

LNLA LNLA LNLA LNLA



# LOUISIANA Nursery & Landscape

NEWS



LNLA past James A. Foret award winners at Gerald Foret Wholesale Nursery.  
Photo taken during the LNLA 70th Anniversary Celebration.  
Rick Webb, Craig Roussel, Gerald Foret, Albert Durio and Dr. Allen Owings.





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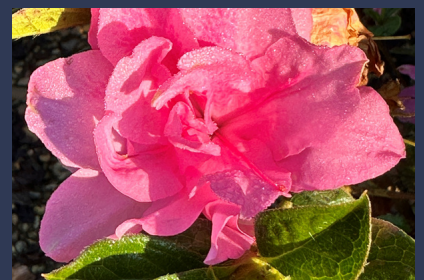
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Award Winner Picture For The Young Professional Of The Year Dr. Damon Abdi Pictures With Dr. Gentry, Dr. Owings, Dr. Smith And Dr. Salassi

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# MINI SKID STEER PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Information provided by Vermeer

Maintenance likely isn't a word that brightens your day. But, in order to keep your equipment running smoothly to maximize productivity, specifically mini skid steers, regular maintenance is key.

Keeping up with the maintenance can seem overwhelming, but knowing what upkeep to do when can help it be manageable over the long run. Whether it's daily, weekly, monthly or annually, here's a mini skid steer maintenance checklist to help keep you on track and on schedule. Refer to your machine's operators and maintenance manual for safety messages and further instructions.

## DAILY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

### (EVERY 10 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the air intake and cooling areas)
- ☐ Check engine oil
- ☐ Check engine coolant level
- ☐ Fill fuel tanks
- ☐ Check hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Check air cleaner
- ☐ Grease machine (specifically the boom pivot and park brake)
- ☐ Check condition of tracks
- ☐ Check track tension

## BI-WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

### (EVERY 100 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine  
(specifically the fuel filter and the fan belt tightness)
- ☐ Maintain safety signs on the machine
- ☐ Check overall machine
- ☐ Check control joystick and levers
- ☐ Check neutral control positions
- ☐ Check neutral start interlocks
- ☐ Check operator presence system
- ☐ Check hydraulic system  
(and relieve the system hydraulic pressure)
- ☐ Check the park brake
- ☐ Grease the operator platform

## MAINTENANCE ITEMS EVERY 2,000 SERVICE HOURS

- ☐ Drain and clean the engine cooling system

Even though maintaining a machine can seem daunting, following this list can help extend the life of your mini skid steer and maximize your productivity. Refer to your machine's maintenance manual and the operator's manual for more details.

## WEEKLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

### (EVERY 50 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine (specifically the fuel lines and clamp bands)
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check track tension
- ☐ Replace fuel filter
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter

## MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

### (EVERY 200 TO 250 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine  
(specifically the radiator hoses and clamp bands)
- ☐ Check the hydraulic oil cooling fan
- ☐ Replace the hydraulic filter
- ☐ Replace the fuel filter

## BI-MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

### (EVERY 500 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check engine
- ☐ Remove fuel tank sediment
- ☐ Clean engine cooling system
- ☐ Replace fan belt
- ☐ Check fuel line
- ☐ Check air cleaner restriction indicator
- ☐ Replace hydraulic filter
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter
- ☐ Check battery electrolyte levels
- ☐ Clean battery terminals

## YEARLY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

### (EVERY 1,000 SERVICE HOURS)

- ☐ Check the engine system (specifically check the fuel lines for leaks, kinked hoses and hoses that are rubbing against another part)
- ☐ Change hydraulic fluid
- ☐ Service the strainer
- ☐ Service the secondary air cleaner



# A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello all, my name is Brandon Adams, I am the manager of Adams Nursery in Forest Hill Louisiana. My parents are Steve and Barbara Adams, owners of Adams Nursery. First off, I would like to thank everyone for this opportunity to serve as your president for this year.

A little background on me, I am a third generation nurseryman from both my mom's and dad's family. My grandfather, TJ Murry, started TJ Murry Nursery in Woodworth Louisiana. And my grandfather Fred Adams started Adams Nursery in 1956. I grew up playing and working at both nurseries. I would help my dad fertilizer plants when I was 5 or so years old. I would also drive around on the golf cart at both nurseries and 'supervise' the workers. Later I went to Louisiana Tech University and graduated with an Industrial Engineering degree in 2007. I moved back and have working at Adams Nursery since graduation.

It has been a bumpy start for the LNLA this year, with the snow storm that canceled the GSHE show. But that didn't stop the board from moving forward and start setting goals to accomplish for this year. One of these goals is to reach different parts of the state, like the northeast, and rebuild our presence there and also the southwest part of the state. My personal goal as the president is to have more transparency from the board to the members of this organization. We are only strong if everyone is on the same page and working together.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone in the association for the vote of confidence to be president. It has been a dream of mine to follow in my dad's footsteps and work up to be president of the LNLA. We have a busy year ahead and I am looking forward to leading the way, with the board and all the members of this great association, to another great year.

Thank you

*Brandon Adams*

*Brandon and son James*







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Tickets are \$20 a piece or 6 for \$100.  
Drawing will be held February 27th  
at the rescheduled LNLA Annual Membership Meeting  
at Hammond Research Station and Live on Facebook.



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# WINTER WRAP UP: EDUCATIONAL UPDATES FROM THE HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION

by Dr. Damon Abdi



We always expect the winter season to be busy. Between Gulf States Hort Expo (GSHE), Landscape Professional Education Days, and our annual Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (CNLP) and Pesticide Recertification events, the months of January and February are full of events to combat the slow, dreary season of winter. What we did not expect was record snowfall in our area – encasing our communities in a layer of snow that delayed our industry's annual conference at GSHE in Mobile. But, like we always do, we turn obstacles into opportunity, hosting our



hallmark conference in the hospitable confines of the Hammond Research Station (HRS). But let's back up a bit and cover all the educational efforts that were conducted during this time. February 18th and 19th was our annual CNLP manual review at the Hammond

education ensures that you are protected legally and provided the professional credentialing to represent yourself and our industry. We had an engaging class of students that exuded enthusiasm for keeping Louisiana horticulture blooming, and I look forward to working with them at each step of their professional development. It was fun, as always, covering a wide range of topics (19 chapters in two days!), but the next day we honed in on pesticide-specific programming. February 20th saw several students from the CNLP class join seasoned pesticide applicators at our annual pesticide recertification event at Hammond. We had a wealth of speakers share their insights on best management practices and business considerations for pesticide applicators, including Drs. Hayes (water management), Ashbrook (ant control), DeBoer (turfgrass weeds), and Singh (plant diseases), as well as our new HRS trial garden coordinator, Caroline Blanchard. Bryan Gueltig, Tad Kivett, and Joe Ingrao assisted in ensuring applicators had their registration information taken care of to remain compliant. Thank you to all our participants, presenters, and staff for their efforts.

After a marathon three days of education, we had the chance to briefly catch our breath before the following week's events. The Landscape Professional Education Day Series is a statewide endeavor initiated with the LNLA to ensure that our industry has educational resources directly provided to them throughout the state. To date, we have brought a rotating lineup of speakers to different areas of Louisiana – (Lafayette in spring of '21; Ruston fall of '22, Lake Charles spring of '23, New Orleans fall of '23, Baton Rouge spring of '24', and Bossier City in fall of '24), and spring of '25 saw a return to home base – the Hammond Research Station.

Continued...



# WINTER WRAP UP: EDUCATIONAL UPDATES FROM THE HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION

We hosted over 30 green industry professionals at the HRS on the morning of Thursday, February 27th, where they were met with insights from Drs. Singh, Hayes, and DeBoer on their respective research areas, and Dr. Allen Owings shared some of his favorite plant varieties for the upcoming season. Our Landscape Professional Education Days are always a big party, lasting all day. However, this one was slightly different – we had a bigger party to attend in the afternoon.

While winter weather wreaked havoc throughout the Gulf South while we were preparing for GSHE, we weren't going to allow a little snow to cancel our LNLA annual conference. The afternoon of Thursday, February 27th was the LNLA Annual Conference where over 150 LNLA members and green industry supporters descended upon Hammond – joining our morning Education Day's roster. With pleasant weather, we gathered outside under the tent to share news and updates on all things AgCenter and Agriculture. Dr. Mike Strain (Louisiana Commissioner of Ag and Forestry) and LSU AgCenter administrators Drs. Salassi, Smith, and Gentry shared updates important to our industry. LNLA leadership Lisa Loup and Cari Jane Murray led discussions on information important to our members. Our next generation of green industry professionals were supported through the LNLA scholarship ceremony, demonstrating the LNLA's commitment to supporting the future of the landscaping and nursery industry in Louisiana. Last, but certainly not least, the industry awards ceremony highlighted the contributions of individuals throughout our collective team. I have more words on that in an accompanying article.

Closing the month of February was one last educational event – but this time, we broke free of the boundaries of the classroom. Hands-on workshops are a unique opportunity to learn new skills, where building upon the success of our January 2024 patio install workshop, we hosted an outdoor fireplace workshop. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, Scott Lunt of Outdoor Bistros (for providing the fireplace frame) and Geoffrey Sandifer of Ewing Irrigation (for providing the stone veneer), we continued the next installation iteration of the HRS Outdoor Living Lab. Thank you to Cari Jane and the entire LNLA, as well as SELNA, for providing support and snacks for the event. Special thanks to Eric McQuiston for conceptualizing elements of this



soon-to-be focal feature of the HRS. We look forward to hosting events in the future as we continue to build out more sections of this unique garden area. With everything, it takes a team to succeed. Providing the opportunity for people to get their hands dirty and learn new skills while also contributing to a communal area creates a lasting educational impact that we can enjoy for generations.

As we flip our calendars to the spring season, we have much to be thankful for after a busy winter of educational events. But our work is just beginning. I look forward to continuing to develop educational activities with the entire team as we seek to advance all our green industry professionals. Up next on the agenda? Continuing with our horticulture manual revisions so that the most relevant, up-to-date information is included.



## Green Industry Witnesses Sizeable Growth Over the Past Two Decades

Dr. J. Matthew Fannin, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

The Green Industry is composed of sectors connected to production, retailing, and delivering services around products generated from the nursery and landscape sector. This brief highlights the current economic contribution of the industry to the economy of Louisiana.

