



Charter 2016

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President's Note:

Greetings, Master Naturalists!

This year is off to a great start. The master naturalist course started on Saturday, January 25th with 10 students. There, I introduced the course and Danielle Maxwell taught the class, focusing on biology, evolution, taxonomic relationships, and dichotomous keys. There are a handful of late applicants who'll join the course this weekend. This year's class will likely be our largest since our first class which included the charter board members!

In addition to the course, our chapter is taking on several projects this year. In January, we helped a Boy Scout complete his Eagle Scout project by transplanting the grasses and forbs from Barbara and Tom Morris's neighborhood to the longleaf pine restoration project at Sam Houston Jones State Park. We're undertaking a project funded by a Louisiana Healthy Communities Coalition grant to add plant identification and interpretive signs along the nature trails at Tuten Park along with 2 benches. This project should be complete by July.

Calendar Quick View

- Feb 1 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
- Feb 15 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
- Mar 4 Paddlefish Fowler Fisheries
- Mar 11 Board Meeting
- Mar 21 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
- Mar 22 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
- Mar 27 Garden Show Burton
- Apr 1 SLAMN General Meeting
- Apr 4 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
- Apr 17 Rendezvous
- Apr 24 City Nature Challenge
- Apr 25 Earth Day Civic Center



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We'll have a booth at the Earth Day 2020 event in downtown Lake Charles on April 25. In the longer term, our chapter will be host the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association's Rendezvous in 2021. A small group met in January to decide on the locations for the Rendezvous. As always, keep an eye out for these events and more in *Nature Notes* and on our event [calendar](#) in Track It Forward. Here you'll get periodic updates on the progress on these and more.

Just like the organisms we all love, the SWLA Master Naturalists are filling a niche of environmental education and community conservation that largely went unfilled prior to our existence as a group. We could not be as effective without so many of our members being so active.

So, I thank you for your commitment to our organization's principles of understanding, outreach, and conservation of Louisiana's natural resources! If you're unsure how to get involved in these activities, let me know and I'll help you find something that fits your unique skills.

Thanks,

Irvin Louque



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

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Upcoming Meeting Location and Date

General Meeting April 1, 2020 Tuten Park

President: **Irvin Louque**

Vice-President:

Barbara MorrisTreasurer: **Clay Ardoin**Secretary: **Patty Palmer**

At-large Board Members:

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

January 8 General Meeting Highlights

Committee Reports

Course: Additionally, MN Facilitators are needed to assist the presenters with the classes, please sign up on Track it Forward. This is a great way to earn volunteer hours. The course schedule was reviewed.

Volunteer: Irvin recognized all members who completed required 20 volunteer hours and 8 continuing education hours in 2019. Make sure you have met the necessary requirements to maintain active membership. Document Volunteer and Continuing Education hours on the [Track it Forward](#).

Promotions: Garden Show on March 27-28. Volunteers will be needed to work at the table. Sign up on Track it Forward closer to the date.

Publications: Arlene Cain requested informational articles for the upcoming Feb. (by Feb. 1st) and April publications of Nature Notes. Articles written will qualify for volunteer hours.

Rendezvous April 16-18, 2021 Planning Committee: A small group made up of Barbara Morris, Tom Morris & Theresa Cross have begun planning discussions. A location to hold the event will likely be focused on the west side of the river. A final decision on the location will be made Oct 1st 2020. The next meeting of the planning team is scheduled for **Jan 29th @ 5 pm at Tuten Park**. Interested people are invited to attend.

New Business

1) **Membership Renewal:** Annual \$15 membership renewal is due in Jan. 2020. Please complete the Membership Renewal form and submit payment to Clay Ardoin.

2) **Kids Program Coushatta Tribe Partnership:** Sarah Abshire, Coushatta Tribe, is looking for volunteers to conduct workshops at a 6-week kid's minicamp between June 4 – July 23rd. If any SLAMN members are interested in participating, please let Irvin know. This is a great way to support our mission statement and earn volunteer hours.

