



LOUISIANA Nursery & Landscape NEWS



Poole Bros. Nursery
100 YEARS

LNLA Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 82
January, February, March
2023



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Poole Bros. Nursery 100 YEARS

Can we tell you a story? This will take us back 100 years, to when brothers Johns and Murphy Poole began a four generation family industry from the ground up (forgive the pun). Originally the family owned property equaled 120 acres. The Poole's, much like many folks from those simpler times, were more than willing to help many other family members establish nurseries on their property. Throughout the early 1920's, the family kept at it, and by the 1960's, there was no denying Forest Hill was the "Nursery Capital of Louisiana". Among the handful of family members that began making a living in the nursery industry, many of these properties are still under the Poole Brother's umbrella.

Much like the strong family roots in the business, the product followed, and carried the business well into the 21st century. In 1998, Steve and Debbie Head purchased Poole Brothers Nursery. They made a simple choice to keep the family's legacy alive with the name of the property, as it was so positively reputed among the community. From there,

continuing to invest in the productivity of the properties, George Johnson Nursery was purchased in 2012. This brought the total operating acreage in the Poole brothers family of businesses to 250 acres.



(HJ & Beverly Poole, Second owners of Poole Bros.)

Now, being one of the largest operating wholesale nurseries in the area, with the benefit of using its own fleet of trucks and trailers to keep the plants coming and going, deliveries are made from Oklahoma and across the Gulf Coast, as well as north to Tennessee and Virginia. Retail is still offered at the original Poole Brothers location, just two miles off of I-49, and is always buzzing with plant lovers. Family is still a part of the picture, of course, as everything at Poole Brothers is managed by a fourth generation grower, Jay Maloney.

Spring, Fall, or any season of the year, quality and community seekers are welcomed at Poole Brothers. We invite you to come experience what so many lifetimes of horticulture look like. Here's to 100 more great years in an industry we know and love!



The Poole brothers, Hayden and Murphy. George Johnson.

The plants were pulled from the fields, wrapped and shipped from the Forest Hill depot. "They'd be tons and tons of colors out there," George Johnson said. "Unbelievable." Johnson would haul pansies in the Poole Brothers pickup truck to sites within Louisiana and to neighboring states. "I'd drive all night," he said. "I'd make fifty dollars a trip. That was a lot of money then."

Milton Vallery married into the nursery business when he wed Martha Williams, the daughter of Nettie Williams, who began Williams Nursery in the early 1930s. When Milton returned from service in 1946, he joined his wife working for the family business. "When I came back from the war, my mother-in-law talked me into going into the business," he told the *Alexandria Town Talk* newspaper in 1981. The couple bought out Nettie Williams in 1964, growing a variety of plants, but they were mostly known for their camellias, which they sold all over the country. Their knowledge of camellias earned them the nickname "camellia king and queen"



(Debbie & Steve Head, Current owners of Poole Bros.)



Save the Date!

GALA XIII

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A WORD FROM OUR President

Greetings LNLA members,

Welcome to LNLA 2023. We accomplished so many great goals for our industry last year and this year we are hoping to exceed that pace. I am so proud to serve our industry and consider this opportunity a Blessing. Thank you for your confidence in my abilities. LNLA's greatest Gift to our industry is our dynamic board and our supportive members. Each board member has brought their different experiences to the table and by combining all of this wisdom it has benefited our industry in so many positive ways. Our members have risen to every occasion and their support continues to inspire us. Thank you for the passion you have.

Our first event to kick off 2023 started with our trip to Mobile, Alabama. The Gulf States Horticultural Expo did not disappoint. This show is large enough to give you the options you need for purchasing materials that fit your company's needs but small enough to enjoy all the great connections you make. The educational seminars were very well attended, which is encouraging to know that our industry continuously seeks to improve their overall knowledge. We held our annual membership meeting breakfast at 7:00am on January 19th in the convention center. It was overwhelming to see every table filled with old and new friends. It is an extremely exciting time for our industry's growth. We just keep getting bigger and better. It was more than exciting for me to be introduced to so many new members.

Our next event was our after-show social which included a live auction for the front covers of our quarterly magazine. Thanks to all the generous bidders, you are outstanding. The next morning our board shared breakfast together and kicked off our first board meeting. We conducted our general business first and spent the last half of our meeting discussing and establishing our board goals for this year. We will continue to reach across the state to increase awareness about the value of LNLA in our industry and sponsor more educational symposiums. We would like to sponsor more youth educational programs in agriculture to continue building the success for our future. We will move forward to update our website to include everything you need to know to start a career in agriculture. We will continue to forge ahead with our relationship building opportunities we have made with our state representatives and senators to protect our industry and raise awareness of our economic contribution to the health of our great state. We will continue working hard with Dr Fannin, Dr Jeb Fields and intern Madison Plaisance on the economic impact study. We are ambitious and dedicated to exceed all the goals we have earmarked for 2023.

Grass doesn't grow under LNLA's feet when it comes to education because on January 25 we hosted our CNLP class and exam. Dr Jeb Fields and Cari Jane Murray are doing a top notch job with this program. We welcomed 37 attendees to this superior educational event. My hats off to you both. Job well done.

We Buckled up and were back on the road to our next event scheduled for February 1, 2023 in Lake Charles. Landscape Management hosted our educational symposium at Bodega Wine Bar and Restaurant. We had over 40 attendees and Dr. Damon Abdi coordinated an excellent day of educational presentations. This was an outstanding event for the western part of our state and we were quite pleased with the attendance. Thanks to Jeff Reid, Micheal Roe, Cari Jane Murray, Brian Bridges and Debbie Head for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend and spend the day advocating the benefits of LNLA. A special thank you to Doyle Pennick, owner of Landscape Management, and Chad Everage, for their generous support and commitment to our industry. We are Blessed.

Tina Pelitier, director of horticulture and quarantine, invited me to speak on behalf of our industry at their annual inspectors conference in Opelousas on March 8th. My topic was "the Importance of Licensing." I inquired as to why me and she stated because you are so passionate about our licenses. Well, we all know how important our licenses are but how to convey these feelings of passion to another person is a different story. After much thought, and even challenging debates I had with myself; I decided to dig deep and tell them my personal story, "The good, the bad and the ugly." It is so much easier to leave the bad and the ugly out but it was the only way to convey passion in my case. My licenses absolutely saved my life and created opportunities for my children and I, that would have never been possible. I also expressed their importance in our industry and to please work as hard as they can to always protect us because we are depending on them to make our present and future the best it can be. I think the story of my personal journey hit home with many of the agents thanking me and understanding the true importance of our licenses. PS I will deny anything else I said. LOL!

The last several years have been an eye opening experience for a lot of us on the board and as members of LNLA. We never predicted or forecasted our future endeavors to include politics. We were thrown in by the seat of our pants with little to no warning and have done our best to protect our industry from laws that would negatively impact our industry and are consistently working to improve

A WORD FROM OUR President

our position for positive legislation. I feel that part of my responsibility as President of LNLA is to report to you (our members) about the Representatives and Senators that are agricultural friendly and/or supporting us. I AM NOT HERE TO TELL YOU WHICH CANDIDATE TO VOTE FOR. This is your choice and your private decision to choose the best candidate for you. I want to be clear that I am reporting on events and happenings in which LNLA is a part of. IT IS YOUR CHOICE IF YOU DECIDE TO VOTE, SUPPORT OR DONATE TO A CANDIDATE.

Back on the road to Forest Hill on March 9 to attend Representative Rhonda Butler's campaign event hosted by Debbie and Steve Head. Debbie and Steve hosted an exceptional event highlighting the importance of agriculture to the state's economic health. Frank and Representative Rhonda Butler (District 38) are members of LNLA. They own and operate Butler & Co. Tree Service, Inc in Ville Platte and are licensed arborists. Representative Butler loves agriculture and has a proven track record of protecting our best interest at every turn in the legislature. She sits on the agricultural committee and the rural committee. She is a top advocate for the agricultural industry and we appreciate her dedicated support as one of us. Senator Mike Reese of District 30 and Senator Glen Womack of District 32 attended in support of Representative Butler and spoke about her many attributes. Representative Jack Farland , District 13 and Chair of the Agricultural Committee, Representative Troy Romero, District 37, sits on the Agricultural Committee and member of LNLA, Mike Johnson, District 27, and Representative Gabe Firment, District 22, all spoke on behalf of Representative Rhonda Butler's good standing in the House of Representatives. It was a privilege to meet each of them and discuss LNLA with them and gain their support for our industry. Another interesting gentleman I met was Jason DeWitt. He owns and operates a pest control business in the Forest Hill area. I was discussing LNLA with him and he expressed deep respect for our industry. He told me the hardest test to pass was the ornamental and turf grounds applicator licensing test. He is a candidate for State Representative District 25, Rapides Parish. He asked, if he is elected, to work closely with LNLA to promote and protect our agricultural industry. Thank you Debbie and Steve Head for supporting the candidate you feel will protect our industry and giving me the opportunity to promote LNLA.

Jeff Reid attended a campaign meeting for Kelli Alford of Alford's Landscaping on March 13, 2023. She is running for State Representative of District 64 and resides

in Denham Springs. Kelli has been an active member of LNLA for years and is a strong supporter of our industry and will protect us if elected. We are so proud of Kelli for stepping out of her comfort zone to do her best to represent us at a state level. Best of Luck.

We have a packed agenda for this year. We have decided to do a little something different for our next board meeting, so we will be meeting in the late afternoon in Baton Rouge and have dinner together on March 17, 2023. Our next big event will be hosted at the Lieutenant Governor's Barracks Apartment for our 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast on March 18, 2023. We are in hopes to have a giant turnout this year. We will quickly move over to the capitol to distribute coffee plants provided by Tony Carter with Langridge Plant Sales. LNLA member, Representative Troy Romero, has been working with us to have a proclamation read on the house floor supporting agriculture and in particular LNLA . We are in AWE because of his support. Thank you Representative Troy Romero.

Mark your calendars for our Foundation's Gala XIII. JUNE 23, 2023 at Pavilion of the Two Sisters in City Park, NOLA. This is the perfect event for us all to attend and join together to support research and scholarships in horticulture. If you have not attended in the past please don't miss out this year, it is a magical evening for a worthy cause.

Please do not forget to join us at Hammond Research Center Field Day on July 21, 2023. It begins at 8:00 am and is an incredible educational opportunity to bring your employees. You can bond with your employees, relax and educate them at the same time. WIN, WIN!!!!

May the Good Lord Bless Us and Keep Us Strong



Lisa G Loup
President

Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association



(Chad Everage, Lisa Loup, Debbie Head and Rep. Rhonda Butler)

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(Jacob, Mary, Jacy, and J.R. Jones)



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NEW SHOW DATES FOR 2024

Exhibitor Move-In: January 23 & 24, 2024

Education Sessions: January 24, 2024

Trade Show: January 25 & 26, 2024

We've got some exciting news to share! For years we've heard from frustrated exhibitors and attendees about overlapping shows in January. There are many events and only a few weeks available that month, so some degree of conflict is unavoidable. That said, the Super Bowl (yes that Super Bowl) has moved later by one week, which triggered a date change by the Senior Bowl held annually in Mobile, that ultimately has allowed GSHE to contract the Mobile Convention Center on our preferred week. This should eliminate conflict with TPIE, Green & Growin', and AmericasMart for the next few years at least and hopefully far beyond.

