



# LOUISIANA Nursery & Landscape NEWS

LNLA Quarterly Newsletter 2007 Vol. 30 No. 2

April/May/June 2007

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## LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION (LIA) MERGES WITH LNLA



Marshall Goree, President of the 70 plus members of the Louisiana Irrigation Association (LIA), met with the LNLA Board of Directors at their May 16, 2007 meeting and proposed a merger/consolidation of LIA under the umbrella of LNLA. The LNLA Board of Directors voted unanimously for the proposal.

LIA began in 2003, in support of proposed legislation requiring irrigation contractors to be licensed and regulated by LDAF. LIA is an affiliate of the national Irrigation Association (IA) and is recognized as a corporation under the Louisiana Secretary of State office.

LIA needed a home, basically out of necessity, for it to be managed and to survive. So they asked: LNLA to keep their own identity, for LNLA to collect dues from LIA members and to gain new memberships, for LNLA to keep separate financial records of all LIA transactions, and for LNLA to manage their three annual educational training meetings; including set-up, registration and other logistical preparations.

As a result, the benefits LIA will enjoy include: LNLA's non-profit status, discounted Meadowbrook Insurance Co. and Blumberg & Associates insurance policies, an office to serve its members, and an address to assist members with information and registration.

LNLA will benefit by increasing the total number of members in both organizations for reporting and lobbying purposes. It will afford LNLA the opportunity to provide in-state training to both LIA and LNLA members at a discounted rate and LNLA will receive \$300.00 each month in compensation. In addition, the LNLA Executive Secretary will receive \$600.00 per month to manage LIA.

The agreement is for one year (June 1, 2007 to May 30, 2008), at which time the agreement will be evaluated and reassessed. Both organizations will encourage its members to join LNLA and LIA so everyone may enjoy the full benefits of both associations.

*(Continued on page 17)*



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: *Chris Friedrichs*

A very close and dear friend of mine joined LNLA last fall for the first time but, he's not new to the industry. Christopher C. Friedrichs, Landscape Architect (*pictured left*), has over 40 years experience in all phases of landscape planning, design and landscape horticulture.

He began his career in 1960 by forming Bergen & Friedrichs Landscape Architecture

Partnership after graduating from Southeastern Louisiana College (now SLU) in 1958 and completing his landscape architecture degree from LSU in 1960. Chris remained in partnership until 1966 at which time he entered into his own practice.

It was during this time that he also

*(Continued on page 18)*



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721 Goyo Road  
Washington, LA 70589  
(P) 337.826.7118, (F) 337.826.9955  
(E) [dannyL3523@aol.com](mailto:dannyL3523@aol.com)

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**Tom Fennell**  
Clegg's Nursery, Inc.  
31275 Hwy 16  
Denham Springs, LA 70726  
(P) 318.872.4677, (F) 225.791.6033  
(E) [tefennell@cleggsnursery.com](mailto:tefennell@cleggsnursery.com)

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**Severn C. Doughty, Sr.**  
444 Foxtrot Drive  
Mansfield, LA 71052  
(P) 318.872.4677, (F) 318.872.4677  
(E) [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

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(P) 985.796.3488, (F) 985.796.3488  
(E) [folsomnursery33@aol.com](mailto:folsomnursery33@aol.com)

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**Laney Strange**  
Midstate Nursery, Inc.  
PO Box 348  
Woodworth, LA 71485  
(P) 318.484.2071, (F) 318.484.9151  
(E) [midstate@kriicket.net](mailto:midstate@kriicket.net)

### Administrative Assistant

**Laura Crnko**  
8409 Vincent Rd  
Denham Springs, LA 70726  
(P) 225.667.4744,  
(E) [lcrnko@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcrnko@bellsouth.net)

### Director, Research & Education

**Allen Owings**  
LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Sta.  
21549 Old Covington Hwy.  
Hammond, LA 70403  
(P) 985.543.4125, (F) 985.543.4124  
(E) [aowings@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agctr.lsu.edu)

### Director, Training

**Dan Gill**  
LSU Plant, Environmental & Soil Science  
155 J.C. Miller Hall  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
(P) 225.578.2413, (F) 225.578.0773  
(E) [dgill@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:dgill@agctr.lsu.edu)

### Director (08) - Associate Member

**Brian Breaux**  
La. Farm Bureau Federation  
P. O. Box 95004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004  
(P) 225.922.6210, (F) 225.922.6229  
(E) [brianb@lfbf.org](mailto:brianb@lfbf.org)

### Director (08)

**Beth Perkins**  
Banting's Nursery  
3425 River Road  
Bridge City, LA 70094  
(P) 504.436.4343, (F) 504.436.2749  
(E) [bethperkins@yahoo.com](mailto:bethperkins@yahoo.com)

### Director (08)

**Rusty Ruckstuhl**  
Grass Roots, Inc.  
124 Beau Pre Road  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(P) 337.232.5967, (F) 337.232.1469  
(E) [grassrootslandsc@bellsouth.net](mailto:grassrootslandsc@bellsouth.net)

### Director (08)

**Albert Durio**  
Live Oak Gardens, LTD.  
10106 Jefferson Island Rd.  
New Iberia, LA 70560  
(P) 800.725.5625, (F) 337.364.1605  
(E) [aplantman@bellsouth.net](mailto:aplantman@bellsouth.net)

### Director (08)

**Chauncey Nichols**  
Chauncey Nichols Nursery, Inc.  
PO Box 220  
Forest Hill, LA 71430-0220  
(P) 318.748.6348, (F) 318.748.6351

### Director (09)

**Debbie Head**  
Poole Brothers Nursery  
3334 Highway 112  
Lecompte, LA 71346  
(P) 318.748.6579, (F) 318.748.7441  
(E) [poolebrothers@msn.com](mailto:poolebrothers@msn.com)

### Director (09)

**Frances Thorne**  
Thorne's Plant Farm  
17868 Lake Charles Highway  
Leesville, LA 71446  
(P) 337.396.5638, (F) 337.462.1642  
(E) [hthorne@beau.lib.la.us](mailto:hthorne@beau.lib.la.us)

### Director (09)

**Huel Jones**  
True Vine Nursery  
238 Don Lane  
Mansfield, LA 71052  
(P) 318.872.6855, (F) 318.872.0149  
(E) [truevinenursery@juno.com](mailto:truevinenursery@juno.com)

### Director (09)

**Rick Cicero**  
Cicero's Gardens  
421 Greenwood Drive  
LaPlace, LA 70068-3228  
(P) 504.469.4292, (F) 504.469.4258  
(E) [rick5250@bellsouth.net](mailto:rick5250@bellsouth.net)

*"LNLA would like to send a big THANK YOU to the LNLA members who referred our 4th quarter 2006 New Members, listed right. Thanks also, to every LNLA member who is spreading the word about Louisiana's "green industry" association... LNLA!"*

## THE PRESIDENT'S VOICE

Hi to all LNLA members,

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thanks!" for giving me the opportunity to serve you as LNLA President. I will do my best, along with many others, to help keep this organization strong and viable. We are doing extremely well with our GSHE Show and I thank everyone for helping with it and participating. If you haven't been to the GSHE Show in Mobile, AL, you've missed a wonderful opportunity to network, learn and visit old friends and colleagues.

Also, I'd like to ask you for your help in signing on new members. Ask each person in your field if they are a member. If not, then ask them to join. The newly revised Membership Application Form is available on our newly revised and updated website [www.lnla.org](http://www.lnla.org). Or you may contact any Officer or Board Member for a form. In every organization numbers mean everything. Politicians look at numbers and the more members we have the stronger our voice. I am proud to be a part of LNLA and I would hope you are too.

I hope everyone has had a good and profitable spring and if I can help you, just give me a call, phone 337.826.7118.

Sincerely,

Danny K. LaFleur  
President LNLA



## The Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association



You are cordially invited  
to attend a  
'Green Industry' Social\*  
Friday, August 17th, 2007  
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Peacock Terrace on the 1st Level  
Hilton Anatole  
2201 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX

\*Immediately after "TNLA Goes PSYCHEDELIC"  
from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



## THE BUG DOCTOR

### THE WHITE GRUB

Beneath the sod and turf an unseen pest, the white grub, can cause severe damage to lawn grasses. Grubs feed on organic matter and roots of turf and other plants and can cause mechanical damage through tunneling in the soil. These pests become visible as adults as they buzz around night lights and feed on flowers, young foliage of trees and other ornamental plants.

As immatures, these larva are hard for people to identify other than call them white grubs. Except for a series of spines and small hooks on the rear of larva, they look very much alike with differences in size depending on species. C – Shaped grubs vary in size from ¼ of an inch to 2 ½ inches long. The head and legs are brown in color and the major portion is white. The end of the abdomen, depending on species, may be bluish-gray or white.

May – June beetles, of which there are several species, are the primary white grub found in Louisiana and they belong to the genus *Phyllophaga*. They are found statewide and emerge in April, May, June and July. The adults are usually brownish but may vary from brown to grayish to black. Some are slightly mottled and all usually have long spiny legs. These beetles can vary in size from ½ inch to 1 inch in length. Plants and trees can be defoliated over night when large populations of beetles emerge and literally hundreds of beetles will fly into trees, with young foliage, stripping the foliage completely.

In Louisiana June beetles may take one to two years to complete their life cycle while other grubs may take three years. Depending on the species adults begin emerging in early spring. The adults are active at night when they feed and mate before returning to the soil in the daytime. Oviposition occurs in the soil near hosts and larvae hatch in three to four weeks. The newly hatched grubs feed on roots and overwinter in the second or third instar. Feeding resumes in the spring and depending on species, either feeds through the summer (2 year cycle) or pupates in cells in the soil and emerges later that year. June beetle grubs have two parallel, longitudinal rows of spines on the end of the abdomen which can be used to identify them.

Green June beetles are found throughout the state but, in much lower numbers. The adults are very colorful beetles that fly in the daytime. The beetles' back is a velvety green color with a coppery orange strip along the edge of the forewing. The under-surface of the body is metallic green or bronze. The adult beetles are attracted to overripe and fermenting fruit, and are usually observed from June through August. The Green June Beetle has a one year life cycle and oviposition occurs in mid to late summer. They hatch in 10 days to two weeks and grubs feed on organic matter, after which they over winter deep in the soil. Grubs resume feeding in the spring and pupate in cells during May and June. The adults emerge about three weeks later and the cycle repeats.

Damage inflicted on turf by these grubs is mechanical since they feed on dead and decaying plant material on the surface at night. They loosen the soil and injure the roots as they tunnel through and they spend the day in tunnels beneath the soil.

Larvae of the Green June Beetle are easily separated from other grubs based on their size and small legs. The back of the thorax has three ridges per segment covered with short stiff hairs. The ridges are an aid in crawling and only the Green June Beetle larvae crawl on its back with its feet up in the air.

The best sampling technique for grubs is to cut three sides of a one square foot section of sod and peel it back to expose the soil. Check the root area and sift through the top 3 to 4 inches of soil. Where June beetle populations exceed 10 larvae per square foot and Green June Beetle numbers exceed 6 larvae per square foot, treatment is needed.

Control of grubs requires that first, adequate water be applied to move grubs up in the soil and second, after insecticidal application, thorough watering to move the product through the turf. If thatch is present before treatment, it is recommended to remove it to assure that the insecticide is not tied up by decaying organic matter before it can reach the pest.

There are several insecticides that will do an effective job of control if properly applied. These include; Merit or Marathon, Sevin, Meridan, Mach 2, Talstar or Dursban. Some of these materials have a limited use pattern and are for professionals only. Be sure to read the label before purchasing and applying these products.

*This article provided by Dr. Dale K. Pollet, Department of Entomology, (P) 225.578.2180, (C) 225.281.0585, (E) dpollet@agcenter.lsu.edu .*

## 10TH BIENNIAL SOUTHERN PLANT CONFERENCE



The 10th Biennial Southern Plant Conference will be held in Mobile, AL. This biennial conference, produced by the Southern Nursery Association in cooperation with the Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association, is designed to increase communications of new plant varieties and decrease the average time needed to bring them to market.


The Southern Plant Conference provides a unique learning environment full of straight talk and factual information. It's hard-hitting and intensive review of the vast array of plant materials that have been adapted to a wide variety of growing conditions focused on new and superior cultivars, as well as new applications for old varieties.

Presentations by nationally- and internationally-recognized plant experts will offer you new insight into the future of horticulture and aid you in the discovery of new plants for your business. Below is a tentative list of speakers for the 2007 SPC:

Eddie Aldridge, Bobby Green, Buddy Lee, John Ruter,

*(Continued on page 26)*

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# IN THE NEWS

## IN MEMORIAM

LNLA and its members would like to express their sympathy to the following 'Green Industry' families:

**Reuben "Mr. Rube" Fussell**, of Bill's Creek Nursery, died May 4th. Mr. Rube and his wife, Bea, started their nursery business around 1980. They have been SELNA members for over 20 years and have enjoyed hosting the SELNA Christmas party since the completion of their home. Their son Barton, now manages the family nursery.

**Roy Constantin**, retired Hammond Research Station director, in the passing of his mother.

**Kathlyn Diane Thames Welch** passed away peacefully in her home on the afternoon of April 2, 2007. Diane was a graduate of LSU with an undergraduate degree in Home Economics and a master's degree in Child Development. Diane is most noted for directing a youth program, for the Cooperative Extension program at Texas A&M, entitled "Teens Explore Parent Education" (TEPE). Dianne is the daughter of Norval Thames, a former Cooperative Extension Service Associate Director during the 70's-80's. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Bill Welch and son, William Thames Welch. Bill, a graduate of LSU's Horticulture and Extension Education programs, has returned to LA to give numerous educational programs over the past 40+ years.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **'Job Search'** portion of the LNLA website is new and is designed for both applicants looking for a position in the 'Green Industry' and for employers in search of employees. Applicants may advertise themselves and employers may advertise a job position. Entries should only be 25 words or less for a fee of \$90.00 a quarter. Be sure you include your contact information so the persons interested can contact you directly!