### Green Industry Worth \$4 Billion in 2024

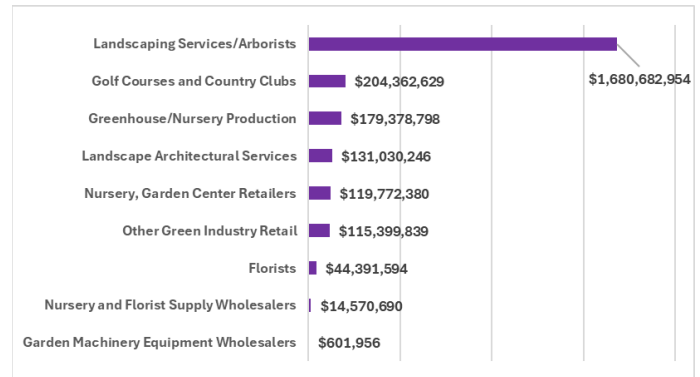
The Green Industry in Louisiana has been an increasingly important part of the economic landscape of the state. Recent estimates by the LSU AgCenter point to the total contribution of the industry exceeding \$3.98 billion in 2024. This represents growth of 222% growth from the contribution the industry made in 2002. Of the \$3.98 billion, approximately \$2.5 billion were direct effects (output generated by Green Industry sectors) as well as an additional \$1.4 billion in indirect effects of businesses connected to the Green Industry and spending by households from employees connected to the industry shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Economic Contribution to Louisiana by Category

Contribution	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
<b>Direct</b>	26,167	\$826,543,979	\$1,346,828,439	\$2,490,191,086
<b>Indirect</b>	3,774	\$211,547,565	\$399,395,658	\$803,503,207
<b>Induced</b>	4,038	\$207,176,722	\$408,331,027	\$689,120,660
<b>Total</b>	33,978	\$1,245,268,267	\$2,154,555,124	\$3,982,814,953

### Landscaping Services Lead the Way

While households still enjoy working in their own yards and gardens, households, business, and government increasingly outsource these to professional landscapers. Landscaping services include licensed landscape horticulturists, licensed arborists as well as related service activities. The delivery of these services generated over \$1.68 billion in direct output in Louisiana, representing just over two thirds of all direct output of the Green Industry.



Breakdown of Direct Contribution of the Green Industry in 2024.

Many of the other subsectors of the Green Industry contributed between \$100 and \$200 million. The resurgence of people playing golf that started during COVID continues to contribute over \$204 million. Greenhouse/nursery production which has a long historical foundation in the Green Industry produced products that valued almost \$180 million in 2024. Wholesale categories contributed the least with combined wholesale value adding just over \$15 million.

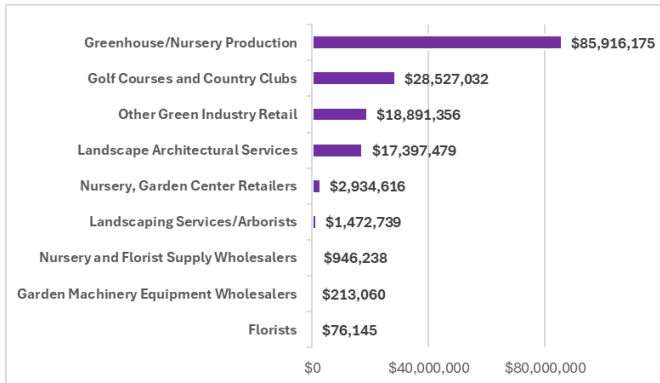
### Exports Dominated by Greenhouse/Nursery Production

As a portion of the total output of the Green Industry, exports (both domestic and foreign) made up just over \$156 million, or 6.17% of total output in 2023 (latest year export data available). However, a smaller number of sectors contributed most to these exports.

Exports for Greenhouse/nursery production represented over half (55%) of total Green Industry exports at almost \$86 million. The second largest contributor to exports was golf courses and country clubs. Over 18% of exports in 2023 was generated by tourists and other guests from outside the state playing at Louisiana golf courses.



# Green Industry Economic Contribution - 2024



Export value by Green Industry sectors in 2023.

## Paid Employees and Entrepreneurs Contribute to Louisiana's Workforce

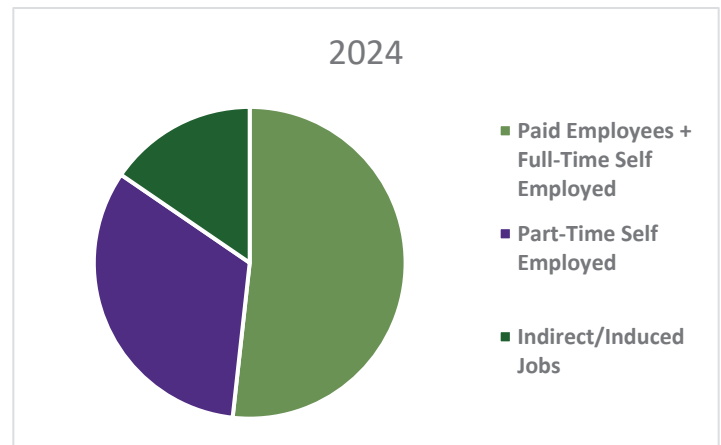
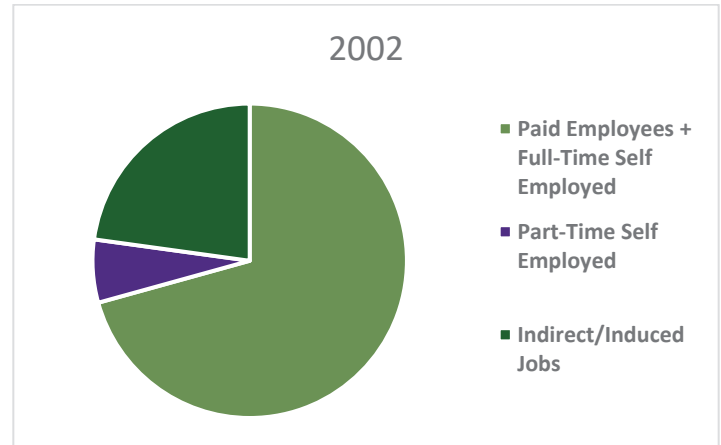
The Green Industry has become an example of an industry that has an entrepreneurial spirit to meet demands of the marketplace. In 2024, the industry contributed almost 34,000 jobs to the overall state economy from paid full-time and part-time employees as well as the full-time self-employed. However, that does not encompass all the work opportunities that have been met by people working in the industry.

A sizeable number of businesses that participate in the industry work part-time. A classic example includes individuals that strictly mow lawns part-time while holding other part-time or full-time jobs. These part-time self-employed individuals make up a sizeable portion of additional jobs.

In 2002, part-time self-employed in the Green Industry totaled just over 2,000 jobs. By 2024, these part-time entrepreneurs totaled more than 16,000 jobs, an eight-fold increase.

When including these part-time self-employed with total paid and self-employed jobs, totals jobs in the Green Industry are estimated at 50,563 for 2024.

Looking at the total Green Industry job increase between 2002 and 2024, it is estimated that almost 19% of that growth came from paid employees and full-time self-employed. Approximately 78% of that growth came from part-time self-employed and three percent came from additional indirect and induced jobs.



Distribution of Green Industry Jobs: 2002 and 2024.

The Green Industry has shown resilience over the past 22 years through multiple national recessions as well as natural and technological disasters that have impacted consumers in the state. As the taste and preferences of consumers change, the industry will be challenged to adapt to the changing marketplace. If recent trends hold, the industry will use its entrepreneurial acumen to identify opportunities that continue to grow the Green Industry throughout the remainder of the decade.

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## 2025 AWARDS



It is an honor and privilege to present the James A. Foret award. This award is presented to an individual for recognition of a lifetime of service, dedication and outstanding contributions to the Louisiana nursery & landscape industry. When I look at this award, I see it as the Louisiana Nursery Industry Hall of Fame. Many of the past recipients were mentors to me when I first began my nursery career. Marshall Clegg, Kent Langlanis, Steve Adams, Richard Odom to mention a few. This is an award that every LNLA Member should aspire to receive.

I am proud to call this year's recipient a friend. On the outside, he may appear to be fun, loving and carefree but when you look deeper, you will see that he has served this industry well. He has been a board member of both LNLA and the LNLFSR foundation. He has served as vice president, president of LNLA, and was the recipient of the LNLA professional of the year award. He is a member of the American Society for Landscape Architecture and has served as president of ASLA. He graduated from Runnels high school in New Orleans. He received his degree in landscape architecture from LSU in 1977. His first job was at Wholesale Gardenland in Kenner. He moved briefly to Baton Rouge before opening his landscape company in Lafayette. He is a member of many other charitable and civic associations, including Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Trees of Acadiana and the Kiwans club of Acadiana, served as president and received the Distinguished Service award and was the recipient of the Legion of Honor award. He was married to Kathy in 1982 and has two children, Russell and Megan.

I can see Pete Newton raising a glass in his honor and saying "job well done."

It is my privilege to present

**Rusty Ruckstuhl, Grass Roots Landscape the  
LNLA 2025 James A. Foret Award.**

Presented by Tom Fennell to Rusty Ruckstuhl



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## MEET CLASS XIX

Matthew Bracy - Ag Leadership Class XIX!

We're excited to introduce Matthew Bracy, an integral part of the Ag Leadership Class XIX family!

Matthew has been dedicated to help running his family's container nursery, Bracy's Nursery where he plays a key role in growing and nurturing plants that contribute to a more sustainable and green future. His hands-on experience in the agriculture industry has given him a deep understanding of the importance of innovation and sustainability.

We're looking forward to seeing how he will continue to grow and make an impact as part of our leadership class!

**“Hire the best,  
and get out of their way”**



*Matthew Bracy*  
AMITE





# Distinguished Service Award



Pictured are Jeff Reid and Lisa Loup

Distinguished Service is a recognition reserved for those who demonstrate exceptional contributions to a community, organization, or cause.

"Exceptional" refers to something or someone that is extraordinary, outstanding, or significantly above the usual standard. It can describe a person, thing, or event that stands out due to unique qualities, abilities, or achievements. When something is exceptional, it is often considered rare or remarkable in a positive way.

Exceptional is one term that defines our 2025 LNLA Distinguished Service Award recipient. Some other words that our LNLA Board of Directors came up with, when asked about this recipient were ... Passionate .. Determined .. Matriarch .. Bulldog .. Persistent .. Relentless .. Headstrong .. Tenacious .. and Driven. Those are some powerful words!

The word "Service" generally refers to the act of helping, assisting, or providing for others in a way that meets their needs or desires.

That is also the exact definition of our LNLA Distinguished Service Award recipient. Believe it or not, this person has benefitted each of us here today, probably in more ways than one.

I could speak all day about all the many great things this person does; like, own and operate her own business .. or her service on multiple boards .. or the political relationships she has built for all of us. There were many days when she was President of LNLA that she singlehandedly moved the needle forward for LNLA. I bet she averages at least 2 -3 calls a day that have something to do with benefitting LNLA. And I'm not talking only about when she was President of LNLA but then and everyday since. I don't know how she gets anything done being on the phone all the time.

There are many attributes to this person. She's the one you want with you in a fight. She's got an A-list legislative contact list and her fiancé alright too!

In all reality, Lisa Loup is by far the most deserving person for this award. Lisa is exceptional.

Never judge a book by its cover, or what comes out of it's mouth.

It is my honor and privilege to announce this year's recipient of the

**LNLA Distinguished Service Award, Lisa G. Loup!**



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**Debbie Head, Owner**



# LNLA 2025 Nursery Professional of the Year



Pictured are Brian Bridges and Chauncey and son Stetson Nichols

It is my pleasure to be able to present the award for this year's LNLA 2025 Nursery Professional of the Year.