We are eager to welcome back exhibitors and attendees who have been unable to join us due to these conflicts.



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I look forward to seeing all your faces!

Cari Jane will email the zoom link out
the week of the call and the day of.

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James A. Foret Award Recipient

Presented by Michael Roe



Rickey Becnel

The James A. Foret award is the highest given by the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association. It reflects a lifetime dedication and support to LNLA and to the Green Industry of Louisiana.

You will all recognize the names on the list of past winners of this award as they have all made major contributions to our industry in the most impactful ways that cannot be denied.

Our recipient this year is no different. This leader, as all the other leaders in the past, sees a way to make a positive difference and goes for it ... with everything they have. The bigger the obstacle, the more determination and effort this person gives.

I have heard it said "it's hard to tell this man no when he brings an idea to the table." But I have also heard from those that have worked with him the most "he really listens when a different opinion is given and really takes it into consideration". There is no ego in his questions and answers, just sincerity in finding the best way possible to handle situations.

This year's recipient has lived a lifetime of hard work and dedication to an industry that is ever growing and ever changing. As have his brothers and father before them. For over 160 years, this family has dedicated themselves to producing the best possible product. And the legacy lives on with his sons and their sons. Saxon Becnel and Sons. Synonymous with citrus. Rickey has been blessed for the many years of building the family nursery while working side by side with his wife Stephanie, brothers Matt and Dave, his sons and his nephews.

In 2008, when Asian Citrus Psyllid and Citrus Greening were first discovered in Louisiana, Rickey served as a liaison between LDAF and the citrus industry in Plaquemines Parish. While regulatory requirements were being rapidly developed by USDA, he kept communications going between producers and LDAF. It wasn't long before Louisiana realized that it needed an industry representative to be involved in these discussions with USDA. Although initially hesitant, Rickey agreed to serve in that capacity by participating in conference calls and attending meetings to discuss proposed requirements. An example of the results

of his involvement was reducing USDA's proposed buffer zone around citrus nursery stock production in greenhouses from one mile to a much more practical 25 feet. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the amount of communication and action Rickey has been a part of between the LDAF, USDA, Texas Dept of Ag and all those entities regulating the citrus industry. Often an uphill battle.

In 2016, Rickey hesitantly answered Robert LaCroix's call to be on the LNLA board of directors. Robert recognized the leadership ability Rickey had and saw the asset he would be to the entire Green Industry of Louisiana. Rickey has mentioned many times that his first year on the board, he sat back and listened. The ability to listen takes effort and can be hard. We all know that after listening, Rickey speaks and hold on to your seats, it's going to be impactful!

Rickey is unique with the ability to listen, process and communicate. One of his first goals on the LNLA board was to increase membership, and that he did. Another goal of his was to hear what the other board members were interested in and their position on issues. LNLA board meetings became quite interesting and fun to attend with lively discussion and banter. Discussion and banter bring out the best and there is no denying when the best scenario for a situation hits the table and everyone just clicks together for the good of ALL. There is no I in this for Rickey only how can WE do better. Rickey pushed for the raffle that has also been a tremendous success for LNLA.

Over the years it seems the right person, for the task at hand, has held the reign of President for the Association and 2020 was a prime example. A Global Pandemic ... while the world was scrambling trying to make sense of it all, Rickey had the LNLA in prime position with the Commissioner and the Governor to keep us ALL ESSENTIAL. He credits the LNLA, remember because there is no I in TEAM. But Rickey's dreaming, determination, and outside of the box persistence kept us all at work and quite frankly some of us had the best year we could have ever imagined.

I love how LNLA has given me the ability to get to know other industry members in a way that I otherwise wouldn't. I cherish the relationship I have with Rickey and I am honored to be the one standing up here today presenting this award.

Rickey is definitely invested in LNLA and the Green Industry for Life.

Rickey Becnel, thank you for your service and congratulations.

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Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Presented by Lisa Loup



Dr. Jeb Fields

The LNLA board of directors was in unison on the selection of this year's distinguished service award. This year's recipient, for the past five years, has proven his service to the LNLA over and over again and we couldn't be more grateful to him. This year's recipient is not a Louisiana native but has rooted himself here, hopefully for the long haul.

Dr. Jeb Fields, our LSU AgCenter State Commercial Horticulturist, came to us from Winter Haven, FL. Back home in FL, his family is in the ag equipment industry and had a retail garden center nursery when he was younger. It is no wonder where his knowledge and passion for the industry come from! Jeb got his BS in horticulture from the University of Florida, his MS in horticulture from North Carolina State University and his PhD in horticulture from Virginia Tech ... all top horticulture institutions in the country.

Dr. Fields extension work from the Hammond Research Station has proven successful over the years. From the trial gardens at HRS to the major field day and open houses, bringing in up to 450 stakeholders annually. He works with these stakeholders regularly on substrate, irrigation, fertilizer and labor issues. As Director of the Louisiana Super Plants program, Dr. Fields works with all of the garden centers and nurseries to bring the latest and greatest to the consumers of Louisiana.

Over the last five years, Dr. Fields has mentored 15 undergrad and highschool students and successfully developed the LNLA Summer Internship program at the HRS as well as other interns. He teaches the LNLA Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional manual review twice a year and speaks at and hosts countless education seminars annually including the new "Grower Education" session at the Gulf States Horticultural Expo.

Dr. Fields research resume includes leading national efforts in stratified substrates, talking on substrates across the country and internationally and generating over \$1,000,000 in funding for research & extension programs. He is currently the major professor for 5 graduate students and serves on committees for other students at LSU and other universities. Jeb is part of the ASHA Horticulture Leadership Fellows Class II for the year 2022-2023 and the LSU AgCenter Leadership and Management program for Class I, 2022. He has been awarded the Arlene and Joseph Meraux Endowed Professorship in Commercial Horticulture (2021 to present), past president of ASHS Nursery Crops Research Group, invited to the International Society of Horticulture Science Soilless Substrates group and most recently promoted to Assistant Research Coordinator of the Hammond Research Station. Along with all these recognitions, Dr. Fields has his research in highly rated levels of publications of scientific journals, trade journals and popular press.

And he still makes time for US! Thank you Dr. Fields for all you do for LNLA, our industry statewide and nationwide! Congratulations on being LNLA's Distinguished Service Recipient of the year!



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Professional of the Year Award Recipient

Presented by Jeff Reid



Rafael Azuara

This year's recipient of the LNLA Professional of the Year has been in business for 35+ years.

Over the last 25 years, he has acted as a mentor and a valuable resource for many landscapers in the Baton Rouge area. He has assisted many H2B employers and employees in overcoming the language barrier and has taken the time to reach out to new H2B hires when they need assistance with moving through visa processing.

He has assisted many companies in getting workers efficiently through the program and any unique problems that may arise when obtaining H2B workers. He has also spent countless hours working with lobbyists and made personal trips to Washington, DC, to advocate for the addition of more visas in the H2B program.

Beyond H2B, he has helped many new landscapers flourish their businesses by offering advice or lending a hand in projects beyond their abilities. He has asked for nothing in return. And when asked why he goes out of his way for others without asking for anything in return, he responds with how he likes helping others.

I am moved and privileged to present this year's LNLA Professional of the Year award to my friend Rafael Azuara.

Young Professional of the Year Award Recipient

Presented by Dr. Allen Owings



Matthew Fennell

This year's recipient began his career in the Green Industry in the same manner as many of us in this room, by helping his dad pot up Liriope and Mondo grass and weeding hosta. He learned to operate the bobcat at age 12, again assisting his dad, by moving debris while a new store was being built. He then moved up to loading bags of potting soil and mulch at the retail lot, working for tips. Finally, he was old enough to be added to payroll – tips and a paycheck! But now that it was official, no more weekends off! He did, however, find time to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

He continued to work part time at the nursery while attending LSU. He graduated from LSU in 2012 with a degree in Biological Science and began working full time as a crew supervisor and then as a manager. He is a LDAF Landscape Horticulturist and a LNLA Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional.

During his career, he has been an active member of the Baton Rouge Landscape Association, serving as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. He is an active member of LNLA and is currently serving as a board member. I'm sure many of you saw him the past couple of days helping with the GSHE Exhibitor move in and set up. He also volunteers his time to assist with local school, church and garden club projects and local hurricane relief efforts.

He and his wife, Danielle, have two children, Jack (3 years old) and Mallory (10 months old).

It is my pleasure to present this year's Young Nursery Professional Award to Matthew Fennell.



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LNLFSR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to these students, and we expect to see these scholarships help them with their education and leadership development that will eventually lead them down a career path that will benefit the Green Industry.

Foret/Meadows/Owings Scholarship



Connor Luke Cavalier

Connor is a Baton Rouge native. He graduated from St. Michael The Archangel High School in 2018, and studied at University of Louisiana Lafayette before coming to LSU to pursue his B.S. degree in Plant and Soil Systems (Landscape Management). Connor has worked for Louisiana Nursery and currently works at the Burden Botanical Gardens assisting with the planting and maintenance of the Jackson and Perkins proprietary rose collection and the development of best practices for their propagation.

Sam Perino Memorial Scholarship



Baileigh Snow

Baileigh is from TN and is currently a Junior majoring in Agricultural Business with a concentration in Plant Science at Louisiana Tech University. In addition to performing at a high level in classes, Baileigh is a member of the LaTech Woman's Bowling Team, has served as the president for Greenscape Club and as a member of the Block and Bridle Club, and has completed an internship at the Hammond Research Station in summer 2022.

LNLFSR Scholarship



Eric Vanbergen

Eric was born in Birmingham, AL but lived in Lafayette LA. He is passionate about native plants and led the establishment of a 3-acre Louisiana Coastal Prairie habitat restoration project when attending high school at Ascension Episcopal School. He also completed a pollinator habitat garden in his senior year featuring native grasses and wildflowers before coming to LSU. He switched from plant science to Landscape Architecture for the bigger impact of his passion and is in his 4th year in the Landscape Architecture program. He has been part of several on-campus projects promoting native plants. He was the recipient of Louisiana Wildlife Federation Youth Conservationist of the Year, and is currently serving as President of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Conservation Society.

LNLFSR Scholarship



Lidya Chala

Lidya was born in Ethiopia and completed her Bachelor and Master's degrees at the Hawassa University in Ethiopia. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Urban Forestry at Southern University focusing on forest entomology. Her advisor is Dr. Veronica Manrique, and her research is part of a long-term study to evaluate the impact of the invasive tallow tree on arthropods communities in managed forests in Louisiana. Other than research, Lidya has also contributed to undergraduate and youth educational activities at the university.