In order to place an ad on the LNLA website, include: a 25 word or less description of the job or employee you are looking for, a check written to "LNLA" and send to: Severn C. Doughty, Sr., 444 Fox Trot Dr., Mansfield, LA 71052, (P&F) 318.872.4677 (E) [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com). Good luck in your job search!

## KUDO'S

The Azalea Society of America awarded **Ms. Margie Jenkins** with its Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her career contributions to the nursery and landscape industry. Ms Margie was recognized for her generous efforts to promote the proper use of azaleas and their companion plants to home gardeners and, more importantly, her significant impact to the commercial horticulture industry. The increased use of azalea hybrid groups (such as the 'Robin Hill' cultivars), not commonly available in significant numbers several years ago in the southeastern United States, can be attributed to her interest in growing and distributing these plants prior to other wholesale producers. She has also contributed greatly to numerous nursery and landscape associations – such as the International Plant Propagators' Association, Louisi-

ana Nursery & Landscape Association, Southern Nursery Association and the American Nursery & Landscape Association.

**The 7th Annual Nursery & Landscape Golf Shootout**, hosted by the Horticulture faculty in the LSU AgCenter's School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences was held on Friday, May 25th, at the LSU Golf Course in Baton Rouge. Major sponsors of this year's event were the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association and the Louisiana State Horticulture Society. Appreciation is also extended to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Meadowbrook Insurance, McIlhenny Company and Baton Rouge artist Henry Lastrapes for their support. Congratulations to the winning team (with a score of 15 under par, 57) - George Welsh, Richard Matherne, Hal Lancon, and Joe Sanders.

## INDUSTRY UPDATES

**Robert "Buddy" Lee** has been named director of plant innovations at Plant Development Services Inc. (PDSI), Loxley, AL. He will oversee the new plant evaluation process at PDSI, including all plant evaluations for the new Southern Living collection. Lee is an internationally known plant breeder and the creator of the Encore Azalea® series. He is the current president of the Azalea Society of America, past president of the Louisiana Nurseryman's Association Region III, a member of the International Plant Propagators' Society and the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association. PDSI develops innovative plant material and owns and/or licenses more than 50 patented plant properties.

*American Nurseryman, 'What's Growing', April 15, 2007, Issue 8, Vol. 205.*



SNA has named **Steve Newton** as their new Executive Vice-President. His main goal is to lead the organization to fulfill the organization's mission statement: 'To serve SNA members by providing an industry leading forum for commerce, innovation and professionalism.'

## LNLA BOARD MEETINGS

The next quarterly board meeting will be held Sept. 12th, at Prejean's Restaurant in Lafayette. Minutes from recent board meetings are posted in this publication: March 14th on page 27, and May 16th on page 32.

## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

The LNLA staff appreciates all the informational contributions members provide in order to keep everyone abreast of educational features, news, ads, happenings, events and other noteworthy information pertaining to our 'Green Industry'. We regret any oversight, errors or misinterpretations in newsletter content and ask that you contact your staff should you have any concerns.

**Contact LNLA's staff if you have "Green Industry" news:**

Severn C. Doughty, Sr. (E) [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

Laura Crnko, (E) [lcrnko@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcrnko@bellsouth.net)



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 President

### ***TO ALL OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES***

According to Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, 90% of all businesses in the U.S. are family-owned. Only 20% of those businesses survive into their second generation. Well, Kent's Nursery, Inc. is fortunate to be counted in the minority. This year we are celebrating 50 years in business and we couldn't be prouder. Through hurricanes, freezes, the oil bust and financial crises, we've survived.

We would like to thank each and every one of our loyal customers, both past and present, because we owe it all to you. Without you, we would not be where we are today or have been such a success story.

We couldn't have done it alone either. We have been so blessed to have so many good people over the years be contributing members of our family. We raised all of our four children in the business, and our youngest, Benjamin received his degree in horticulture and runs our operation today. We wouldn't be where we are today without Ben.

Here are just a few of our longest-serving loyal employees whom we owe a debt of gratitude:

Freddie Martin - 50 years of service  
 Lawrence Obey - 31 years of service  
 Ray Menard - 29 years of service  
 Betty Gary - 29 years of service  
 Yvonne Langlinais King - 16 years of service  
 Mike Gary - 16 years of service  
 Flaudry Gary - 16 years of service

Many thanks to them and all of our past and present employees for helping to make our business what it is today.

We are looking forward to your continued support and serving you for many more years to come. Northwestern also reports that only 2% of that 20% makes it to the third generation. With our grand children growing up in the nursery as our children did, you just never know.

Sincerely yours,

*Jeanette Langlinais*  
*Kent Langlinais*

Jeanette and Kent Langlinais

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# HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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## JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Volume 25, Issue 1 (March 2007)

### ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF BEGONIAS IN THE LANDSCAPE AS AFFECTED BY ROOT BALL CONDITION AT TRANSPLANTING

S.M. Scheiber and Richard C. Beeson, Jr., University of Florida, IFAS, Environmental Horticulture Dept. MREC, 2725 Binion Rd., Apopka, FL 32703 *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* 24(4):213-217. December 2006

**Abstract:** Begonias (*Begonia semperlorens*) were transplanted into an open-sided clear polyethylene covered shelter to evaluate the effect of root ball condition on establishment and growth. Three root ball classes were evaluated: non root-bound (NRB; 6 week old plants), rootbound (RB; 10 week old plants), and root-bound with the bottom 1 cm of the root ball removed (RBM). Non root-bound plants had greater growth rates for both height and faster rates of accumulation for cumulative root dry mass and new root dry mass relative to the other treatments tested. Cumulative shoot dry mass, new shoot dry mass, and total biomass accumulation rates were slower among RB plants compared to other rootball conditions. Mean canopy size, shoot dry mass, and biomass of NRB were significantly less at transplant; however all parameters were comparable among treatments 12 weeks later. Final mean shoot to root ratios were lower for the NRB treatment relative to RBM. Results indicate smaller, NRB transplants establish faster in the landscape. Furthermore, rootball manipulation is not recommended as it had no significant effect on root establishment or canopy growth of this annual bedding plant in the landscape.

**Significance to the Industry:** Labor costs and availability are a major concern of the landscape services industry. Balance between labor constraints and recommended landscape practices must be achieved to ensure effective landscape management at a reasonable cost to both the consumer and supplier. Slicing rootballs of root-bound plants is often practiced to promote rapid root growth during establishment. Most of the evidence is anecdotal. Results of this study indicate root slicing is not effective for new root development or increased canopy growth of annual bedding plants. Furthermore, smaller, nonrootbound plants established at faster rates compared to rootbound and root-bound plants that had been manipulated. Rootball manipulation of *Begonia semperlorens* is inefficient labor utilization and thus is not recommended.

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► HRI will send copies of journal articles. Send requests to the HRI address listed above. Include your name and complete mailing address, or email address. List each article being requested.





## Notes From The Secretary

*Severn C. Doughty, Sr., LNLA Executive Secretary*



Hi to all my good friends,

I am excited to report that a merger has occurred between the Louisiana Irrigation Association (LIA) and LNLA. At LNLA's May 16, 2007 Board of Directors meeting, they voted unanimously in favor of the merger. As a result, LIA will consolidate under the umbrella and management of LNLA. The agreement is for one year; at which time both entities will assess the success of the merger and determine if it will continue.

For now, LIA will keep its own identity and LNLA will keep separate financial records for them. LIA will benefit from LNLA's non-profit status and benefit from acquiring endorsed Meadowbrook Insurance Co. and Blumberg & Associates Inc. insurance policies at a discounted rate. LIA also will benefit by having an office to serve its members and an address to where members may call, write or email for information and/or registrations.

LNLA will benefit by the increase of the total number of members in both organizations for reporting and lobbying purposes and LNLA will receive \$300.00 a month in income. Also, it will afford LNLA the opportunity to provide in-state educational training to both LIA and LNLA members at a discounted rate.

We will encourage LNLA members to consider joining LIA and encourage LIA members to join LNLA – that way everyone can enjoy the full benefits of both associations.

I'm also happy to report too that the LNLA website, [www.lnla.org](http://www.lnla.org) has now been upgraded and revised. Thanks to the LNLA Board, they approved hiring a webmaster, Richard Reising, and he has done an outstanding job of rejuvenating the site.

If you go to the opening welcome page, you will see headers that include: 'LNLA', 'Job Search', 'News', 'Events', 'Publications', 'Certification', 'Links' and 'GSHE' (Gulf States Horticulture Expo).

Under LNLA, you will find a drop box with headings such as 'Join', 'Benefits', 'Facts', and 'Board Members'. All of these have been updated and all the links work.

'Job Search' is a new section. If you click on it or any portion of the drop box, you will see the information you need to run an ad. Those seeking employment and those seeking employees may use this site to advertise. A posting of 25 words or less will cost \$90.00 per quarter.

The 'News' section contains 'Headlines' such as: 'Congratulations', 'In Memoriam', 'Plant Info' and 'Board Minutes'. Should you go to 'Headlines', you may click on any of the topics listed to read the articles and if you go to 'Board Minutes', do the same thing to read them. The rest of the sections are updated.

If you go to 'Events', the current month will be displayed first. To move to any up coming month, simply click on the forward arrow to the far right of the month and year line - to go backward do the same. Click on the backward arrow on the far left of the month and year line.

The rest of the headers, 'Publications', 'Certification', 'Links' and 'GSHE' are all updated and all links are working. Also, you'll notice that under 'Links' we've added a 'NOAA Weather' link.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Newsletter, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp 18, I reported on Live Oak Gardens and mentioned that Joey Billeaud, manager, gave me six plants to try in my landscape. Well, these were all palms and a cycad for me to determine their cold hardiness.

The plants were planted in my landscape in May, 2006 and survived the transplanting well. No damage was noted on the roots of any plant because all six were inundated with salt water during Hurricane Rita and then leached for weeks afterwards to remove the salt.

During the winter of 2006 – 07 the NOAA weather station in Shreveport, LA reported 98 inconsecutive hours below 32 degrees F. from November 21, 2006 to March 5, 2007. The coldest temperature recorded in Mansfield was 19 degrees F., on February 16, 2007.

(Continued on page 25)



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# A Glance from the Past... 25 Years Ago

# LOUISIANA'S NURSERYMEN

The official publication of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, Inc.

Volume 5

Number 1

Spring, 1982



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## Scions of the times

### Nursery stock stolen

Plant rustlers are on the loose in several parts of the state. Both Windmill Nurseries in Franklinton and Grandview Nursery in Youngsville report losses of quantities of nursery material. The Horticulture Commission is aware of the problem and is investigating it, but your best defense is to become more security-conscious.

### Certified Nurserymen

Congratulations to four new LAN certified nurserymen (or, in this case nurserywomen) Karen Coats, Idelle Taylor, and Katie Miller, all of Akin's Nursery; and Mrs. Beverly Maxwell, the Maxwell Nursery Company; all of Shreveport.

### Tree people meet

The International Society of Arboriculture will hold its Texas chapter meeting June 17 to 19 at the Austin Marriott. For more information, contact Dr. Michael Walterscheidt, P.O. Box 9855, College Station, TX. 77840.

### In Memoriam

Wiley Roach, West Monroe nurseryman who was a charter member of the LAN Board, died in January of this year. He was active in the nursery business until his death.

Roach began his nursery in 1938 with a few borrowed Ligustrum and gardenia cuttings. He established Roach's Nursery in 1941 and ran it with the aid of his two sons, Wiley E. and Tom.

LAN dedicated its Seventh Annual Conference to him in 1961, and later awarded him an Honorary Life Membership, in recognition of his considerable service to the industry and to beautifying Louisiana.

Mrs. Cora McKee, Covington, an active LAN member who helped manage one of the oldest nurseries in the state, died in March, 1982. She was preceded in death by her husband Floyd, who was a charter member of LAN and a past Board member. McKee's Nursery was established in 1900.

