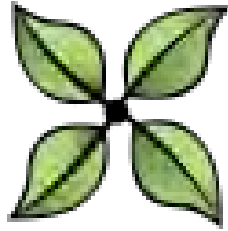




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LNLA 2023

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President
AMK Landscape Services, Inc.
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Jefferson, LA 70121
504-913-8272
amkland@aol.com



CHAD EVERAGE
Director (2023)
Landscape Management Services
PO Box 5662
Lake Charles, LA 70605
337-513-8085
chad@landscapemanagement.org



MICHAEL ROE
1st Vice-President
Windmill Nursery
PO Box 400
Folsom, LA 70437
504-210-6684
michael@windmillnurseryllc.com



DEBBIE HEAD
Director (2024)
Poole Brothers Nursery
3334 Hwy 112
Lecompte, LA 71346
318-748-6579
debbie@poolebrosonsny.com



BRANDON ADAMS
2nd Vice-President
Adams Nursery
PO Box 580
Forest Hill, LA 71430
318-748-6745



MATT FENNEL
Director (2024)
Clegg's Nursery
31275 Hwy. 16 N.
Denham Springs, LA 70726
225-505-9678
mfennell@cleggnursery.com



BRIAN BRIDGES
Treasurer
BWI Co., Inc.
PO Box 610
Forest Hill, LA 71430
318-623-9158
brianbridges@bwicompanies.com



SAMANTHA YOUNG
Director (2024)
Doug Young Nursery
PO Box 39
Forest Hill, LA 71430-0039
318-446-0461
samiam405@aol.com



CARI JANE MURRAY
Executive Secretary
PO Box 1447
Mandeville, LA 70470
985-237-2939
carijanelnla@gmail.com



MATT KNICK
Director (2024)
Willowgrove Landscape
74034 LA-1077, Suite #7
Covington, LA 70435
985-327-7757
mknick@willowgrovelandscape.com



TONY CARTER
Director (2023)
Langridge Plant Sales
14655 Hwy. 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
504-912-2488
lpstonyc@gmail.com



CRAIG ROUSSEL
Director (Associate, 2021)
225-963-0139
ag94@cox.net



JEFF REID
Director (2023)
Integrity Lawn Services
4918 Legend Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
225-572-2957
jeff.integrity1@gmail.com



DR. JEB FIELDS
Director of Research & Education
985-543-4125
jfields@agcenter.lsu.edu



REUBEN MITCHELL
Director (2023)
Sunrise Farms
12862 Hwy. 15
Downsville, LA 71234
318-355-2876
sunrisefarms77@yahoo.com



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THE MARGIE Y. JENKINS LECTURE SERIES

A Monthly Lunch & Learn Webinar for the Green Industry of Louisiana and the Gulf South

The Margie Jenkins Lecture Series, an educational session hosted by the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station is back, but this time it has gone virtual. We are shifting this educational seminar series to a monthly Lunch & Learn format, where the members of the Louisiana green industry and anyone else that is interested in our topics can join in and learn from the top professionals and scientists in our field. We will cover a wide variety of topics so be sure to join us on the first Friday of every month for an informative webinar.

Join our hosts Dr. Jeb Fields and Cari Jane Murray as we bring the presenters you want to hear directly to your computer or phone. Log on and bring your team. Follow the link below or scan the QR code with your phone on the first Friday of every month. Sessions start at 11:30 AM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89629394314>



2024 PLANNED SESSIONS

First Quarter

January 5 - Allen Owings

The Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden - In the Beginning

February 2 - Raj Singh

Phytophthora Management in Nurseries

March 1 - Jeb Fields

Improving Nursery Crop Performance with Substrate Stratification

Stay tuned to learn more about future speakers and topics!

