

# LOUISIANA NURSERMEN

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This will be my last column for "From the President's Desk." My term of office ends January 10th when I turn the gavel over to Gerald Foret. I have served LAN for the past 12 years as a board member and officer. While my time with LAN has been enjoyable and educational it is past time for other people to have an opportunity to serve. In my two years as President I have found that there is a willingness now among some members to become involved and contribute. This is great!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people who have helped me along the way. First and foremost Warren Meadows and Walter Imahara, they originally got me involved in LAN. I hope that I have been a good steward in continuing the things that they started. I am also grateful for the board members that

I have served with over the years. It has certainly been a pleasure. I am especially grateful for the current board with which I have worked for the past two years. They have accomplished a lot and brought forth new innovative ideas for the benefit of LAN. They certainly make my job easier.

Those of us who choose to serve our industries do so at a sacrifice of time to our families and respected businesses. I owe a heartfelt thanks to the staff of ProScape for picking up the slack when I haven't been there. Trine Broussard, Ricky Milner, Tony Ledet, Milton Williams and the rest of the staff certainly made it a lot easier for me to be away. They saw to it that things ran smoothly (sometimes too smoothly) in my absence.

My family has truly been "the wind beneath

my wings" and been very supportive during times away from the business and home. Someone has had to pick up slack at the office and in taking care of the business. Our son, Kelly, has had to pick up extra chores around the house and done so without the usual teenage grumbling. They already have my love now I give them my thanks for being so supportive.

Allen Owings and I came into our respected offices at about the same time. His input and knowledge of the nursery industry has been invaluable. He has expanded the educational function of LAN tremendously. His support and counsel have been greatly appreciated.

Two years ago when I became President, if Karan McLean had said that she would not be around I think I would have had to

leave also. Karan's devotion and contributions to LAN are tremendous. Her knowledge of the trade show and LAN has been a tremendous benefit to me. I cannot adequately thank her enough for her help and assistance during my term of office.

It seems that in the past it has been traditional for the Past Presidents to take a less active role. It is certainly not my intention to break with tradition. I have enjoyed my service and hope that we have made some worthwhile contributions. Again, thank you for the support and the opportunity to be of service. Its been a good ride!

Thank you and have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

J.C. Patrick

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## LAN MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 1997 LAN Membership meeting is scheduled for 8:15am on Saturday January 11th at the Riverside Centroplex in Baton Rouge. This is being held in conjunction with the 15th annual LAN/MNA Educational Short Course and Trade Show. The major topic to address will be board and officer nominations. The LAN nomination committee will be presenting the slate of officers and board members listed below:

### Current Officers

President - J.C. Patrick  
Past President - Steve Adams  
1st Vice President - Gerald Foret  
2nd Vice President - Steve Bellanger  
Secretary - Allen Owings  
Treasurer - Wanda Campagna  
Education Director - Dan Gill  
Farm Bureau Liaison - Dan Davenport

### Proposed Officers

Gerald Foret  
J.C. Patrick  
Steve Bellanger  
Rick Webb  
Allen Owings  
Wanda Campagna  
Dan Gill  
Dan Davenport

### Current Board

Don Lobb (1997)  
Leslie LeBlanc (1997)  
Rick Webb (1997)  
Harold Poole, Jr. (1997)  
Clyde Gehron (1998)  
Mike Hoogland (1998)  
Robbie Dupont (1998)  
Foster Cook (1998)  
Terry Wilbourn (1998)

### Proposed Board

Pat Newman (1999)  
Robert Barry (1999)  
Randy Bracy (1999)  
Murphy Johnson (1999)  
Clyde Gehron (1998)  
Mike Hoogland (1998)  
Robbie Dupont (1998)  
Foster Cook (1998)  
Terry Wilbourn (1998)

Other items that will be discussed at the membership meeting include a financial update and information on planned LAN activities for 1997. Scholarships for 1997 will also be presented at this year's membership meeting. Please make plans to attend your membership meeting on January 11th!!!