This year's award winner started in the nursery industry in the late 80's at a young age, During High School he worked in some local nurseries and learned the trade and he basically began his own business with some liners that was given to him by his future mother-in-law which also was in the nursery business. Our professional of the year took these liners as a start to what has grown into an impressively large growing operation in Louisiana employing over 35 people and roughly 130 acres of containerized production not counting a tree farm.

This year's recipient graduated from Rapides High School in 1984, during his high school years he worked at Larry Bates nursery and had began growing his own ornamentals at his father's nursery which was also in forest hill.

Around 1993 he purchased Larry Bates Nursery which consisted of 88 acres total and about 40 acres of production. In 2010 purchased another nursery location on fish hatchery road which consisted of 20 acres, and around that same time frame put in a tree farm in Glenmora Louisiana. In 2021 another expansion was made on Nick Strange Road which consisted of approximately 20 acres.

Our 2025 recipient, Chauncey Nichols, owner of Chauncey Nichols Nursery was married to his wife Phoebe in 1993, they have 4 children, Seigen, Stetson, Spencer and Salem which all at one time or another have been involved in the family nursery.

A few notable things that Chauncey has done in the past several years includes:

- Served as a board member for the LNLA
- Served on the trustee, and foundation board for the southern theological seminary in Kentucky
- Participated in over a dozen mission trips to Honduras thru churches that he is affiliated with
- Multiple Mission trips to Guatemala
- Three Mission trips to Nepal, one of which was to educate the farmers on growing apples to yield a better crop and creating a co-op network, this trip required several months of physical preparation to be able to hike into sparsely inhabited regions.
- Currently serving as a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria La.

As you can see Chauncey is not only interested in growing quality plants but also using his resources from his business as a platform to grow the Kingdom of God by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

It is my pleasure to call Chauncey a good friend, he is someone that operates his personal life and business with the utmost integrity. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award this year than him.

Chauncey is not able to be here today to accept his award due to currently being on a mission trip to Honduras where they are currently building a house. So Debbie Head will be accepting the award on his behalf.

Please welcome me in honoring **Chauncey Nichols as the LNLA 2025 Nursery Professional Of The Year.**





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Pictured are Kim and Doyle Pennick with Chad Everage.

# LNLA's Professional Achievement Award

Doyle Pennick started in the lawn care business as an incredibly young man. He started going door to door with mower as a "one man shows" and now owns Landscape Management which employs over 100 people in peak season. His business grew due to his persistence, personality and quality of work provided. Doyle diversified Landscape Management by adding multiple departments through growth and need in the area. Landscape Management is a leader in landscape design and installation, erosion control, lawn and landscape care and Landscape Management has a full nursery onsite providing retail services to the area homeowners and other contractors. Doyle partnered with Mitch Drost and together they moved Landscape Management to one of the

top Landscape businesses in southwest Louisiana. This partnership had a keen eye for finding quality, loyal employees and treating them as family. After Mitch retired, Doyle continued to grow the business and Landscape has increased sales every year since. Most of this is due to Doyle's qualities as a person. He runs Landscape Management much like a Christian family striving to do what is right.

Doyle leads his team by setting stellar examples of humanity. Every year since 2018, Landscape Management donates the design and landscapes the St. Jude house. Landscape Management supports the LCMH Foundation which aids much of the community with proper healthcare. He has hosted LNLA educational seminar and Legislative meet and greet. Doyle has allowed his employees time needed to sit on the Board of LNLA. These are larger donations but the small donations to local schools, churches and charities for the poor are too many to mention.

Doyle leads his team with grace. His managers have all been with Landscape for over 19 years and a few have been with him for closer to 30 years. His generosity and understanding of the time needed to be with family is like none other. He is known for saying "take care of your family" or "enjoy time with your family". He treats his team as family and is deeply concerned with their well-being. All his managers know and understand how rare this is in today's workplace.

Doyle insists on quality and fairness. Customer retention and growth is largely due to the quality of work that Landscape Management provides. Doyle strives to keep consistent quality while growing the business at the same time (not an easy task). Landscape Management treats its customers and employees fair with competitive wages and pricing.

Landscape Management Services has received numerous awards over the years. Landscape Management has been awarded "The Top 50 Locally Owned Business" in the landscape industry every year since 2014. Landscape Management has also been awarded "The People's Choice" award each year since 2020 in both Garden Center category and Landscape company. Landscape Management has also been awarded the "Best of SWLA" Best Landscape Company from 2020 – 2024.

Doyle's character is the main reason for the growth and success of Landscape Management. I can think of no one more deserving of An Achievement Award.

Please welcome me in honoring  
**Doyle Pennick, Landscape Management Services, Lake Charles as the  
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# YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Our recipient of the Young Professional of the Year grew up in central Maryland. He worked for a local landscape contractor building patios, decks, French drains, landscape lighting and more. This encouraged his interest in the landscape / horticulture field, so he decided to attend Penn State University and pursue a BS degree in landscape contracting.

At Penn State, he took a wide range of undergraduate courses in the horticulture, landscape and agriculture fields. In the summer months, he worked for a well known commercial landscape contractor back home in Maryland.

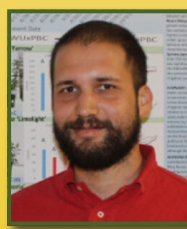
After completion of his BS degree work, a decision was made to go to Michigan State University to work on a Ph.D. Degree. His research there focused on water management in nursery crops. He graduated in 2020.

Our award winner is now at LSU where his research and extension goals include water management systems, site management challenges, pesticide/fertilizer use and management and improving plant quality in the landscape. He has fostered a great relationship with the landscape industry here in Louisiana and across the SE. He writes for the LNLA newsletter, extension service newsletters, regional and national landscape magazines and more. He is advising graduate students and has worked to improve the presence of horticulture students at the LSU AgCenter in Hammond. Many partnerships have been formed with fellow LSU and LSU AgCenter faculty. Most recently, our recipient was presented with the coveted Henry Covington Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science's Southern Region - this is an award for the most outstanding young



extension faculty member in the Southern region.

We are proud to recognize Dr. Damon Abdi, assistant professor of horticulture at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, as the LNLA Young Professional of the Year.



**Damon E. Abdi, PhD,**  
Assistant Professor  
& Extension Specialist,  
LSU AgCenter  
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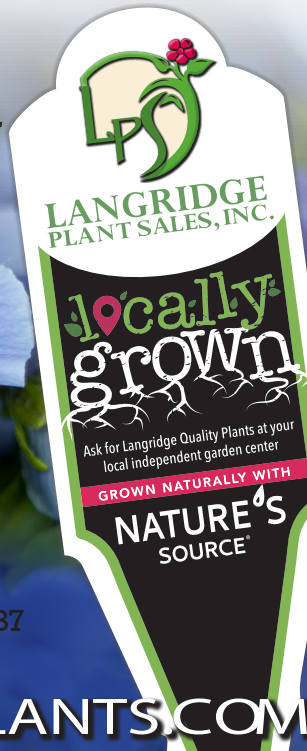
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# THE FUTURE EFFECTS OF CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION (CCS) ON LOUISIANA'S NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY

By Reneé Savant

Louisiana's nursery and landscape industry is deeply rooted in our state's unique natural environment. From lush gardens to expansive tree farms, our industry thrives on healthy land, clean water, and stable property rights. However, the rapid expansion of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects across the state presents significant concerns that every member of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA) should be aware of.

While some might assume CCS only affects industrial sites or rural farmland, the reality is that these projects could have far-reaching consequences for landowners, businesses, and communities—including those involved in the nursery and landscaping sectors.

## How CCS Could Impact Our Industry

### 1. Land Use Restrictions & Eminent Domain

CCS projects require large underground storage sites for captured CO<sub>2</sub>. These sites are often located beneath private and agricultural lands, including those used for nurseries, tree farms, and landscape businesses. Under current eminent domain laws, companies can force landowners to allow these projects without full consent or fair compensation. This means that even if your land is currently unaffected, future projects could expand, putting your property rights at risk.

### 2. Environmental & Water Contamination Risks

Many CCS injection wells are being permitted near vital water sources, including the Chicot Aquifer, which supplies water to millions of Louisianans. If CO<sub>2</sub> storage leaks or interacts with underground minerals, it could lead to soil degradation, groundwater contamination, and unforeseen environmental consequences—all of which could negatively affect plant growth, soil health, and long-term business sustainability for those in the nursery and landscaping industry.

### 3. Reduced Property Values & Business Uncertainty

When CCS projects move into an area, land values can plummet, creating economic instability for property owners and business operators. Landscapers, tree farmers, and nurseries depend on stable, healthy land for long-term operations. If future buyers avoid areas with underground CO<sub>2</sub> storage, how will that impact your business investments?

## Why Your Voice Matters – Support Legislative Action

Even if CCS is not yet in your district, this is a statewide issue. Several Louisiana legislators are carrying bills in the 2025 legislative session to reinstate landowner rights and ensure public voting on CCS projects. Two of the most critical bills are:

- HB4 – The Right to Vote on CCS Projects

This bill, introduced by Representative Charles “Chuck” Owens, seeks to give local communities the right to vote on whether CCS projects can move forward in their parishes. Currently, decisions are being made without citizen input.

- Eminent Domain Protection

Several legislators are working to restrict eminent domain abuse by CCS corporations. Without these protections, corporations can take private land for CO<sub>2</sub> storage, forcing business owners to give up control over their properties.

## Take Action – Protect Your Industry and Future

The Louisiana CO<sub>2</sub> Alliance is a grassroots organization dedicated to educating, organizing, and advocating for landowners, business owners, and communities affected by CCS projects. We are working directly with legislators to ensure that Louisianans have a voice in this fight.

- Join the movement today: Louisiana CO<sub>2</sub> Alliance ([www.louisianaco2alliance.org](http://www.louisianaco2alliance.org))
- Call your state representatives and senators and ask them to support HB4 and eminent domain protections.
- Spread the word—CCS affects more than just farmland and industry. It affects the future of Louisiana's landscape, environment, and economy.

Together, we can ensure that Louisiana's land remains in the hands of its people—not corporations. Let's protect our industry, our livelihoods, and our future.







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# 2025 LNLFSR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The LNLFSR Scholarship Committee received 15 applications from highly qualified students for this round of scholarship reviews. We selected the following winners for six named scholarships based on their academic achievements, dedication to serving the industry, and engagement with local communities. We believe that these students will make a positive impact and contribute to the Louisiana horticultural industries and communities.