HARDSCAPE INSTALLATION HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

January 19th, 2024

Hammond Research Station - 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403



The Hammond Research Station and the LNLA are pleased to announce a hands-on workshop providing the opportunity to learn how to install hardscape features. This event will be co-hosted and sponsored by Natural Paving USA (<https://www.naturalpavingusa.com/>), where we will be constructing a patio on-site at the Hammond Research Station.

This event will include a classroom portion, covering the proper way to design, build, and maintain hardscape features in the landscape, as well as a demonstration to show each step in the process.

In order to provide the best possible educational materials for this event, we encourage you to fill out our pre-event survey and email your answers to Dr. Damon Abdi at the Hammond Research Station (dabdi@agcenter.lsu.edu). The survey can be found on the LNLA website (<https://lnla.memberclicks.net/hardscape-workshop>). You can also pre-register for this event at the LNLA website or by emailing Cari Jane Murray.

Please save the date for this event and keep an eye out for our official flyer with more information.



LNLA 2024

Education Days (CEUs Available)

January 22, 2024 - LNLA Irrigation Recert	LSU AgCenter Hammond
February 20 & 21 - CNLP	LSU AgCenter Hammond
February 22, 2024 - Pesticide Recert	LSU AgCenter Hammond
March 1, 2024 - Landscape Education	Burden Center in Baton Rouge
Summer 2024 (TBD) - CNLP	Ira Nelson Hort Center, Lafayette
FALL 2024 (TBD)- Landscape Education	LSU AgCenter Bossier City



Hands On Workshops

January 19 - Hardscape Demonstration Workshop, LSU AgCenter Hammond
July 19, 2024 - LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station Field Day

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Plants Make a Difference Day at the Capitol

March 2024

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at the Lt. Governor's apartment on Capitol grounds

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Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship & Research

Gala XIV - June 28, 2024

6:30-9:30

Pavilion of Two Sisters, City Park, NOLA

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings LNLA Members,

2023 is almost behind us and 2024 is knocking at the door. We as an organization have grown in so many different ways. Our positive approach to continuing education, improving our legislative relationships, supporting research, fostering and strengthening our partnerships throughout the industry, and ensuring our youth have the resources they need to qualify for professional licenses are contributing to the rise in awarenesses across the state of our organization's importance. We have grown to over 630 members and continue to grow daily. I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to be a part of this tremendous success. 70 years and growing stronger. Bless all those who paved the way before us and all those who will continue the forward movement after us. LNLA STRONGER!

September 12, 2023 was tremendously successful for LNLA members. The educational symposium was at the Lafreniere Foundation Center, in Metairie. Many thanks to Councilman Deano Bonano and Councilman Dominick Impastato for securing this beautiful venue free of cost. Dr. Damon Abdi did not disappoint with the speakers chosen to present information. The lectures about our ever changing industry and new trends were invaluable. We had over 80 members in attendance. There was an informal social after the meeting. Councilman Bonano and Impastato, Senator Cameron Henry and Senator Patrick Connick came for a visit. Senator Henry will be the upcoming Senate President, which is excellent for our industry as he is a friend of agricultural. He realizes our state vastly benefits from a strong agricultural industry.

The LNLA Board meeting was in Forest Hill on October 11, 2023. Samatha Young warmly greeted us to host the meeting and we would like to thank Doug Young Nurseries and their wonderful staff for an amazing lunch. Our meetings are always productive and this meeting was no different. The green light was given to starting the EOS Program because with growth there are always setbacks and hiccups which sometimes become costly. We as a group are trying to minimize this as much as possible by hiring a professional organizer. Seven board members have made a 2 year commitment to learn and establish implementing the organizational models to benefit LNLA. LNLA's one constant has been its executive secretary which to date is CariJane Murray. This position was originally set-up to be part-time but has morphed into full, full time. So, becoming more organized will increase our efficiency making our time more productive, benefitting CariJane's ability to manage her time more appropriately. WIN, WIN FOR LNLA. The first EOS boot camp was November 15, 2023 and it turned out to be a super long and productive day. Our next meeting date will be December 19, 2023. Your continued support keeps us focused and determined on our journey down the path of growing LNLA to be the best it can be.