3) **Earth Day 2020:** Will occur on Sat. April 25th in conjunction with the Dragon Boat Races at the Civic Center. SLAMN will have a table and will present information related to Earth Day. Volunteers will be needed to work at the table. Sign up on [Track it Forward](#) closer to the date.

4) **Louisiana Healthy Community Coalition Grant:** SLAMN member Lori Marinovich reported that she successfully gained a \$3000 Mini Grant for Tuten Park in partnership with the City of Lake Charles to redo the raised beds & benches, install Plant ID's as well as provide Interpretive Information. A planning committee meeting was scheduled for Jan. 22nd @ 2 pm, Tuten Park to begin brainstorming a list of plant ID's. The Mini Grant project must be completed by July 2020. Way to Geaux Lori!

Guest Speaker: Guest Speaker Amy LeBouef an educator from Maplewood Middle School. Amy gave a presentation on Louisiana One Health in Action and her experience getting a correct medical diagnosis for her son when he contracted Bartonellosis caused by a kitten scratch.

Next SLAMN General Meeting: April 1, 2020 6:00 p.m. Tuten Park

Chapter tentative meeting dates for 2020: April 1, July 1, and October 7

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.

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/>

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Louisiana One Health in Action by Amy LeBouef SLAMN General Meeting January 8, 2020



SLAMN General Meeting guest speaker was Amy LeBouef, a teacher at Maplewood Middle School. Amy gave a presentation on Louisiana One Health in Action, an education awareness advocacy group. One Health Louisiana is built on the simple understanding that human health, animal health and our shared environment are part of a deeply interconnected system. Amy got involved with One Health Louisiana after she experienced a health crisis involving her son. Her son contracted *Bartonella* bacteria following a scratch by a stray kitten. After seeing over 30 Doctors and 19 different specialists over the course of 10 months, her son was finally correctly diagnosed with Bartonellosis caused by the *Bartonella* bacteria. With a proper diagnosis and treatment, he is doing much better now. Over 2.4 million people are affected globally per year by zoonotic diseases. These are diseases spread between animals and people, caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. Amy also spoke about other vector borne diseases that we hear a lot about, namely West Nile Virus (WNV) spread by mosquitoes and Lyme disease spread by ticks. In 2018, Louisiana was ranked number one in the country for WNV cases. More information about the One Health mission is available at onehealthinitiative.com.

One Health

<https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html>

Louisiana One Health in Action

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

Louisiana One Health in Action on Facebook

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



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2020 SLAMN Course January 25, 2020

The 2020 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Certification Program held its first workshop on January 25, 2020 at Tuten Park. This is the first of twelve workshops for candidate certification.

The focus of Saturday's workshop was an introduction to Master Naturalists, the art and science of natural history, what to expect over the rest of the course, and some basic naturalist skills. The workshop was presented by Danielle Maxwell, a graduate of the 2016 Master Naturalist course and instructor at McNeese State University.



Eagle Scout Habitat Restoration Project by Barbara Morris



On January 18, a local Boy Scout, John Meaney, lead a project to re-establish herbaceous groundcover in the Longleaf Pine habitat restoration area at Sam Houston Jones State Park.

Volunteers used a sod cutter, shovels, rakes, and other tools to dig up a variety of grasses and wildflowers. The plugs and plants were transported to the park and laid down. The plant tops were scattered on the site at Sam Houston Jones State Park.

The area where they were harvesting in Moss Bluff, is owned by Mr. Ken Nichols and managed by Tom Morris. The site area is going to be developed for a cellular tower so this was also a native plant rescue.

Volunteers from Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists were on hand to help as needed. Other groups involved were Troop 39, Coastal Plain Conservancy, and students from McNeese's Natural Resource Conservation and Management Program.

Thanks to Chet St Romain, Tom Morris, Martha Hoag, Emerald Fletcher, and Barbara Morris for volunteering.



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See the full story on KPLC: Hometown Heros Longleaf Legacy Project

<https://www.kplctv.com/2020/01/23/boy-scout-leads-work-restore-cajun-prairie/>



Happy
Mardi
Gras!