## FORET/MEADOWS/OWINGS SCHOLARSHIP - ZACHARY M. DAVIS.

Zach Davis graduated from St. Paul's Highschool in May 2015. Currently, he is a Ph.D. student at Louisiana State University, dedicated to advancing nursery and landscape practices through scientific research. His work focuses on optimizing planting dates and evaluating the growth

performance of blackberry and raspberry cultivars to support Louisiana growers facing climate challenges. Beyond research, Zachary teaches multiple horticulture courses and manages LSU's teaching farm, bringing hands-on learning to students. With a 3.92 GPA and presentations at

ASHS conferences, he bridges academic research with practical applications. Passionate about industry innovation, he aims to enhance nursery productivity and sustainability through evidence-based recommendations for Louisiana's horticultural community.

## IRA NELSON SCHOLARSHIP - CHANDLER BOUDREAUX

Chandler Boudreaux graduated from Northshore Highschool in 2020. He is a passionate horticulturist and undergraduate student at Louisiana State University, where he serves as the president of the Horticulture Club. His leadership has revitalized the Hill Farm greenhouse and expanded native plant initiatives, including educational gardens at local schools. Chandler also works in the LSU Wheat and Oat Breeding Lab, contributing to plant breeding research and field trials. With a deep commitment to horticultural education and sustainability, he actively engages in hands-on learning, outreach, and research. His journey—from early gardening experiences to advanced agricultural studies—reflects his dedication to fostering growth in both plants and communities.



## MARGIE JENKINS SCHOLARSHIP - ALLAN JEANDRON

Allan Jeandron is a native of New Orleans and graduated from Jesuit High School in 2021. He is currently a Plant, Environment, and Soil Sciences major at Louisiana State University, specializing in medicinal plants. With a passion for ornamental and functional horticulture, he actively engages in research, including tea cultivation and container production. Allan applies his skills through hands-on work at LSU's Hill Farm and the medicinal plant demonstration garden.

As treasurer of the Horticulture Club, he assists student engagement and learning in plant sciences. Committed to sustainability and community education, Allan aims to promote medicinal ornamentals in landscaping and sustainable agriculture. His dedication to research, leadership, and industry service positions him as a promising future horticulturist.



*Allan with Dr. Allen Owings*

## LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP - ALLEN SINGLETARY



*Pictured are Dr. Yan Chen & LIA Exec. Director, Dan Johnson*

Allen is a Baton Rouge native and graduated from Episcopal High School in 2015. Allen was a senior undergraduate student at Louisiana State University at the time of this application, majoring in Plant and Soil Systems, and is currently working at the LSU AgCenter Burden Botanic Gardens. With a passion for horticulture, he has gained hands-on experience through research at Burden and work in nurseries, landscaping, and agricultural studies. Allen actively contributed to several research projects, and his dedication to industry service, leadership, and continuous learning positions him as a future leader in Louisiana's nursery and landscape sector. Allen aspires to further his expertise through certifications and advanced education, ensuring meaningful contributions to horticultural innovation.

## SAM PERINO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - BRIANNA SLADE



*Pictured are Peter, Buddy, & Megan Perino with Dr. Damon Abdi*

Brianna is a native of Ponchatoula and a dedicated horticulture student with a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Systems from Louisiana State University. Since 2020, she has gained extensive experience through hands-on nursery work, undergraduate research on sustainable plant health, and an internship at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. She has presented at the Southern Region ASHS Conference and is actively involved in Louisiana's horticulture community. Brianna will continue her studies as a graduate student under Dr. Damon Abdi, focusing on water management in Louisiana landscapes. Passionate about sustainability and innovation, she is committed to advancing the state's green industry.

## PETE NEWTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - CHRISTOS BAOS- ALLEN SINGLETARY



*Pictured are Carol Newton, Rusty & Kathy Ruckstuhl*

Christos Baos, originally from Greece, is a licensed Architectural Engineer and graduate student in Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University. With a background in environmental planning and design, he has contributed to projects like the Port Fourchon sustainability plan and Louisiana Sea Grant's coastal restoration efforts. His research explores strategic green planning for vulnerable communities, focusing on wetlands and oxbow lake ecosystems. A dedicated TA and researcher, he actively engages in academic and fieldwork, blending design expertise with ecological solutions. Christos plans to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental planning, aiming to develop resilient, sustainable landscapes for communities affected by climate change.





## LANDSCAPE DESIGN SKETCHBOOK

### A New Chapter

Eric R. McQuiston, PLA

Greetings to all my fellow green industry professionals! work.

My name is Eric McQuiston, and I'm both excited and humbled to take on the opportunity to write this column for the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA). For years, Buck Abbey has been a guiding voice in our industry, offering wisdom, insight, and leadership. As he steps into a well-earned semi-retirement, I've been invited to continue the conversation he started. Let me just say—I know I have big shoes to fill! Buck's thoughtful and insightful columns have been a staple for many of us, and following in his footsteps is no small task. But I'll do my best to bring my own perspective and experience to the table while honoring the incredible work he's done.

For those of you who don't know me, let me share a bit about my background. I've spent more than 30 years in the green industry. I am an LSU graduate, a licensed landscape architect, horticulturist, and environmental designer. Along the way, I've worked as a landscape and irrigation contractor, a Master Gardener, and even a Realtor. Before all that, I served in the U.S. Coast Guard, an experience that shaped my approach to discipline, problem-solving, and adaptability—traits that have come in handy in this field! My career has taken me from large-scale municipal master plans and casino resorts to small, intimate residential courtyards. Most of my work has been in design/build, where I've had the privilege of seeing ideas take shape—from a sketch on paper to a thriving, functional landscape.

But my journey in this industry didn't happen in a vacuum. Like many of you, I had mentors who guided my path, and one of the most influential was Buck Abbey himself. Buck was one of my professors at LSU, and I can still hear his calm, steady voice in my head whenever I'm faced with a particularly tough challenge. Buck's patience, kindness, and unwavering belief in his students taught me lessons far beyond the classroom—lessons I carry with me every day in my

As I take on this column, my goal is to share insights that are both practical and thought-provoking. This industry has given me so much over the years, and I see this as a chance to give something back. LNLA has been an incredible resource throughout my career—a place to learn, connect, and grow. Watching it evolve from a humble trade group into a powerful advocate for our industry has been inspiring, and I wish to contribute to that momentum.

One area that interests me is the opportunity for collaboration. Whether you're a researcher, grower, retailer, contractor, or designer, we all play a role in shaping the landscapes around us. Yet, too often, we work in silos, focusing on our individual pieces of the puzzle without fully appreciating how interconnected we are. The research coming out of universities directly impacts the plants we grow, the products we sell, and the landscapes we design. In turn, the work we do on the ground provides valuable insights to researchers, creating a continuous feedback loop that strengthens our industry. By highlighting these connections, I hope to foster a sense of shared purpose and collaboration.

Of course, with great opportunities come great challenges. One of the biggest I see is staying ahead of the curve. Technology is advancing faster than ever, with artificial intelligence, automation, and data-driven tools transforming how we work. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by these rapid changes. How do we adapt? How do we ensure that we remain relevant in a world that's constantly shifting? These are the kinds of questions I hope to explore in this column. I believe that by embracing innovation while staying true to our roots, we can not only survive these changes but thrive within them.

At the same time, we can't lose sight of what makes our industry unique. While technology can help us work smarter, it can't replace the creativity, intuition, and passion that drive so many of us. A computer might be able to suggest the best layout for a garden



based on sunlight and soil, but it can't capture the feeling of walking through that garden or the joy it brings to the people who experience it. That's where we come in. As professionals, we have the ability to blend the best of both worlds—using technology to inform our decisions while staying grounded in the artistry and human connection that make this work so rewarding.

I'd love to hear from you as I embark on this new chapter. What challenges are you facing? What innovations are you excited about? What topics would you like to see covered in this column? Your insights and ideas are invaluable, and I'm eager to make this a space for conversation and collaboration.

As we look to the future, I believe the green industry is on the cusp of something truly

transformative. Yes, there will be challenges, but there will also be incredible opportunities for those of us willing to adapt, innovate, and work together. I'm excited to explore these possibilities with you and to be part of this journey with LNLA.

Thanks for welcoming me into this role—I can't wait to see where it takes us!

Talk soon,

~ Eric

Got ideas or suggestions? Feel free to reach out—I'd love to hear from you!

[ermcquiston@gmail.com](mailto:ermcquiston@gmail.com)

## Certified Nursery & Landscape Professionals

Congratulations to our newest CNLP recipients!

These individuals scored higher than a 70 on all five (5) sections of LNLA's Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional examination.

Sarah Balentine, Edge Form (Baton Rouge)  
Grace Buchanan (Madisonville)  
Troy Whitfield, Audubon Nature Institute (New Orleans)

Obtaining this prestigious certification sets you above and beyond your competition!

Certification is not required to conduct business as a landscaper however a Landscape Horticulture license issued by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is. The CNLP manual review is a great study guide for those looking to obtain this license.

Our next manual review and certification exam will be July 8-9 at Ira Nelson Hort Center in Lafayette.  
For more information visit [LNLA.org](http://LNLA.org).



# WATER MOVEMENT: SUBSURFACE VS. SURFACE POND OXYGENATION

By M.P. Hayes, PhD, Assistant Professor of Agricultural & Industrial Water Quality

Dissolved oxygen is a driver of pond health and vital to the surrounding ecosystems. The aquatic life in a pond can be drastically reduced or stressed in the event of low dissolved oxygen. In most cases, photosynthesis from aquatic plants is the primary source of dissolved oxygen in the water column. Ponds that do not have this natural flora can use mechanical operations like subsurface aeration or fountains to help promote oxygen in the water, but each has its benefits.

Subsurface pond aeration or “circulate” can come from a diffusion system that uses air compressors to pump air into the bottom of the pond. The air then bubbles up to the surfaces creating a current of water that lifts low-oxygen water from the bottom to the top. This results in the mixing of layers (up to 5 feet in depth) and prevents stratification in the pond. These systems typically use less energy and are easier to install compared to alternative methods. The water circulation technique oxygenates a larger volume of water making it a better habitat for fish and plants. Though existing aquatic weeds will not be impacted, the bubbling effect can reduce the risk of blue-green algae, which thrives in stagnant water. While these systems provide habitat benefits, there are



concerns about using them in shallow water systems where the bubbling may impact the shoreline causing erosion. Additionally, they do not provide the same aesthetics as fountains and require periodic maintenance due to the potential exposure to sediments and mud at the bottom of the pond.



Pond fountains are a staple for most settings due to their aesthetics and capability to oxygenate water from the surface. In most cases, surface fountains are the least efficient way of oxygenating the pond depth profiles and have a minimal effect on stratification. These systems generally draw surface water that is already oxygenated promoting a habitat benefit up to 2 feet in depth. These units come in a variety of sizes and are deployed for aesthetic functions. Another benefit of fountain features is the dispersion of water around the surface of the pond creating turbulent water which reduces the impact of mosquitoes and algae growth. A disadvantage of these units is an increase in energy consumption and maintenance requirement for clogging if the pond has high levels of sediments or aquatic vegetation. Additionally, only oxygenating the surface water level limits habitat growth and concentrations of fish populations. To increase the oxygenation potential of a fountain, water can be circulated from deep in the pond using a higher-pressure pump or extended tubing.