The Economic Impact study has been gathering information and is developing spreadsheets for analysis. Thanks to all the members for their willingness to participate. The anticipation of the findings cannot be soon enough, but it takes time to get it right and we definitely want it right. A big shout out to Dr. Fanning and his staff for all the hard work on this project.

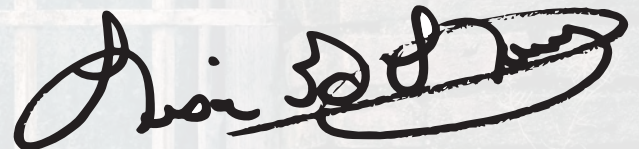
LNLA's calendar of events are quickly filling up and we are continuing our mission to educate, protect and serve. Please take advantage of the services we are providing for our industry to promote a better, stronger you.

Micheal Roe will assume the office of Presidency in January and I am confident in his abilities to continue the successful forward movement. Micheal has all the great qualities of a leader, he is intelligent, hardworking, dedicated, honest and full of great ideas. LNLA will thrive under his leadership. Thanks to the entire board for all of their hard work and tenacity, they accomplished so much to be proud of. Many thanks to CariJane Murray for her dedicated willingness to work with me and the entire board for the benefit of our members. We have had a very demanding schedule for the last two years completing goal after goal and keeping up has been challenging to say the least. Her work ethic should be applauded daily because we could not have accomplished so much in such a short time without her. I personally want to thank all of our members for their support and constant feedback. Your encouragement and comments have given us the opportunity to build an organization that best fits all of our member's needs.

My personal philosophy was to encourage each board member to develop their own goals, to initiate and follow through to achievement. It is with great pride, I have witnessed all board members working tirelessly to move the association forward with such enthusiasm it has become contagious.

In closing, it has been my honor to serve you as president of LNLA for the last 2 years. I realize I may have ruffled a few feathers and pushed the envelope one too many times, but it was always with the best intentions. I have always considered my service to LNLA as a Blessing and thank you for Blessing me with your support. I pray the small role I played for a moment in time leading our great organization has made you as proud as I am.

May the Good Lord Bless Us, Keep Us Strong and Protect Us



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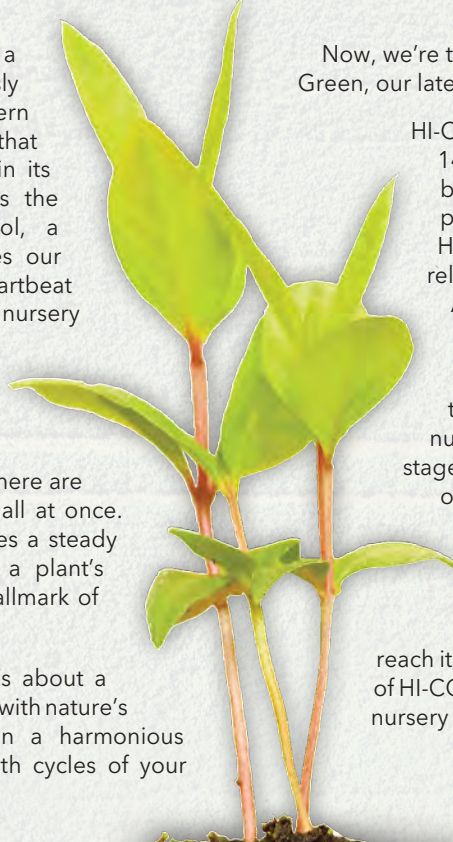
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MARGIE JENKINS GARDEN RESTORATION



November 7th began the start of the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden restoration at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. 7 members of the LA Chapter of the Azalea Society of America knocked out the first bed. There is much, much more to do. This will be done over the next few months hopefully concluding sometime in the spring. Much appreciation to Van Der Giessen Nursery and Jenkins Farm and Nursery for some plant donations for this initial effort. Many more plants will be needed and many nurseries have already committed to support this effort along with several landscape companies.

The Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden was dedicated on October 26, 2006 and is named in honor, and now memory, of Margie Jenkins, noted horticulturist known for being "a person with a passion for plants and for plant people". The garden originally included many of Ms. Margie's favorite natives and some of her favorite azaleas, mainly Robin Hill varieties.

We need volunteers for future dates to help with old/dead plant removal, bed preparation, plant placement, planting and mulching. Several flood events and Hurricane Ida devastated the garden. We need to get this back to its' former glory to continue Ms. Margie's legacy. Dates are being scheduled now for additional garden work. To help, contact Dr. Allen Owings at aowings64@gmail.com or Dr. Jeb Fields or Mr. Jason Stagg, both faculty members at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station (985.543.4125).

Let the good times roll!

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SWEET PEAT: SUGARCOATING SUBSTRATE SECURITY

*Jeb S. Fields, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, LSU AgCenter
Assistant Research Coordinator, Hammond Research Station,
Arlene and Joseph Meraux Endowed Professor of Commercial Horticulture*



Much has changed over the past few years, especially substrate security, with increased demands on the peat moss supply stemming from a growing customer base and a limited window for peat harvesting. Indeed, the peat scarcity we all experienced in 2022 was due to many factors, including supply chain issues limiting access to all sorts of inputs, from plastic pots to fertilizer and everything in between. Peat availability was further limited due to poor weather in 2021 that led to a harvest well below

quotas. More favorable conditions in 2022 led to an improved peat harvest, which allowed supplies to recover somewhat. For some, this recovery was enough to forget the prevailing limitations which indicate more long-term volatility than many expect. With another unfavorable harvest year in 2023 (this year, Canadian peat moss harvest was approximately 45% of the anticipated demand), we can anticipate further peat scarcity in the future. While our industry will surely display the resilience it always has in overcoming these shortages, the volatility from year to year requires responses that provide more supply security for our industry. There are efforts we can take now to prepare for upcoming shortages - identifying alternative materials and working out the associated logistics of utilizing additional materials to extend peat while supplies are limited. Remember, the worst time to source a solution is when it is dire. In all likelihood, there is not a magical, one-size-fits-all solution waiting around the corner. Peat is an optimal substrate component. As we continue down this path of sustaining substrate security, it is worth reexamining local biomass materials, as we have seen improvements to processing technologies, as well as greater flexibility to modify growing practices allowing smooth implementation.



With this in mind, there is one material that shines brighter than the rest - sugarcane bagasse. Bagasse is the spent fibers from sugarcane, after the canes have been shredded and pressed to extract juices that later become table sugar. As a substrate scientist, its lightweight and fibrous nature immediately caught my eye as a potential substrate material. As it turns out, I was not the first to have this idea. Sugarcane is a global crop with a long history, and uses for bagasse have been sought for decades. Energy production, pulp and paper, construction, and many other applications have been explored. Gardeners use bagasse as mulch and soil amendment to improve organic matter in

soil. A couple decades ago, scientists began exploring its potential as a soilless substrate. Bagasse certainly passed the eye-test, offering the workability to be readily incorporated as a substrate component. At the surface, it appeared to provide the fundamental features that a substrate should have, with scientists noting the desirable physical and chemical properties of sugarcane bagasse - adequate air and water holding capacities, low bulk density, and moderate EC and pH that were both easily amendable. Unfortunately, it was the third characteristic branch of substrate science - microbiology - that stood in the way. As one might expect, the high concentration of residual sugars in the bagasse material caused it to quickly rot. This property would not be easy to rectify, and scientists at the time quickly moved on to more stable fiber options, which had similar physical properties and offered more longevity.