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Margie Jenkins Scholarship

Dan Metzger

Dan is a native of Slidell, LA and is in his 4th year of study for his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree at LSU. Working with real clients at the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architect, he contributed significantly to several local projects that improves the life and the environment of the local communities. He was selected as the 3rd -Year Leadership Award for his school and also led his team to win a First Place Award in his School's design charrette competition. He is currently working for a company in Austin TX for his spring/summer internship.

Ira Nelson Scholarship

Hamilton Trey Crockett

Hamilton was from Louisville, KY. She completed her B.S. degree from Virginia Tech in 2020 before coming to LSU to pursue her M.S. degree. She is working with Dr. Raj Singh on early and accurate diagnosis and identification of plant diseases caused by Phytophthora through investigating a collection of over 500 isolates at the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center. Information she generated from this research will play a vital role in mitigating Phytophthora diseases challenges faced by LA nursery industry. Besides research, she served as the chair for the Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association Social Committee and held several events for the department.

Outdoor Classroom Dedicated to Former Dean



The James A. Foret memorial outdoor classroom in Lafayette was dedicated in 2003. Dr. Foret was the first executive secretary of LNLA (then LAN) - serving from 1954-1986. He was horticulture professor and dean at USL (now ULL). An outdoor classroom and nine Holly trees were dedicated in memory of a former dean at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and leader in the horticulture industry earlier this week. Members of Dr. James A. Foret's family along with friends and colleagues joined together at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on Tuesday to honor the former dean of the College of Agriculture (now the College of Applied Life Sciences).

"James Foret's roots go deep into the soil at this university," said UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement. "Every time we see a camellia bush blooming, we know James Foret is alive and well. The beauty of this campus speaks to his hard work." Foret was instrumental in introducing the nursery trade to the university while also serving as a consultant for nurserymen, florists, home gardeners and municipalities during his career. "He didn't know an eight hour day," said Jim Foret, one of Dr. Foret's sons. "He spent a lot of time here at the Ira Nelson Center doing research and teaching students. That's why it's very appropriate this area be dedicated in his memory." Several wood benches and nine Holly trees circle a brick podium with a plaque which includes a sketch of Dr. Foret and words of dedication. The area is to the rear of the Ira Nelson Center. "It's fitting to have a podium here," said John Foret, another of Dr. Foret's sons. "My dad love God, his family, horticulture and teaching. Our family will always be indebted to you for this honor."

Before serving as dean, Dr. Foret was an associate professor and then professor of horticulture at UL Lafayette. He led the Department of General Agriculture as well as the Department of Plant Industry. He also served as research director for the Louisiana Society for Horticulture Research and was general chairman of the American Horticulture Congress. In addition, Dr. Foret spoke at various garden clubs, civic clubs and helped judge flower shows. His professional activities included membership in the American Society for Horticultural Science and the Weed Science Society of America among many other organizations. During his career, he was honored for his service in the horticultural industry by both the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen and the Texas Association of Nurserymen. His research introduced to cultivation numerous plants include the "Ilex Cornuta Cultivars" from Avery Island.

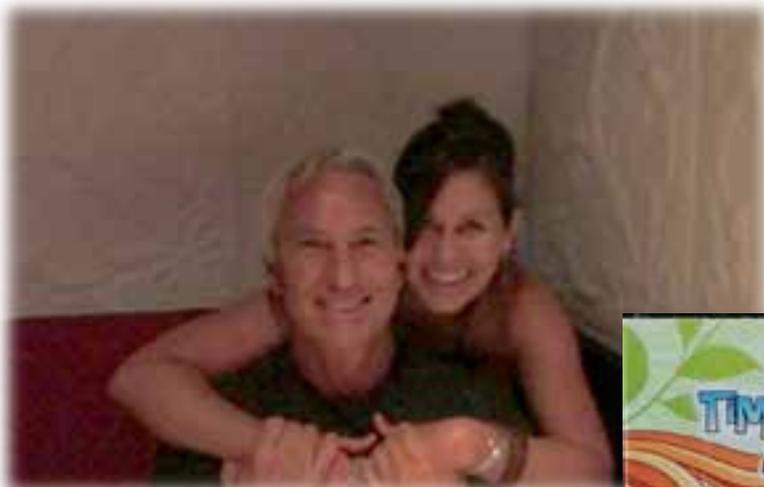
The dedication ceremony was hosted by the South Louisiana Mid Winter Fair Association along with the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research and the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association.





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WEED DOCTOR'S CORNER

By: Dr. Ron Strahan, Northwest Regional Director, LSU AgCenter Bossier,
(p) 318-741-7430 (e) rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu

Virginia Buttonweed – My yearly “get ready for buttonweed pep talk!”



Virginia buttonweed is the #1 weed in southern lawns for a reason. Be diligent! Buttonweed is not a “one application and it’s over weed”. Spray this plant early and often with herbicides to prevent mats of the weed and smothered out turfgrass.

Virginia buttonweed is widely considered the most invasive weed infesting turfgrass in the South. The plant is very prolific and has multiple ways to reproduce including heavy seed production that occurs both above and below the ground from self-pollinating flowers, rooting stem fragments, and tap roots that allow plants to survive through winter months. Mowers set at even the lowest blade height do not interfere with growth or seed production of this plant. Due to the potential for stem fragments to root, mowing may actually aid in the spread of buttonweed. Turning the mower deck discharge toward landscape beds could even start populations of buttonweed in flowerbeds.

Virginia Buttonweed Control?

Virginia buttonweed is tolerant of most selective herbicides used for weed control in turf, especially when plants harden off in late summer. Managing the weed should start early in the spring as perennial plants emerge from winter dormancy.

Typically, April is a good month to begin spraying buttonweed in spot applications. Perennial plants that went dormant after the first frost usually emerge in March and April depending on your location in the state. Seedling plants germinate around the perennial “mother” plants as temperatures warm in the spring. During this early growing season, perennial plants are tender with new growth. It is at this time that the perennial plants are most susceptible to herbicide uptake. Additionally, herbicide applications during the spring will easily kill germinating seedling plants and reduce the overall buttonweed population significantly. The worst thing to do is to wait until late July or August to make the first herbicide application. By late summer, heavy Virginia buttonweed populations can form a dense mat that can kill out large areas of the lawn. Single applications, especially late-season have not been effective on mature Virginia buttonweed in our research trials at LSU. Multiple applications throughout the summer months are needed after the initial spring applications to get buttonweed under control.



Virginia buttonweed herbicide program - A program approach works best to control buttonweed. According to research trials conducted by the LSU AgCenter, herbicides that contain the active ingredients 2,4-D, dicamba, mecoprop, and carfentrazone (Speed Zone Southern, Weed Free Zone) have been effective in suppressing emerging perennial plants and killing the first flush of buttonweed seedlings when applied in early Spring. Once temperatures exceed 85 F, 2,4-D containing herbicides cause too much injury to St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass. In the hot summertime, metsulfuron (MSM and others) or Celsius herbicides should be applied. Always repeat metsulfuron or Celsius applications 4 to 6 weeks after the initial application. Both Celsius and metsulfuron have performed well in research trials and these herbicides seem to be tolerated pretty well by St. Augustinegrass even in very hot weather, especially Celsius.

Virginia Buttonweed Control Program for Louisiana Lawns

Herbicide	Timing	Comments
Speed Zone South, Weed Free Zone (2,4-D + dicamba +, mecoprop + carfentrazone)	Apply in early Spring as perennial plants break dormancy and seedling buttonweed emerges	Labeled for all southern turfgrass. Expect injury on St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass as when temperatures exceed 85 F.
MSM Turf and others (metsulfuron)	Summer – repeat application in 4 to 6 weeks	Some chlorosis or stunting possible with centipedegrass. Kills bahiagrass. Very effective on dollarweed as well.
Celsius (iodosulfuron + thiencazzone + dicamba)	Summer – repeat application in 4 to 6 weeks	Safest herbicide to use in hot weather. Do not apply to bahiagrass or carpetgrass.

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please keep KK in your prayers!

Is there an organic herbicide for torpedograss?

I had an email question recently about controlling torpedograss with organic herbicides in flower beds. We would all like to use something organic on weeds in our landscapes. Unfortunately, there are no organic options for removing torpedograss. In fact, there are very few synthetic herbicides with activity on this troublesome perennial grass.

In areas where you can easily spray glyphosate with no potential to contact desirable vegetation, spray a 10% glyphosate/water solution every time that you see torpedograss. Unfortunately in a flowerbed, you will likely not be able to spray glyphosate without killing a non-target species. Brush or wipe this highly concentrated glyphosate solution on torpedograss since there is a very high non-target drift risk.

In bermudagrass and zoysiagrass lawns, quinclorac (Drive Herbicide and other trade names) alone or tank-mixed with Monument can suppress torpedograss populations with repeated applications. For centipedegrass and St. Augustinegrass turf infested with torpedograss, there are no reliable control options. It's likely time for the "nuclear" renovation option. Spray the infested turfgrass with a 10% glyphosate solution and sod with zoysiagrass.



Thank you Gerald Foret Wholesale Nursery for hosting a meet and greet to promote LNLA to local legislators



*(Commissioner Mike Strain,
Albert Durio, Rusty Ruckstul)*



*(Brian Breaux, Gerald Foret, Representative Gerald "Beau"
Beaullieu IV, Lisa Loup, Representative Mike Huval,
Commissioner Mike Strain, Representative Troy Romero,
Gerard Vincent)*



*(Peter Mayeu,
Vickie and Representative Mike Huval)*



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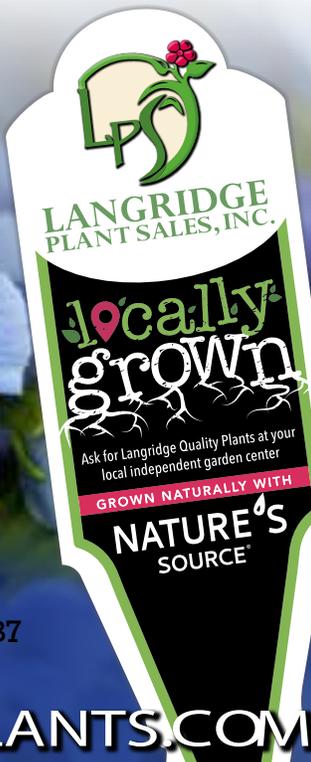
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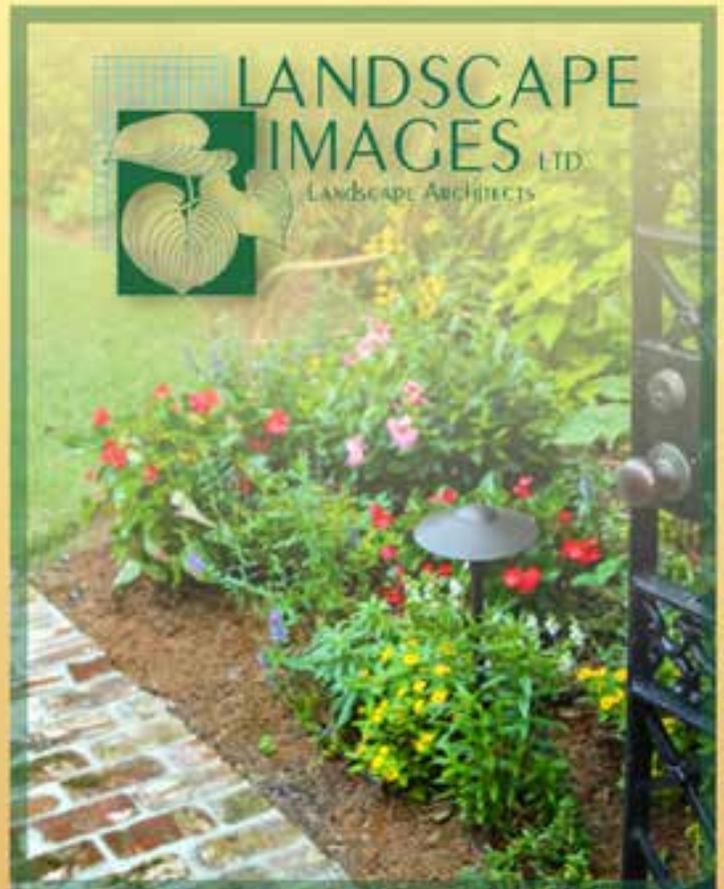