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Southwest Master Naturalists Winter Field Trip January 12, 2020 Kayaking Ecotour on the Houston River by Barbara Morris

On January 12th, 2020, Southwest Master Naturalists volunteers and friends enjoyed an Ecotour adventure on the Houston River. The winds were calm and the temperature cold as we unloaded the kayaks. Our adventure started with nine brave souls daring to venture into the wilds. We were excited as we left the dock at Anthony Ferry Boat Launch. We paddled north hoping the temperature would rise with the sun. It was a starkly quiet morning; no birds calling, no turtles splashing. The only sound we heard was the passing of a train that disturbed the tranquility.

The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist members, **Lori Marinovich**, **Barbara Morris**, and **Annale Manuel** pointed out things of interest. We saw a river catfish hooked on a trout line. We observed the Christmas lichens and Orange algae adding color to the drab winter scene. We did not see the beaver, but there were many cut trees giving evidence of its presence. The highlight of the day was the fly over of a Bald Eagle.

We all made it back to the dock wet and cold, but very exhilarated and happy. Any day outdoors, is a wonderful day! Hope you can join us for the next great adventure!



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SLAMN Kayaking Ecotour January 12th, 2020



Volunteer and Continuing Education Opportunities:

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March 4th, 2020 Volunteers Needed for Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery Paddlefish Spawn



Sign-up for this event on:



March 4th, 2020 will find SLAMN volunteers heading up to Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery at Forest Hill, LA for the Paddlefish Spawn. Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists **Robbie Maxwell** is one of the Biologist involved with the Paddlefish spawning.

This is one of the more exciting volunteer opportunities! Have you ever wanted to see paddlefish up close? Can you image being there as they are raised from the pool and placed into a stretcher? I cannot describe how amazing it is to watch the biologists as they milk the males for sperm and do surgery on the females to release the eggs. The fertilization is in the laboratory. You will be witness to the entire process.

When was the last time you observed a fish dissection? OK, but with a biologist pointing out the body parts?! You will also get a tour of the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery where they are raising Bass to stock local waterways. Did you know the male Bass guards the nesting site?

If you would like to learn more about Paddlefish, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! Your assignment will be to escort the teenagers and their teachers as they visit each station. You will earn volunteer and CEU hours. It is an early start but worth the drive.



Sign-up for this event on:



March 27-28th, 2020 Garden Show Volunteer Opportunity

The Garden Show is a volunteer opportunity for you to share your knowledge with the general public. The SWLA Master Naturalists set up a table with eye catching, interesting items. When someone stops, a conversation begins. You can share info about native plants and pollinators. You can share information about making the home garden friendly for resident reptiles and snakes.

The people attending the garden show are gardeners. We can offer guidance about the effects of insecticides in the natural food chain. You can talk about invasive plants such as privet and tallow. What about snakes in the yard?

The Master Naturalist booth is located next to the Gulf Coast Bird Club. This allows you to visit and get great information about birding in our area.

Your entry fee is waived when you tell them you are working a booth. There are only two spots available in the booth as it is a small space. However, feel free to drop in and you can relieve whoever is scheduled to work.

Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)**The Louisiana Master Naturalists Rendezvous**

Mark your calendar for April 17-19, 2020. The Louisiana Master Naturalists Rendezvous 2020 registration opens in February. The Rendezvous is being held at Camp Hardtner <https://www.camphardtner.org/> near Pollock, LA. Many of our SLAMN members will be attending. Carpooling is a possibility.



Sign-up for this event on:

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - CLASS FACILITATORS NEEDED SIGN UP NOW!**

Have you heard? You can revisit your favorite class or the class you missed! Just volunteer as a Class Facilitator. You will attend the class as a graduate and learn or relearn information. This is CEU hours.

What does a Facilitator do? You arrive 30 minutes before class to help set up chairs and tables if needed. You will get the coffee brewing. You will help distribute handouts. You will go along with the students into the field. This is the best part! You will make new friends as you interact with the class. You will share your knowledge and enthusiasm. You will be helping our organization to grow into a strong group of Citizen Scientists. There are only two spots for each class.