Today, mountains of bagasse still surround local sugarcane processing facilities, and storage presents a challenge. Many sugar mills burn bagasse to fuel the mill's boilers, but as technology advances, less bagasse is needed to power the mill - so the piles grow. The sheer abundance of this material in our own backyards coupled with the need to search for new substrate components caused us to reevaluate this previously dismissed material. Sugarcane is roughly 18% sugar and while much of that is extracted, there is a significant percentage that remains inaccessible during refinement. Thus, the problem becomes degradation. Sugar is a valuable commodity, and any sugar left on the cane or in the bagasse is money that is quite literally being left out to rot. Thus, extraction technologies have advanced significantly in the decades since bagasse was last truly evaluated as a substrate component. This results in more efficient sugarcane refinement processing, extracting more sugar and leaving bagasse material that contains less residual sugars. Therefore, the bagasse of today should be more biologically stable than in decades past, which could limit the extent that the material degrades.

That brings us to our research findings. After trialing bagasse at several incorporation rates with mixed results in a gardenia production experiment, our team again set out to evaluate the suitability of bagasse as a substrate, but this time, in short-term crops such as seasonal color crops, whose production time is a few months or less. With similar physical properties to commercial wood fibers that are penetrating the market, we decided that could serve as a model for bagasse inclusion. Our work involved amending a commercially available peat-based substrate with locally sourced, aged sugarcane bagasse, a mix we aptly coined - sweet peat, and compared it to the same substrate amended with wood fibers, to serve as an additional industry standard. To account for possible nitrogen immobilization and determine best management practices, plants were fertilized weekly with nitrogen adjusted to either 100-, 200-, or 300 ppm.

continued >

Volume 84

An *Osteospermum* 'Bright Lights Purple' crop was grown in commercially available peat-based greenhouse substrate and was amended with 15% or 30% aged sugarcane bagasse or wood fibers. Plants were fertigated weekly with N rates of either 100-, 200-, or 300 ppm.

From Thiessen et al., 2023.



Substrate physical properties, such as air-filled porosity and water holding capacity, were the same between bagasse and wood blends. Over the production period, substrate pH gradually increased in wood fiber substrates, while remaining more stable in the acceptable nutrient availability ranges with the bagasse. The lower pH of pure bagasse material in general (measured at 3.41 in this experiment) shows promise for bagasse in managing substrate pH where irrigation water has high pH and/or alkalinity, or for use in targeted prescription substrates in ericaceous plant production.

As far as plant growth and quality, chlorophyll and blooms were abundant in all substrates and fertigation rates. Simply put, all plants grew well and were healthy. In fact, despite concerns of substrate decomposition and nitrogen immobilization, plants grown in bagasse blends had greater foliar nitrogen concentrations than those grown with the wood fiber blends. Overall, growth and dry mass differences were minimal across substrate treatment and fertigation rate, and all plants were marketable with statistically similar shelf life. These findings support the usefulness of aged sugarcane bagasse as a sustainable, low-cost, and domestically sourced amendment that can be incorporated into short-term

crop substrate blends in a similar manner as commercial wood fibers, without necessitating modifications in fertigation practices or sacrificing crop quality.

Sugarcane bagasse can provide a solution for growers, particularly those who focus on short-term crops, that are looking for ways to extend their peat supply. Think of it like this, substrates are similar to a hot cup of coffee, with their rich color and aroma from the organic materials... In both examples, adding a little sugar can go a long way. As differences in the bagasse material may exist from mill to mill, identifying sources and ways to incorporate these materials now will simplify its incorporation into growing operations when it comes time to use the materials. Moreover, as such a great proportion of our domestically produced horticultural crops rely on foreign-sourced substrates, our ability to seamlessly integrate local materials might even be considered a matter of national security.