Each pond has different dimensions, water depths, and natural fauna, therefore it is best to think about your entire ecosystem before deciding on the best aeration practices. It is important to note that pond turnover, or the natural vertical movement of water with different temperatures, typically occurs during the cooler months in fall and spring. In the summer, dissolved oxygen levels must be monitored to ensure you don't create a “man-made” turnover in your pond. Overall, there are many ways to increase the dissolved oxygen in your pond to create a healthy, balanced ecosystem. For more information, check on the LSU AgCenter “[Think Downstream Series](#)” for tips on managing dissolved oxygen or email [mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu).



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# SOIL SAMPLING: THE FOUNDATION OF RELIABLE SOIL TESTING RESULTS

By Leandro O. Vieira II, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Soil Fertility Specialist, LSU AgCenter

Sometimes, we spend a considerable amount of time thinking about where to send our soil samples for analysis, but we often overlook the quality of the soil sample itself. Most private and public certified soil testing laboratories have extensively trained personnel, proper equipment, and research-proven protocols to conduct soil analysis. Ultimately, how we perform soil sampling will dictate how accurately the soil test report reflects our soil's fertility. To ensure reliable results, consider the following guidelines during the soil sampling process:

**Take a representative soil sample:** A representative soil sample involves dividing the area to be sampled into smaller subareas based on different characteristics such as soil type, color, past management, and yield. The size of the area should also be considered, and a single composite sample should not cover more than 5 to 10 acres (Figure 1). Once the subareas are defined, collect 15 to 20 cores from each subarea.

**Collect at the proper soil depth:** The LSU AgCenter currently recommends collecting soil samples at a depth of 6 inches. A shallower sample (less than 6 inches) may overestimate the results in the soil testing report because the soil layer closer to the surface generally contains higher amounts of organic matter. This organic matter can supply nutrients to plants and retain applied nutrients from fertilizers in plant-available forms, preventing leaching or unavailability.

**Be mindful of timing:** Soil sampling is generally recommended in late fall or winter for most crops. However, the most important criterion is to collect samples at the same time each year (or every 2-4 years). This consistency allows for fair comparisons of nutrient levels and excludes fluctuations due to active plant growth.

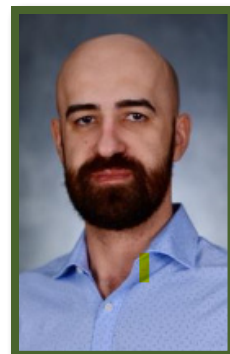
**Avoid contamination:** Simple actions, such as using clean buckets, can significantly impact the results shown in your soil testing report. Mixing soil samples in dirty buckets, especially those previously used for fertilizers, minerals, or feed, can overestimate the results.

**Properly handle and label your samples:** Use clean buckets or bags and properly label each sample. Labeling with the field name, farm name, location, date, depth of sampling, previous crop, and the crop to be cultivated helps track the sample's origin. Submit the samples promptly to the soil testing lab for routine analysis. Keeping records of how the area was divided into subareas can also be helpful for future samplings.

**Do not dry your samples:** Never dry your samples in an oven. While soil samples are dried at the Soil Testing Lab, they are dried at low temperatures (below 140°F) for an extended period (24 to 72 hours). Drying samples at temperatures

above 140°F (60°C) can cause chemical reactions that alter the amounts of plant-available nutrients, rendering the samples unusable.

**Figure 1.** Soil characteristics can greatly vary within a relatively small area. Soil samples from this picture were collected within an area of 40 acres.



Finally, when choosing a lab, consider the following criteria:

**Send your soil to the same laboratory each year:** Even though properly selected certified Soil Testing Labs have similar procedures, slight differences in sample handling may yield different results. Consistently using the same lab makes it easier to track old reports.

**Ensure the laboratory uses Mehlich-3 methodology:** Mehlich-3 is the standard nutrient extraction method for which Louisiana recommendations were developed. Using a different extractant will not allow for proper fertilizer and lime recommendations for that area. Different extractants are developed for different regions based on soil characteristics, and Mehlich-3 is the one that better represents plant available nutrients for Louisiana soils.

The LSU AgCenter Soil Testing Lab, located at 125 M.B. Sturgis Hall on the main campus in Baton Rouge, provides soil analyses and interpretation for a small fee. Take advantage of soil testing to ensure your plants thrive. More information can be found at [https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our\\_offices/departments/spess/servicelabs/soil\\_testing\\_lab](https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/spess/servicelabs/soil_testing_lab).

# REVOLUTIONIZING TURF INSTALLATION: THE BENEFITS OF EN-PLAST TECHNOLOGIES ROCK-IN-ROLL ARTIFICIAL TURF PADDING

By Matt Griffin, En-Plast Tecnology (832-347-9510)

In the ever-evolving world of landscaping and sports field installation efficiency and quality are key drivers of success. As contractors strive to optimize their processes and minimize costs, En-Plast Technology and its groundbreaking Rock-In Roll Artificial Turf Padding are making a significant impact. By enhancing installation speed while delivering superior performance, this cutting-edge solution is transforming how artificial turf is installed.

## Who is En-Plast Technology?

En-Plast Technology based in Houston Texas is a modern advancement company manufacturing and fabrication of durable, lightweight, and eco-friendly products for various applications, including artificial turf, and Porcelain tile systems. This technology utilizes advanced polymer composites designed to withstand varying weather conditions while providing exceptional support and comfort. With an emphasis on sustainability, En-Plast products are not only designed for high performance but have also been developed using 100% recycled materials.

## Introducing Rock-In-Roll Artificial Turf Padding



The Artificial Turf Padding is an integral product developed through En-Plast Technology. It serves as an underlayment for synthetic turf surfaces, providing crucial cushioning and protection that enhances the overall experience for athletes, and for residential homeowners that are looking for a more natural feel, just as if you were walking on real turf grass. By integrating advanced materials and structures, the Rock-In-Roll padding offers several key benefits that set it apart from conventional options.

## Benefits of Rock-In-Roll Artificial Turf Padding

**Reduced Installation cost.**

One of the standouts features of the Rock-In-Roll padding is its lightweight construction and modular design, which streamlines the installation process. Traditional padding options can be cumbersome and require extensive labor to handle and lay out in the field. However, the Rock-In-Roll padding's



optimized design allows for quick handling and easy placement, reducing the overall time for installation by up to 35%. For contractors, this means they can take on more projects and improve revenue streams, while increasing sales based on the speed of installation.

## Cost Savings for Contractors

With reduced installation time comes reduced labor costs. By simplifying the installation process, contractors can save on hourly labor expenses, making projects more profitable. Additionally, the durability of the Rock-In-Roll padding minimizes the risk of future repairs and associated costs, providing long-term savings for both contractors and end-users.

## Enhanced Performance

The Rock-In-Roll padding is engineered to provide optimal shock absorption and comfort, critical for athletic performance and reducing the risk of injuries. Athletes benefit from a cushioned surface that supports agility and reduces fatigue, allowing them to perform at their best while minimizing injuries associated with hard surfaces.

## Sustainability

En-Plast Technology is committed to sustainability, and the Rock-In-Roll padding reflects this philosophy. Made from recyclable materials, the padding contributes to environmental efforts while meeting performance needs. As eco-friendliness becomes a significant concern in the construction industry, this approach makes Rock-in-Roll an attractive option for contractors looking to align with sustainable practices.

## Compatibility with Various Turf Systems

The padding is designed to be versatile and compatible with a range of artificial turf systems and applications. Whether it's for sports fields, playgrounds, or landscaping, Rock-In-Roll

Continued...



# REVOLUTIONIZING TURF INSTALLATION: THE BENEFITS OF EN-PLAST TECHNOLOGIES ROCK-IN-ROLL ARTIFICIAL TURF PADDING

seamlessly integrates into existing installations, making it a go-to choice for diverse projects.

## Improved Drainage

Another advantage of the Rock-In-Roll padding is its innovative design that promotes better drainage. Proper drainage is crucial in all southern states in prolonging the lifespan of turf systems by preventing water pooling and associated issues. Rock-in-Roll installation will also take place of up to 66% of the aggregate base materials need for any turf installation. This drain matting will take place of up to 6" of aggregate base materials. Rock-in-Rolls padding's structure encourages efficient water flow, which is needed for maintaining turf quality over time.

The introduction of En-Plast Technology and the Rock-In-Roll Artificial Turf Padding is a significant advancement in the artificial turf installation landscape. By streamlining installation processes, reducing costs, enhancing performance, and promoting sustainability, contractors are provided with the tools they need to succeed in a competitive market.

As the demand for high-quality synthetic turf continues to grow, embracing innovations like the Rock-in-roll padding will be essential for contractors aiming to deliver exceptional results while optimizing their operations. With its promise of efficiency and performance, the future of artificial turf installations looks brighter than ever.



## NEW LSHS HONORARY MEMBERS

Congratulations to two new honorary members of the Louisiana State Horticulture Society for 2025. Tom Fennell, owner Clegg's Nursery in BR (awarded presented by board member Ed Bush). Also, Jim Lastrapes (posthumously, owner Lastrapes Garden Center). We appreciate the many years of horticulture contributions to Louisiana that these gentlemen have made.







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# IRON FERTILIZATION

## ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST GREEN FOR YOUR BUCK?

By Eric DeBoer, PhD Assistant Professor – Turfgrass Management

When it comes to turfgrass quality and dark green color, there are probably two nutrients that come to mind: nitrogen (N) and iron (Fe). Nitrogen will always be king when it comes to turfgrass fertilization. However, N is not always the best choice for every situation. Here's why:

Nitrogen is a macronutrient that is a major component of chlorophyll (our dark green pigment) and is also required for amino acid, protein, and enzyme synthesis. These processes drive turfgrass cell division and expansion, resulting in flushes of growth after N fertilization. This vegetative growth stimulation is often at the expense of root growth (adequate N is still necessary for proper root growth, too). When N is readily available in high amounts, plants often allocate more resources toward above-ground biomass, leading to rapid shoot elongation and leaf expansion. Additionally, applying N too early in the spring can encourage excessive shoot growth, producing tender, succulent tissue that is highly susceptible to late-season frost damage. In the fall, promoting succulent tissue growth as the turfgrass plant should be preparing for winter dormancy can also cause a whole host of other issues we won't discuss in this article. Here's where Fe comes in, providing a boost of green color without stimulating excessive growth.

Iron is a micronutrient, and it mainly functions as a cofactor in chlorophyll synthesis and electron transport (look up Ferredoxin). This means that for chlorophyll to be synthesized and for a range of metabolic processes in the plant, Fe must be available in adequate supply. Iron does not directly contribute to amino acid production and, therefore, doesn't contribute to flushes of growth like N. Just like not all N fertilizers are the same, not all Fe fertilizers are created equal. Additionally, how they're applied plays a significant role in their efficacy or ability to produce a greening response on turf. The issue with Fe fertilization is that granular- and liquid-applied sources of non-chelated Fe quickly become unavailable to the plant once incorporated into the soil. This effect is most pronounced in high-pH soils (basic), but even in soils below a pH of 7 (neutral to acidic), non-chelated Fe can quickly become unavailable as it is converted into insoluble forms, such as Fe oxides and hydroxides.