SIGN UP NOW ON

**Volunteer Opportunity February 15 Calcasieu Derelict Crab Trap Removal**

8am-3pm at the Cameron Parish public boat launch located on the western shore of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel, north of the Highway 82 Cameron Ferry

Contact Peyton Cagle at 337-491-2575 or pcagle@wlf.la.gov

Register to volunteer at https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2uv0DDFckP4UJLv

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Black Rail and Beach Nesting Birds Volunteer Opportunities

Update on Black Rail Work: We have had a very successful Black Rail research project working with USFWS and LDWF since the summer of 2017. We tallied a total of 38 Black Rail detections during point count surveys. We also had 36 Black Rail detections during drag-line surveys, including 28 Black Rail captures on 25 individual birds. We plan on having many volunteer opportunities to help with drag-line surveys from approximately November to March each year.

Contact Marshbird Biologist **Justin Lehman** for more information about the project or to volunteer:

Justin.lehman@audubon.org

w: 507-696-0085

Update on Coastal Stewardship: This program continues to protect beach-nesting birds across Cameron beaches and beyond, working with public and private land managers, as well as volunteers to implement monitoring and protection, resulting in greater nesting success. Least Terns, Wilson's Plovers, and Common Nighthawks readily nest on busy beachfronts in Cameron Parish such as Rutherford and Holly Beaches. Audubon Louisiana will be hiring season staff and enlisting volunteers to assist with this work.

Contact Katie Barnes for more information to learn what you can do to help these sensitive species.

Katie B. Barnes

Coastal Stewardship Manager

e: Katie.Barnes@audubon.org

w: 225.768.0820

Winter Audubon Coastal Bird Surveys

The winter ACBS pulse begins January 10 and ends February 20. I will be conducting surveys as they fit into my schedule and those that are interested are welcome to join on any of them to review, photograph, and enjoy shorebirds. No pressure if you are unable to join but I wanted to extend the invite to those that are wanting to learn ACBS.

If you are interested, let me know your availability and potential location interests (Cameron/Grand Isle). As far as I know right now, I will be unavailable Jan 14-16 to conduct surveys. I can be somewhat flexible and accommodate as best I can for those wanting to come!

Katie B. Barnes

Coastal Stewardship Manager

e: Katie.Barnes@audubon.org

w: 225.768.0820

c: 412.997.3017

Volunteer Opportunities:

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SABINE RIVER CLEAN UP

MARCH 28, 2020

9 AM

Sabine River Launch
(off Simmons Drive)
408 Pier Road
Orange, TX 77630



A clean up initiative on the Sabine River by BOAT and LAND!

By boat - Run North & South @ 10 miles in each direction

By land - Hit local fishing spots and boat launches

NEEDED!!!

6-8 boats to volunteer to captain

Trucks to help haul trash from land locations

Like-minded people who love fishing and our beautiful waterways!

- Gloves, trash bags and drinking water will be provided
- Concluding trash pick up at 12PM
- Follow-up at the Sabine River Launch where lunch will be provided
- Raffle to be held at the end of the event

**If interested in helping with this event, contact Brian Miller at
bcmiller111786@yahoo.com**

Please label emails "SABINE RIVER CLEAN UP"

Continuing Education Opportunities:

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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.



Conservation Biology Institute Webinar Series

SCGIS - Wildlife Insights: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Conservation

Wildlife is an essential component of all ecosystems. Yet most places around the world do not have local information on which species are present or how their populations are changing. Camera traps have become a widely used and an effective way to collect wildlife data. Every year, thousands of cameras are set, capturing millions of images.

SCGIS - A Spatial Planning Tool for Biodiversity Conservation under Climate Change

The Cascadia Partner Forum (CPF) is a network of natural resource practitioners in Washington and British Columbia. A primary goal of the partnership is to provide an regional-scale organizational framework to conserve Cascadia's biodiversity, which is under threat from an expanding human footprint and a changing climate.

SCGIS - Geospatial Conservation at The Nature Conservancy

The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Operating in 72 countries with more than 600 scientists, we are tackling the most pressing threats to nature and people in freshwater, ocean and coast, and terrestrial environments. GIS and remote sensing have informed TNC's conservation science approaches for decades.



