Regarding the Port of Lake Charles, recently compiled data states that the ship channel requires 97 million cubic yards of disposal capacity for dredged material and only 5 million cubic yards is available, plus it will cost \$79 million over the next 20 years to retain deep draft capacity necessary to support growth of the booming LNG market. Studying the problem will have a 3 part approach: (1) Where is the sediment coming from? (Current findings indicate that some is coming from wave action of vessels, but that is not the only source thus far identified); (2) What can be done to stop it from going in to the channel; and (3) Where’s the best place to put the dredged material? This study is of great importance to the people of southwest Louisiana for both environmental and economic reasons.

Another project in Calcasieu Parish is the development of simulations and watershed modeling that when complete could actually predict areas that will flood (or not) in real-time. These models and simulations utilize variables such as the amount of rainfall; wind speed; wind direction; and topography, among others, which can be used for forecasting purposes and thus lead to enhanced emergency preparedness.

A mere seven years after its implementation, the Water Institute of the Gulf now sits on a 30 acre site in Baton Rouge overlooking the Mississippi River with a campus that includes the spectacular state-of-the-art Center for Coastal and Deltaic Solutions. In 2014, the Institute was selected as the Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities, and Revised Economy of the Gulf Coast (RESTORE) Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana. This enables the Institute to further advance its initiatives by administering a grant program to fund independent research by universities and private firms and connect to other Centers of Excellence across the Gulf. In 2017, the Institute and Deltares signed a Memorandum of Understanding thereby strengthening the continued research relationships between the two entities and opening doors for exciting new opportunities for research and collaboration throughout the world.

I encourage you to learn more about the Institute and its ongoing list of new and exciting projects by checking out its website which has a wealth of information. Better yet, sign up online to receive quarterly updates to your inbox of what’s being done not only along our Gulf Coast but all over the world. You can even tour the facility when in Baton Rouge. The Institute’s slogan, “Because life happens at the water’s edge” certainly speaks to those of us in Southwest Louisiana!

Resources:

<https://thewaterinstitute.org/>

<https://thewaterinstitute.org/projects/restore-act-center-of-excellence-for-louisiana>

## Naturalists Notes:

[Back](#)

## Close Encounters of the Questionable Kind by Theresa Cross

Human fascination with exotic animals has been shown throughout history. There were the captive predators and large grazers of ancient Egypt and the Roman Empire, medieval menageries, 19<sup>th</sup> century circuses and modern zoological gardens and aquaria. Though zoos have evolved into research institutions and facilities to manage endangered species, they started out as a way to give the public close views of animals they might not normally encounter. These days we are given opportunities to swim with manatees, feed sharks, be kissed by dolphins, and other not just close (behind fences and windows) but intimate (actual touching) encounters with a variety of wildlife species. Most of us have a “wow, I would love to do that” response to these ideas and greet the opportunities to engage in these and similar activities with excitement, especially if we can offer them to our children. But we need to stop and consider how these interactions affect the animals, possibly changing their behavior. Just as importantly, maybe even more so, how do these opportunities affect our perception of human relationships with wild animals? Some people would argue, and with legitimacy, that such interactions foster an interest in the focal species and ultimately benefit them. But an equally valid argument is that it helps us as individuals and as a society to lose the respectful caution due these animals.

People will often feed wildlife in their back yards and get a thrill because these wild creatures know when they appear, recognize them as individuals and come to get fed. But these animals grow up learning to recognize people as a food source, often becoming more aggressive as adults. When the eight foot alligator they have been feeding since he was a hatchling tries to eat the family dog or that once cute raccoon bares its teeth and steals the picnic supplies, people seem surprised that their former wild “pet” would turn on them. Keep in mind that feeding wildlife and providing habitat that allows them to forage naturally are two different things.



Not only can we alter behavior with feeding, we can also affect wild animals just by our presence, whether we draw them out of curiosity or make them avoid doing something out of caution or fear. Whale watching might cause marine mammals to alter travel patterns that could have effects we do not see. A person watching an animal gathering food can cause a parent to try to avoid leading a predator to their young, or even abandon them if the activity around the nest or den is too intense. Many animals engage in deceptive behavior to lure potential predators away from young as well, which requires an investment in resources and energy that is now not available to keep their offspring fed and warm.