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Landscape Contracting

Best Friends

Some of my best friends are landscape contractors. I have worked with many over the years and know that any success I have had with design has been compounded by their skills, abilities and desire to build landscapes that endure.

Many people believe that landscape contractors who are most often licensed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forest as Landscape Horticulturist and mainly skilled people who work with plants. True, they know quite a bit about plants such as what species grow best, how to properly plant, stake, fertilize and trim and insure their survival sometimes after a rough trip from a planters field.

But a good landscape contractor can do more. They have the ability to take a landscape drawing that was designed with both straight lines and various curves and properly locate in the field perhaps even on sloping ground end points, the proper length of a radius line and exact locations for crossing lines such as along walkways that have to be built to a specific gradient.

They have learned by experience how to install paving, build an underground drainage systems, properly space heads and align an irrigation system. This of course is often in addition to clearing a site while preserving old trees such as 100 year old live oaks that must be carefully regarded.

Best Skills

Landscape architects would be in real trouble if they did not have a savvy landscape contractor to assist in the design process. There are many ways they can help make a design successful. But one skill that can be relied upon is the relationship between the contractor and the grower.

They know who the best growers are and where they are located. They tend to memorize the growers plant list so if the designer specifies the use of a n unique or special plants, for instance *Quercus Virginiana* 'Orange Island Special' or *Hermerocallis fulva* 'Pink Emperess' they know just where to find it.

But a good landscape contractor is a good business person. They know how to find good employees and run a crew that gets work done quickly and properly with little waste of time or material.

They can read curious landscape drawings and specifications and install any materials, herbaceous plants, turf grass, trees and various kinds of paving with minimal waste or material, time or money. Their ability to be competitive in pricing is largely responsible for them being able to keep prices reasonable and for them winning bids and getting the job. A landscape contractor must be good at business and keep both the designer and the client happy.

But to be a good business person the contractor must be able read drawings properly, determine that each amount of time, materials, labor, overhead and profit that will be needed to build out the project and maintain it during the grow-in period that varies from six months to a full year.

Best Working Together

There are many ways landscape architects and landscape contractors collaborate. Working procedures can vary but typically three methods are used in Louisiana.

The most common way is the Owner-Designer Method. The landscape architect is contracted directly by the owner and paid a fee for service. The service involves surveying the site, developing schematic, preliminary and final plans accompanied with construction drawings, details, specifications and schedules. Contract documents are written to engage a landscape contractor and the project is either negotiated or bid out to market seeking competitive pricing.

The second way and one commonly used for small landscape design projects is the Contractor-Design Staff method. This procedure relies upon the fact that the contractor has a firm large enough to employ one or more licensed landscape architects to provide design services in house. The cost of design talent is usually incorporated into the cost of the landscape construction process.

In Louisiana as elsewhere and alternative if this method is for the contractor to be licensed landscape architect. LSU over the decades of its existence has graduate many designer who work this way. It is commonly called 'design-build landscape architecture.

The third method that can be used in Louisiana for very large projects with construction budgets upward of seven figures is referred to as CMAR.

This is a construction management procedure where the landscape architect working for the owner is contracted for design services which are used by the contractor to build out a project. The designer provides the drawings and design details and the contractor as the construction manager is contracted by the owner on an agreed upon lump sum amount to determining exact building methods, specifications and which subcontractors to use on the project.

CMAR stands for Construction Manager At Risk meaning the contractor is on the hook to bring the project in at the agreed upon price. If the price is exceeded, the contractor pays the overage.

A risky approach for sure but it has proven to actually reduce building costs by taking away from the bidders the huge amount of risk they accept and build into their pricing while being the low bidder.

Two are better than One

Landscape architects and landscape contractors complement each other in many important ways. Working together we build a better green industry and pull along with us growers, industry supply companies, specialty contractors and more and more clients wanting to live among well designed and planted landscapes.

My landscape contractor friends have made me look super so many times that I place them right up there with the big guy.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
HORTICULTURE COMMISSION 2022 REVIEW



The following report contains information on the activities of the Horticulture Commission for the past year that relate to the green industry.

The Horticulture Commission is located within the Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (AES) Division of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The state is divided into 8 district offices employing approximately 49 inspectors. All inspectors perform duties in all the programs within the AES Division. These programs include Horticulture and Quarantine, Pesticide, Seed, and Agriculture Chemistry.

There were 651 horticulture professional exams given throughout the 2022 year. All horticulture professional exams are administered using a computer-based software program. Exam applicants now receive their exams scores as soon as their answers are submitted, streamlining the licensing process.

A total of 5171 licenses were issued to arborists (625), utility arborists (150), landscape irrigation contractors (347), landscape architects (348), landscape horticulturists (1,879), retail florists (1,785), and wholesale florists (37). A total of 4139 permits were issued to cut flower dealers (939), nursery stock dealers (1,585), Apiary 837 and Nursery Growers I and II (700). AES inspectors performed 3,054 routine inspections on the licenses and permits issued in 2022.

A total of 313 investigations were performed by the AES inspectors on potential violations of the Horticulture Laws and Regulations. One hundred eighty-one (181) notices of non-compliances were issued to first time violators.

The Horticulture Commission held 4 meetings in 2022. During these meetings 9 adjudicatory cases were heard with a total of 23 violations. More information on the meetings and cases can be found on the Boards and Commissions website at [www.cfrd.louisiana.gov/boardsandcommissions.]



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By: Dr. Raj Singh, Associate Professor and Director, Plant Diagnostic Center, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, (p) 225-578-4562 or (e) rsingh@agcenter.lsu.edu

Effective Management Strategies for Fire Blight and Rust Diseases in Mayhaw Production



The Mayhaw tree is the official state fruit tree in Louisiana. It belongs to the family Rosaceae and is considered native to the southeastern United States. Mayhaw blooms in February and March (Figure 1), and the fruit is commonly used to make jellies (Figure 2). In Louisiana, the gross farm value for Mayhaw was \$1.36 million in 2018 as compared to \$2.25 million in 2017. During 2018, Mayhaw was cultivated on 271 acres in Louisiana.

The total Mayhaw fruit production significantly decreased to 588,752 pounds in 2018 as compared to 972,579 pounds in 2017. Louisiana's hot and humid weather provide conducive environment conditions for development and spread of fire blight (Figure 3) and quince rust (Figure 4), two major diseases of Mayhaw. These diseases are best managed by implementing an integrated approach, including fire blight resistant varieties, good cultural and sanitation practices, and judicious use of fungicides. Currently, active ingredient aluminum tris is labeled for managing fire blight on non-fruit bearing trees. Mono- and dipotassium salts of Phosphorus acid is labeled for managing fire blight on both bearing and non-bearing fruit trees. Four fungicides labeled for quince rust only provide variable disease suppression.



These diseases present a major challenge in Mayhaw production. A preliminary disease survey conducted in Mayhaw orchards located in Jackson, LA., during May to October in 2019, revealed that the fire blight incidence varied from 40-80% on Spectacular and Royal Star cultivars of Mayhaw, respectively. The quince rust severity varied from 5-20% per tree. Therefore, an effective and economical disease management program was critically required to improve mayhaw production. A two-year field study was conducted to determine efficacy of copper octanoate (Cueva) and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain D747 (Double Nickle) for managing fire blight and quince rust development on Mayhaw. Three orchards, including two cultivated orchards (A and B) and one non-cultivated orchard (C) located in Jackson, Louisiana, were used in this study. Disease severity data was collected and analyzed to determine the success of the spray programs.

Mayhaw trees in orchards A and B were pruned in January of 2021 and 2022. Copper hydroxide (Kocide 3000) was sprayed on all trees in cultivated orchards A and B in mid-January. In addition, myclobutanil (Rally 40WSP) was applied to all trees in orchards A and B at three different intervals starting in Mid-February through late March during both 201 and 202 years. The number of trees received various treatments are shown in table 1.

Data on disease severity was collected weekly during both years. Data was collected visually on four sides of the tree. A total of 40 (10 on each side) branch terminals were randomly scored for fire blight symptoms. Similarly, 40 berries (10 on each side of a tree) were randomly scored for quince rust development. Percentage disease severity was calculated and compared to the non-treated control trees in orchard A and B and non-cultivated orchard C.



Table 1. The number of randomly selected trees in each orchard that received various treatments.

	No. of Trees		
	Orchard A	Orchard B	Orchard C
Pruning	60	48	none
Kocide 3000	60	48	none
Rally	13	16	none
Rally + Cueva	23	13	none
Rally + Double Nickle	23	19	none

Results:

Year 2021: Fire blight disease severity between orchard A and B were not significantly different. Therefore, data was combined from cultivated orchards A and B and compared to orchard non-cultivated orchard C (Figure 5). The average percentage disease severity in orchard A on Cueva treated trees was 34%, whereas the disease severity of 29% was observed on trees treated with Double Nickle. The untreated control trees in orchard A had a disease severity of 37%. Trees in orchard B that received Cueva had an average fire blight severity of 42%. Disease severity of Double Nickle sprayed trees averaged 32%. The untreated control trees fire blight disease severity averaged 38%. The non-cultivated orchard C had 54% fire blight severity which was significantly higher than cultivated orchards A and B.