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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 Master Naturalists Irvin Louque Vermillion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

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>

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Mystical Maypops By: Emerald Fletcher

2019 Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

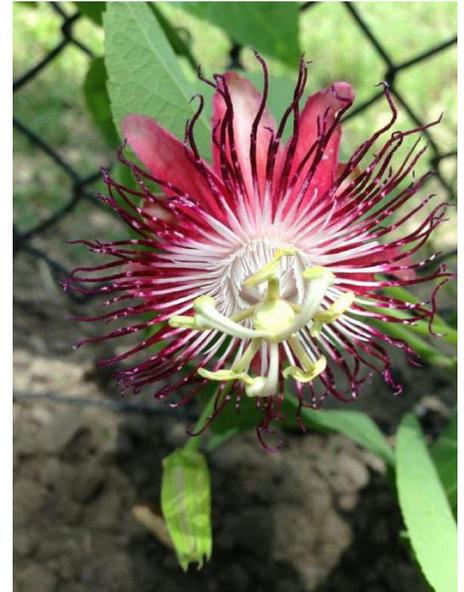


Words simply do not do justice to express the otherworldly wonder that comes from gazing upon the showy blooms of *Passiflora* species. This unique herbaceous vine goes by many common names such as: passion vine, passionflower, and may-pop to name a few. Once you come across it, you are not likely to forget it. I remember the first time I saw the beautiful display from the array of these “alien-like” flowers draped over a trellis in my Grandmother’s garden. There were so many interesting visual aspects to take in about the purple passionflower structure, that I took multiple photos of the same bloom from every angle. The structure I’m speaking of refers to the 5 purple petals and 5 matching sepals that are veiled by the fringy ornate decoration of corona filaments which are topped by 5 anthers and 3 stigma sticking up from the center of what looks like a “bull’s-eye.” Later on, I learned through working in the garden and landscape industry that there were many brightly colored species of passionflowers and I attempted to photograph each type that I came across. I admit it was not until my recent interest in Louisiana Cajun Prairies that I learned we have native purple passion flowers, *Passiflora incarnata*, growing wild in fields and thickets across the state. I also recently realized through the use of iNaturalist in Sam Houston Jones State Park that we are the home to the native yellow passion flower, *Passiflora lutea*.





When attempting to distinguish between the two native passion vines while they are not in bloom the leaves can offer identifiable differences. Although both have palmate 3 lobed leaves, the leaves of *P. lutea* have rounded entire margins and are “slightly lobed” while the leaves of *P. incarnata* have slightly serrate margins with pointed tips and are “distinctly lobed”. (1) The habitat of each differs in that yellow passion vines are “usually found in shady habitats in forests.” (1) In my personal opinion yellow maypop leaves resemble the shape of a dog’s paw while purple maypop leaves look more like hops vine, *Humulus lupulus*.



I have sighted many a purple maypop this summer during my vegetation surveys working on Coastal Prairie Research and always feel as though I have stumbled across something magical to see it in its full glory during the summer season. I have yet to capture the blooms of the yellow passionflower in a photograph, but I am hoping this summer I may get the chance.

The unique qualities and history of the passion vine do not stop simply at its physical beauty but also include pollinator use, medicinal use, and religious significance. In 2016 Louisiana House of Representatives passed “House Bill 164” in a vote of “95-5” that the Louisiana state butterfly would be represented by the Gulf Fritillary also known as the “passion butterfly.” (2) “Passion vines are the most

important host for caterpillars of the Gulf Fritillary, Varigated Fritillary, and Zebra Long Wings.” (1) I have personally benefitted from the medicinal use of passion vine tea that helps to reduce anxiety and insomnia as well as relax muscles, this tea is made from the dried vines and leaves of the plant which have been used for this purpose since the discovery of the plant. Lastly, the



religious symbolism of the passionflower is where the name is derived from. “Spanish Christian missionaries adopted the unique structure of the plant as symbols of the last days of Jesus and especially his crucifixion.

- The five petals and five sepals taken together represent the ten faithful apostles (excluding St Peter the denier and Judas the betrayer)
- The flower's radial filaments or corona represent the crown of thorns
- The three stigmas represent the three nails and the five anthers the five wounds (four by nails and one by the lance)
- The tendrils represent the whips used in the flagellation of Christ.” (3)

These mystical and elegant properties of the maypop are some of the many reasons why I have a passion for passion vines. I hope to enjoy the beauty of many more species of this personal favorite in the future.