We see killer whales, elephants, and others doing tricks at the bidding of their human trainers and we forget that they are big, strong animals, many of which are predators with sharp teeth. Recall the stories of some tourist who decides that having their picture taken with the bear, bison or moose in a national park would be a good idea. They see these animals grazing or loafing at the side of the road, seemingly unconcerned by human presence and think a close picture would be cute. Or maybe they fed some goats, ponies or deer at a local petting zoo and think it is pretty much the same situation. The park rangers would not let them get so close to the public if it wasn't safe, right? But we forget that these are wild animals, not tame and trained captives. We also tend to forget the examples of when a captive, “safe” animal suddenly lashes out and kills or seriously injures a handler or member of the public. It is arrogant of humans to expect a wild animal to know we do not mean harm, especially one with young to protect. They will act the same way we would if any of those animals approached us, especially one of our children. They will

lash out in defense or protectiveness, even if only in bluff. They also have instinctive, often predatory responses to our actions, differing according to species.

Yes, all of us will succumb to temptation at some point and ride an elephant at a zoo, reach out to learn what the passing nurse shark or ray feels like, or go to the sea lion or dolphin show and get “kissed”. But every time such an opportunity comes up, it is important to consider possible consequences to the animal, the species, or you and your family before making a decision. It’s not all bad, there are benefits to providing opportunities for people to observe and interact with wild animals. But every situation should be considered individually.

Relevant links:

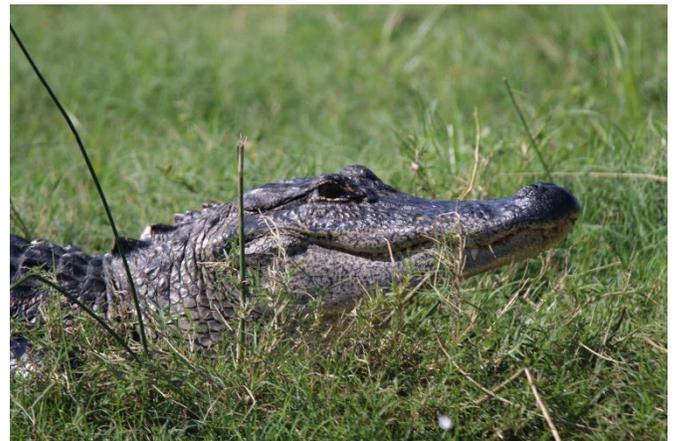
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/whale-watching-found-to-stress-out-whales/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-14107381>

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/WildlifeProblems/documents/Feeding-Wildlife-Hazards.pdf>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/montana/articles/2018-06-09/3-hurt-in-separate-wildlife-attacks-in-yellowstone-park>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd\\_1Oyz\\_MPs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd_1Oyz_MPs)



*Pictures courtesy of Arlene Cain*

## Upcoming Events:

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

Tuten Park 3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles

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

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

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

**September 8, 2018 Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society Fall Meeting**

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

**September 8-9, 2018 Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza Gulf Coast Bird Observatory**

**8:00 am – Noon at 299 Hwy 332, Lake Jackson Texas 77566**

<http://www.gcbo.org/connect/xtreme-hummingbird-xtravaganza/>

**September 15, 2018 Feliciana Hummingbird Celebration St. Francisville, LA**

<http://stfrancisvillefestivals.com/features/feliciana-hummingbird-celebration>

The NATIONAL WILDBIRD REFUGE will have its annual Hummingbird Festival this year on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the plantation country of West Feliciana Parish.

Each year, this Hummingbird celebration is held near beautiful St. Francisville, Louisiana

**September 15, 2018 - Pollination Celebration**

LSU AG Hammond Research Station Time: 9 a.m. To 3 p.m.

<http://tpmga.org/pollination/pollination.html>

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

**For Butterfly Festival Information Contact:**

Loice Kendrick-Lacy at (318) 624-1929

or City Hall (318) 624-0911

1937 Bailey Avenue, Haynesville, LA 71038

E-Mail Address: [loicelacy@gmail.com](mailto:loicelacy@gmail.com)

Website: [www.haynesvillela.org](http://www.haynesvillela.org)

**September 28-30, 2018 - Butterfly Blast at Allen Acres**

Allen Acres, 5070 Hwy. 399, Pitkin, Email [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net) or call 337-328-2252 to register