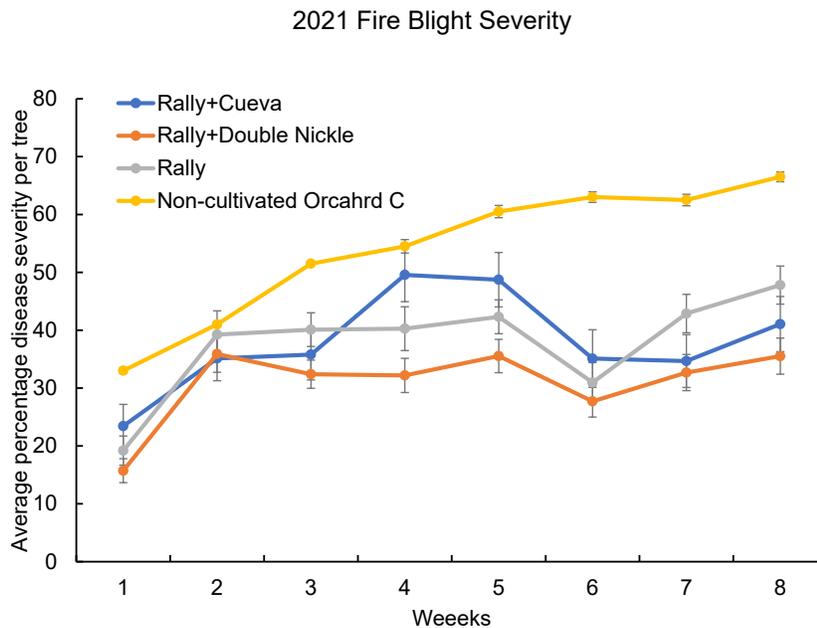


Figure 5: A line graph representing average percentage of fire blight severity on Mayhaw trees during 2021 growing season.

Quince rust was significantly low in cultivated orchards A and B compared to non-cultivated orchard C in 2021. The disease was delayed by two weeks on trees that received Cueva in both A and B orchards compared to Double Nickle and non-treated control trees. The disease pressure was high from week one until the harvest of the berries in non-cultivated orchard C. The disease severity remained below 15% in cultivated orchards A and B regardless of the treatments. The results show that fungicide Rally was effective in managing quince rust during 2021.

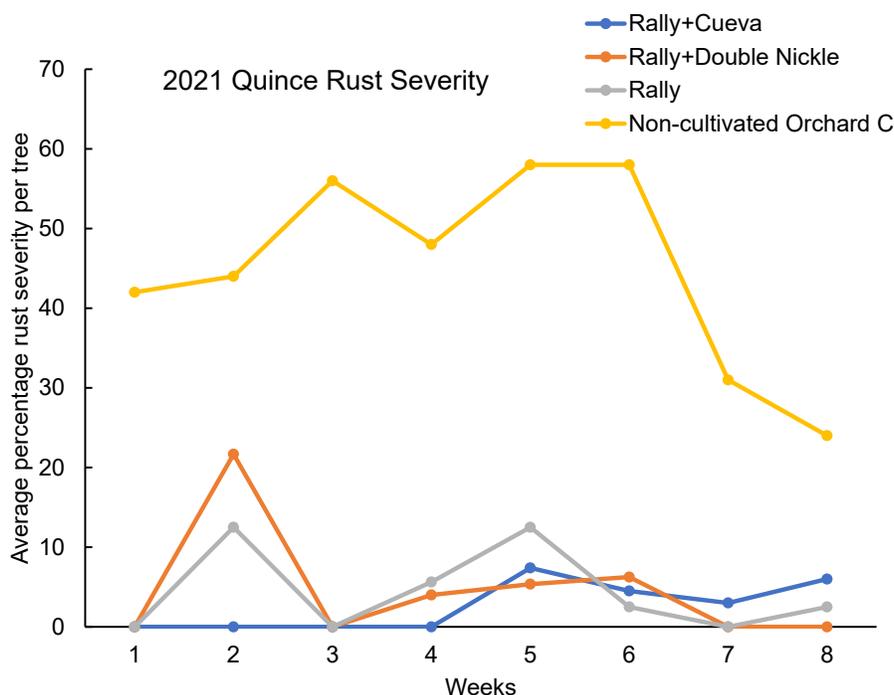


Figure 6: A line graph representing average percentage of rust severity on Mayhaw trees during 2021 growing season.

Year 2022: There was no significant difference observed in **fire blight** severity among trees that received Cueva and Double Nickle in both A and B cultivated orchards. Additionally, fire blight severity was not significantly difference between treated trees and non-treated control trees. No significant difference in disease severity was observed between non-cultivated orchard C and treated cultivated orchards A and B. Trees treated with Cueva and Double Nickle had an average fire blight severity of 0.05% and 0.04%, respectively. Combined disease severity on non-treated control trees in orchards A and B averaged 0.06%. Non-cultivated orchard C had an average disease severity of 0.02%.

During 2022, **quince rust** was not detected in any of the three orchards during the growing season. An average quince rust severity of less than 0.01% was observed during last week of scouting in non-cultivated orchard C.

Conclusion: Disease severity results from 2021 showed that pruning combined with fungicide sprays reduced both fire blight and quince rust in cultivated orchards A and B compared to non-cultivated orchard C. A preliminary scouting of cultivated orchards A and B in 2019, revealed 11-71% of fire blight severity. Pruned trees in cultivated orchards A and B had less disease in the beginning which may have resulted from removal of surviving bacterial inoculum in the infected branch terminals. Some studies in the past have shown that mechanical pruning may lead to disease spread, and therefore it is critical to apply a copper-based fungicide to pruned trees. Fire blight in cultivated orchards A and B remained below 50% as compared to 65% in non-cultivated orchard C (Figure 5). Although, trees treated with Double Nickle had less fire blight, but it was not significantly different from Cueva and non-treated control in cultivated orchards A and B. This could have resulted from the chemical spray drift due to proximity of these trees. All trees in cultivated orchards A and B received three applications of Rally resulting in significantly lower quince rust infection of 0-20% as compared to non-cultivated orchard C with 30-60% infection (Figure 6).

Disease severity data from 2022 was inconclusive. Fire blight severity remained less than 0.15% in all orchards and no treatment effect was observed. The low disease infection might have resulted from low primary inoculum combined with environmental conditions. This interpretation is supported by the fact that during 2022, quince rust was not detected in any of the three orchards during the growing season. The disease was only detected below 0.01% during last week of scouting in non-cultivated orchard C. Fire blight and quince rust severity data from 2021, showed that combination of pruning along with use of chemical sprays may effectively manage these diseases. Further research on pruning and spray timing may aid Mayhaw growers in managing these diseases below economic injury level which may lead to reduced yield losses.

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Landscape Professional Workshop: Lake Charles Recap



*By Damon E. Abdi, PhD, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist,
LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station*

On February 1st, 2023 landscape professionals in the western Louisiana area gathered in Lake Charles for a day of educational seminars and networking with fellow industry members. This event was a collaborative effort organized by LSU AgCenter faculty and the LNLA, with food, drinks, and site accommodations sponsored by Landscape Management Services (Lake Charles, LA). Upwards of 40 landscape professionals attended this event, representing individuals and companies in residential/commercial landscaping, design/build, pest management, irrigation, lawn care, hardscape and softscape installation services.

The morning started off with a welcome and introduction by Dr. Damon Abdi (LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station), LNLA secretary Cari Jane Murray, and Landscape Management Services president Doyle Pennick. Dr. Allen Owings (Professor Emeritus with the LSU AgCenter, now with Bracy's Nursery) kicked off the event by highlighting some of the newest varieties of landscape plants, sharing some of his observations on the performance of these plants in the landscape. This was followed by Dr. Ed Bush (LSU AgCenter) providing some insights into the best management practices that one can use to properly maintain plant nutrition in the landscape. Dr. Abdi discussed some of the considerations that go into proper chemical management in the landscape, highlighting methods to use fertilizers and pesticides more sustainably and effectively. Dr. Aaron Ashbrook (LSU AgCenter) then served up some solutions to dealing with two prominent pests in the landscape - tawny crazy ants and the infamous fire ants.

After breaking for lunch, LNLA president Lisa Loup spoke about ways that the LNLA is working to ensure that the interests of landscape professionals in Louisiana are represented in the political realm, and the implications of current and proposed legislation on our industry. We were then joined by Max McKeown, a past recipient of the LNLA Student Scholarship, who went into detail about how the LNLA supported his academic journey in the horticultural world. McKeown shared some of the results from his Master's research, where various groundcover species were investigated for their environmental impacts and aesthetics in the landscape. Area AgCenter extension agent Robert Turley was up next and discussed some of the common landscape issues that clients in his corner of the state often bring to him, and some of the services that AgCenter extension offices statewide can provide. Joe Bravata (USDA) finished off the educational seminars with a summary of some invasive pests found across the region.

Of course, the education is just one part of what the Landscape Professional Workshops offer. At the conclusion of the educational seminars, an open discussion between all the attendees was facilitated by Dr. Abdi, where everyone went around to introduce themselves and discuss their businesses. Ideas, insights, and observations were shared amongst the crowd, fostering camaraderie and perhaps even some sub-contracting connections.

The Landscape Professional Workshop series has been successful in bringing education and support to our industry professionals across different areas of Louisiana, with an emphasis on delivering content that is most relevant and actionable for the region we are serving for that event. Thank you to all our presenters, organizers and sponsors, attendees, and supporters of Louisiana's green industry. Stay tuned to find out details on when and where the next Landscape Professional Workshop will be!

Attendees said:

"Lots of great topics. I especially enjoyed learning about the up-and-coming plants for this year."

"I will definitely be coming back to the next workshop in this series."

"I was thankful that the LNLA and AgCenter made an effort to come out to Lake Charles."

Damon E. Abdi, PhD, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station



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HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION UPDATE



*By: Jeb S. Fields; Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist (Commercial Ornamental Horticulture), Hammond Research Station
(P) 985-5434125 ; jfields@agcenter.lsu.edu*

Greetings all,

Spring is here and we are all busily bouncing back-and-forth between freezes and mid-80s temperatures. The Hammond Gardens have undergone a winter facelift and are ready for our warm-season trial plantings which will be installed in April. This season is shaping up to be an excellent trial period with a more trials than the last few years, which we are extremely excited for.

That being said, I wanted to shift the focus of this newsletter from our typical trials/research updates to talk about the active graduate research program we have developed over the last few years at the Hammond Research Station. We currently have four graduate students at the Hammond Research Station on a daily basis, and a fifth is scheduled to start in June! Since I have been here we have never had anywhere near this much student activity and I couldn't be happier. We are also shaping up to have a record-breaking summer of interns, with five summer interns already scheduled start. With all these students and interns, this is shaping up for an incredibly productive summer.

I want to first start off with the sad news. We will be saying goodbye to Max McKeown, the very first LNLA intern, this summer. Max has successfully defended his Master's thesis on evaluating groundcover benefits in Louisiana landscapes in March, and will complete his M.S. in Horticulture Science this May. We are eagerly awaiting news on Max's next step, but will be excited to have him here until he continues his journey. Hopefully you were able to check out some of Max's research updates in previous issues of this newsletter, but if not, we will be publishing more in the coming weeks.