For further reading: Thiessen, M., J.S. Fields, D. Abdi, and J. Beasley. 2023. Sugarcane bagasse is an effective soilless substrate amendment in quick-turn *Osteospermum* production. *HortScience*, 58:1170-1177. <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI117286-23>



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Black Twig Borer

The black twig borer, *Xylosandrus compactus* (Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) is a tiny ambrosia beetle that can infest healthy host plants (Figure 1). The adult beetle is shiny black in color and less than 2-mm in length. Currently, it is known to occur in the Hawaii and coastal regions of the southeastern United States.

The black twig borer has a wide host range and can attack more than 200 hardwood species. Some of the economically important and common host species include avocado, dogwood, grape, live oak, magnolia, orchid, pecan, redbud, red maple, and many other shade trees (Figure 2). In Louisiana, Italian cypress was also reported to be infested with black twig borer in 2021 (Figure 3).

Adult beetles overwinter in infested twigs or branches and emerge during early spring. After emergence, adult female beetles initiate infestation and bore into the pith of new, small diameter branches through a tiny entrance hole approximately less than 1-mm in diameter (Figures 4 and 5). Small branches that are less than 7-mm are usually attacked by a single female beetle, but large diameter (up to 22 mm) twigs can be attacked by as many as 20 adult female beetles. The female beetle constructs a brood chamber/gallery in the pith and lay small, white translucent, oval eggs. Beetle grubs (larvae) are legless and creamy white in color (Figure 6). Grubs feed on white ambrosial fungus (*Fusarium solani*) introduced by adult beetles in the brooding chamber. The black twig borer completes its life cycle within 28-30 days during the growing season.

The ambrosial fungus introduced by the adult beetles is also a pathogen of trees. The fungus clogs the water conducting channels (xylem vessels) resulting in wilting and death of the infested twigs. Leaves tend to stay attached and appear as “flagging” of dead twigs (Figures 3 and 7).

Management of black twig borer starts with pruning and destroying infested twigs. Prune dead twigs several inches below the beetle entrance hole and dispose of them properly. Adopting cultural practices that promote good tree health and vigor including adequate fertilization, proper mulching and avoiding drought stress may help the infested trees to recover from beetle damage. If a tree is heavily infested and chemical control is warranted, insecticides containing permethrin or bifenthrin as active ingredients may be sprayed on regular intervals during late winter or early spring to manage the newly emerging adult beetles. Once the beetles bore into the twigs, insecticides are ineffective.

For more information on black twig borer, contact the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center (www.lsuagcenter.com/plantdiagnostics).



Figure 1: An adult female of black twig borer



Figure 2: A southern magnolia tree heavily infested with black twig borers



Figure 3: An Italian cypress infested with black twig borer exhibiting flagging of dead branch



Figure 4: An entrance hole of black twig borer on a southern magnolia branch



Figure 5: An entrance hole of black twig borer on an Italian cypress branch



Figure 6: Creamy white legless grubs (larvae) of a black twig borer in the brooding chamber



Figure 7: A twig infested with black twig borer exhibiting flagging injury symptoms



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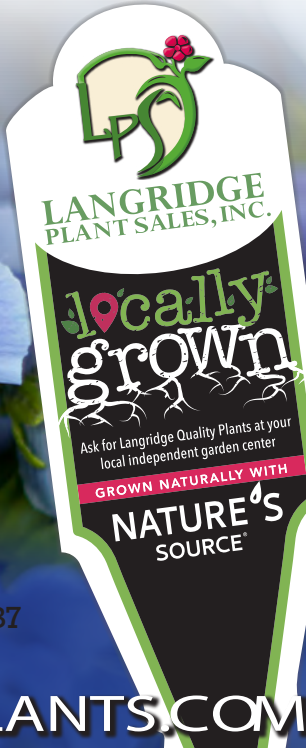
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LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION DAY: NEW ORLEANS RECAP

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

On September 12th, 2023, green industry professionals spanning the greater New Orleans area gathered in Lafreniere Park in Metairie, LA, for a day of educational seminars and networking. This event was a continuation of the "Landscape Professional Education Day" series, an LSU AgCenter/LNLA collaborative effort that brings research and extension resources to different areas of the state, providing information that is most relevant to the concerns of stakeholders in the host region. Carrying forward the success of the prior "Landscape Professional Education Day" events held in the north (Ruston) and west (Lake Charles), this event focused on challenges landscape professionals face in the southeast part of the state - emphasizing solutions to create more sustainable landscapes in our urban, metropolitan markets.