Sources: (1) Allen, Charles M., et al. Louisiana Wildflower Guide. Allen’s Native Ventures, LLC, 2010.

(2) Litten, Kevin. “Passion Butterfly Bill Floats to Passage, but Not without Relentless Ribbing.” Nola.com, Nola.com, 24 Mar. 2016, www.nola.com/politics/2016/03/state_butterfly_passion_legisl.html.

(3) “A Passion for Passion Flowers.” Kew, www.kew.org/read-and-watch/passion-for-passion-flowers.



A Walk Through the USGS Nuisance Aquatic Species Website by Robby Maxwell

Note: This article focuses on invasive species reporting and monitoring. For more information on what an invasive species is, please look at my article in the October 2018 edition of "Nature Notes"

https://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/uploads/9/1/3/0/91304736/vol_3_issue_5_slamn_oct_2018.pdf.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has done countless great things for natural sciences over the years, and one of their tools I utilize frequently is their Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) website, <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/>. Just like the name implies, it's a website for reporting and monitoring NAS (including invasive species) in the US. It has so many features tucked away in nooks and crannies, that I think it's probably good to have a guide to start out. Open up your browser, and let's go explore.

The first thing you'll probably notice is a list of taxonomic groups. Clicking on one of the taxonomic groups will take you to a page with more information about that group. I prefer to use the search function, either by species name or by state. Any way you cut it, a search will lead you to a grid, which you can sort by columns if you choose to. This is where the fun begins.

We'll start by using the invasive Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) as an example. You can access it with a text search for the species, following the taxonomic link (picture and "Fishes") on the home screen, through a state-specific search, or a number of different ways. The first link beside the species will be **Collection Info**. If you're accessing via a state query, the collection info will just be for the state in question. Accessing via a more generalized search will reveal all collection info for the US. This invasive has been in the US since the 1970s and has been steadily spreading.

Images	Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	More info	Native Habitat	Species Origin
	Fishes	Cyprinidae	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Silver Carp	Collection info Point Map Species Profile Animated Map	Freshwater	Exotic

Silver Carp information grid

For a visual representation of all of the USGS records, you can go back to the grid and click on the **Point Map**. You'll see dots of various sizes and colors on the map that represent number of records in a cluster. From here, you can click on point to highlight them, and investigate them in the Records tab. This is a static map, which is great for general investigations. Under the Layers tab, there are a number of base layer options to help you see the data.