### Welcome to Mississippi, Arkansas Nurserymen

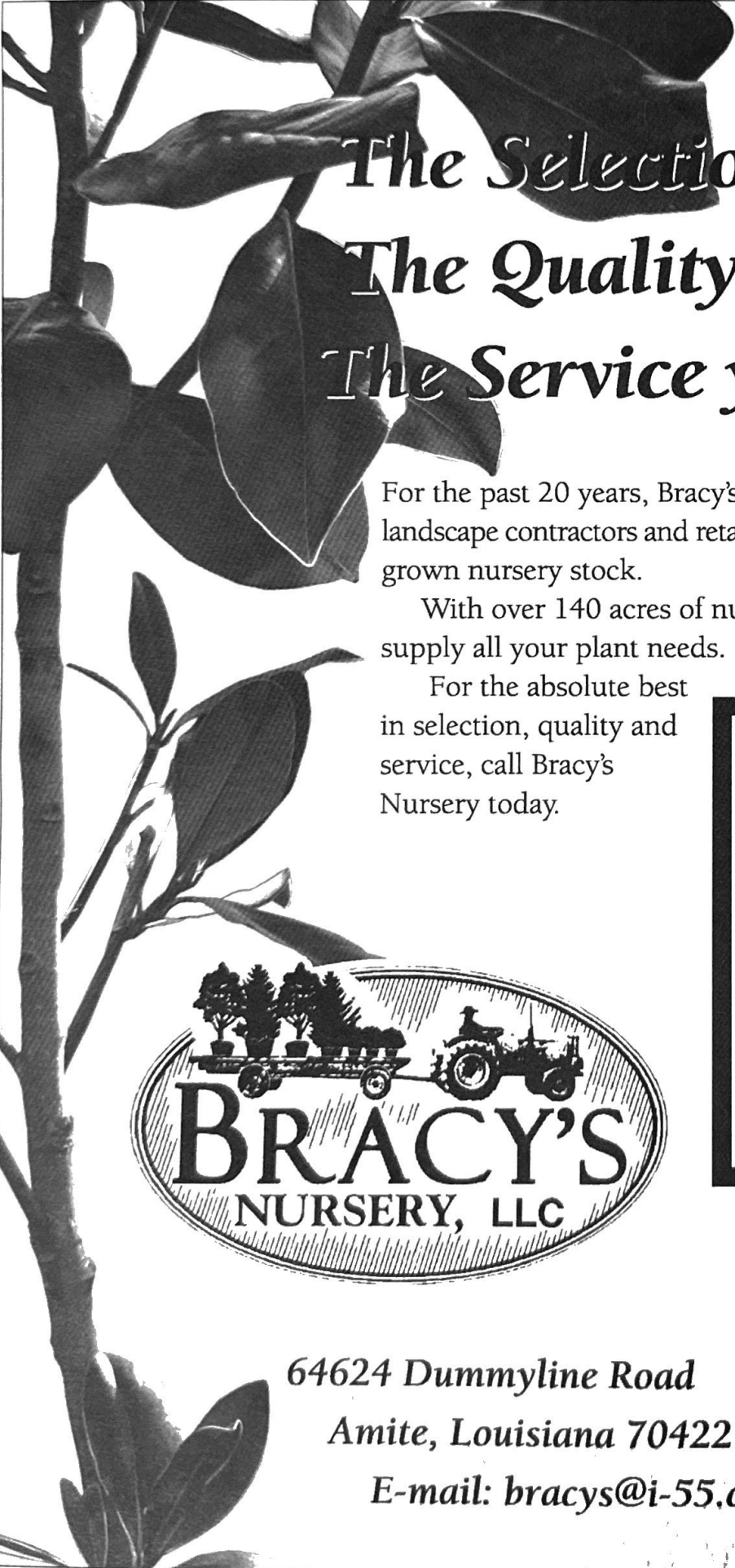
This issue commences the first mailing of Louisiana's Nurserymen to our colleagues in Mississippi and Arkansas. May it also commence an era of greater cooperation among nurserymen in the MISSLARK states. The group will hold a joint conference in Hammond, Louisiana, in January, 1983. Program chairman is Dennis McCloskey of Windmill Nurseries, Franklinton, Louisiana.

## GREEN SURVIVAL NOMINEE

The Louisiana nomination for the American Association of Nurserymen Green Survival award is Frank Akin's landscape work for the Celt Center in Shreveport.

The award recognizes the state's most outstanding environmental improvement using live plants.

The Celtic Center is an office complex set in a sloping location. Akin made considerable use of ground cover and mulch, for ease of maintenance. Flowering shrubs, bulbs and annuals provide year-round color. Benches in the courtyard encourage Celt Center people to use the area for outdoor lunches or informal meetings.



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## Landscape Design Sketchbook

-green laws, design principles, designer plants-

Buck Abbey, ASLA

Associate Professor, School of Landscape Architecture

Louisiana State University

### Designing With Palms

Designing with palms is serious business in Louisiana.

Judging by the wide spread use of palms in landscape design these days, we assume that palms have long been used in the design of Louisiana gardens.

However, that has not always been the case. Early travelers reported that Louisiana was heavily forested but, little distinction was made between species and no mention was made of palms.

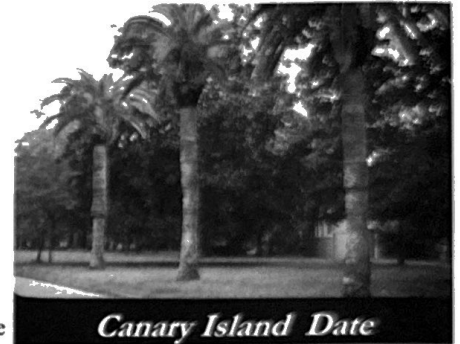
Lafcadio Hearn, George Washington Cable, Charles Gayarre, and other Creole authors of the time, reported in the 1880's that palms were part of the landscape of New Orleans. In fact, in the *Historical Sketchbook and Guide* prepared in 1885 it was pointed out that palms have been planted in New Orleans since at least 1789. Father Antonio de Sedella, who has always been known in New Orleans as Pere Antoine, is thought to have been the first to import palms into Louisiana for ornamental use. His most famous palm came from Spain, via the Canary Islands, and was planted on Orleans Avenue, in the French Quarter, where it is reported to have grown for many years in Louisiana's mild subtropical climate.

Don Estevan Miro was Governor when the palm was planted and we know from a careful drawing, that was made at the time, that this palm was in fact a Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*).

In the 1930's wonderful photographs were taken in and around the city of New Orleans. In the article, 'Louisiana, Land of Perpetual Romance', published in the *National Geographic Magazine*, photographs recorded the use of palms in Louisiana. In one of the best descriptions of early Louisiana, photographs by a number of skillful photographers show stately Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) lining an unnamed street. There are also pictures of Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix ca-*



Washington Palm



Canary Island Date

*nariensis*), in Lafayette

Square, Sago Palms (*Cycas revoluta*) being used in a courtyard in the old quarter, 'vieux carre,' and Jackson Square is planted with Chinese Fan Palms (*Livistonia chinensis*).

It was not till the 1940's, when a finer grained survey was made, that a botanist recognized that palm trees were a part, although a minor part, of the landscape of Louisiana. Up till this point, the use of palms in Louisiana had not been recorded in the scientific literature.

During the twentieth century, it was noted by scientist Dr. Ralph Lindgren, in his paper *Shade Trees For the Southeast*, that palms were described as growing in Louisiana. He reported that the Cabbage Palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*) and Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) were commonly grown. However, we know that palms have been planted in Louisiana earlier than 1949.

Claire Brown, Professor of Botany at LSU, is one the contemporary horticultural writers to observe palms in Louisiana. Brown is the first to attempt to define the native palms. He points out in his 1972 book, *Wildflowers of Louisiana*, that there are three native palms. He mentions the most common palm as the "dwarf palmetto" or "lantianier" (*Sabal minor*). The dwarf palmetto is the most common native palm which is easily identified because it emerges from an underground rootstock in shady bottomland hardwood landscapes, within wetlands and in the dry hills of north Louisiana along streams and creeks. Like most sabals, this plant has white flower stalk and little black berry enclosed seeds. This is the palm featured in A.R. Waud's famous 1866 'Harper's Magazine' wood cut drawing of the Atchafalaya. In that drawing, Waud has left the impression common with many people that palms and alligators live in the same environment.

Brown noted a variant of the common palmetto, mentioned by Darby, when he surveyed the state in the early 1800's. A taller version of the palmetto was identified as the Louisiana Palmetto (*Sabal louisiana*). This plant is different in that it forms a minor trunk, thought to be in response to flooding conditions. This palmetto can grow to eight feet

(Continued on page 14)

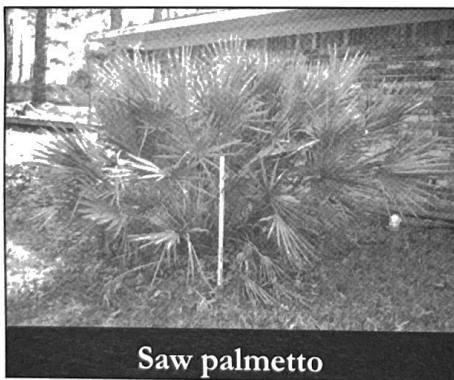
(Continued from page 13)

**Sabal minor**

in height. Examples of this variant can be seen on Avery Island and in the swamps near LaPlace, Louisiana. Live Oak Gardens Nursery in New Iberia sells this plant and it is used in commercial landscape design.

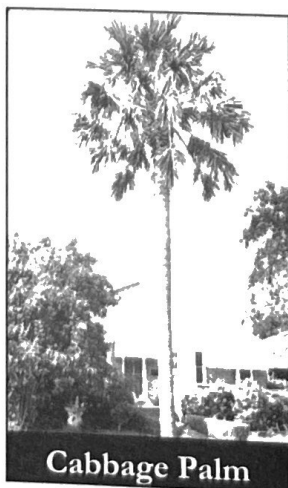
The third native noted by Brown is the saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). This native identified with its smaller palm shaped leaf and spiny petiole is restricted in its habitat east of the Mississippi. Here it naturally grows within pine flats from subterranean rootstock. The palm will often make clumps or thickets which are easily distinguished from *Sabal minor* or *Sabal louisiana*. Brown observed these plants in St. Tammany Parish in the Bayou Lacombe area. This author, on several expeditions, has failed to see this palm growing wild on the Northshore.

The fourth, near native palm, is the Cabbage Palm, (*Sabal palmetto*), noted by Odenwald. The natural range of this plant is North Carolina to Florida but, it grows well in Louisiana's climate and has been extensively planted in New Orleans and in the

**Saw palmetto**

sandy soils along the coast from Slidell to Lake Charles. Some horticultural writers claim the natural habitat extends to Texas. However adaptive the plant is, this is unlikely.

Cabbage palm or Florida Palm, as it is known in Louisiana, is the most widely planted palm along the gulf coast. It is favored for its tall, clean, smooth, gray trunk, round palm green head and its persistent crisscrossed leaf bases known as "boots." In some landscape plantings, this same palm can be planted booted or as a clean trunk specimen. Often harvested from wild colonies, there is concern that this palm, which grows slowly from seed, will be hard to find in the future.

**Cabbage Palm**

Should readers like to contact Abbey, please feel free to contact him at [lsugreenlaw@aol.com](mailto:lsugreenlaw@aol.com). You may call him at the LSU School of Landscape Architecture at 225.578.1434.

# Welcome!

## New LNLA Members

### March - June 2007

**A & A Perennials****Alice Pillaro**

1080 Hwy 668, Jeanerette, LA 70544, (P) 337.276.6855

**Acadiana Landscapes, LLC.****Jim & Jan Veazey**

302 Broadmoor Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503, (P) 337.257.0830

**Boudreaux's Gardens****Joy Boudreaux**

685 Burgin Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4936, (P) 225.766.3320

**Clean Cut Landscape, Inc.****Mario Boesch, Jr.**

PO Box 217, Kenner, LA 70063-0217, (P) 504.887.0234

**Delgado Community College****Chase Mullin**

1736 Hickory Ave. Apt. C, Harahan, LA 70123, (P) 504.275.6617

**Eden Scapes, LLC****Chap Gray**

403 S. Wakefield Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503, (P) 337.216.4449

**G & M Plants****Bennie Richard**

PO Box 383, Cheneyville, LA 71325-0383, (P) 318.709.0226

**Hawkins Nursery & Tree Farm****Ann Hawkins**

19826 US Hwy. 80, Wills Point, TX 75169, (P) 903.896.2100

**Holloway's Nursery****Michael Lovelace**

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**Houston Grass Company****Michael Stevens**

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**My Mother's Garden****Rachel Wilber**

25151 Hwy 16, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (P) 225.667.8686

**New Orleans Country Club****Julie Aeschliman**

5024 Pontchartrain Blvd., N.O., LA 70118, (P) 504.482.2145

**Shreveport Green****Lee Jeter & Yvonne Lee**

3625 Southern Ave., Shreveport, LA 71104, (P) 318.219.1888

**Smith & Associates Design & Landscape, LLC****Cedric Smith**

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**The Plant Gallery****Rachel Baldassarò**

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**The Scott's Company****Charlie Owens**

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## HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW OFFICES & MEETING CENTER

Officials recently broke ground for a new office building and meeting center that will help the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station implement plans for increasing its focus on urban horticulture and landscape maintenance.

At the March 16 ceremony, officials said the construction of the 3,700-square-foot facility is the first step toward what is expected to be an increasing volume of research and educational programs related to the state's "green industry."

The new facility will include offices, a resource room and a meeting room capable of seating 100 people and serving as a distance-learning center.

Construction of the facility is being financed from the sale of a portion of the land originally dedicated to the research station. Although the land technically was only leased from Tangipahoa Parish, officials there OK'd the land sale in 2005 to help with improvements at the research station.

"The Tangipahoa Parish Policy Jury leased the 183 acres at the Hammond Research Station to the LSU AgCenter in 1922 at no cost for the purpose of conducting agricultural research benefiting southeast Louisiana," Dr. David Boethel, LSU AgCenter vice chancellor for research, explained.

Through the years, a significant portion of the research conducted at the station focused on Louisiana strawberry and vegetable production, since the berries and vegetables are major crops produced in the area surrounding the station.

In 2003, however, the research focus of the station was updated to include the state's "green industry" by increasing its focus on research and educational programs in landscape horticulture. That will come in addition to continuing vegetable crop and strawberry research.

Dr. Regina Bracy, LSU AgCenter professor and resident coordinator at the station, said the additions are important.

"Louisiana's green industry has an economic impact of about \$2.2 billion a year and it's continuing to grow," Bracy said. "The new master plans we came up with for the property at the station in 2004 were designed to help us implement a new focus on those industries.

"It just makes sense. Our research and extension efforts need to keep up with the demand."

The revised focus also made sense to Tangipahoa Parish officials, who agreed to sell a portion of the land and dedicate those proceeds to improvements at the station.

"In 2005, we requested that the parish allow us to sell 47 acres of the property that had been leased to us and to use the funds for making some much needed improvements at the station," Bracy explained, adding, "The acreage had never been used for research and would not be necessary for implementation of the master plan."

Parish officials agreed with the plan in 2005, although parish president Gordon Burgess joked at the groundbreaking ceremony that it might not have been quite as easy a decision these days.

"I'm glad this happened a year ago, because with the value of this property today, I don't know whether we would have made the deal or not," he said.

LSU AgCenter officials were delighted nonetheless.