**Allen Acres Plant ID Classes**

<http://www.nativeventures.net/default.asp>

**Sept 18-20: General Plant ID class Allen Acres**

**Sept 25-27: General Plant ID class Allen Acres**

**Oct 2-4: Plant ID classes Allen Acres**

**Oct 9-11: Plant ID Class Allen Acres**

**Nov 3: Plant ID class Allen Acres**

## Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)

**August 11, 2018** Beginner Birding Course at Tuten Park  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837

**August 13, 20, 2018**  
Bird Study Group 2 Lake Charles Central Library 411 Pujo Street 4:30 pm  
Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837

**August 25, 2018** Sam Houston Jones State Park Bird Walks meet at 8:00 am at the Picnic Area  
Contact David Booth at: 337-526-0837

**September 15, 2018 Sam Houston Jones State Park Clean-up  
Beach Sweep 2018 & SWLA Waterways**  
  
**8:00 am – 11:00 am**  
**Meet at the platform overlooking the pond**

**October 31-November 4, 2018 The Yellow Rail and Rice Festival Jennings Louisiana**  
[http://www.snowyegreterprises.com/Snowy\\_Egret\\_Enterprises/Yellow\\_Rails\\_%26\\_Rice\\_Festival.html](http://www.snowyegreterprises.com/Snowy_Egret_Enterprises/Yellow_Rails_%26_Rice_Festival.html)

**Oct 19-20, 2018: Southern Garden Symposium, St Francisville**  
<http://www.southerngardensymposium.org/>

Lake Charles City Nature Challenge 2019: April 26-29

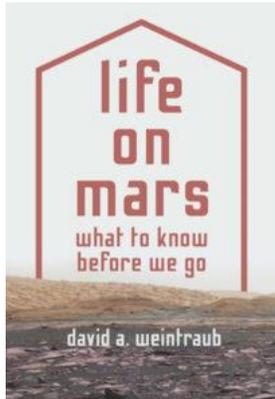


*Summer Baby Purple Gallinule photo by A. Cain*

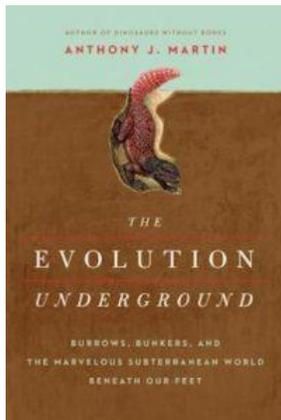
## Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)

## Books:

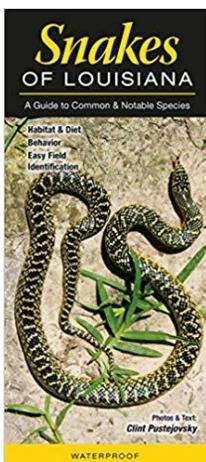
**Life on Mars What to know before we go****David A Weintraub, July 2018**<https://press.princeton.edu/titles/11233.html>

From astronomy enthusiasts to historians of science to the simply curious, *Life on Mars* presents a thorough but overall quite intelligible to a general reader (there are a few sections of later chapters where the grass gets a bit tall in places) history of the fascination with and exploration of Mars, its geography, and its potential for harboring life. It also provides a rich, example-filled, eloquently interwoven presentation of how the scientific process works in evaluating and testing claims of discovery, making it a superb book for all interested in learning more about what we presently know about Mars and how we've learned it. And, as there are, as of this review, presently six active NASA missions to the planet underway, it is hoped that it will inspire its readers to both pay closer attention to news of future discoveries as well as simply to look up into the night sky in wonder at the bright point of light that seems to be just a bit more red than the rest.

**The Evolution Underground:****Burrows, Bunkers, and the Marvelous Subterranean World Beneath our Feet****Anthony J. Martin, 2017**<https://www.amazon.com/Evolution-Underground-Burrows-Marvelous-Subterranean/dp/1681773120>

**What is the best way to survive when the going gets tough? Hiding underground. From penguins to dinosaurs, trilobites, and humans, Anthony Martin reveals the subterranean secret of survival.**

Humans have “gone underground” for survival for thousands of years, from underground cities in Turkey to Cold War–era bunkers. But our burrowing roots go back to the very beginnings of animal life on earth. Without burrowing, the planet would be very different today. Many animal lineages alive now—including our own—only survived a cataclysmic meteorite strike 65 million years ago because they went underground.