Congratulations are also in line for Kristopher Criscione, our current PhD student who was just awarded the Norman Childers Graduate Student of the Year award for all of horticulture science in the Southeastern US! This is a big deal, as students are not only competing with students across 16 states, but also across all disciplines, like fruit, vegetables, genetics and breeding, cannabis, and all other aspects of horticulture. This award is from the Southern Region American Society of Horticultural Science. Kristopher has done so well, that LSU has elected to choose Kris as the sole candidate from LSU for the National American Society of Horticultural Science Graduate Student of the Year award. We will keep our fingers crossed, and hopefully by the next newsletter I will have some more good news to share.

Ashley Edwards was able to present her research at the Southern Region ASHS conference in Oklahoma City, Ok in February. Ashley is working on a national collaborative project with Oregon State University, Auburn, USDA-ARS in Ohio, and the National Arboretum in Tennessee to evaluate methods of managing substrate temperatures and how those temperatures can increase fertilizer longevity and efficiency in nursery crop production. Amanda Mizell Badon is our newest graduate student and is working on wood fiber for soilless media. Amanda just received the Louisiana Society of Horticulture Science scholarship to support her graduate activities. Beyond that, Amanda is part of a major grant that brought in over \$150,000 in research funding to the Hammond Research Station! Amanda will be working over the next two years to fully evaluate the biological activity of wood fibers and their use as peat alternatives.

We are incredibly proud of all our graduate students and interns at the Hammond Research Station. Their research is dedicated to propel Louisiana's green industry and continues to impress members stakeholders within Louisiana and around the country. The incredible strides they have made is remarkable. As always, we truly appreciate all the support the Nursey and Landscape industry provides us at the Hammond Research Station.



2023 Louisiana Super Plants



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Rose



'Blue My Mind,'
'Blue Daze'
Evolvulus



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'Saturn' Sunflower



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Distylium

Previous Selections

Warm Season Bedding Plants

- Alternanthera 'Little Ruby'
- Angelonia – Serena Series
- Angelonia 'Serenita Raspberry'
- Begonia – BabyWing series
- Buddleia 'Flutterby Tutti Frutti'
- Celosia 'Intenz Classic'
- Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita'
- Coleus 'Henna'
- Coleus – Flamethrower series
- Gaillardia – Mesa series
- Hibiscus – Luna series
- Impatiens – Beacon Series
- Lantana – Bandana series
- Lemon Sedum
- Louisiana Iris
- Ornamental Peppers
- Pennisetum 'Fireworks'
- Pentas – Butterfly series
- Pentas – Lucky Star series
- Salvia farinacea Evolution Violet and White

- Summer of Salvias
- Sunflower Suncredible Yellow
- SunPatiens (compact varieties)
- Torenia – Kauai series
- Verbena 'Homestead Purple'

Cool Season Bedding Plants

- Columbine – Swan series
- Delphinium 'Diamonds Blue'
- Dianthus – Amazon series
- Dianthus – Jolt series
- Foxglove – Camelot series
- Kale 'Redbor'
- Supertunia Mini Vista 'Indigo'
- Supertunia Vista 'Bubblegum'
- Viola – Sorbet series

Shrubs

- Althea 'Aphrodite'
- American Beautyberry,
- Azalea 'Conversation Piece'
- Blueberries – Rabbiteye

- Camellia 'Shishi Gashira'
- Camellia 'Leslie Ann'
- Firebush 'Lime Sizzler'
- Gardenia 'Frostproof'
- Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'
- Hydrangea 'Penny Mac'
- Muhly Grass
- Rose 'Belinda's Dream'
- Rose – Drift series
- Viburnum 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight'
- Virginia Willow 'Henry's Garnet'

Trees

- Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- Chaste Tree 'Shoal Creek' (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
- Evergreen Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
- Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

For more information, visit LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants

Highlights from the Louisiana Native Plant Society Annual Conference

February 3rd-5th, 2023, Woodworth, LA



The LNPS Annual Conference this year was extremely well attended with over 100 attendees packing the meeting space, including many new faces and several landscape professionals there to hone their knowledge of native ecology, botany and horticulture in Louisiana.

LSU academic Zachary Sides started things with his documentation and current studies of ancient and endangered Coastal Prairie remnants in Northwestern LA. John Michael Kelley gave a fascinating presentation of “Old Growth Forests” – what they look like, what species indicate forest stands aging hundreds of years, why they are important and yet largely go unrecognized and unprotected.

Keith Maung-Douglas talked about the past and present projects of the notable Carbo firm which has designed multiple municipal landscape projects – the St. Landry’s Visitor’s Center near Ville Platte, the Baton Rouge Riverfront and King’s Center, Gretna City Park, Lafayette Airport and the Mirabeau Water Gardens in New Orleans – that heavily utilize native plants.

Bette Kaufman described the Care of Creation programs being adopted by Episcopal churches in her area near Monroe and showed

examples of how native plant plantings are drawing the public to church grounds to explore, relax and enjoy.

Jeff Agnew, Senior Professor at Tulane University, detailed the history and future of biodiversity loss and the development of his own diverse native garden in Harahan. His garden was the theme for the newly minted LNPS T-shirts as well as inspiration for one of the 15 new free Coloring Pages that LNPS has produced and made available to showcase the importance of native plants and the people of Louisiana that work with and care about them.

Austin Klais, Wildlife Biologist for Quail Forever Louisiana presented on his efforts, primarily in Northern Louisiana, to help homeowners improve Quail and other wildlife habitat on private property by restoring the historic condition of prairie/grassland ecotype.

Native Plant Vendors quickly sold out of stock and Merchandise Vendors had a great day too. The Plant Auction was boisterous as usual and hundreds of plants were claimed with proceeds to benefit the LNPS mission.

The Sunday Field trip to Caster Plunge Scenic area brought us to areas of true Old Growth Forest which are comprised of trees of all sizes and include fallen behemoth that are prime habitat in their own right. We recorded and documented what might be a new State Champion Sourwood tree while there and got to see that process and the measuring tools used to describe canopy, height and other important factors.



Jacky Duncan was awarded the Karlene DeFatta Award of Excellence by LNPS President Tammary Baumgarten for her decades of service to the native plant and gardening community of Louisiana



The Annual LNPS Conference was well attended with many new faces and several landscape professionals interested in honing their knowledge of native plants



Rick Webb instructs Matt Davis of New Orleans how to care for his new Pitcher Plants hard won in the plant auction



Caitlin, Ashley and Emily from SwampFly Landscapes were first time attendees

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OSHA Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Rulemaking

Submitted by Brian Breaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

Among the issues nursery and landscape industry professionals should be aware of is the proposed “OSHA Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings” Rulemaking. The comment period ended on January 26, 2022 and according to many reports, OSHA is expected to make the rulemaking final sometime around May 2023. The OSHA rulemaking will require employers to take steps to protect workers from hazardous heat when working in temperatures above 80 degrees, yes above 80 degrees!

While many of us would contend that working in temperatures above 80 degrees is not a hazard, OSHA contends heat is a hazard and they are responsible under the OSH Act of 1970 – General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1) to assure that employers are required to provide their employees with a place of employment that “is free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious harm to employees.”

In preparation for the rulemaking, nursery and landscape professionals should consider developing a written heat injury prevention plan for their workplace detailing measures you have in place to mitigate heat injury and illness for employees that work in temperatures above 80 degrees.

Your plan should document that you have required rest breaks for your employees when working in the heat. Document where nearby cool water and shade is available for your employees. Documents that you provide a period to acclimate your employees to the heat where they only work 20% on their first day, increasing work 20% each day until they reach 100% of their time working in the heat. Document that you have a buddy system in place to assure that no worker works alone in the heat. Document that you have a system and training in place of what to do if a heat illness occurs, how to recognize heat illness, what to do when workers show heat illness symptoms, where to bring the injured worker, who to call, where the closest hospital is, how to contact emergency transportation to hospital etc.... You must document that you have trained your employees about the heat injury prevention plan you have in place. Some businesses begin the workday earlier and provide a long mid-day break to avoid the hottest times of the day as heat mitigation. LNLA has names of consultants that can help you develop a heat injury prevention plan for your operation. Also, consider downloading the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool app on your phone.

Complying with the OSHA rulemaking will be very difficult for many Louisiana businesses. For example, from the OSHA Handbook, the OSHA Control of Heat Stress - Table 6-2: Work – Rest Schedules show moderate work at 94 degrees with partly cloudy conditions (add 7 degrees) and 50% relative humidity

(add 6 degrees) equals 107 degrees adjusted. The OSHA heat mitigation work/rest schedule shows employees doing moderate work at 107 degrees adjusted should limit their work to 15 minutes per hour and rest for 45 minutes per hour when working in 107 degrees adjusted. Since this example is typical for Louisiana, it will be necessary for us to implement multiple heat mitigations in order to comply with the OSHA Heat Injury and Illness Rulemaking, as proposed. (Table 6-2 attached).

While this OSHA Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Standard seems completely unworkable, such as only working 15 minutes per hour when the temperature is 94 degrees at 60% humidity in partly cloudy conditions. But remember, we are not alone and this OSHA standard applies to all U.S. businesses in many states have heat similar to Louisiana. There could be enough push back from U.S. businesses that the OSHA Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Standard is not implemented. The crux however is, considering what we know, we think it is prudent to begin developing a written heat injury and illness prevention plan for your operation just in case this OSHA Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Standard is implemented.

Table 6-2. Work/rest schedules for workers wearing normal work clothing*

Adjusted temperature (°F) [†]	Light work (minutes work/rest)	Moderate work (minutes work/rest)	Heavy work (minutes work/rest)
90	Normal	Normal	Normal
91	Normal	Normal	Normal
92	Normal	Normal	Normal
93	Normal	Normal	Normal
94	Normal	Normal	Normal
95	Normal	Normal	45/15
96	Normal	Normal	45/15
97	Normal	Normal	40/20
98	Normal	Normal	35/25
99	Normal	Normal	35/25
100	Normal	45/15	30/30
101	Normal	40/20	30/30
102	Normal	35/25	25/35
103	Normal	30/30	20/40
104	Normal	30/30	20/40
105	Normal	25/35	15/45
106	45/15	20/40	Caution [‡]
107	40/20	15/45	Caution [‡]
108	35/25	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]
109	30/30	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]
110	15/45	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]
111	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]
112	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]	Caution [‡]

*With the assumption that workers are physically fit, well rested, fully hydrated, under age 65, and have adequate water intake and that there is 20% RH and natural ventilation with perceptible air movement.

[†]Note: Adjust the temperature reading as follows before going to the temperature column in the table:

- Full sun (no clouds): Add 1°
- Partly cloudy/sunny: Add 2°
- No shadows visible/work is in the shade or at night: no adjustment
- 50% relative humidity:
- 30% Subtract 4°
- 20% Subtract 4°
- 30% No adjustment
- 40% Add 1°
- 50% Add 4°
- 60% Add 4°

[‡]High levels of heat stress: consider reassigning activities.