"I almost didn't believe it when it was announced that the parish had agreed with the financing plan," Dr. Bill Richardson, chancellor of the LSU AgCenter, said. "But I'm certainly glad they did. It's allowing us to do some things we might not have been able to do otherwise."

*(Continued on page 29)*



Officials break ground for a new building at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, which will help the station as it increases its focus on the state's "green industry." Among those who participated in the ceremony and also played major roles in the station's new master plan were, from left, Carlos Notariano, Tangipahoa Parish councilman; Dr. David Boethel, LSU AgCenter vice chancellor and director of its Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Bill Richardson, LSU AgCenter chancellor; Dr. Regina Bracy, LSU AgCenter professor and resident coordinator at the station; Gordon Burgess, Tangipahoa Parish president; and Dr. Paul Coreil, LSU AgCenter vice chancellor and director of its Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.



This drawing depicts the exterior of the new building to be constructed at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station.



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## NOTES FROM THE MAST ARBORETUM

**Indian Pink**—*Spigelia marilandica*—is one of about 50 species of mostly herbaceous perennials of the family *Loganiaceae* from mostly tropical and warm areas. This is just about the best of the lot and this Pinewoods native deserves far greater use. I love this plant. I always have. My first memory of a colony goes back over 20 years to a lazy afternoon excursion with Lynn Lowrey near Kirbyville, Texas. We drove one of the better blacktopped FM roads in Newton County and I remember climbing a small hill and over the top and then down to a sun-lit swag with a small stream at its center. It was that moist wet spot that Indian pink had found a home – about the prettiest colonies of Indian Pink one might imagine. It was no more than a couple of hundred square feet, but it was pure - and flowering with amazing force. Indian pink prefers a moist, rich, humic forest with protection from the harsh western sun. The very best flowering comes from plants enjoying full eastern sun.

Once well established, Indian Pink is really a reliable returning herbaceous perennial in our area as long as it is positioned properly. It grows as a rhizomatous clump between one and two feet high, with about a one to two foot spread. It has supple, sometimes glossy dark green foliage that persists throughout the growing season. From late spring into summer, it bears many upright, tubular, bright crimson flowers with light yellow throats. The plant can be made to rebloom more vigorously if lightly pruned after the first flowering event – blooms on new growth. The five-lobed tips of the flowers open gradually and look like small cream-colored stars perched on red pedestals. In bloom, no plant has greater grace and charm. Under good culture, leaves are robust, clean, and dark green. Janet, my native-plant loving wife, hales from Shreveport and I have been admiring her colonies of Indian pink for years. She has one plant that came originally from Tony Avent, of Plant Delite in North Carolina, and it appears to be particularly robust and large-leaved. We have scattered Indian pink in many areas of the shade garden of the Mast Arboretum and it's persistent and always a crowd pleaser when it's in bloom.

For bird lovers, Indian Pink is thought to be a major nectar source for ruby-throated hummingbirds, and it has been voted one of the top ten hummingbird plants in the country by Operation RubyThroat, an international research and education initiative based in York, South Carolina. For the herbal crowd, the genus *Spigelia* is considered medicinal with attributes as an antihelmintic (vermifuge). In fact, any search of the Web will find buckets of *Spigelia* products touting anti-headache attributes. The only headaches we've had have to do with propagation: The plant is a bit tricky. Bill Fontenot reports that placing flats under plants to catch falling seed into a fine seedbed is a good approach. Our experience at SFA is that seed is difficult. Asexual propagation is the norm in the trade with a preference shown for selecting the most vigorous tips as cutting material – these will root quite easily but his vigorous cuttings are often a bit turgor-difficult and mist propagation requires attention to detail. Easy to damp off, propagators should use a light mix with mist intervals frequent enough to prevent first wilt. Because of high demand and lack of supply, the plant is now becoming more and more available from the tissue culture world. The end result is that plants are available for anyone willing to seek them out.

Other related species include *S. texana* (syn. *S. loganoides* or Florida Pinkroot) and *S. gentianoides* (Gentian Pinkroot). Neither is in cultivation right now (as far as I know) but *S. texana*, a white-flowering species, is reported to have potential as a groundcover. *Sbedyotideia*, Prairie Pinkroot, is native to the southern and western parts of north central Texas and is normally found on limestone outcrops and gravelly soils; this species is even more uncommon than Indian Pink. Further to the east in Florida and Alabama, the pale-pink-flowering *S. gentianoides* is so rare it's on the federal list of endangered species. Evidently pressure from agriculture and forestry has been a main threat and the plant is limited to a small number of populations in Florida and Alabama. Conservation efforts are under way at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia. *S. splendens* is reported in Mexico and Guatemala. In terms of landscape and medicinal interest, *Spigelia* is a genus worth exploring. The PNPC is working to build a collection of *Spigelia* genotypes from the Pinewoods – and states further east and we will be promoting the greater use of this first class native for the shade garden.

This article provided by Dr. Dave Creech is a Professor of Horticulture and Director of the SFA Mast Arboretum at Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas [dcreech@sfasu.edu](mailto:dcreech@sfasu.edu)



Janet Creech, of Shreveport, sitting cheerfully in late May by an Indian pink plant she and I both know is the very best Indian pink ever seen on earth.



(Cont'd from page 1) Dues for LIA are \$100.00 for irrigation contractors, \$300.00 for suppliers and \$25.00 for affiliate members; which includes employees of members, students and faculty. To access a membership application and for more information, you may go the LIA website [www.l-i-a.org](http://www.l-i-a.org). Dues for LNLA members are posted on the newly revised and updated LNLA website [www.lnla.org](http://www.lnla.org) and in all of our newsletters. Also, be sure to check out LNLA benefits on the website too.

(Continued from page 1)

taught a Landscape Design course at Southeastern Louisiana College and I was fortunate to have taken his class in 1968 as a graduating senior. I can remember learning to identify many woody ornamental plants and some of the basic principles of landscape design. I can also remember trying very hard in class but, I wasn't one of Chris' stellar students. However, he gave me a B and I was happy. Chris also taught at Tulane University from 1971 to 1973.

In June of 1972, he made a switch to the public sector and became the Landscape Architect for the City of New Orleans, Park and Parkway Commission. Chris designed many miles of streets and neutral grounds in the city and introduced many plant materials. He stayed there until 1976 at which time he went back into private practice for himself. I think Chris got tired of the politics.

It was in 1975 that Chris and I reconnected professionally. I was the Metro Area Horticulturist with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service at the time and, often when Chris encountered pest or cultural problems, he would call on me. We worked closely together until 1992 at which time I was transferred to north Louisiana and we lost touch with each other.

Some major projects Chris has undertaken over the years include the design of the Kiwanis Playground, McDonough No. 15 Elementary School in the French Quarter and design of the west bank of Bayou St. John on City Park Ave. all in New Orleans, LA. Chris also has designed many residential and business locations in Southeast Louisiana.

His specialty is design consultation of historical significance and he has been a consultant for the Hermann Grima House, the Gallier House and Madame John's Legacy House all in the French Quarter of New Orleans. He's consulted at Derbigny Plantation in Westwego, LA; Hermitage Plantation, Darrow, LA; Spring Grove Plantation, also known as Rosebank, The Felicianas', LA and Destrehan Manor Plantation in Destrehan, LA.

Chris has been featured on the cover and major article in 'Southern Living' magazine, August 1986. He was a featured Landscape Architect in the book *The New American Garden* by Carole Ottesen and several of his garden designs were featured in the book *New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence* by Richard Sexton and Randolph Delehanty

Last fall, as I exhibited at the SELNA Trade Show I saw Chris for the first time since 1992 and what a surprise and delight it was to see him. We visited for several hours and have visited by phone and at a special function held at the Alumni Center at Southeastern Louisiana University. Chris was one of about nine agriculture professors recognized for his service to the Agriculture Department, the students and to SLU.

If you'd like to contact Chris, you can reach him at 80097 Albert Thompson Road, Folsom, LA 70437, (P) 985.796.9508 (E) [ccfolsom@aol.com](mailto:ccfolsom@aol.com).



## LOUISIANA Nursery & Landscape NEWS

LNLA's newsletter, *Louisiana Nursery & Landscape News*, is a quarterly publication. Advertisement space can be purchased by any green industry business. A discount is available to LNLA members with annual contracts.

### NEWSLETTER ADS

**Quarterly publication:** (Jan/Feb/March), (April/May/June), (July/Aug/Sept), (Oct/Nov/Dec).

Ad Size	Dimensions	1 Qtr	LNLA	
			(Member) 1 YR	(Non-Member) 1 YR
Full Page	7-1/2" X 9-1/2"	\$100	\$300	\$370
Half Page/Vert.	3-1/2" X 9-1/2"	\$75	\$225	\$280
Half Page/Horiz.	7-1/2" X 4-1/2"	\$60	\$180	\$220
Qtr. Page	3-1/2" X 4-1/2"	\$35	\$105	\$130
Bus. Card	3-1/2" X 2"	\$25	\$ 75	\$ 90

**Ad copy:** Two copies are required. A velux hard copy and a file copy in a .tiff format (only) with fonts converted to curves.

#### For further details contact the editors:

Severn C. Doughty, Sr. LNLA Executive Secretary,  
444 Foxtrot Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052  
(P) 318.872.4677 (E) [scd357@cmaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@cmaaccess.com)

Laura Crnko, LNLA Administrative Assistant,  
8409 Vincent Road, Denham Springs, LA 70726  
(P) 225.667.4744 (E) [lcrnko@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcrnko@bellsouth.net)

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# “Service So Bright, I Had To Wear Shades!”

by Mark Mayberry

Here’s an e-mail from Dave Swearingen. Dave is with The Site Group in New Carlise, Ohio, and reads my regular articles in the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association’s monthly “Buckeye” magazine. Here’s Dave’s e-mail, which is a great example of getting what you pay for:

“When I decided to invest in Maui Jim sunglasses, I understandably got a few raised eyebrows. Coming in at around \$250, they are definitely not drugstore kiosk quality. I figured that if I pay extra, I will take extra care of them and make them outlast 20 pairs of cheapies...

Anyway, even \$250 sunglasses will get scratches if you let them fall out of your pocket. I bit the bullet and paid the \$60, plus shipping and handling, to have Maui Jim replace the lenses in my 5-year-old pair that were ‘way out of warranty.’ Imagine my surprise when they sent me back a brand new pair, including the case!! It is really refreshing to see a company that already had my money go the extra mile to assure my satisfaction! I’m a real Maui Jim fan and I just wanted to do my part to recommend their excellent products and service.”

Thanks for the e-mail, Dave! I love Dave’s logic. By spending more on a pair of sunglasses, he figured that he would take better

care of them. I have gone through several pair of “drugstore kiosk quality” sunglasses myself. A few years ago, I finally bought a pair of prescription sunglasses and Dave is right – I still have them! Like Dave, I lost or broke several pair of the cheap sunglasses.

However, as Dave relates, accidents do happen. And when it did, Dave had to make another sizeable investment to send the sunglasses back to Maui Jim. And Maui Jim delivered a “Shazzam!” with a new pair of sunglasses and a brand-new case – even though the warranty had long since expired.

Maui Jim will never compete with the sunglasses you can buy at a drugstore kiosk. They have no intention of doing this. They have built their brand into a national (probably international) icon, and go the extra mile for their Customers.

In your nursery/landscape business, you will never win when you get into a price war, especially one with the big box stores. Jim Blasingame is a friend of mine and is known as “The Small Business Advocate.” In a recent e-zine, Jim said, “The price war is over and we (the small business owner) have lost.”

Your nursery/landscape business must win the “Battle Of

Shazzam!” Dave Swearingen bought a pair of Maui Jim sunglasses and received “Service With Shazzam!” from Maui Jim. Dave closes his e-mail by saying that he “wanted to do my part” by recommending Maui Jim to others. This article will be read by thousands of people. I’m delighted to help Jim spread the word, and I hope that you will be inspired to give up the “price war” and get your Customers to spread the word about your “Service With Shazzam!”

© Mark Mayberry

## YOUR SHAZAM CHALLENGE ...

Do your nursery/landscape company’s customers feel compelled to tell their friends about you?

What can you do to make that happen?

Mark Mayberry & Marty Grunder (Landscape Extraordinaire from Dayton, OH!) are planning a 2-day Customer Service Workshop in Atlanta in Spring 2007. Call Mark (800-394-6138) for details!

**Are you ready to get serious about Customer Service? Order my new audio CD, “Eight Steps To Better Customer Service” (\$20.00) at my website, [www.MarkMayberry.com](http://www.MarkMayberry.com).**

*Mark Mayberry is an international speaker, author, and consultant. Mark wants your input about his newsletter! Please write him at: The Mayberry Group, 6015 Twinpoint Way, Woodstock, Georgia 30189. You can call Mark at (800) 394-6138, or send Mark an E-Mail: [Mark@MarkMayberry.com](mailto:Mark@MarkMayberry.com) Visit Mark’s website at [www.MarkMayberry.com](http://www.MarkMayberry.com)!*

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business—

#### Cooperative Service Inviting Applications for Renewable Energy Systems and En- ergy Efficiency Improvements Grants and Guaranteed Loans

**AGENCY:** Rural Business—Cooperative  
Service (RBS), USDA

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Rural Business— Cooperative  
Service (RBS), an Agency within USDA  
Rural Development, announces it is accepting  
applications for fiscal year (FY) 2007 to pur-  
chase renewable energy systems and make  
energy efficiency improvements for agricul-  
ture producers and rural small businesses in  
eligible rural areas. Funding will be available  
in the form of grants, guaranteed loans, and  
combined guaranteed loans and grant applica-  
tions.