**Soil Reaction: Applied Fe 3+ + 3H<sub>2</sub>O = Precipitated Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub> + 3H<sup>+</sup>**  
In fact, Shaddox et al. (2019) showed that the vast majority of Fe-fertilizers available in the turf market become essentially completely unavailable in the soil in under 1 hour, depending on the degree of soil acidity (Fig. 1).

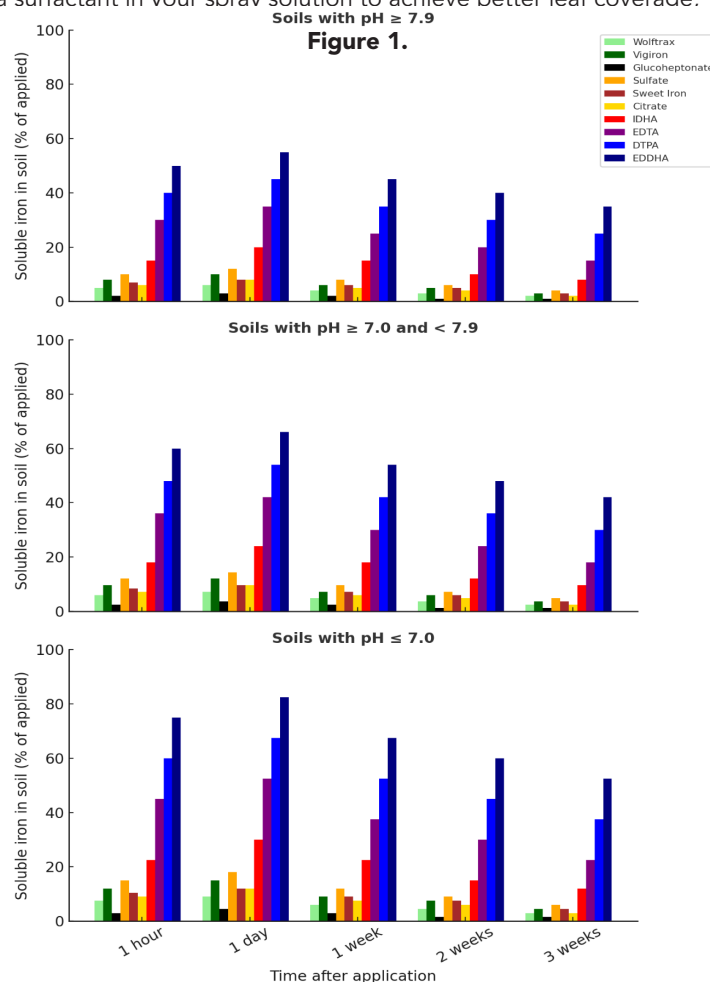
**Fig. 1. Graph** from Shaddox et al. (2019) showing how quickly Fe forms become unavailable to turf when applied to the soil. For reference, Wolftrax is Fe-oxide, Vigiron is Fe-humate, and sweet iron is Fe-polysaccharide.

Figure 1 clearly shows that the only forms of Fe that remain in soil solution for any meaningful amount of time are Fe chelates, like Fe-EDTA, Fe-DTPA, and Fe-EDDHA. These forms can be pretty costly to apply on a large scale. If you don't want to spend money on expensive forms of chelated Fe, you can circumvent the soil Fe-oxidation processes altogether and apply foliar Fe directly to the plant leaf.

Iron source becomes a non-issue when applied directly to the leaf surface as a foliar spray. In turfgrass response studies conducted between 2014 and 2018 by the same authors, the foliar application of Fe resulted in the same greening response between Fe sources regardless of whether the Fe was chelated or not. The authors consistently observed no effect on turfgrass color from soil-applied

Fe, but that same form of Fe applied as a foliar spray resulted in a greening effect.

In order to make the most of your foliar Fe applications, use a carrier volume of less than 2 gal / 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (1 gal / 1000 is ideal) and target a rate of 2-4 oz. of Ferrous Sulfate (~37% Fe) / 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> of turf or about the equivalent of less than 0.05 lbs of actual Fe / 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Remember that if foliar-applied iron gets washed off the leaf and into the soil, oxidation will occur, as previously discussed. Make sure to allow plenty of time for plant absorption of the Fe before irrigation or rain washes it off the leaf surface. Use a surfactant in your spray solution to achieve better leaf coverage.



and do not tank mix with phosphorus. Please reach out to discuss this further.

LSU AgCenter  
edeboer@agcenter.lsu.edu  
225.578.1029

Source: Shaddox, T. W., Fu, H., Gardner, D. S., Goss, R. M., Guertal, E. A., Kreuser, W. C., Miller, G. L., Stewart, B. R., Tang, K., & Unruh, J. B. (2019). Solubility of soil-applied iron: Soil-applied iron can be an effective fertilizer for turf if chelated iron sources are used and the soil has the proper pH. *Golf Course Management*, 87(8), 65-71.



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# LARGE PATCH IN LOUISIANA LAWNS

By Dr. Raj Singh, Professor & Horticulture Pathology Extension Specialist,  
Director of Plant Diagnostic Center, Department of Plant Pathology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge



Figure 1: Early symptoms of large patch.

Large patch (formerly called brown patch) is the most common disease of lawns in Louisiana. The disease can occur on all warm season turfgrasses, but is particularly prevalent on St. Augustine grass. Symptoms appear as yellow, circular or irregular shaped patches of disease that can become quite extensive. As the disease develops, large areas of turf appear brown as smaller patches coalesce. Affected St. Augustine grass exhibits a yellowish cast at the leading edge of the patch, whereas centipede grass shows a reddish cast. The pathogen does not kill the grass but rather cause a rot at the base of the leaf sheaths resulting in easy separation of leaves from the crown of the plant.

Large patch is caused by a soil-borne fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*. Optimal conditions for disease development occur when nighttime temperatures range from 60-75 degrees and daytime temperatures do not exceed 85-90 degrees. It is important to remember, however, that disease can still develop when conditions are less than optimal. Although we usually think of large patch as being a disease of the fall, it also develops quite often in the spring. Free water on foliage is required for disease to develop. The disease spreads rapidly on lawns with poor air circulation.

One way to reduce disease incidence and accelerate turfgrass recovery is to maintain a healthy lawn through balanced fertilization and irrigation and regular mowing. Never apply more than 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet for an application, and always follow soil test recommendations for proper fertility. Large patch symptoms are exacerbated with excess nitrogen application. Slow-release fertilizers with a balanced amount of nitrogen and potassium are recommended. Irrigate lawns as early as possible in the morning while taking rainfall into account. Water deeply and as infrequently as possible without causing drought stress. Improve internal soil drainage and reduce compaction by aerating the lawn regularly. Minimize the amount of shade and improve air circulation over the lawn. Raising mowing height will help the turfgrass to recover. Do not mow lawns when wet and mow diseased areas last because disease may spread to healthy areas with infected grass clippings. Cleaning lawn mowers to remove

grass clippings may help reduce the spread of the disease. Excessive thatch can negatively affect turfgrass growth and provide a suitable environment for the pathogen. Dethatching may be necessary to improve turfgrass growth.

In addition to cultural practices, fungicide applications may be required to achieve effective disease management. When using fungicides, always remember to follow the label rates and frequency of application.

Fungicides containing active ingredients such as azoxystrobin, myclobutanil, propiconazole or triadimefon may be used to manage large patch. At least two fungicide applications are recommended, the first being mid- to late September and the second in mid-to late October. Additional applications may be required in November and December during frequent rainy and cooler weather. In areas where large patch is known to have occurred previously, an application of a fungicide in mid-March at "green-up" is also advisable. Again, during extended period of cool, wet weather in the spring, additional fungicide applications may be necessary. If you help need diagnose your lawn problems, please contact LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center at 225-578-4562 or email [rsingh@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rsingh@agcenter.lsu.edu)



Figure 2: St. Augustine lawn severely infected with large patch.

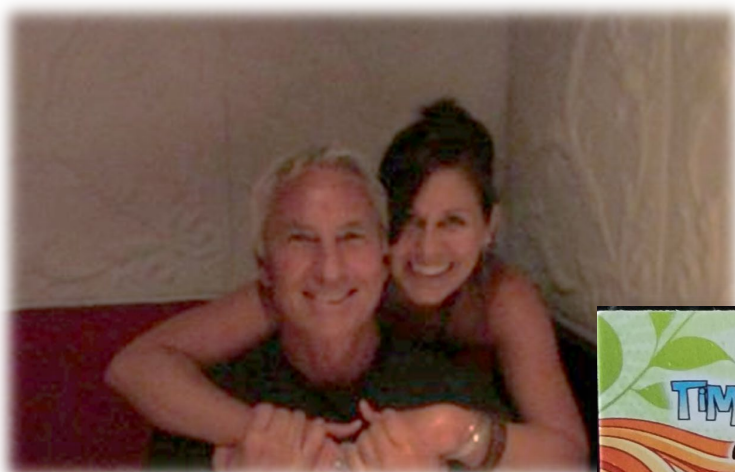




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# A FEW WORDS OF THANKS

At the LNLA Annual Meeting on February 27th at the Hammond Research Station, I was looking forward to reconnecting with our industry members from across the state. The winter weather that wreaked havoc along the coast causing the Gulf States Hort Expo to be canceled was replaced with pleasant weather as we hosted the delayed annual meeting on my home turf. I had fully expected a great turnout for this event as the week preceding was filled with educational events, and the day following was slated for the hands-on fireplace workshop. Combined with the busy events of the morning's landscape Education Day, I had full expectations of new and long-standing landscape and nursery professionals pouring into Hammond and attending our meeting. What I did not anticipate, however, was the absolute outpouring of support from everyone. The LNLA (as a whole, and as individuals) have supported me in all my endeavors, and to hear it vocalized to the extent it was at the meeting was incredibly appreciated. I am beyond blessed to have received the 2025 Young Professional Award from the LNLA.

The award exemplifies efforts to recognize "outstanding service and dedication to Louisiana's nursery and landscape industry", and over my nearly four years in my position I am proud of the accomplishments to date, including the many presentations, articles, research projects, and extension resources that I have worked on, many of them directly with

LNLA members. But far more important than professional outputs and metrics is the personal growth and connections I have built in my extension career. I have the privilege of working with an amazing group of people, and as much as I would like to think I serve y'all, you have done the same for me. I have been fortunate to learn so much from many of you, strengthening me professionally and personally through your mentorship and friendship. I am proud of the program I have grown with your help, and my personal growth towards becoming someone who can better carry out His vision in being of service to others.

Knowing that my efforts make a difference to the men and women throughout the state of Louisiana means the world to me. I put all my effort into supporting you and your businesses in anyway possible, and to receive this honor further validates what I know from each of you individually – you care. For that I am truly grateful. I'd like to end this by calling attention to the fact that none of my successes could come without a great team – to everyone at the Hammond Station, AgCenter, LNLA board and individual members, and especially Cari Jane, I am incredibly grateful for all your support. Know that I appreciate YOU and look forward to building upon our successes together.

