

Louisiana Master Naturalists

Northeast

Certification Requirements **Approved May 2019**

Our by-laws requires “40 to 50 hours of natural history training aimed at creating or expanding awareness and understanding of plants and animals, their natural habitats, and the roles they play in natural ecosystems.” This training is offered as a series of 9 workshops, of which 7 must be completed for certification. In addition, a final interpretive project will be required of each candidate for certification.

Curriculum

Although exact offerings are likely to vary from year to year, the follow list of workshops comprises the first cycle, to be completed in March 2019, is representative. Candidates for certification who extend workshop training over more than one cycle cannot receive credit for taking the same workshop a second time, even if the workshop leader changes. Because fieldwork is an important component of our training, field sites are listed with each workshop.

- Workshop 1. Basic Field Skills, Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Workshop 2. Plants of Louisiana, Kisatchie National Forest & Georgetown Reservoir
- Workshop 3. Herpetofauna of Northeast Louisiana, Black Bayou Lake NWR
- Workshop 4. Aquatic Life – It’s the Little Things, Black Bayou Lake NWR
- Workshop 5. Ecosystems & Restoration Ecology, Kiroli Park & Restoration Park, West Monroe
- Workshop 6. Watershed Dynamics, Redwine Creek, Grambling
- Workshop 7. Birds, D’Arbonne Spillway
- Workshop 8. Mammals, Russell Sage WMA
- Workshop 9. Geology, J. C. Sonny Gilbert Wildlife Management Area

Final Project

In addition to completing at least 7 of 9 workshops, certification candidates will present a final interpretive project to the organization. These projects shall meet the following criteria:

Criterion 1. Projects must be relevant to our local northeast Louisiana environment.

Criterion 2. Projects must be educational and have informational value to the beholder.

Criterion 3. Projects must show evidence of being based on research, formal or informal, including observation by the preparer and consulting of other expert sources (typically called “secondary sources”). Research conducted should be beneficial to the subject of the research or at the very least do no harm to the subject.

Criterion 4. Projects must identify secondary sources of information used (that is, sources other than the preparer’s own observations).

Criterion 5. Projects should strive for improved real-world outcome(s). Increased knowledge and/or awareness on the part of audiences counts as a real-world outcome.

Criterion 6. Projects must be published in tangible form and must have either a visual or an audio component. For example:

- a. a videotape (both visual and audio components).
- b. a PowerPoint featuring photographs (visual component). Could be accompanied by a recorded soundtrack or presented with a spoken accompaniment (audio components), or by text on the slides or in the form of a flyer, brochure, fact sheet or whatever (no audio).
- c. an audio recording as the centerpiece, with a spoken or printed text accompaniment (no visual component).
- d. an experience, such as a guided hike, complete with pointing out relevant features (visual component) and commentary (audio component). If this option is chosen, it must teach the group about a new site or educate us in greater depth on an aspect of a known site. Secondary sources could consist of interviewing local experts with in-depth knowledge of a site or feature of a site.

Projects will be evaluated by a jury of at least three members of the organization, of which at least one should be a member of the Board of Directors. It is understood that multiple juries will need to be formed to ensure that no member juries his or her own project or that of his or her spouse/partner.