Adapted from EPA (1993).

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LNLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – 10:00 am

Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 the LNLA board of directors met for their board meeting at Mike Anderson's Restaurant in Baton Rouge. Those in attendance were Lisa Loup, Michael Roe, Brandon Adams, Brian Bridges, Candria Ray, Tony Carter, Matt Fennell, Matt Knick, Jeff Reid, Chad Everage, Craig Roussel, Dr. Jeb Fields, Tina Peltier, and Marsha Dugas. Special guests were Paul Sawyer, Chief of Staff for Congressman Garrett Graves and John Gaines and John Gagliano with Ceba Insurance Group. Reuben Mitchell and Samantha Young were absent.

LNLA President Lisa Loup opened the meeting at 10:10 all stood for the pledge followed by a short time of silence and prayer.

Minutes of Last Meeting - Michael roe motioned to accept the minutes of the last meeting, October 5th, 2022 at Michael's Nursery in Forest Hill, Tony Carter second and all were in favor.

Tina Peltier and Marsha Dugas updated the group on all things LDAF. Renewals were sent out Monday and the next commission hearing will be Dec. 15th. **P. ramorum Update:** The fall compliance inspection at the P. ramorum positive nursery in Forest Hill took place on October 28 th , 2022. 332 foliar samples and 8 water bait samples were taken. 11 ELISA positives were reported from the foliar samples and 2 from the water bait samples. All samples were confirmed negative for P. ramorum. A team of approximately 20 employees from PPQ and LDAF completed the inspection. All stop orders have been lifted and the spring compliance inspection will be scheduled for some time in April of 2023. **Citrus Updates:** On 9/23/22 CC was confirmed at a residence in Lafayette parish. On 11/17/22 the Opelousas district inspectors performed a delimiting survey 1 mile around the positive find. 46 citrus trees were inspected at 25 different locations and no CC symptoms were observed. A quarantine of the area is being discussed. This was self-reported by the homeowner. The survey of St. Tammany parish has been completed. The final results are 12 samples are positive for HLB, 2 samples are positive for HLB and CC, and 1 sample is positive for CC. All positive samples are located below I-12 and mainly along Lake Pontchartrain. A quarantine of the area is being discussed. On 11/30/22 two citrus samples taken from a residence in LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, were confirmed positive for HLB by the Beltsville lab. This is a new parish find for HLB. St. John is already quarantined for CC. The samples were submitted as part of the 2022 Citrus Commodity Survey fall inspections. The samples were taken from a lemon and a satsuma tree. A delimiting survey will be conducted in the area to determine how widespread the disease is. **Nurseries:** There are 702 nursery growers registered. This is about 9% more than just three years ago. Over 76,000 blue tags have been issued so far this year. This number is down from 83,000 last year, but still over a 30% increase since 2019.

Beekeeping Grant: LDAF was awarded a specialty crop block grant for the Apprenticeship Project for Growing New Beekeepers in La. for 2022-2024. LDAF will sponsor 5 high schools with up to \$10,000 each in beehive equipment and beekeeping resources. Over the course of two years, students will learn beekeeping basics through classroom instruction and hands on experience. Eight students from each school will be chosen to start and care for their own hive for at least a year. The students will also be responsible for documenting their experiences and giving a presentation to their peers who are interested in beekeeping. Nine high schools applied for the grant and seven met the qualifications but only five could be chosen to participate. The five high schools chosen are Fontainebleau High School, Weston High School, Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning, Zachary High School and Hathaway High School. Mark Earl is in the process of ordering the equipment necessary for the school to start building their hives. The bees will be delivered sometime in the early spring.

Dr. Jeb Fields gave us a **LSU AgCenter Hammond Station Update.** CNLP @ HRS January 24-25 - we are hoping to get a grant from LDAF to rewrite the hort manual. Landscape workshop in Lake Charles February 1, 2023 Chad spoke on the phenomenal event we have planned not only for education but our outreach for legislators. Dr. Fields mentioned we have restored the Margie Jenkins garden from the hurricane and all is looking well. Dr. Fannin asked Dr. Fields to report on the status of the economic impact study. We are slated for January start date. 4-6 phone calls over the year as far as commitment for the study group made up of 4-5 LNLA board members. Pest management workshop at HRS will be Feb 16th. The garden guide will be updated soon ... we may be able to tie this into the LDAF grant in the spring if we get it. HRS does need more plant material as the new year starts up and many have offered to donate. Jason Stagg will be letting everyone know needs.

Jeff Reid reported for the Labor and Legislative Committee. H2A is undergoing some overhaul altogether. The labor wage is going up across the country. For Louisiana the increase is \$1.20. We can voice our opinion to senator Kennedy and Cassidy. We are definitely in a labor crisis. On the H2B front right now they are working on an immigration deal. Trying to get some cap relief on the language. We need to get with Higgins and Graves.

We appreciate Paul Sawyer coming to meet with us from Garrett Graves office. Paul Sawyer let us know Garrett meets with our members periodically every year. We keep them on their toes. They would love to join our meetings any time. Garrett is a beekeeper!!! Paul spoke about how important our economic impact study will be to the delegates, for them to understand our industry. We are in lame duck right now. There are 2 big bills that have to pass ... the military bill (must pass bill) and end of the year spending bill, aside from paying and equipping our service workers. Everyone wants to attach themselves to this bill and gum up good legislation.

SEA held round table discussions with Northern Triangle countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) to discuss issues with processing H2B workers from their countries. There are approximately 15,000 visas allotted to these countries in the Supplemental Release of visas.

H2A folks need to contact their Senators about the FWM. Ask them to pass it before the session ends
H2B needs to ask senators to include Cap Relief in the DACA package deal. Jeff also talked about the LNLA legislative day at the capitol April 18, 2023 at the Lt. Governor's apartment at the Barracks. On the same day we will have a plant day that day as well where we deliver a small plant to each Senator and Reps office. All in attendance that day will need to stay to help stay and help pass out plants. We really appreciate Tony Carter for growing and donating these plants. We will need tags made for each plant that says our name and how to grind the coffee beans from the plant. We also need a proclamation from the governor for the day. We the board can do more to help but there is no structure to make that happen. We want to be a more efficient board and take a little pressure off CJ. Matt Knick addressed the board about this. Matt told about his experience the last 9 months on the LNLA board. Matt wants to make a difference on this board. Organizational structure is going to be pertinent for the growth of the LNLA. Define our vision, mission and values. Engage each other and others outside the board. A new member to the board needs more direction and defined role and responsibilities. What is my time commitment and what kind of impact can I make on this board.

Brian Bridges gave our financial report. As of today we have \$25K in money market, 88k in savings \$65K in checking. Last year at this time we had \$69 so just a little lower this year be we still have a few weeks in the year and a few more dues deposits will be made. LNLA Budget committee met in November. All looked over the proposed budget for 2023. Tony Carter motioned to accept budgeted and Chad Everage second. This will be presented at the annual meeting in January for all to vote on. Brian told us about the CD information he had found ... checked with 2 different brokers on cd rates. No penalty for early withdrawal with either. Each is insured up to \$250K by FDIC - really no risk to this association for doing this. 2yr is %5, 6 month 4.55%. We should have done this 40 years ago. Brian recommended we put \$100K in a 12 month CD at a rate of 4.75% and the remaining balance of savings and money market in a 6 month CD. Both at Edward D. Jones. Tony Carter motioned. Jeff Reid second all in favor . Motion passed. We are closing our savings and money market at regions.

Memberclicks gave us a \$3000 refund on our next bill for having over paid the last 2 years.

Matt Fennell had no report for the funding committee.

Brandon Adams had no report for nominations at this time. Our slate of officers and directors for 2023 will remain the same if all is ratified at the annual meeting in January.

Chad Everage reported for the awards committee we met this week and made all the final discussions on the award nominees. It is all said and done and will be presented in January. Cari Jane is working on the presenters and plaques.

Candria Ray reported for the marketing committee. Raffle Sponsors and Tickets - CJ push on Facebook and email blasts \$5850 in sponsorship so far. The prizes are on the website. You can purchase tickets on the website or in person at the LNLA booth at the GSHE trade show. LNLA started a monthly networking zoom call that has been better and better attended. It is amateur right now but is growing and has been a great way to connect. Should we record the meetings for later to be viewed ... maybe later. Newsletter Ad Pricing Flyer - pricing went up per the last board meeting and you can find the new pricing on lnla.org and in the newsletter. Newsletter covers to be auctioned at LNLA Happy Hour at GSHE. Spring issue starting at \$2000 and all others at \$1500. Invoices for the printed newsletter for 2023 went out last week. We have had 2 complaints, several want to receive the newsletter via email or on the website and 20+ so far still want the newsletter in print.

Michael Roe reported for the membership committee. Dues renewal and potential member invoices are going out next week. 703 email invoices went out to renewing members in November. Membership packets with certificates for 2023 will go out in January after the trade show. We already spoke about the Feb 1st Landscape Workshop in Lake Charles - sponsored by Landscape Management Services. GSHE coming up in January - looking forward to our LNLA Membership Breakfast/Happy Hour/ Board Meeting / Trade show booth ... lots going on there. Michael motioned for 2024, we add a platinum level membership at \$2500, Gold level at \$1500, Silver level at \$1000, raise the dues to \$250 on Regular A membership (\$250K+ in annual gross sales), Regular B (below \$250K in annual gross sales) \$200, and all other membership categories stay the same. Tony Carter and Chad Everage both second the motion. All voted and were in favor. This will now be voted on by voting members at the annual meeting in January at GSHE.

Ricky Becnel updated for the Foundation - We have 7 applicants for the \$2500 scholarships we will give out at the annual meeting breakfast in January. GALA XIII will be Friday, June 23, 2023 and will be held at the City Park, Pavilion of the Two Sisters in NOLA. Save the date cards will go out in LNLA membership packets in January. The board is changing a good bit this coming year but we are motivated and going to make it happen.

In New Business Lisa reminded us one of the biggest voids in our industry ... medical insurance is a tremendous expense.

John Gagliano & John Gaines (Major Medical Expert) with Ceba Insurance gave a presentation of what they can offer our members. On average they save groups 30% of what they are currently paying.

Next Meeting –

- LNLA Annual Membership Awards & Breakfast Meeting at GSHE, Thursday, January 19, 2023 - 7AM
- LNLA Reception at GSHE Thursday, January 19, 2023 - 5PM
- Board Meeting at GSHE, Friday, January 20, 2023 - 7AM

LNLA Annual Membership Breakfast Meeting and Awards Banquet MINUTES January 19, 2023 7-9am. GSHE, Mobile, AL

LNLA President Lisa Loup opened the meeting with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. There were 82 in attendance according to the sign in sheets.

Lisa asked those in attendance to take a few minutes to review the minutes from the last LNLA annual meeting from January 20, 2022. Danny Lafleur motions to accept the minutes, Rick Webb seconds. All in favor.