For renewable energy systems, the minimum  
grant request is \$2,500 and the maximum is  
\$500,000. For energy efficiency improve-  
ments, the minimum grant request is \$1,500  
and the maximum is \$250,000. The maxi-  
mum amount of a guaranteed loan made to a  
borrower will be \$10 million. Fifty percent of  
the available grant funding will be reserved  
for the grant portion of combination grant and  
guaranteed loan applications. For FY 2007,  
the guarantee fee amount is 1 percent of the  
guaranteed portion of the loan and the annual  
renewal fee is 0.125 percent (one-eighth of  
one percent) of the guaranteed portion of the  
loan.

**DATES:** The United States Department of  
Agriculture (USDA) will conduct one com-  
petitive grant solicitation in FY 2007.

## Section 9006 Grant and Loan Guarantee Program

### RD Instruction 4280 A & B

The Section 9006: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program cur-  
rently funds grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural  
small business for assistance with purchasing renewable energy systems and  
making energy efficiency improvements.

- Notice published March 22, 2007, inviting grant and guaranteed loan applications for FY 2007.
- \$11.4 million in grants and \$176.5 million in guaranteed loan authority.
- Deadline to apply for grant assistance: May 18, 2007. Deadline to request N/O guaranteed loan funding and combination grant and guaranteed loan funding: July 2, 2007.
- Grant request must not exceed 25% of eligible project costs. Renewable energy system grants range from \$2,500 to \$500,000. Energy efficiency improvement grants range from \$1,500 to \$250,000.
- Projects under \$200,000 total project costs qualify for a simplified application process.
- Projects can qualify for combined grant and loan guarantee. However, grant portion subject to 25% and combination cannot exceed 50% of total project costs.
- Minimum guaranteed loan: \$5,000. Maximum guaranteed loan: \$10,000,000
- Guaranteed Loan Fee: 1% upfront and 1/8 of 1 percent as an annual renewal fee.
- Max. Guarantee - 85% up to \$600M, 80% up to \$5MM, 70% up to \$10MM.
- Projects must be located in Rural Area. Same definition as B&I.
- Applicant must be an Agricultural Producer or a Small Business as defined by SBA.

Grant applicants must have demonstrated financial need.

Eligible renewable energy projects include systems that generate energy from wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal source or that produce hydrogen derived from biomass or water using a renewable energy source. Renewable energy projects can include the generation of electricity, heat, fuels, or hydrogen. Energy efficiency projects typically involve installing or upgrading equipment that results in significant reduction of energy use from current operations.

For more information, see program website at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html>

*If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me:  
Kevin W. Boone, Renewable Energy Coordinator, USDA Rural Develop-  
ment, 905 Jefferson St., Suite 320, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501  
(P) 337. 262.6601 x133 (F) 337.262.6823 (E) [kevin.boone@la.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.boone@la.usda.gov)*

# REGIONAL REPORT FROM GREEN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

## SELNA UPDATE:

### MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2007 MEETING

The spring meeting of SELNA was held on April 17, 2007, at Murphy's Seafood Restaurant in Hammond, La. After dinner orders were placed, President Monty Ingles welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. The following 31 members and guests attended: Tim & Rosanne Blackwell, Larry Bourgeois, Regina Bracy, Ed Bush, Annie Coco, Todd Ellefson, Taylor Frazier, Bill Furlong, Barton & Elsa Fussell, Kim Guidry, Martin Hackney, Monty & Philip Ingles, Ms. Margie & Margie Ann Jenkins, Robert La-Croix, Buddy Lee, Katie McCain, Wayne McLaurin (speaker), Jimmy & Vivian Newsham, Allen Owings, Rick & Susan Webb, Dale & Lynette & Matt & Leslie Westmoreland, Jessica Young & Jason Caldwell.

Guest speaker Dr. Wayne McLaurin, visiting professor and ornamentals researcher with Mississippi State University in Poplarville, MS, gave the methods and results of his research on an inverted pot inside a larger pot for a cost saving production of trees.

He used a 5 gallon pot turned upside down at the bottom of a 15 gallon pot, then fill with bark mix. Their research showed no significant difference in the overall height of trees (magnolias) over the same time period grown in the new culture, as compared to bark fill without the smaller pot in it.

There was significantly less weight to the inverted pot culture, which should result in less weight on trucks for fuel efficiency.

The trees grown with inverted pots should be planted on a mound within the planting hole with the roots spread outwards. Education of landscapers and the public would be needed for proper planting into landscapes.

Some concern was expressed over the cost of the smaller pot being more than bark mix at this time, but with rising bark costs, that may change in the future. Concern was also expressed that the lighter pots may result in more blow over potential, so some prevention method would be needed.

Dr. McLaurin concluded by stating the significance of this research to the industry is the potential of savings on bark mix as pine bark becomes less available and more expensive. He also saved 1/3 of the cost of fertilizer and fire ant control per pot, both of which were incorporated into the bark mix, because he used 1/3 less bark in each pot.

His research station is located in Poplarville, Miss., at the intersection of Highways 11 and 26; he invited nursery owners to visit.

Minutes of Last Meeting (9-5-06) - Annie Coco reported these were mailed in the late September 2006 newsletter with the notice of the Trade Show & List/Map. Regina Bracy motioned to accept the minutes as mailed, seconded by Rosanne Blackwell; motion passed.

Treasurer Report - Kim Guidry distributed her report. The checking account balance is \$8,020.28 as of 4-1-07. Report was accepted.

Hammond Research Station - Regina Bracy reported that Yan Chen was featured in and on the cover of the latest issue of Louisiana Agriculture magazine. It is available free of charge and gives updates on what research is taking place around the state at various LSU AgCenter research stations.

Gardeners Night Out is a new activity which will take place April 20 at the station with the help of Tangipahoa master gardeners. Dr. Neil Odenwald will speak and then sign his newly revised Southern Plants book to be sold by the master gardeners as a fund-raiser. Master gardeners will also sell BBQ brisket dinners and cold drinks. Flyers were distributed for those interested.

Regina also announced that Dr. Allen Owings, LSU AgCenter ornamentals specialist, will be moving his office to the Hammond Research Station on July 1, 2007.

LSU AgCenter Horticulture - Allen Owings reported that the horticulture and agronomy departments on the LSU campus have merged together into one. They are working on offering a two year associate horticulture degree program at Baton Rouge Community College; graduates could then go into business or enroll at LSU for 2 more years to complete a bachelor's degree.

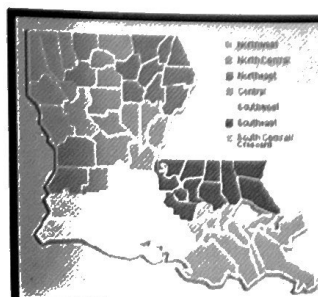
The annual Golf Shootout will be on May 25 at LSU. Allen was recently elected president of the Azalea Society; Buddy Lee was their last president for 4 years. Their crawfish boil will be May 6. Ms. Margie Jenkins was awarded their Distinguished Service Award in Texas.

Burden Research Center now has a hydrangea research project, among others.

### Old Business:

Southeast Louisiana Wholesale Plant Locator List/Map - The report on this was in the last newsletter announcing this meeting. Annie Coco brought list/map booklets for those who need more.

(Continued on page 25)



Support Louisiana's green industry by joining your regional association. Contact the following:

**NOWLAN:** Severn C. Doughty, Sr., LNLA Exec. Secretary, 444 Fox Trot Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052  
(P) 318.872.4266 (E) scd357@cmaccess.com

**SELNA:** Annie Coco, SELNA Secretary, PO Box 848, Amite, LA 70422 (P) 985.748.3787  
(E) [acoco@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:acoco@agctr.lsu.edu)

**SWLAN:** Frances Thorne, 17868 Lake Charles Hwy, Leesville, LA 71446 (P) 337.462.1642  
(E) [hthorne@beau.lib.la.us](mailto:hthorne@beau.lib.la.us)

## ***Southern Living*<sup>®</sup> and PDSI will Partner in Exclusive Live Goods Licensing Deal: To Develop and Market Plant Collection under Southern Living Brand**

(Loxley, AL) --- *Southern Living* magazine and Alabama-based Plant Development Services, Inc. (PDSI) have entered into an exclusive Live Goods Licensing Agreement to develop and market a collection of plants throughout the United States and Canada. This collection will be marketed exclusively under the Southern Living brand.

Plant categories in the comprehensive collection will include: shrubs, trees, bedding plants, groundcovers, tropicals, ornamental grasses, seasonals and related green goods, according to Greg Smith, President of PDSI. "We are excited about this partnership, as it will create exciting new opportunities for participating nurseries and plant breeders throughout the country," Smith said.

The Southern Living Collection will feature innovative new plants that solve landscape problems for all consumers. The collection will be introduced to consumers in the 2008 Spring Season, and will be available via all retail channels throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"Consumers have an increasing appetite for plants that solve real problems in the American Landscape. This partnership will create a collection of the highest quality plants, delivered by a brand recognized and trusted by consumers for over 40 years," said Smith.

PDSI is currently expanding its grower group network and evaluating plants in order to adequately service the anticipated consumer demand. In addition to those from North America,

many new plants come from Europe and the Far East, according to Smith. PDSI is currently in the process of identifying primary contacts internationally, in order to bring these new plants to the North American consumer.

"We are currently in the process of identifying various plants to fill the extensive category needs," Smith stated. "Our standards are very high, as consumers want the best and most relevant new solutions to solve their landscape challenge."

Growers interested in the program, and plant breeders with potential new cultivars, should contact PDSI on the web at [www.plantdevelopment.com](http://www.plantdevelopment.com).

PDSI, a leader in horticultural innovation, was founded in 1996 by Greg Smith, after seeing a need for an industry resource that could manage new plant introductions. Of particular interest to PDSI, according to Smith, are plants with unique performance attributes that can be patented, branded and successfully introduced to the consumer market. Plant Development Services, Inc. (PDSI) owns and/or licenses over 50 patented plant properties, including the number one azalea brand in the world, Encore Azalea<sup>®</sup>.

*Southern Living*, is a premier lifestyle and entertaining magazine of the South and the 8<sup>th</sup> largest monthly consumer magazine in the U.S. (based on readership). It reaches nearly 16 million readers each month and enjoys a circulation of about 2.8 million. Published 12 times a year *Southern Living* celebrates the heart of Southern life.

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## WEED DOCTOR'S CORNER: No Good Answer for "Bush Killer" Vine

Many of you are aware of the vine known as "bush killer" (*Cayratia japonica*). Bush killer vine is an invasive herbaceous vine that climbs on and over landscape plants. The vine lives up to its bush killer name by blocking sunlight and breaking down shrubs and trees with its weight. Bush killer, a member of the grape family (Vitaceae), is native to Japan but, has adapted well to south Louisiana and inhabits many landscapes in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and throughout the gulf coast. I worked a question and answer booth at The Spring Garden Show in New Orleans this year. Frequently, I was asked to identify this vine from samples brought to me or the vine was simply described to me as so aggressive in growth that it was destroying the client's landscape.



The vine is extremely invasive and spreads vegetatively from its well developed root system. A single plant can take over a large area during the spring and summer growing season. To make matters worse, the vine is occasionally cultivated as an ornamental which has helped in the weed's rapid distribution. The plant is often confused with other invasive vines including Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). I included a few images in the article to help you with identification.

The Burden Research Center, a part of the LSU AgCenter here in Baton Rouge has a high population and the vine is often found on the grounds of the center. In fact, I will be evaluating several herbicides and techniques this spring and summer trying to find ways of managing this weed. Currently, the only method of control is hand removal because the plant appears to have an amazing tolerance to herbicides. Please keep an eye out for this extremely invasive vine and remove it from the landscape. Hopefully, our research will yield some effective control options this summer.



**Bush Killer** (*Cayratia japonica*)



**Virginia Creeper**  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*



**Poison Ivy**  
*Toxicodendron radicans*

### Editor's Note:

I first encountered this plant in 1975 and as a budding horticulturist in New Orleans, I tried desperately to have it identified. After going to many resources, I finally took it to Dr. Joseph Ewing, Professor of Botany at Tulane University and he immediately identified it for me. Consequently, I began using herbicides on the vine and found Roundup worked fairly well. My recommendations to those who called in and asked for control measures included the following. Remove as much of the fleshy vine from plants, fences, and structures as possible and dispose of the vines. Next, cut all aerial shoots to ground level. Once the vine resprouts to 2 -3 feet high, spray the emerging shoots with Roundup, at a rate of 4 oz. per gallon of water. Repeat applications will be necessary as the plant produces underground runners (rhizomes) and they resprout very aggressively both above and below ground. The more mature the plant, the harder it is to eradicate.

The **Weed Doctor's Corner** was written by Dr. Ron Straban, Assistant Professor in Weed Science, LSU AgCenter, (P) 225.578.2392, (E) [rstraban@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rstraban@agcenter.lsu.edu).

Updated versions of the LSU AgCenter's useful guides to controlling weeds, insect pests and plant diseases are available. The 2006 editions of guides can be downloaded for free from the LSU AgCenter's Web site at [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) — or printed copies of the guides can be purchased through that site. Prepared by experts in the LSU AgCenter, the publications are known as the Louisiana Suggested Chemical Weed Control Guide, the Insect Pest Management Guide and the Louisiana Plant Disease Management Guide. The weed control guide includes helpful information on herbicides and weed control — with detailed suggestions for aquatics, commercial nursery stock, field crops, forestry, fruit crops, home gardens, lawns and many other Louisiana crops. It includes information on different types of herbicide registrations, as well as information on herbicide labels and restricted uses. Also included are sprayer calibration techniques, suggestions for reducing herbicide drift and a guide to proper spray tip selection.



## MATCHED-PRECIPITATION SPRINKLER MINIMIZES WATER USE & MAXIMIZES EFFICIENCIES

**SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA**—Hunter Industries Incorporated has entered into a definitive agreement with Nelson Irrigation Corporation for the acquisition of the MP Rotator® turf sprinkler business from Walla Walla Sprinkler Company, a subsidiary of Nelson Irrigation.