**Snakes of Louisiana: A Guide to Common & Notable Species Pamphlet****by Cliff Pustaiovsky October 25, 2012**<https://www.amazon.com/Snakes-Louisiana-Common-Notable-Species/dp/1936913453>

This guide's six laminated, double-sided panels fold up into a handy narrow packet which is sized to fit in your back pocket yet sturdy enough to stand up under repeated use. It describes over 50 species of snakes found in Louisiana, including 7 venomous snakes. The guide also features color photos that make it ideal for field use. Common and scientific names, average adult size, habitat, diet, and behavior are described. Tips on field identification and safety instructions are also discussed. Identify that unexpected visitor in your yard or while out and about. Excellent for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

Resources for the Naturalists:

[Back](#)

**Apps:**

**MyNature Tracks**

<http://www.mynatureapps.com/mynature-animal-tracks/>



**Features:**

A database with 7 search-able track categories, and 5 search-able categories for scat, fully illustrated by size and shape for quick selection. (scat content not available for Android)

- Illustrations of both fore and hind feet, with a complete description of track measurements, gait patterns used trail widths and animal life cycles.
- Full color digital images of actual tracks, scat, and sign in the wild.
- Gorgeous photos of each individual animal featured.
- Illustrations of the most common gait pattern for each animal.
- Sound files for an example of each animals vocalization.
- Range maps showing each animals distribution across North America.
- Completely self-contained, no need for a wireless connection once downloaded.

**Seek by iNaturalist**

[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)



**Description**

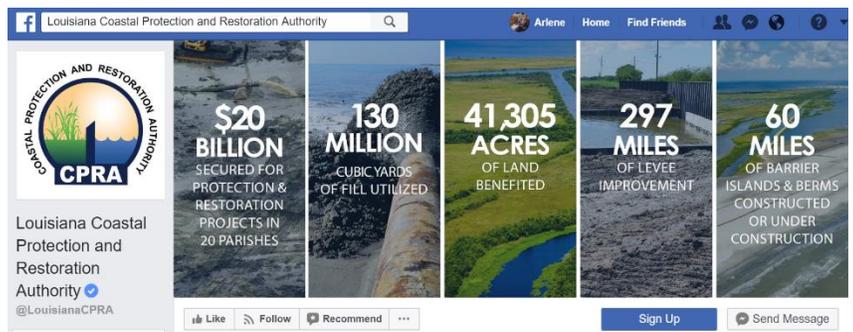
Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Seek encourages outdoor exploration and learning by harnessing image recognition technology to help you identify plants and animals from your photos. Choose from a list of nearby plants, animals, and fungi and collect photographs of as many species as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

**Websites of Interest:**

**Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority**

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



**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act**

<https://www.lacoast.gov/new/Default.aspx>



**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/47-5541690>



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](https://smile.amazon.com)

**Board of Directors**

[Back](#)

<b>President</b>	<b>Irvin Louque</b>	<a href="mailto:irvinlouque@gmail.com">irvinlouque@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Tommy Hillman</b>	<a href="mailto:tommyhillman@att.net">tommyhillman@att.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Robby Maxwell</b>	<a href="mailto:robjamax@gmail.com">robjamax@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Barbara Morris</b>	<a href="mailto:tblsjm5@yahoo.com">tblsjm5@yahoo.com</a>
<b>LDWF</b>	<b>Chuck Battaglia</b>	<a href="mailto:cbattaglia@wlf.la.gov">cbattaglia@wlf.la.gov</a>
<b>LDWF</b>	<b>Theresa Cross</b>	<a href="mailto:tcross@wlf.la.gov">tcross@wlf.la.gov</a>
<b>SOWELA</b>	<b>Lori McGee</b>	<a href="mailto:lori.mcgee@cpsb.org">lori.mcgee@cpsb.org</a>
<b>Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society</b>	<b>Brian Sean Early</b>	<a href="mailto:briansean.early@gmail.com">briansean.early@gmail.com</a>
<b>Gulf Coast Bird Club</b>	<b>David Booth</b>	<a href="mailto:david@boothenvironmental.com">david@boothenvironmental.com</a>
<b>LMNA Representative</b>	<b>Deborah Frank</b>	<a href="mailto:debrfrank@yahoo.com">debrfrank@yahoo.com</a>
3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, LA 70601 225 206 0400		

**IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

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



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



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