Thank you!

*Dr. Damon Abdii*

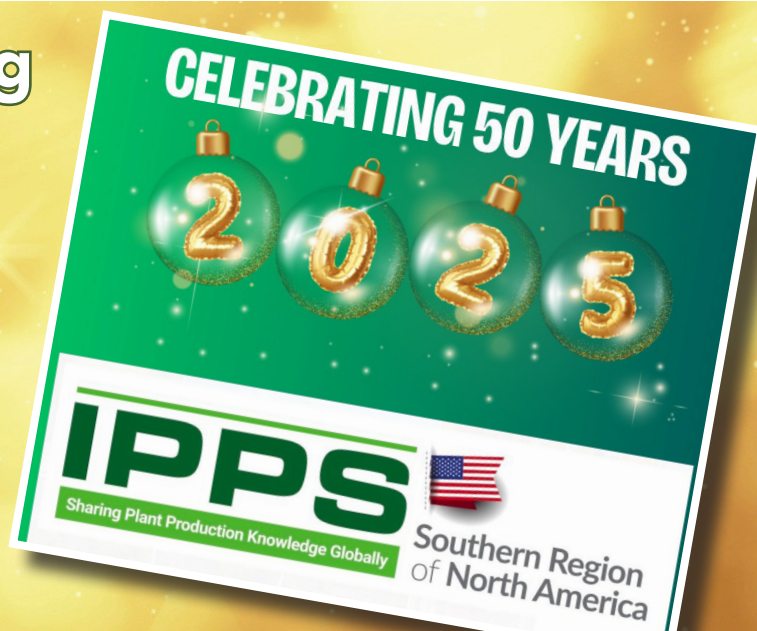
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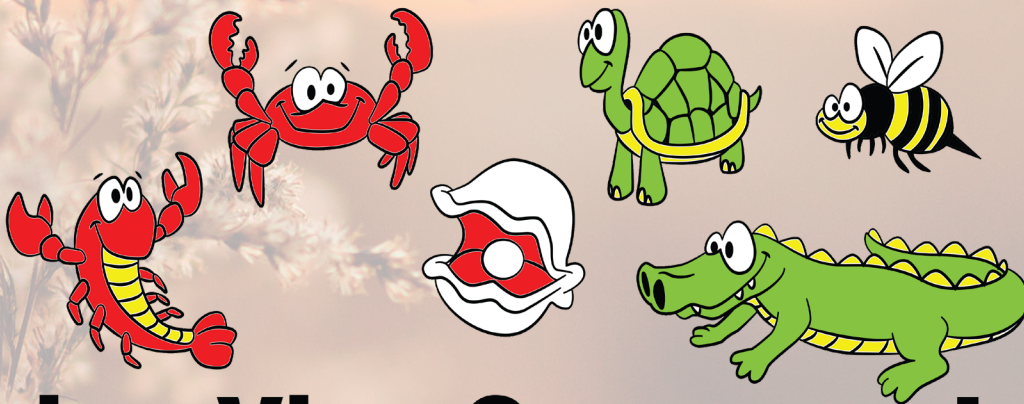
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Dusty Miller

## 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  
Evolvulus 'Blue Daze,' 'Blue My Mind'  
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  
Porterweed  
Salvia farinacea 'Evolution'

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Sunflower Suncredible®  
SunPatiens (compact varieties)  
Torenia – Kauai series  
Verbena 'Homestead Purple'  
Zinnia 'Zesty'

### 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 'Bubblgum'  
Viola – Sorbet series

### Shrubs

Althea 'Aphrodite'  
American Beautyberry,  
Azalea 'Conversation Piece'  
Blueberries – Rabbiteye  
Camellia 'Shishi Gashira'

Camellia 'Leslie Ann'  
Distylium 'Cinnamon Girl'  
Firebush 'Lime Sizzler'  
Gardenia 'Frostproof'  
Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'  
Hydrangea 'Penny Mac'  
Illicium 'Florida Sunshine'  
Muhly Grass  
Rose 'Belinda's Dream'  
Rose – Drift series  
Rose 'Peggy Martin'  
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*)  
Hybrid Magnolia 'Jane'  
Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora*)  
Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)  
Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

For more information, visit [LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants](http://LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants)



The Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association (SELNA) recently held our winter meeting at the Hammond Research Station where we received updates from the Station, LSU AgCenter and LNLA along with working on other association business. We finalized our plans for the annual Folsom Spring Garden Festival, which will be held

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Midway Church Park in downtown Folsom. The group also decided to make a donation to LNLA to help with expenses for the LNLA Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet taking place at the HRS on February 27<sup>th</sup>, we will also have a table with information about the association there as well. We will also be providing refreshments for the hardscapes workshop being presented by Dr. Damon Abdi on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the HRS. SELNA is in the process of updating our membership information and getting together a new brochure to make it easier for customers to find us, we hope to have that completed soon. The next SELNA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hammond Research Station.

## INCREASED CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOUISIANA IRRIGATORS



## LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION

The Louisiana Irrigation Association (LIA) is pleased to announce that there are more opportunities than ever for licensed irrigators to meet the state's continuing education requirements. As mandated by law, irrigators must complete recertification training every three years, and this year, LIA has made it easier to stay compliant with a variety of formats and dates.

In 2024, LIA hosted two in-person recertification classes, four virtual recertification classes, and one Irrigation Basics class. Our upcoming classes for the remainder of the year include the last virtual recertification session on December 18, 2024. For 2025, we've already scheduled eight recertification classes, including both in-person and virtual options, spread throughout the year.

In addition to our recertification offerings, we're excited to announce the launch of our OnDemand Irrigation Basics Class at the start of the new year. This new online class will allow

those interested in studying for the irrigation licensing exam to study at their own pace. It includes all the same content covered in our in-person Irrigation Basics class, making it a great option for those who prefer a flexible learning experience. Currently, we have five individuals testing the program and providing us with critical feedback to ensure we're meeting the needs of our future students. Access to the OnDemand class will be available on our website after the first of the new year.

For a full list of available recertification classes and to register, please visit our website at [geauxLIA.org](http://geauxLIA.org). The 2025 recertification class dates are:

January 15 • February 19 • March 19 • April 16  
May 14 • June 18 • October 16 • December 17

We encourage all licensed irrigators to take advantage of these offerings to stay up-to-date with the latest industry practices and maintain their certification.

## SUPPORT LOUISIANA'S GREEN INDUSTRY BY JOINING YOUR REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

Contact the following:

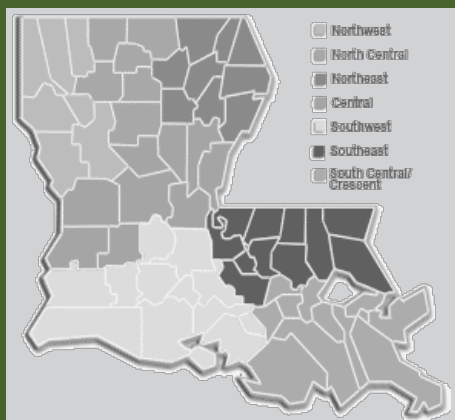
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CLNA: Myra Poole Maloney, President, 75 Nick Strange Road, LeCompte, LA 71346  
318-321-6046 • [myramaloney41@gmail.com](mailto:myramaloney41@gmail.com)

LIA: Dan Johnson, Executive Director • [geauxlia@gmail.com](mailto:geauxlia@gmail.com)

NOHS: Shaun Hebert • [nohs1885@gmail.com](mailto: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  
(p) 985.875.2635 • (f) 985.875.2639 • [www.selna.org](http://www.selna.org)





# In Memorandum



## Carol Brumfield

Carol Ann Butler was born to the late Reverend Nathaniel and Lolita Butler on August 28, 1948. She was born and raised in Madisonville, La. She attended Covington Rosenwald School and graduated in 1967.

Carol met Marshall Brumfield in 1966 and began a serious courtship. They married on April 5, 1968. To this union of 56 years, they were blessed with 4 children (2 daughters and 2 sons).

After the birth of their 2 daughters, the family moved to Sacramento, Ca. where they lived for 7 years. During that time, Carol graduated from a Licensed Practice Nursing School and worked as an LPN for Kaiser Sacramento Medical Center. After the birth of their 3rd child, the first son, they returned to Folsom, La. She began working at St. Tammany Parish Hospital as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). During this time, their 4th and final son came along. While working at St. Tammany Hospital, she became a Certified Phlebotomist and worked in that capacity for a short time. She retired from the hospital after approximately 20 years.

After her retirement, she was called to return to the workforce in a different capacity. Still in the position to care for others, she became a school bus driver for St. Tammany Parish Public Schools. She drove for approximately 10 years before retiring.

Carol loved the Lord and was a willing servant to be used whenever called. She gave her life to Christ at an early age. Her early church experience was at St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Madisonville, La. and later joined Midway Church of Christ Holiness, USA with her husband and growing family. The family moved to Sacramento, Ca. in 1970. While living in Sacramento, she joined St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church. She was active in various auxiliaries such as choir, and the Deaconess board. She also sung in a Sacramento Mass Choir. When she wasn't in church, she was active with a local bowling league.

After moving back to Folsom, La., she reunited with Midway Church. She was a member of the Deaconess Board, Christian Women Willing Workers II (CWWW II), the Adult and Senior Choir, Midway Church's adult drill team, Sunday School teacher, and she helped coordinate the summer vacation bible school programs.

Carol was an amazing wife and mother. God allowed His Angel to be a blessing to all who she encountered. She was a good and faithful servant until God called her home early Wednesday morning on December 12, 2024 at 12:05 a.m.

She is proceeded in death by her parents, Reverend Nathaniel and Lolita Butler, her sister Ms. Marguerite Thomas, and her bother Mr. John Baham.

She leaves to cherish her memories her devoted husband, Deacon Marshall Brumfield; her 4 children: Marcy Burrell of Franklinton, La., Shawn Williams of Folsom, La., Marshall, Jr. (Salena) of Pflugerville, Tx., and Brandon (Kayla) of Folsom, La; 14 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.



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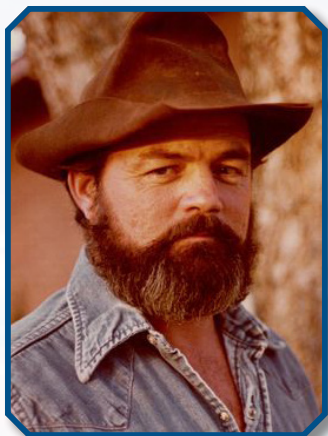
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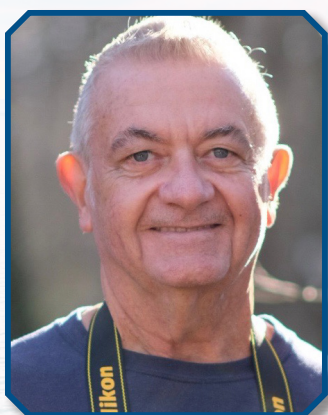


## Fred Straughan

Fred Straughan, of Loranger, Louisiana, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at the age of 84, surrounded by family. He was born on Saturday, August 31, 1940, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the son of the late Stephen S. Straughan Sr. and the late Florence G'selle Straughan.