"The MP Rotator sprinkler is truly unique," said Richard E. Hunter, President and CEO of Hunter Industries. "It's the first matched-precipitation sprinkler across all arcs and radii. Nelson Irrigation has an esteemed reputation in this industry, and they've really hit one out of the park with the MP Rotator sprinkler. The product is a perfect fit for us, and we look forward to incorporating it into our own existing line of innovative irrigation products. It plays very well into our short and long term product development plans, so we're thrilled all the way around."

Barton R. Nelson, President and CEO of Nelson Irrigation said, "The MP Rotator sprinkler has been an unprecedented success for us. Current sales and forecasts required us to double our manufacturing efforts, and we realized that we would need to either build a larger sales and marketing support organization for the turf market, or find a buyer that had one in place. But the MP Rotator sprinkler was our baby, and if we were going to sell, we wanted to go with an organization that shared our culture and commitment to quality. Hunter Industries was the natural choice. We know they'll do the right thing."

Hunter and Nelson have a long history of mutual respect and cooperation relating to each other's intellectual property, and the MP Rotator sprinkler is currently manufactured under several of Nelson's patents

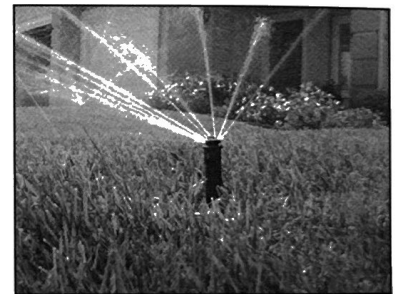
and certain of Hunter's patents licensed to Nelson. The product is currently used both on new rotor specified projects and as an alternative to traditional spray heads. And, the MP Rotator sprinkler is an excellent product for retrofit spray head projects where turf and property managers wish to minimize water use and maximize distribution efficiencies.

While the agreement between the two companies has been finalized, the closing date of the transaction will be September 4, 2007. During this time, Nelson will continue "business as usual" according to Bob Rugar, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Nelson Irrigation.

"Hunter Industries has the capacity to ensure that the MP Rotator sprinkler reaches its full potential in worldwide turf markets," said Rugar. "We'll be working closely together to ensure that the manufacturing processes are well understood, and that the sales potential for this product is maximized. Nelson Irrigation will continue to focus on providing state-of-the-art water application solutions for the agricultural irrigation markets, and will continue to support Hunter Industries in the evolution of the MP Rotator series of sprinklers."

"It's the perfect acquisition," said Brandon Meadows, Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Hunter Industries. "We secured this deal, which will shake up markets globally. The MP Rotator sprinkler has gained a good footing domestically and is also highly sought after in our international markets. The icing on the cake is that the timing coincides nicely with our buying season, so the product works, the timing works, and we're excited!"

*For more information, visit  
Hunter Industries on the internet  
at [www.HunterIndustries.com](http://www.HunterIndustries.com).*



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(Continued from page 21)

### **New Business:**

The following proposed 2007 dates were decided upon by majority vote:

May 5 - Crawfish Boil, Dogwood Hill Nursery, Bill & Sylvia Furlong, time around 12 noon or 1 pm.

June 26 - SELNA summer meeting with Ron Strahan as speaker, vote on location between Murphy's in Hammond or DiCristina's in Covington; chose DiCristina's.

Sept. 18 - SELNA fall meeting, decide on location later.

Oct. 24 - SELNA Trade Show & Open House, Magnolia Park, Folsom, Wednesday was overwhelming choice on exhibitor and attendee surveys at last trade show.

Dec. 8 - Christmas Party was discussed but NOT decided. Philip Ingles motioned to table until next meeting; second by Rosanne Blackwell; motion carried to decide later.

**2007 Trade Show & Open House** - Monty asked for volunteers to serve on committee to plan. Recommendations for any changes should be made at the summer meeting.

Committee members are: Rosanne Blackwell, Annie Coco, David Lowery, Jessica Watts, Carijane Wheeler.

**Nomination & Election of Officers** - Officers will serve two years to the spring of 2009. Rick Webb, nominating committee chair, gave the following nominations: President - Todd Ellefson, Vice-President - Jimmy Newsham, Treasurer - Margie Ann Jenkins, Secretary - Annie Coco

Monty asked for any further nominations; there were none. Tim Blackwell motioned to accept the nominated persons by acclimation, second by Bill Furlong; motion passed and those nominated were elected.

### **Announcements/Other Business:**

**Donation to LSU Horticulture Nursery/Landscape Golf Shootout** - The annual donation of \$100 will be contributed.

**LNLA** - Annie Coco reported Dr. Severn Doughty sent his regrets on not being able to attend the meeting.

**Gardeners Night Out** - Friday, April 20, 5-7 pm, Hammond Research Station, free admission, can buy book &/or BBQ.

Annie Coco & Leo Triche invite all to their annual **Summer Party** on Saturday, May 19, 2007, 2pm until, at their home. Invitations and maps will be distributed later.

Rick Webb announced the Louisiana Native Plant Society will have a tour on the last weekend of May. Go to their website at for more info.

There being no further business, Regina Bracy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Bill Furlong; motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

\*Submitted by Annie Coco, SELNA Secretary, and County Agent, Tangipahoa Parish, LSU AgCenter, 4-27-07.

### **SWLAN UPDATE:**

Interested in joining the Southwest Louisiana Association of Nurserymen? Contact Howard Thorne, SWLAN Secretary, 17868 Lake Charles Hwy., Leesville, LA 71446 (P) 337.462.2914 (F) 337.462.1642.

### **NOWLAN UPDATE:**

The next NOWLAN meeting is scheduled for August 30,

2007 at 6:30p.m. at the home of Dr. Joe and Barbara White and their daughter Barzanna, 511 Sleepy Hollow Place, Shreveport, LA (P) 318-797-8617. The educational program will be presented by Dr. Dale Pollet, Entomology Specialist, LSU AgCenter.

The last meeting for this year will be on November 8, 2007 at 6:30p.m. at the American Rose Center, 8877 Jefferson Paige Rd., Shreveport, LA (P) 318-938-5402. John and Mary Cash of Arklatex Water Gardens, in Shreveport, will host the meeting and Dr. Dave Creech, Professor of Horticulture and Director of the SAF Arboretum at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX will present the educational program on new plants at the Arboretum.

\*Submitted by Severn C. Doughty, Sr.

(Continued from page 9)

Mansfield, LA is located 30 miles south of Shreveport, LA and 23 miles east of the Texas state line (32 degrees, 2 minutes, North Latitude and 93 degrees, 42 minutes, West Longitude). The elevation is 400 feet above sea level and Mansfield is in USDA Hardiness Zone 8a.

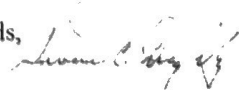
The soil type is Kirvin fine sandy loam with a 1 - 5 % slope and the subsoil is red clay and contains ironstone fragments. This Kirvin soil type is characterized by very low fertility but, contains high levels of exchangeable aluminum which, coupled with low soil pH, is potentially toxic to many plants. My soil is also very high in magnesium and very low in all other nutrients.

Joey Billeaud told me he was growing quite a number of palms for sale and was interested in learning how well some would do in the landscape in North Louisiana. So he gave me the following: (2) 1 gal., 3' high, *Caryota maxima* 'Himalaya'; (1) 3 gal. with 4 canes - 2' high, *Chamaedorea microspadix*; (1) 1 gal., 6" high, *Chamaerops humilis* var. *cerifera*; (1) 1 gal., 8" high, *Trachycarpus takii*; and (1) 3 gal., with a baseball size caudex, *Cycas tiatungensis*.

Observations made on May 22, 2007 follow: *Cycas tiatungensis* threw 3 leaves and only slight cold injury was noted on the existing 3 leaves; *Trachycarpus takii* had grown from 8" high to 12" high and no apparent cold injury was noted; *Chamaerops humilis* var. *cerifera* had doubled in size and no cold injury was noted; *Chamaedorea microspadix* had four canes and all were pushing new leaves. Yellow discoloration occurred on all leaves during the winter and some leaf tip burn occurred as a result of cold. The older leaves were greening up; both *Caryota maxima* 'Himalaya' were completely brown with no green apparent. There were no signs of survival. I plan to continue my cold hardiness observations and will report on the results as they become available.

Remember, if you have a comment, announcement, request, criticism or if you'd like to contribute to the Newsletter, please contact me at 318-872-4677 or email me at [scd357@emaaccess.com](mailto:scd357@emaaccess.com). Until next time,....

Best Regards,



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## VIRGINIA TECH FOUNDATION

Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, 49, wife of Dr. Jerzy Nowak, who is the Virginia Tech Horticulture Department Head died with at least ten of her French class students at the end of the shooting rampage at Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16, 2007. She was a language instructor, originally from Montreal, who taught French in Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and was faculty advisor to the French Club at Virginia Tech.

She completed her studies at the Nova Scotia Teachers College and lived in Truro, Nova Scotia in the 1990s where her husband, Jerzy Nowak, was a plant science professor. The Novaks moved to the United States in 2000, when Jerzy Nowak accepted the position as head of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Department in Blacksburg.

Memorial donations may be made to the Jocelyne Couture-Nowak Memorial Garden Fund, which will be used to create a commemorative garden at the Virginia Tech Hahn Horticulture Garden in Blacksburg. **Checks should be made out to the "Virginia Tech Foundation"** and may be mailed to the following address:

Jocelyne Couture-Nowak Memorial Garden Fund  
Department of Horticulture (0327)  
301 Saunders Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

*(Continued from page 3)*

Harvey Cotton, Linda Guy, Bob McCartney, Don Shadow, Dave Creech, Bob Head, Jan Midgley, Holly Shimizu, Michael Dirr, Dan Heins, Richard Olson, Ken Tilt, Tommy Dodd, Hayes Jackson, Jason Powell, Maarten van der Giessen, Bill Finch, Todd Lasseigne, Tim Rinehart.

Tables will be provided for speakers and attendees to display new plant cultivars. Space is limited, so please bring small plants (no larger than 1 gal.) and limit the number per variety (number of variety is not limited.) Identification cards will be provided upon arrival for you to properly identify your plants.

All industry professionals – growers of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals, aquatics and grasses, landscape architects and designers, landscape contractors and maintenance personnel and garden center managers – interested in obtaining new plant varieties, sharing new plant information and looking ahead to the future of our industry are urged to attend this unique conference. Discover new varieties, examine new methods and learn from other industry professionals at the 2007 Southern Plant Conference. Don't miss this exciting event!

To register or inquire about the conference, please call the SNA office at 770.953.3311.

*Submitted by Dr. Allen Owings, Horticulture Professor, LSU AgCenter,  
(P) 225.578.2417, (C) 225.603.8096, (F) 225.578.0773*



**Louisiana  
Nursery &  
Landscape  
ASSOCIATION**

**LOUISIANA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2007  
McGee's Landing Restaurant, Henderson, LA**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by President, Danny LaFleur. Board members present included: Rick Cicero, Huel Jones, Beth Perkins, Debbie Head, Chauncey Nichols, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Allen Owings, Tom Fennell, Pat Newman, Danny LaFleur, Frances and Howard Thorne and Severn C. Doughty, Sr.. Guests included; Dr. Ed Bush and Mike Misuraca. Seven Regular Members of the Board of Directors constitute a quorum.

Danny LaFleur asked that everyone please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

A motion was made by Rusty Ruckstuhl, seconded by Rick Cicero, to accept the minutes of the last Board meeting and to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting, 2007 as submitted. Motion passed.

Pat Newman presented the financial report. Income from January 1, 2007 through March 1<sup>st</sup> was \$28,006.09. Total expenses amounted to \$25,870.72. The bank balance March 1, 2007 was \$20,118.12. The money market account amounted to \$106,998.05 and it was yielding 4.75%. The Heritage Capitol Trust Fund was \$38,623.80 and the Heritage Growth and Income Trust Fund was \$20,675.32 for a total of \$52,249.12 in the two Heritage accounts. Pat indicated that we made no income on the Heritage Mutual Fund accounts but made \$378.45 on the money market account.

After a brief discussion Chauncey Nichols moved, seconded by Huel Jones, to ask Rusty Ruckstuhl, after he volunteered, to review the Heritage Mutual Fund accounts, with his financial advisor and if beneficial and after Board approval, consider moving the mutual funds to money market accounts. Motion passed.

Frances Thorne moved, seconded by Debbie Head, to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Pat Newman gave a GSHE report and stated that we have not had a meeting as of yet and don't know of details concerning the amount of money LNLA will receive. Her estimate is between \$42 and \$43 thousand.

Danny expressed concern about the low attendance Saturday and wondered if the show could be moved to Thursday and Friday. Pat indicated that it is not likely because the show dates have been set years in advance. Other comments centered on recommendations to improve the show. They were: 'need more table and chairs at concession areas and GSHE should buy straps to use to load/off-load large trees.'

Pat Newman indicated that the move-in went extremely well and we were complemented on how well Tom Fennell and the other volunteers worked to get exhibitors moved-in in an orderly fashion.

Feed back on the Educational section was good and Allen Owings estimated that attendance was just over 300. He felt that LNLA should receive the same amount this year as last year which was \$2,636.00.

Pat Newman recommended that the Education committee for the GSHE show include both university and industry representatives to set the agenda for the educational program next year.

The 2007 Budget and Review of 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 of Revenue and Expenses were discussed. It was stated that from 2003 - 06 there were various different line items used. One set of line item entries should be used beginning now. Also it was apparent from the budget review that LNLA was operating in the red from 2003 - 06.

Pat Newman stated that we actually did not operate in the red as LNLA received a grant from LDAF in the amount of \$115,000.00 and this was used to pay for a number of line items which made it appear as though we spent more than we received in income. Actually, we operated in the black from 2003 - 06.