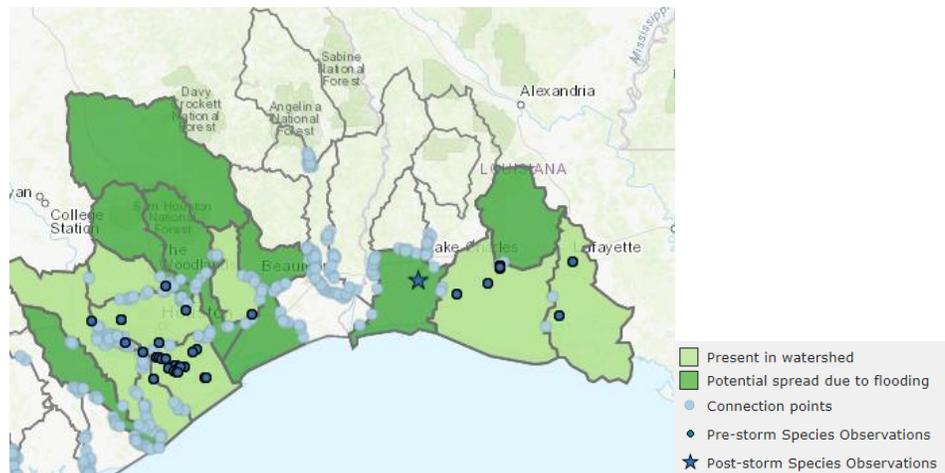
Silver Carp Observations Point Map

If you want to go to the mesmerizing next level of mapping, you can back out of this map, and go to the **Animated Map**. This tool really shows how invasions can happen on a large scale. They spread by different means and at different rates. The Silver Carp map shows how a large riverine fish can spread over one of the great rivers of the world over the course of a few decades. One of my favorite animated maps to look at is the Lionfish, where you can see the explosive spread from Miami up to the East Coast, through the Caribbean, and finally through the Gulf Coast. One thing to consider is sampling bias. Often species aren't noticed for a long time because of sampling gear bias. Once a species is detected in a region, records often skyrocket as people start looking for it.

Before we back out of the information grid for each species, take note of the **Species Profile** link. Like it suggests, it's a basic summary of the species with yet another map (USGS likes their maps based on watersheds).

What we've covered so far is really the heart of the site, but it has some intriguing appendages. We'll start back at the home page on the newest feature, the **NAS FaST – Flood and Storm Tracker**. This tool is, you guessed it, another map. This map looks for potential points of connection between watersheds that are opened up during floods, and assess the potential for invasive species to spread in major flood events.

This is not just good for predictive monitoring, but can also inform projects in the future to shut down or prevent some of the manmade connections from aiding in the spread of invasive species in the future.



Potential spread of Apple Snails after Hurricane Harvey (2017)

The Alert System tag at the top has a feature where you can sign up for emails about NAS. Be careful, if you don't narrow your specifications down to exactly what you want to hear about, you'll be getting an occasional flood of emails. If you want to just get a feel for how many invasive species are spreading throughout the US on a constant basis, that'll do it. I recommend really focusing on a taxonomic group or just records in the state or surrounding states.

Finally, if you have a sighting that, through the tools above and other resources available, you have determined is a significant range expansion, you can submit a record of your own. As a private citizen making this claim, be sure you can back it up. You'll need a date, coordinates, pictures, and any details of the sighting you can provide. In my opinion, a significant record is a new record in a parish/county, drainage basin, municipal area, or refuge/park. It's really open for interpretation, but you don't need to go block by block making new records in an urban area. Natural resource managers monitor the alerts and work with USGS and will be notified of the records fairly quickly. Flex your citizen scientist muscles!

If you're not comfortable reporting it through the website, or have any questions, you can email the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at AquaticInvasives@la.gov or call the Invasive Species Hotline at 225-765-3977.

Upcoming Events:

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Southwest Master Naturalists 2020 Calendar



January		February		March		April		May		June	
8	SLAMN General meeting	1	Citizen Science Class	4	Paddlefish Spawning at Booker Fowler	1	SLAMN General Meeting Speaker: Adam Constantin	9	TBA Fungi and Mushrooms	3	Board Meeting
12	SLAMN Winter Field Trip kayaking Ecotour	15	Longleaf Pine & Botany	11	Board Meeting	4	Amphibian and Reptile Study Class	15	Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center	13	Riverine Ecology and Fish
17	RV & Boat Show			21	Coastal Ecology (Rockefeller)	17	Rendezvous 2020 Camp Hartner	30	Aquatic Invertebrates	27	Land Ethic and Backyard Habitat
25	SLAMN New Candidate Class Overview			22	Bird Study	24	City Nature Challenge				
				27	Garden Show Burton Coliseum	25	TBA Cajun Prairie and Pollinators Class				
						25	Earth Day Civic Center				
July		August		September		October		November		December	
1	SLAMN General Meeting Speaker: Katie Barns			2	Board Meeting	7	SLAMN General Meeting			2	Board Meeting
11	Public Outreach and Graduation Class										

Participation at 8 workshops is required for certification as a Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist