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## RESEARCH PRIORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a report from the Research Priority Committee. This committee was made up of Pat Stelz, Robert Barry, Michael Levy, Dan Davenport and Pat Newman as chairperson. In the last board meeting, the board approved funding of these projects in a amount of \$1,000 for all three projects. A meeting in Mid January has been scheduled with LSU Agricultural Center personnel including the new Chancellor and Experiment Station Director to present the committee's report and pursue project initiation.

The committee has done a tremendous job in a short period of time and are to be commended for their time and effort.

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## LAN RESEARCH PROJECTS

The LAN Research Committee met November 26, 1996 and selected (3) Research Projects. These projects were selected for the following reasons:

- A. They were the areas in which the committee received the greatest response.
- B. The Committee determined that these areas of research would benefit the largest number of LAN members.
- C. These areas of research appear to be the areas in which vital information is not readily available at this time.

### PROJECTS

- I. Weed Control in Recent Planted and Established Ornamental Landscapes\
- II. Growth Retardant for Louisianan Bedding Plants.
- III. Selection and Promotion of Louisiana Grown Plants.

Project I. Weed Control in Recent and Established Ornamental Landscapes

- A. A herbicide or a combination of 1 or more which can be used as a overall weed control in landscaping that contains trees, ornamental shrubs and bedding plants is not presently available. Herbicides that are presently available are either too specific in their labeling as to what plants they may be used in conjunction with, or they are not conducive to an overall weed control problem within established landscapes, which contain trees, ornamental shrubs and bedding plants.
- B. Expanding the labels uses would allow a better understanding of when and how to use (Eptam, Poast, Image, Round Up etc.)
- C. Compatibility of what mixed herbicides in the overall ornamental landscape would be advantageous.

Project II. Growth Retardants for Louisiana Bedding Plants.

- A. The bedding plant growers are finding that the recommended rates of ppm on most retardants (Bonsia, Florinel, and B-9) are not conducive to the Southern Climate. We need research to develop a formula(s) that would be conducive to climatic conditions in North and South Louisiana and the Gulf Coast rather than the existing formulas which are mor conducive to northern climates (Michigan and Minnesota) which have warm days and cool nights.

Project III. Selection and Promotion of Louisiana Grown Plants.

- A. To find and select new varieties of trees, shrubs, and bedding plants that would grow well in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast areas that are not presently available to the growers or on the market in Louisiana. Cultivars form Australia, New Zealand, Japan, etc.
- B. To coordinate and decimate information to growers of "La. Select" futures at least 2 to 3 years prior to placing on the market so stock will be available when the promotion begins.
- C. Consider the selection of the species or family of trees or plants rather that a specific tree or plant. Provides opportunity for many growers large and small to be included in the growth and promotion and provide a wider selection of plants to go to market.

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Provides opportunity for many growers large and small to be included in the growth and promotion and provide a wider selection of plants to go to market.
- D. Establish a channel into which the growers have better input as to the featured "La. Select" plants and trees and the availability of the product.
- E. Design and establish a symbol or tag which advertises plants grown in Louisiana that the grower, landscaper and retailer can put on plants. "Louisiana Lagniappe", "A Little Something Extra" with State of Louisiana as the background - Texas already has such a tag and Mississippi is working on one.
- F. Establish an original advertising campaign for La. Select and La. Grown plants - through Louisiana Conservation, Dept. of Agriculture, Louisiana Extension Services, so the public will be aware and also begin asking for specific La. Select plants and trees.

These areas of research are vital to our existing nursery industry and truly need to be undertaken to expand knowledge and know how throughout Louisiana.

The Research Committee also believes that a future of Research should encompass labor and stress management as this is a recurring subject of concern throughout our industry. We are presently trying to identify specific areas in this broad subject to target for research.

The research Committee looks forward to the assignments Research Projects to those universities which will undertake the projects and provide the LAN members with important and beneficial results.

**LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN**  
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**LAN Homepage: <http://www.lan.org>.**