Tom Fennell asked if we plan to include interest from our investments as a line item in the 2007 Revenue Budget and it was included March 15, 2007. With all that being said, Beth Perkins moved, seconded by Tom Fennell, that we use the line items as presented in the 2007 Budget on an annual basis and that we accept the 2007 Budget. Motion carried.

Rusty Ruckstuhl gave a brief report on funding requests and stated that the committee agreed to provide \$500.00 for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual LSU Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout and \$500.00 to support the 2007 Daylily Festival and Garden Show in Abbeville, LA. Since both requests were \$500.00 or less, no Board action was required.

Tom Fennell then requested that a copy of the funding forms be sent to each Board member so they would have access to them. This was sent March 15, 2007.

(Continued on page 28)

*(Continued from page 27)*

Mike Misuraca gave a brief report on Meadowbrook Insurance and stated that he was still writing a good many policies to LNLA members. After his report he gave everyone a small dispenser of band-aids as a reminder to be safe and careful.

Allen Owings gave an LSU AgCenter update. He said there were a number of garden shows/festivals this spring around the state and he had already attended the one in Hammond, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Others include: Blooming on the Bricks, Natchitoches, March 10<sup>th</sup>; Covington March 17 – 18<sup>th</sup>; Forest Hill, March 16 – 17<sup>th</sup>; Baton Rouge, March 24 -25<sup>th</sup>; Lake Charles, March 24 - 25; Lafayette, March 31<sup>st</sup>; Louisiana Irrigation Assoc. meeting, March 31st in Lafayette; Monroe, March 24 – 25; American Azalea Society Annual Meeting, March 29 – April 1, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX; LSU Turf School, April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Louisiana Tech, April 5<sup>th</sup>; New Orleans Spring Garden Show, April 14 – 15<sup>th</sup>; Houma, May 15<sup>th</sup>; Sunset Herb, May 5 - 6<sup>th</sup>; Daylily Festival, Abbeville, June 2<sup>nd</sup>; Greenhouse Growers Conference, June 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> Raymond, MS and the Southern Plant Conference, Mobile, AL, September 5 - 8<sup>th</sup>.

Allen also announced that effective April 1, 2007 his office will move to the Hammond Research Station.

In Dan Gill's absences, Allen Owings gave a brief report on the CNLP Review and Exams for 2007. The February 22 -23<sup>rd</sup> session was cancelled due to lack of registrations. However, there were several people registered for the June 21 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Review at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center at ULL in Lafayette, LA.

A new letter was sent by TNLA explaining that their original letter expressing their right to opt out of their agreement with LNLA concerning the Nursery/Landscape Expo was premature and that after the 2007 show their right to opt out will take effect. Consequently, LNLA will receive \$2,000.00 from TNLA for the 2007 show but after that we will receive nothing. A question was raised as to whether we should exhibit at the show. Rick Cicero moved, seconded by Debbie Head, to exhibit at the Expo and to proceed with the social as usual. Motion carried.

Severn C. Doughty, Sr. attended the ANLA Town Meeting at GSHE and it was reported that the Planet/ANLA merger did not take place but that they would continue to negotiate for possible merger in the future. ANLA is working to have the 'Green Industry' included to a greater degree in the 2007 Farm Bill. Currently, our industry represents 0.1% of the total Ag budget in the present Farm Bill. The two major areas for a hopeful increase in funding are research and regulation (of pests). ANLA is now a partner with the Nature Conservancy and it is represented on the Invasive Species Task Force.

A copy of the revised Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Conflict of Interest Policy was passed around to all Board members to see the final version.

Since Dan Gill was unable to attend due to illness, the Hals Beard proposal for LNLA to provide CNLP training to agriscience teachers who will in turn train students working toward CNLP certification was tabled until the next Board meeting.

Dr. Ed Bush presented an informative talk on "The Effect of Nursery Media, Source, Particle Size and Distribution on Container-grown Woody Ornamentals". The significance to the nursery industry was of all media tested the nursery standard medium performed the worst. He indicated that by selectively sieving bark medium, plant growth and quality can be increased i.e. azalea by 25%, Indian hawthorn by 13% and ligustrum by 38%. His research was funded by LNLA.

Severn C. Doughty, Sr., provided some other state nursery association newsletters/magazines and passed them around for Board members to see. He then quoted a price he'd received from Chris Dettman from Digital Press & Graphics. For 900, 36 page Newsletters printed in 4 colors, it would cost \$3,636.00. That's for printing one of our four Newsletters a year. If we were to print all four Newsletters in color in one year, it would cost \$14,544.00. And all that is not including postage. It was decided to wait a year or so to pursue a color Newsletter.

SNA had polled each state for statistics for 2006. LNLA reported total members at 634 (27% wholesale, 20% retail, 46% landscape and 7% other).

There have been a number of requests for membership mailing lists/directories and the selling of our membership list. It was reported that Georgia sells their list for \$50.00. They've been sending printed directories for free to anyone and to save costs they've been burning CD's and mailing them for the past several years. Minnesota provides directories and mailing lists to members only for a charge. Virginia sells mailing lists to non-members for \$100.00. Members get it free. Florida sells mailing lists to members or exhibitors for \$250.00. They don't sell to non-members or non-exhibitors.

Huel Jones moved, seconded by Rick Cicero, that the membership directory was not to be sold or given away to any non-member. It is to be offered to members as a membership benefit and at no charge. If a non-member individual, company, corporation, association, society or otherwise wanted to obtain a copy of the directory, they would have to join LNLA to acquire one. Motion passed.

Severn C. Doughty, Sr., passed around a copy of his column 'Notes From the Secretary' from the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Newsletter,

*(Continued on page 31)*



## PLANTS... A PATHOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE

### Leaf and Crown Rot of *Liriope*.

Leaf and crown rot is a common problem on *Liriope* in both nursery and landscape settings. Although all species and cultivars are susceptible to this disease, the cultivar 'Evergreen Giant' is reported to be the most susceptible. This disease is caused by the 'water mold' *Phytophthora palmivora*, which is a common pathogen that also causes a bud rot of palms as well as root and crown rots of many other plants. In fact, *P. palmivora* is primarily a pathogen of the roots and rhizomes of *Liriope*, and only occasionally causes the more noticeable leaf and crown rot symptoms. Initially, affected leaves turn yellow beginning at the base while the tips of the leaves remain green. The base of these leaves then develops a watery rot and turns brown. Eventually the entire leaf becomes yellow with a brown, rotted base; such leaves can easily be pulled from the plant because of this rot.

Disease develops rapidly beginning in late spring and early summer as temperatures increase and we encounter periods of prolonged rainfall. However, overhead irrigation can easily substitute for rainfall. Disease continues to develop through early fall and finally decreases during the cool period from late fall to early spring. Leaf and crown rot is most severe in areas where water stands for any length of time. The pathogen spreads in splashing water, whether caused by rainfall or overhead irrigation, and in standing water or water flowing over the soil surface. Potting mixes containing significant amounts of peat or other fine organic matter tend to hold water, which promotes disease development. Similarly, overcrowding of plants and planting too deeply are conditions that promote disease.

Although the severity of disease can be reduced by the use of fungicides, such as dimethomorph (Stature DM), mefenoxam (Subdue, etc.), aluminum tris (Aliette) and the phosphite fungicides (Vital, etc.), these materials do not completely eradicate the pathogen and must be reapplied on a regular basis to continue to suppress disease development. Therefore, fungicides should not be relied on as the sole means of managing this disease. Dr. James Strandberg of the University of Florida suggests that nurserymen should establish and maintain a source of disease-free propagation material in an area separate from the production nursery where access can be restricted. Strict sanitation practices should be implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of the pathogen in this propagation area.

Once introduced into the landscape, *P. palmivora* can persist for long periods of time, and because it has a wide host range, can become problematic on other plants as well. Preventing the introduction of the pathogen through the use of disease-free planting material is the best means of controlling this disease. Care must also be taken to avoid creating conditions that are conducive to disease development, such as overcrowding and overwatering. Cultural practices that promote the rapid drainage of water and drying of plants should be used as well.

**Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic note.** We have also recovered *Rhizoctonia* from small-leaved cultivars of *Liriope* exhibiting similar symptoms.

*This article was written by Dr. Don Ferrin (pictured right), Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. (P) 225.578.8537, (C) 225.573.6510, (E) dferrin@agcenter.lsu.edu.*



(Continued from page 15)

Of the 47 acres that were authorized to be sold and dedicated to improvements at the station, 27 were sold in 2006. The proceeds from those are being used for the \$500,000 cost of the new meeting and office facilities that will be under construction soon.

The other 20-acre parcel is still on the market but may take longer to sell because of its location and the lack of access to it, Bracy said.

Once that parcel is sold, however, officials said it will help to fund additional improvements, including:

- A new multipurpose laboratory facility
- A new water supply system for the station
- A new pond irrigation system
- Expansion of parking areas for public meetings
- Demolition of several of the older buildings on the property

In addition to the groundbreaking, officials also announced other

changes that will bolster the landscape and horticulture work at the station.

Bracy said LSU AgCenter horticulturist Dr. Allen Owings will transfer to the Hammond Research Station effective July 1.

"Allen will maintain his statewide appointment and will join the team of AgCenter horticulturists working in the recently initiated landscape horticulture research and extension program effort at the Hammond Station," she said. "This transfer continues the efforts of the AgCenter to move specialists closer to the clientele they serve."

Other recent changes at the station included moving the LSU AgCenter's Southeast Regional Office to the station in 2003.

For additional information about the research and educational programs at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station or the work being conducted through research stations and extension offices across the state, visit [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

Contact: Regina Bracy, (P) 985.543.4125, (E) [rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**TOXOPLASMOSIS:  
A PARASITIC DISEASE THAT COULD  
INFECT YOU HERE IN LOUISIANA**

Recently, I was diagnosed with Toxoplasmosis, which is a protozoan disease that can affect any part of your body. My infection localized in the left eye close to the optic nerve and has reduced my vision to almost 60% in that eye. According to research antibiotics are required to cure it and fortunately it can be cured. However, I'm not quite sure how well my vision will return.

My point in disclosing this infection is to warn of the dangers of this organism especially to horticulturists, gardeners, and anyone working with soil. Even more at risk are unborn children where the pregnant mother contracts the organism. It can be deadly to the child.

Toxoplasmosis is a world wide disease caused by *Toxoplasma gondi* an organism that is closely related to the malaria organism. Toxoplasmosis is spread by eating rare or uncooked meat (pork, lamb or beef) that is infected with asexual tissue cysts found in muscle tissue. It is advised to cook meats done and to wash the preparation area, utensils and hands thoroughly after preparation.

Another way to contract the disease is through ingestion of oocysts. This is the result of the sexual stage of the organism and it only occurs in the gut of cats. Cats excrete the oocysts or eggs in feces and anyone who comes in contact with cat feces can become infected.

In my case, I feel confident I contracted it earlier this spring

when I divided some 20 – 30 daylilies in my garden. Feral cats often roam in my yard killing moles, birds and other wildlife. They eat their pray and many of these animals contain tissue cysts. Well, when these cysts are consumed by cats the organism in turn undergoes the sexual phase of their life cycle and oocysts are excreted in their stool. And these cats defecate in my yard.

During the process of dividing my daylilies, I had to literally beat the root masses on the ground to help separate the fans. In so doing dust and soil was all over my face and apparently, I ingested some oocysts. It was about two weeks later that I developed symptoms. It has been suggested that the incubation period for Toxoplasmosis is between 5 to 18 days.

A person can even come in contact with the oocysts by gathering vegetables subject to being in close proximity to soil – either root crops or fruit crops infested with rain splattered soil containing oocysts. These fruits and vegetables should be washed thoroughly before consumption. When working in the soil, prevent soil particles and dust from entering your nose and mouth by wearing a face mask.

Often nurseries or garden centers have numerous cats roaming around to provide rodent control. These cats can become infected with tissue cysts ingested in muscle tissues of rodents. After the sexual life cycle of the organism is complete, cats then deposit oocysts in their feces and could cause human infection.

Now, I'm not saying to get rid of all your cats but, I am saying to be careful around the cat's latrine. If you have a cat litter

(Continued on page 31)



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(Continued from page 28)

2007. In there he discussed the recently printed 2004 – 05 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Report prepared by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Louisiana Field Office and the LSU AgCenter. In both reports very little information was presented pertaining to the 'Green Industry'. Only one page, Floriculture, was reported and it only covered eight crops i.e. poinsettias, impatiens, petunia, etc. Nothing was reported for woody wholesale crops, turf production or anything related to the service aspect of our industry – landscape design, landscape contracting, maintenance/lawn maintenance, horticultural spray applicators, interior contracting and maintenance, horticultural services or arborists. Also, nothing was reported on independent retail garden centers, mass merchandisers selling gardening products or allied suppliers.

After discussion the board asked that a letter be sent to Ron Bosecker, Administrator and Nathan Crisp, Louisiana Field Office Director of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service; Bob Odom, Commissioner, LDAF; Gail L. Cramer, Professor and Head, LSU Department of Ag Economics and Agribusiness; William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU AgCenter; David J. Boethel, Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, LSU AgCenter; and Paul Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Co-operative Extension Service, LSU AgCenter.

Each letter should contain a recent report titled, "Louisiana's Green Industry: Evaluation of its Economic Contribution" 2003, Roger A. Hinson, et.al. and ask that other aspects of our industry be included in future Louisiana agricultural statistical reports. LNLA was disappointed that only a very small segment of the 'Green Industry' was reported in 2004 and 2005.

The Board then asked if we could obtain a copy of all 'Green Industry' licensed individuals and firms so we could send a cover letter and membership application to all non-members. There was some discussion pertaining to low membership in LNLA verses the total licensed 'Green Industry' personnel in Louisiana. However, LNLA membership ranks 5<sup>th</sup> highest in nursery and landscape associations in the 16 states of the Southeastern U.S.