Fred is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mattie Rainey Straughan; daughter, Darla Straughan and Kenneth Benedict; Son, Norwood Straughan and wife, Kathy; brother, Steve Sidney Straughan Jr. and wife, Connie; sister, Linda Brister; and grandchildren, Linzy Capseboscq Alston and husband, Josh, Reese Straughan, and Mary Morgan Straughan.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



## Ken Gilbert

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a veteran member of the Louisiana Nursery team, our General Manager Ken Gilbert.

Kenneth "Ken" Gilbert, 65, a native of Vidalia, Louisiana and longtime resident of Baton Rouge, passed away peacefully Monday, December 30, 2024.

Ken was a graduate of LSU in Ornamental Horticulture in 1982 and shortly after went to work at Louisiana Nursery in Baton Rouge. Ken was a dedicated and extremely knowledgeable member of our team, and touched many hearts from the company leadership to the fresh faces he managed. His career spanned over 4 decades and he was always happy to share any advice for those looking.



## Florence Crowder

Florence Norma Scivicque Crowder, 88, went to be with her Lord on December 24, 2024. Florence was born in Head of Island, LA on November 8, 1936.

She graduated from Denham Springs High School in 1954 and later graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Florence pursued her career as an Educator with the Livingston Parish School System and later, along with her husband Charles, owned and operated Crowder Greenhouses in Denham Springs and later opened Crowder Antiques in Denham Springs.

She was a very active member of the International, America, and Baton Rouge Camellia Societies and served as Vice President, America of the International Camellia Society. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Denham Springs. She served on various civic organizations throughout her life receiving numerous awards for her service.

Florence Scivicque Crowder is survived by children, Jimmy Crowder and Angela Crowder; grandchildren, Beth Ann Hosse and husband Trebor, Landon Crowder and wife Renee, and Rachel Hosse and husband Alex; two great-grandchildren, Olivia Hosse and Audrey Hosse; three sisters, Joan Sibley, Janice Roach and husband Jim, and Jama Scivicque; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Crowder; son, John Michael Crowder; her mother, Ethel Michael Scivicque and father James Louis Scivicque; and daughter-in-law Debbie Hood Crowder.



# In Memorandum



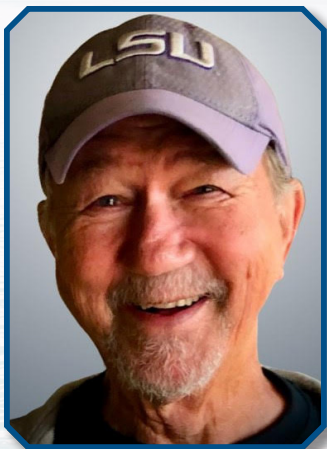
## Vivian Faye Butter

Mrs. Butter, 89, of Forest Hill, entered eternal rest on Monday, January 13, 2025, at Naomi Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Alexandria, LA.

She was a loving mother and grandmother. She was a member of Elwood Baptist Church. She loved cooking, gardening, watching RFD-TV channel, and spending time with her family. Vivian will be remembered for her restaurant, Vivian Vittles. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John B. Butter; her parents, Arthur and Hazel Johnson; four brothers, Arthur Johnson, William "Billy" Johnson, James "Jimmy" Johnson, and Charles Thad Johnson; two sisters, Wilma "Eloise" Clark and Mary "Betty" Kennedy; her son-in-law, John Sharp; and one grandson, William "Josh" Butter.

Those left to mourn her loss and cherish her memory include three sons, Gabby Butter of Forest Hill, Roger Butter (Helene) of Lafayette, and William "Buddy" Butter (Carlyss) of Gardner; two daughters, Donna Sharp of Forest Hill, and Sheila Falcon (Dan) of Marrero; one brother, Carl "Boots" Johnson (Ruby) of Augusta, Georgia; one sister, Dorothy Billings of Alexandria; six grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren; and ten great-great grandchildren.



## Larry Bourgeois

Larry Anthony Bourgeois, a man of profound kindness and quiet strength, passed away three days after his 74th birthday, leaving behind a legacy of love, family, and cherished memories. Born on January 20th, 1951, and raised in Lutcher, Louisiana, Larry was one of eight siblings in a close-knit family. He graduated from Lutcher High School, where his athleticism and team spirit shone brightly.

Larry's life was defined by hard work and dedication. For much of his career, he worked as a skilled machinist, applying his talent and patience to his craft, and through his hard work and dedication advanced to the position of Plant Foreman. Later, he embraced a new chapter as the co-owner of Covington Nursery alongside his brother Wayne, where he transitioned from the stresses of industrial work to working in nature, finding fulfillment in cultivating both plants and friendships with landscapers, growers, and fellow nursery owners.

Larry was a devoted father to his two daughters, Shelley Bourgeois (Mike Chapa) and Monica Bourgeois (Neil Gernon), and a proud grandfather to Andrew Bourgeois and great-granddaughter Marcy. His life partner of 18 years, Melody Lalonde, was his steadfast companion. Together, they created a warm and joyful home in Pearl River, Louisiana, surrounded by chickens, goats, and so many dogs. He shared a close bond with Melody's children—Jay, Crystal and Randy—and familial love with her grandchildren Ava, Bailey, Saylor, Brooklyn, Memphis and Presley, who cherished him as their Poppi.

Larry was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Bernice Hebert Bourgeois and Jessie Bourgeois, as well as his brother Dale. He is survived by his siblings, brothers Jess, Wayne (Melinda), Gary (Tammy), Kevin (Mary), and Blair and sisters Sonja Bourgeois Gros and Gail Bourgeois Peet. His large family was a source of joy and strength throughout his life.

After retiring from the nursery, Larry joined Monica and Neil at Wild Bush Farm and Vineyard, where his ingenuity and passion for tinkering brought life to countless projects. An engineer at heart, Larry could build, fix, and improve just about anything. His patience and skill inspired those around him, as did his gentle and generous nature.

Larry loved fishing, a passion he shared with his brothers at their camp, and he found peace in the simple pleasures of life. His final birthday was celebrated with a surprise party—the first of his life—on the Saturday before his passing, surrounded by loved ones. The day he passed, snow blanketed Southeast Louisiana in a rare and beautiful display, and he delighted playing in it and witnessing photos and videos of his family doing the same.

Larry's life was a testament to the power of love, patience, and dedication. He was a man who gave freely of his heart and talents, leaving behind a family and community deeply enriched by his presence. His legacy lives on in the memories of those who loved him and in the countless lives he touched.







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Louisiana  
Nursery &  
Landscape  
ASSOCIATION



# Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional



**Dr. Damon Abdi,** LSU AgCenter's Assist. Professor of Landscape Horticulture, will be the instructor for the manual review/training sessions.

## 2025 CLASS DATES

**\*February 18-19\***

LSU AgCenter  
HRS  
21549 Old Covington  
Hwy, Hammond

**\*July 8-9, 2025\***

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

**\*Fall 2025 CNLP\***  
(TBD)

Go to  
[www.lnla.org](http://www.lnla.org)  
to register  
under  
Events Tab

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.

**1**

**MANUAL REVIEW &  
CERTIFICATION EXAM**

**\$175**

**2**

**MANUAL REVIEW  
ONLY**

**\$100**

**3**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HORTICULTURE  
MANUAL**

**\$65**



# LNLA Membership Application

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone2: \_\_\_\_\_ Toll-free: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (select one) and Business Types (select all that apply – up to 5)

### ☐ **REGULAR MEMBER (Voting) - \$ Based on gross sales per year (below)**

A licensed or permitted business or person (**in Louisiana only**) engaged in one or more of the business types listed in box at right -- ***Please select no more than 5.***

**Dues      Annual Gross Sales**

☐ \$200.00      \$0 - \$249,999

☐ \$250.00      \$250,000 or more

### ☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER (Non-Voting) - \$250.00** – includes out-of-state businesses

☐ **In Louisiana - Wholesale Allied Supplies (AS)** A business/person selling any non-plant item such as chemicals, containers, equipment, fertilizer, garden décor or furniture, insurance, mulch, soil, stones, etc. Product(s) sold: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Out-of-State** -- State: \_\_\_\_\_ -- ***Please select no more than 5.***

### ☐ **AFFILIATE MEMBER (Non-Voting) – \$25.00**

An employee of any horticulture business with a paid regular membership -- ***Please select no more than 5.***

### ☐ **GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION MEMBER (Non-Voting) – \$25.00**

An employee of a government or non-profit entity, having a job responsibility in horticulture or closely related field

☐ College or University Education/Extension/Research (**U**)

☐ Educational/Regulatory Government Agency (**GV**)

☐ Public Gardens or Parks (**PG**)

☐ **RETIREE MEMBER (Non-Voting) (R) – \$25.00** - Any person formerly actively employed in horticulture or closely related field and having been a paid member of LNLA before retirement from that employment.

☐ **STUDENT MEMBER (Non-Voting) (S) – FREE** - Full time student enrolled in a Louisiana university/college in horticulture or a closely related field.  
University/College name & location (city): \_\_\_\_\_

The ★**Business Type** designation is used in LNLA's membership directory and website. Check each ☐ that applies - up to 5.

☐ Arborist/Urban Forester (**A**)

☐ Interior Plant Maintenance (**IM**)

☐ Irrigation Contractor (**IR**)

☐ Landscape Horticulture (**LH**)

☐ Landscape Design/Architect (**LA**)

☐ Landscape/Lawn Maintenance (**LM**)

☐ Plant Broker (**BR**)

☐ Retail Nursery / Garden Center (**GC**)

☐ Small Greenhouse/Field Grower (**SG**) -grow/sell direct to consumers

☐ Sod/Turf Producer (**T**)

☐ Wholesale Allied Supplies (**AS**)

☐ Wholesale Greenhouse Grower (**WG**) -bedding/ tropical plants

☐ Wholesale Field Grower (**WF**) -balled/container woody plants, perennials

**PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS:**    ☐ Email only    ☐ Mail only    ☐ Both email and mail

☐ **OPTIONAL:** Members wishing to support the **Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship & Research (LNLFSR)** fund for scholarships to deserving university/college horticulture/landscape students and grants for horticulture/landscape research/education should indicate amount and add the \$\$ to their dues check. This donation is tax deductible.

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make** check payable to: **Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association**

**Mail** check and **entire** form to: **LNLA, PO Box 1447, Mandeville, LA 70470**

**SEND DUES & APPLICATION BY MARCH 1 TO BE IN ANNUAL MEMBER DIRECTORY**

**TOTAL Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**





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(E) carijanelnla@gmail.com (P) 985-237-2939**

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