- Jan. 25 Workshop 1 **Introduction** Tuten Park
- Feb. 1 Workshop 2 **Citizen Science** Tuten Park
- Feb. 15 Workshop 3 **Longleaf Pine Ecology and Botany** Tuten Park
- Mar. 21 Workshop 4 **Coastal Ecology** Cameron Parish (overnighter)
- Mar. 22 Workshop 5 **Birds** Cameron Parish (overnighter)
- TBA Workshop 10 **Amphibian and Reptile Study** Sam Houston Jones State Park
- TBA Workshop 6 **Cajun Prairie** Eunice
- TBA Workshop 7 **Fungi** Tuten Park
- May 30 Workshop 8 **Aquatic Invertebrates and Habitats** Moss Bluff
- June 13 Workshop 9 **Riverine Ecology and Fish Study** TBD
- June 27 Workshop 11 **Land Ethic and Backyard Habitat** Tuten Park
- July 11 Workshop 12 **Backyard Habitat and Graduation** Tuten Park

Upcoming Events:

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Sign-up for the following events on



March 27-28, 2020 Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2020 Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles

April 17 - 19, 2020 LMNA Rendezvous 2020

May 15-18, 2020 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center SLAMN Field Trip

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

February 14-17, 2020 Great Backyard Bird Count <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

February 7-9, 2020 LNPS annual meeting Woodworth <https://www.lnps.org/>

March 27-28, 2020 Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2020 Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles

April 3-5, 2020 Annual BBBB plus a 50 year anniversary and a 75 year birthday celebration at Allen Acres, Pitkin (details soon)



Save the date for LMNA Rendezvous 2020!

April 17 - 19, 2020 at Camp Hardtner, Pollock, Louisiana. We have ordered great weather for exploring the Kisatchie National Forest! New this year: The camp staff will be providing our meals for us.

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



April 24-27, 2020 City Nature Challenge 2020



April 25, 2020 Earth Day Celebration

May 14-17, 2020 and May 21-24 National Bug Guide Gathering, Allen Acres, native@camtel.net
5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, LA 70656, 337-328-2252 www.allenacresbandb.com

2020 PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS at Allen Acres

Dr. Charles Allen, Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656
337-328-2252 native@camtel.net

March 24-26, March 31-April 2

April 7-9, April 14-16, April 21-23, April 28-30

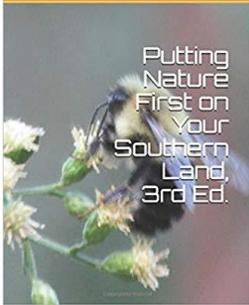
May 5-7

July 20-22, 2020, North American Prairie Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, <http://www.northamericanprairie.org/>

Resources for the Naturalists:

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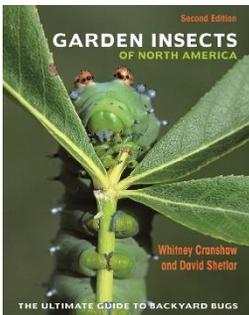
Betty V. Miley

**Putting Nature First on Your Southern Land by Betty V. Miley**

January 4, 2020

https://www.amazon.com/Putting-Nature-First-Your-Southern/dp/1654657514/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Putting+nature+first&qid=1579299969&s=books&sr=1-1

Putting Nature First emphasizes native plants and land use that enriches the environment while using the land for practical purposes and beautification. The content has been intentionally compressed for brevity. The matter-of-fact tone is geared for busy people who want plainly delivered information, lists, charts, and simple illustrations.

**Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs By Whitney Cranshaw and David Shetlar**

https://www.amazon.com/Garden-Insects-North-America-Ultimate/dp/0691167443/ref=asc_df_0691167443/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312090128349&hvpos=1o3&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=12774354178043684691&hvpone=&hvtwo=&hvqamt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphv=9025291&hvtargid=aud-801381245258;pla-451895523115&psc=1

This second edition of *Garden Insects of North America* solidifies its place as the most comprehensive guide to the common insects, mites, and other “bugs” found in the backyards and gardens of the United States and Canada. Featuring 3,300 full-color photos and concise, detailed text, this fully revised book covers the hundreds of species of insects and mites associated with fruits and vegetables, shade trees and shrubs, flowers and ornamental plants, and turfgrass—from aphids and bumble bees to leafhoppers and mealybugs to woollybears and yellowjacket wasps—and much more. This new edition also provides a greatly expanded treatment of common pollinators and flower visitors, the natural enemies of garden pests, and the earthworms, insects, and other arthropods that help with decomposing plant matter in the garden.

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

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/>



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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



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.