The website was in the process of being updated. LNLA – JOIN, Benefits, Facts, and Board member headings were updated; MEMBERSHIP was under construction; NEWS, In Memoriam was updated through 2006; EVENTS have been updated through November 2007; PUBLICATIONS have been updated; LINKS and GSHE were all updated.

Updates were the result of Richard Reising who has agreed to be our web master. He did not specify a salary but, left that to the Board to determine. After brief discussion Beth Perkins motioned, seconded by Chauncey Nichols, to hire our web master at \$16.00/hour to renovate and update the website. Motion carried.

Danny LaFleur then raised the question as to how long has it been since Laura Crnko received a raise. After discussion pertaining to Laura's invaluable service to LNLA for nine years and only receiving one pay increase in that time, Chauncey Nichols motioned, seconded by Debbie Head, to increase Laura's salary by 20% (from \$750.00 to \$900.00/month) effective March 1, 2007. Motion carried.

Rick Cicero made a motion, seconded by Pat Newman, to include a Job Search or Help Wanted section on our website and in our Newsletter whereby an employer could advertise for help or a person seeking a position could advertise in 25 words or less for \$30.00/month. Motion carried.

Under announcements the Reinstatement letter from the Louisiana Secretary of State, the LABI magazine and the LNLA Board meeting dates were discussed and there being no more business, Frances Thorne moved, seconded by Beth Perkins, to adjourn the meeting. Motioned carried and the meeting concluded at 2:25 P.M.

(The membership report was not discussed at the Board Meeting, however, it will be presented here. As of March 26, 2007 there were 107 Regular members at the \$50.00 category, 56 at the \$75.00 category and 81 at the \$150.00 category; there was one (1) Affiliate Association member, 7 Affiliate individual members, 16 Associate members, 7 Honorary members, 92 Government/Educational members and 70 student members. There were a total of 244 regular members and 193 other members for a grand total of 437 members.)

(Cont'd from page 30) box, wear a face mask when changing it and clean the litter box daily.

This article is not intended to scare anyone but, if it happened to me it could happen to you and I feel you should be aware of this disease. Fortunately, most cases are non-symptomatic and the individual never displays symptoms or feels bad. In other cases symptoms may include slight fever, enlarged lymph nodes and other flu-like symptoms anywhere from a week to several weeks after the 5 to 18 day incubation period.

People with extremely weak immune systems may develop severe symptoms such as pneumonia, encephalitis and even death. Infants born with the disease could develop permanent symptoms such as mental retardation, eye, liver, or brain damage and often the life expectancy is short.

I hope this article provides you with an awareness of the disease and how you can prevent exposure. It's not necessarily deadly but the more you know about it, the easier it is to prevent. The next time I separate daylilies, I plan on wearing a face mask.

Prepared by Severn C. Doughty, Sr., Ph.D.



**LOUISIANA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**May 16, 2007**  
**Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant, Baton Rouge, LA**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12am by President, Danny LaFleur. Voting Regular Board Members present included; Albert Durio, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Beth Perkins, Rick Cicero, Debbie Head, Tom Fennell, Pat Newman, Huel Jones, Frances Thorne and Danny LaFleur. Non-voting Board Members present included; Allen Owings, Laura Crnko and Severn C. Doughty, Sr. Guests present included; Mike Misuraca, Marshall Goree, Howard Thorne, Craig Roussel, Mark LeBlanc and Allen Fabre. Seven Regular Members and Officers of the Board of Directors constitute a quorum. There were nine present.

Danny LaFleur asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pat Newman presented the financial report. The first quarter beginning balance (January 1, 2007) was \$17,982.75. Income from January 1, 2007 to March 30, 2007 was \$32,109.09 for a total balance of \$50,091.84.

Expenses for the same period were \$33,670.84 for an account balance of \$16,421.00. Huel Jones motioned, seconded by Frances Thorne, to accept the financial report as stated. Motion carried.

Pat Newman then presented the GSHE report. She indicated that our portion of the revenue from the show was \$47,663.68 which was over her estimate of income stated at the last board meeting by over \$5,000.00. LNLA also received \$1,813.59 from the educational program split; for a total revenue of \$49,477.27.

Pat Newman also said that 40 new prospective exhibitors were asking to enter the show for next year but, space was limited. The Ball Room will be used for the buffet with greater seating capacity and, James Harwell indicated that in order to cut costs, they would be doing their own registrations next year. Finally, Pat reported that apparently our GSHE Show was one of the only trade shows making money.

Tom Fennell, who attended the GSHE Board Meeting with Pat, commented that they made the point of saying the food was terrible at our breakfast and at the hospitality. However, he said we can't bring food to either functions because Aramark has the catering contract. The GSHE Show will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and if anyone has an idea for a theme, please contact Pat or Tom.

Pat Newman reported that the Battle House Hotel was complete and was accepting reservations. Lastly, the GSHE Board will recognize donors next year on Thursday evening at the welcome reception.

A motion was made by Beth Perkins, seconded by Rick Cicero, to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. Motion passed.

Pat Newman gave the IRS update by stating that the 2005, 990 tax return was sent to IRS in compliance with their request. She was working on the 2006 return and should have it completed soon.

Severn C. Doughty, Sr., reported that he received a letter from IRS stating that they could not locate a copy of LAN's (LNLA) original determination letter and application for tax exempt status. It was recommended by several CPA's that, if we did not have these documents, it should be requested in writing from the IRS. It would be very helpful and to our advantage to have this letter in the event of an audit, whether IRS could locate the documents or not.

Laura Crnko presented the membership report. As of May 14, 2007 we had a total of 508 members. Eighty nine (89) new members had joined since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2006 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2007. Total dues collected amounted to \$26,691.00 of which \$50.00 was collected for the ANLA Beacon Fund and \$146.00 collected for the ANLA Lighthouse Fund.

Mike Misuraca gave a Meadowbrook Insurance Co. update. He stated that over the past seven years we received a promotional allowance of around \$3,600.00 a year for a total of over \$25,000.00. Everyone was very appreciative of Mike's interest and attendance at the board meetings and applauded his efforts.

On May 7, 2007 an invoice was sent to Meadowbrook Insurance Co. for \$3,691.85, which was our promotional allowance to date. Meadowbrook was the major contributor to LNLA's annual breakfast meeting in Mobile, AL this year.

Allen Owings gave the LSU AgCenter update by stating some of the upcoming events. These included: the Greenhouse, Landscape, Retail Conference, June 4 - 6 in Raymond, MS, sponsored by MNLA.

There were 44 people signed up for the LSU Golf Shootout. On other topics there will be 10 research papers presented at the SNA Research Conference from LSU faculty. Allen's office will officially move to the Hammond Research Station effective July 1, 2007, however, his job description will remain the same.

Drs. Neil Odenwald and Allen Owings will provide some educational programs at the Texas Nursery & Landscape Expo this August. The Southern Plant Conference will be held September 5 - 8 in Mobile, AL and it is an excellent opportunity to learn new plant materials. It is sponsored primarily by SNA. The LSU Ornamental & Turf Field Day is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Burden Research Facility in Baton Rouge.

The SELNA Trade Show was set for Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at the Magnolia Park in Folsom.

*(Continued on page 33)*



*(Continued from page 32)*

Allen Owings reported that the upcoming CNLP Review/Exam in Lafayette, June 21 – 22, had one registrant to date. He would try to gain more registrations. The September Review and Exam scheduled for September 21 – 22 in New Orleans, has several registrations. That concluded Allen's report.

Danny LaFleur passed around the new member packet and indicated that Laura had done a great job in preparing and sending them to new members.

Severn C. Doughty, Sr., reported that the website has been upgraded and revised. All links were working and a new header and drop down section, 'Job Search', had been added. Employers or potential employees may advertise on the site for \$90.00 a quarter. See [www.lnla.org](http://www.lnla.org) for details.

Rusty Ruckstuhl then gave a report on the Heritage Mutual Fund account and his meeting with financial advisor, Richard Domingue, concerning Richard managing our investments. Rusty indicated that several options were available including several diversified investments and a ladder CD investment where a CD would be initiated every three months during the year to give us a higher annual return yield.

The question was asked how aggressive the Board wanted to be in the investments and it was felt that this money should be invested conservatively. Another question was raised as to whether we should only invest the \$60,000.00 in the two Heritage funds or reinvest both that fund and the \$100,000.00 money market fund. It was felt that we should look into what type of yield we could have by reinvesting both funds.

Consequently, Rusty Ruckstuhl motioned, seconded by Rick Cicero, that a committee of Rusty Ruckstuhl, Danny LaFleur and Severn C. Doughty Sr., work with Richard P. Domingue, Financial Advisor, 337-266-6010, 1-800-333-2527, [richard.domingue@ubs.com](mailto:richard.domingue@ubs.com), to see what the return would be by creating a \$100,000.00 ladder CD and invest the other \$60,000.00 in a split, 40% conservative/guaranteed and 60% moderately conservative funds. Motion passed.

Lunch was served and Dr. Yan Chen, researcher at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, gave a very informative program on 'Daylily Rust Control with Biofungicides'. She indicated that prevention was the best control of the disease and if one should see symptoms of rust disease, it would be too late to control it. When temperatures range between 55 degrees F at night and 86 degrees F during the day, rotational sprays to include Actinovate, K – Phite and Milstop should be made. Conventional fungicides to include Banner Max in rotation with Heritage and in combination with Actinovate, K – Phite and Milstop may be considered, also. For more details, contact Dr. Chen at (P) 985.543.4125, (E) [YAChen@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:YAChen@agcenter.lsu.edu).

Mike Goree, president of the Louisiana Irrigation Association (LIA) presented the Board with a proposal for LIA to merge/consolidate under the umbrella of LNLA basically because it was necessary for the survival of LIA.

The organization has been in existence since 2003. The first Board of Directors met September 2005 and elected officers. Dues were set at \$100.00 for irrigation contractors, \$300.00 for suppliers and \$25.00 for affiliate members. To date, LIA had approximately \$20,000.00 in the treasury and just over 70 members. A membership meeting was called in March, 2007 and it was very poorly attended.

LIA needed help to stay in existence and consequently were willing to come under the management of LNLA but, they wished to keep their own identity – LIA. They requested that LNLA collect dues from LIA members and keep a separate financial record of all LIA transactions; setup, take registrations and manage logistical preparation for (3) training meetings a year. LNLA members would be able to attend these meetings at a discount rate and it would afford LNLA the opportunity to provide concurrent educational topics for LNLA and LIA members. LIA would pay the LNLA Executive Secretary the sum of \$600.00 per month and pay LNLA the sum of \$300.00 per month plus postage, travel expenses, etc., for the merger to become effective. After one year, June 1, 2007 – June 1, 2008, an evaluation will be conducted to determine if the merger has been satisfactory and successful.

After lengthy discussion, Huel Jones motioned, seconded by Rick Cicero, that LNLA accept the merger/consolidation of LIA under its umbrella and management for one year, effective June 1, 2007 to June 1, 2008. As such, LNLA would keep separate financial accounting of LIA. LIA would benefit from LNLA's non profit status and benefit from acquiring endorsed Meadowbrook Insurance Co. and Blumberg and Associates, Inc. insurance policies at a discounted rate - the same as LNLA members. LIA would benefit by having an office to serve its members and a place to which members could call, write or email for information and registration. LNLA would benefit by increasing the total number of members in both organizations, for reporting and lobbying purposes, and the generation of \$300.00 per month in income. Also, it will afford LNLA the opportunity to provide in-state training to both LNLA and LIA members at a discounted rate. Motion carried unanimously.

Craig Roussel, of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, introduced Dr. Mark LeBlanc and Allen Fabre to the Board and then made a brief report on their activities; including an update on the Red Hibiscus Mealybug outbreak in metro New Orleans. They have been monitoring the situation closely and waiting to see if there were any new outbreaks. Craig stated that Rusty Ruckstuhl has been officially appointed to the Horticulture Commission to replace outgoing Walter Imahara. Recently, John Kavanaugh was appointed to the same Commission to represent irrigation contractors.

Severn C. Doughty, Sr., made a number of requests and announcements to include: (1) authorization to send flowers or make donations to sick or deceased family members – request granted; (2) passed around a thank you note from Pete Newton thanking LNLA for his recognition at the annual meeting; (3) Finalization of our status with the Louisiana Secretary of State; (4) Results of the letter sent, to the powers that be, regarding statistical reporting of the 'Green Industry' – to date, four of the seven individuals who received letters have responded; (5) newly revised membership applications and LNLA note cards were given to board members; (6) requested board members to help set up – man –and take down the LNLA exhibit at the Texas Expo; (7) requested that the board pay Annie Coco's expenses to attend and help man the exhibit booth at the SNA Show – Pat Newman motioned, seconded by Beth Perkins, requesting LNLA to pay for all of Annie Coco's expenses to help man the booth at SNA in August 2007. Motion carried; (8) handed out the revised 'Grant Proposal', noting that on the page titled 'Outline for Grant Proposal Form', new wording was added under the budget section, "Grants are considered as an unrestricted gift. However, no administrative deductions shall be made"; (9) ANLA members from Louisiana were disclosed. As of this year there were 10 members active and Murphy P. Johnson is senator for Louisiana.

There being no more business, Pat Newman motioned, seconded by Rick Cicero, to adjourn the meeting. Motioned carried and the meeting concluded at 2:35pm.



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Phone (386) 294-3411

Fax (386) 294-1003

Email: [iris@floridapinestraw.com](mailto:iris@floridapinestraw.com)

[fpssco@suwanneevalley.net](http://fpssco@suwanneevalley.net)

Website: [floridapinestraw.com](http://floridapinestraw.com)

References and prices for your area are available upon request