LNLA Treasurer, Brian Bridges offered the financial report. Since last year we have closed the savings and money market accounts and invested this money into CDs that will bring more. In 2022 we had \$157K total income and expenses were \$166K ... \$8700 more in expenses than we brought in. Total assets for LNLA total \$194,205. Motion to the accept the financial from Albert Durio and second from Gerritt Monk. All in favor, no nays.

Lisa gave the presidents report. Lisa let everyone know what an honor it has been to serve as president of LNLA. I am super goal oriented and it has been a goal of mine to know what the other board members goals are for being on the board. We have had so many great collaborations and we have such a unique group of people wanting better.

You did it, it wasn't Lisa, it wasn't Cari Jane >>> YOU all did it.

We have gotten an economic impact study funded. We have a generation coming up that needs education and guidance. We will have another meet and greet in Lake Charles in February. We want everyone to know we are are doing our best to include all parts of the state in education and promotion of our professionalism.

Lisa addressed those in attendance that we would like to pay our deepest respects to those that have passed before us. Sam Perino, Frank Burns, Frances Vesely, Pat Newman, Terry Gardner, David Mizell, Mary Poole, Cindy Babb, Roy Dale Thomas, JD Poston, Richard Johnson, Judy Finch, Patrick Hegwood, Larry Brown, and Coach Vince Dooley.

Lisa introduced Michele Andre, current president of the LNLFSR. Michele gave a brief update to those in attendance about the "Foundation". Our main fundraiser the Gala XIII will be June 23, 2023 at City Park in NOLA. This year the board voted to up the scholarship awards from \$1500 to \$2500. This year we have 6 recipients ...

Dan Metzger received the Margie Jenkins Scholarship

Hamilton Trey Crockett received the Ira Nelson Scholarship

Connor Luke Cavalier received the Foret/Meadows/Owings Scholarship

Baileigh Snow is the first recipient of the Sam Perino Memorial Scholarship

Erick Vanbergen and Lidya Chala both received LNLFSR Scholarships ... Congrats to all!

Michele listed off the new slate of LNLFSR officers for 2023. Ricky Becnel, President. Michele Andre, Past President. Elena Fennell, Vice President. Annie Coco, Treasurer. Cari Jane Murray, Executive Secretary. Megan Perino, Gerald Foret, Mike Goree and Geoffrey Sandifer, Directors. Dr. Yan Chen, University Director. Lisa Loup motioned accept the slate of officers and Albert Durio second. All were in favor.

LNLA board member and chair of the labor and legislative committee, Jeff Reid gave a brief update. These are some important things that will happen this year. He will present an h2b stand alone bill. Key for us in Louisiana will be that Steve Scalise will be a big proponent for us. April or May for this bill. Senator Gram is an H2b supporter as well. H2A front, farm workforce modernization act .. is just sitting in the senate for a little while. There are positive things that are happening in our state and we have worked very hard for YOU and YOU don't realize you came very close to loosing ... this part of the importance of the LNLA and why we need all to support and stand together.

We will have a Horticulture Day with our legislators on April 18th at he Capitol. Anyone interested in being a part please get with Cari Jane. The Economic Impact for our industry will be a game changer. The best thing about our numbers are that they are not swirling around the state .. we are exporters.

Lisa introduced the guest speaker John Gaines with Complete Employee Benefits - Licensed in 7 states. Only way to get it down is to reduce benefits. This doesn't have to happen. Another myth is voluntary benefits .. for more health care insurance questions ask Cari Jane to get you in touch with John and get a quote.

Lisa addressed the membership about the agenda item, dues increase. She introduced Michael Roe, LNLA Vice President and Membership Committee Chair.

The Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association's collaboration with local, state, and national organizations continues to influence matters of importance to the green industry. Our recent advocacy success has increased research funding for the green industry, spearheaded the implementation of our industries' first economic impact study in over two decades, and provided some much-needed labor relief through the release of more than 66,000 supplemental H-2B visas. Renewal of your membership supports our workforce development, consumer outreach, and advocacy initiatives. Thank you for your support!

As we prepare for a new year, the Association is seeking to expand its influence and programs to become an even greater champion for the green industry. Cultivating the next generation of both consumers and professionals is crucial to the long-term success of the industry. The goals and plans of the Association are ambitious and will need added revenue to bring to fruition; in turn we are asking members for increased support to help reach this objective.

At the last budget meeting we soon realized that inflation had risen to the point that operating expenses had outpaced our operating budget and there was nowhere left from which to pull additional funds. While we do have all essential expenses covered through 2023 we did have to ask for a \$40 subsidy from those wanting to continue to receive the printed newsletter as the cost of it has increased drastically over the past few years. We last raised dues back in 2017 to \$150 for Regular A. If all operating expenses increased at the annual rate of inflation since 2017 our dues should be at approximately \$190 for 2024. However, many expenses, such as the newsletter, increased at rates well above the annual rate of inflation. Combining the inflation-adjusted dues rate and the increased cost of the newsletter we're up to \$230 minimum.

Based on this information the LNLA Board of Directors have recommended updating the Association's dues structure. Beginning with the 2024 dues cycle, "Regular A" businesses will see an increase to \$250 and "Regular B" will see an increase to \$200. Associate rates will remain unchanged and mirror GSHE partner states at \$150. Our affiliate rate for individuals also remains unchanged at \$25. While this change is not insignificant, LNLA dues will remain ~30-60% lower than several green industry peer associations in the southeast (\$325-395).

We are also proposing three new voluntary levels of what we are referring to as "Legacy Memberships" for those that are looking to make an even larger impact: a \$2500 Platinum level, a \$1500 Gold level and a \$1000 Silver level. The fees for these levels include annual dues as well as printed newsletters. By expanding these membership tiers we are offering more ways for members to support the Association and increase exposure for their businesses. LNLA's "Legacy Membership" program allows members to support the work of LNLA beyond the level of simply paying their dues. Critical functions such as legislative and regulatory action, timely updates on industry issues and support for certification and education programs are dependent on your generosity. This expected revenue increase will be reinvested to the industry by providing more programs and events throughout the state and raising the industry's profile among the workforce, consumers, and legislators of both the present and future. The participants in the 'Legacy Membership' will receive acknowledgement of their participation via their name, and company logo, in print in both the newsletter & on the website. These levels are simply for those that have the means and desire to give back to this organization and to this industry by investing in the future of both.

LNLA appreciates the continued support of each and every member as we navigate this exciting period of change and growth together. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as the Association grows to better serve the needs of its members.

Lisa asked for a motion to accept the proposal of the dues increase. Rick Webb motioned, Gerald Foret second. Lisa opened the floor for discussion. Tom Fennell asked if the board would consider adding the printed newsletter back to the payment of dues. Short answer, yes. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Lisa read the list of officers and directors for 2023 (no change from 2022). Lisa asked for nominations from the floor. Albert Durio motioned to accept the proposed slate of officers, Dr. Angela Chalk second and all were in favor.

Award Presentations: Allen Owings presented the Young Professional of the Year award to Matt Fennell. Jeff Reid will present the Professional of the year award to Rafael Azuara. Lisa Loup presented the Distinguished Service to Dr. Jeb Fields. Michael roe presented the James A. Foret award to Ricky Becnel.

Lisa reminded everyone about the social hour this evening. Danny Lafleur motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tom Fennell and John Kavanaugh second and all were in favor.

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Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional



Dr. Jeb Fields, LSU AgCenter's Commercial Horticulturist, is the instructor for the manual review/training session.

The CNLP was established to provide a professional educational opportunity for 'Green Industry' professionals. Primarily, persons in the retail garden center and landscape contracting/maintenance areas of the 'Green Industry' participate. The manual review is also excellent preparation for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's landscape horticulturist license exam. An LDAF license is required to be in various landscape & nursery related businesses in Louisiana; the CNLP is not required. **This certification is not a license.** Call LDAF Horticulture Commission at 225-952-8100 to schedule the license exam.

July 11-12, 2023

Ira Nelson
Horticulture Center
University of LA at
Lafayette
2206 Johnson St.
Lafayette, LA 70503

January 2024

Date to be Determined
LSU AgCenter
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Hammond, LA 70403

Go to
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1

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2

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3

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE MANUAL

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LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION



Louisiana Irrigation Association is a professional network of licensed Irrigation Contractors specializing in irrigation education and recertification opportunities. Dr. Stacia Conger is our LSU AgCenter Irrigation Specialist for the state and we thank her for her many hours of dedication to the LIA.

Recertification opportunities will be available in the fall of 2023 (Oct, Dec & Jan). Be on the lookout to register. www.geauxlia.org

BATON ROUGE LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION



Baton Rouge Landscape Association meets often to discuss plants and topics relevant to current landscape business needs. These meetings are great networking opportunities with other landscapers in your community.

Contact Dr. Allen Owings for more information aowings64@gmail.com.

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA NURSERY ASSOCIATION

Visit SELNA.org for association updates, membership information, and horticulture related news. You can also download a copy of the SELNA Plant Locator while you're there. To request a Nursery Locator Map, Folsom Fall Festival Application, or more information contact SELNA at 985.875.2635 or wafton@agcenter.lsu.edu.

THE NEW ORLEANS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The New Orleans Horticultural Society is in full spring mode as we aim to boost our membership numbers. We have some great speakers lined up for this year. We have some fan favorites returning to speak to the group about new and upcoming bedding plants, shrubs, and trees. We also have some new speakers lined up talking about everything from bamboos to camelias. We are always on the lookout for new speakers to keep things fresh and interesting in addition to bringing back past speakers who have proven to be a wealth of information to our members. We are planning to have extra outings to nurseries and other points of interest for our members in addition to our regular meetings

The NOHS is a non-profit organization that began in 1885, the second oldest of its kind in the United States. It's a place where like-minded professionals in the green industry can meet and talk about the trade and attend lectures and

activities that promote all aspects of the landscape profession. The group is comprised of licensed horticulturists, florists, nurserymen, garden center operators, pesticide applicators, landscape contractors and architects, arborists, and those in allied trades. Our meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of every month unless an event or holiday changes the day. We meet at the City Park Garden Study Building which is set among the beautiful New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

We are always ready to welcome new members as the green industry continues to grow in our area. Meetings typically last two hours and refreshments are provided before the guest speaker takes over. For up-to-date information, please contact us at NOHS1885@gmail.com to request to be added to our email mailing list and newsletter.



Support Louisiana's green industry by joining your regional association.

Contact the following:

BRLA: Elena Fennell, Secretary (e) ecfennell@cox.net (p) 225-921-4095

CLNA: Myra Poole Maloney, President, 75 Nick Strange Road, LeCompte, LA 71346
(p) 318-321-6046 (e) myramaloney41@gmail.com

LIA: Chuck Davis, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, (e) geauxlia@gmail.com

NOHS: Shaun Hebert (e) nohs1885@gmail.com

SELNA: William Afton, LSU AgCenter County Agent, St. Tammany Parish, Secretary,
SE LA Nursery Association, 1301 N. Florida St., Covington, LA 70433

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