LNLA President Lisa Loup secured the venue for this education day, a beautiful building set in the scenic Lafreniere park. The high ceilings and expansive floorplan of the auditorium could not contain the excitement of the crowd, but it was able to comfortably seat the >70 stakeholders in attendance, including landscape contractors, architects, and growers. Educational seminars kicked off with keynote speaker Dan Gill discussing landscape designs for small spaces, followed by presentations by the AgCenter's Dr. Raj Singh and Dr. Joe Willis pertaining to disease and pest problems and solutions in the landscape. Speakers Danielle Duhe and Dr. Anna Paltseva offered insights towards sustainable plant materials and soil management, respectively, bringing perspectives from both industry and University of Louisiana Lafayette. Dr. Eric DeBoer, the new turfgrass professor with the AgCenter, touched on turf management topics, especially focusing on weed control in the lawn. During the catered lunch, Dr. Damon Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields of the AgCenter Hammond Research Station led a discussion, providing updates on AgCenter activities and ensuring the audience were introduced to the AgCenter extension

agents in the greater New Orleans region (Dr. Joe Willis, Anna Timmerman, Chris Dunaway). Dr. Abdi closed out the educational sessions with a talk on sustainable landscape concepts, covering a range of topics such as managing mulch, groundcovers, and irrigation to create more resilient landscapes.

Of course, education is just one part of what the Landscape Professional Education days offer. At the conclusion of the educational seminars, an open discussion between all the attendees allowed individuals to introduce themselves and network. Ideas, insights, and observations were shared amongst the crowd, fostering camaraderie and perhaps even some sub-contracting connections. Several local legislators came to the post-event meet and greet to show their support for Louisiana green industry professionals and their businesses. The event was a resounding success that was made possible by the sponsorship of the LNLA, allowing this event to be free for attending stakeholders.

The "Landscape Professional Education" series has been successful in bringing education and support to our industry professionals across different areas of Louisiana, with an emphasis on delivering content that is most relevant and actionable for the region we are serving for that event. Thank you to all our presenters, organizers, sponsors, attendees, and supporters of Louisiana's green industry. We look forward to seeing you at our next event in this series, March 1st, 2024 in Baton Rouge, LA at the Burden Museum & Gardens (registration on LNLA website).



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Prof. Buck Abbey Landscape Architect Abbey Associates, Inc

Historic District regulations in most communities been enacted to preserve and protect the historical architecturally worthy buildings, structures, sights, monuments, streetscapes, squares and neighborhoods.

Since historic vegetation is a component of neighborhood character and visual quality and is addition largely responsible for framing sight lines and giving unique environmental quality to building sites and nearby streetscapes, squares and neighborhoods of the district. It is important for any Historic District Commission and others to recognize the value of vegetation and gardens, since they do so much to define the character of a community and extoll the virtue of all of our town gardeners who plant, maintain and protect many varieties of plants, many of which are native and some having a long history having been planted going back to the late 18th century.



The following document and drawing will help to define how gardens are structured by landscape architects. The drawing illustrates the "geography of a garden" and can be found on streets in a Historic District. The drawing is intended to show all part of a garden and does not imply that all of the of the 19 Garden Elements will be found on every garden in a community. This drawing if for illustration purposes only. Gardens such as this can be outstanding in regard to spatial definition, design, beauty and plants of various sizes, textures, colors and horticultural adaptation.

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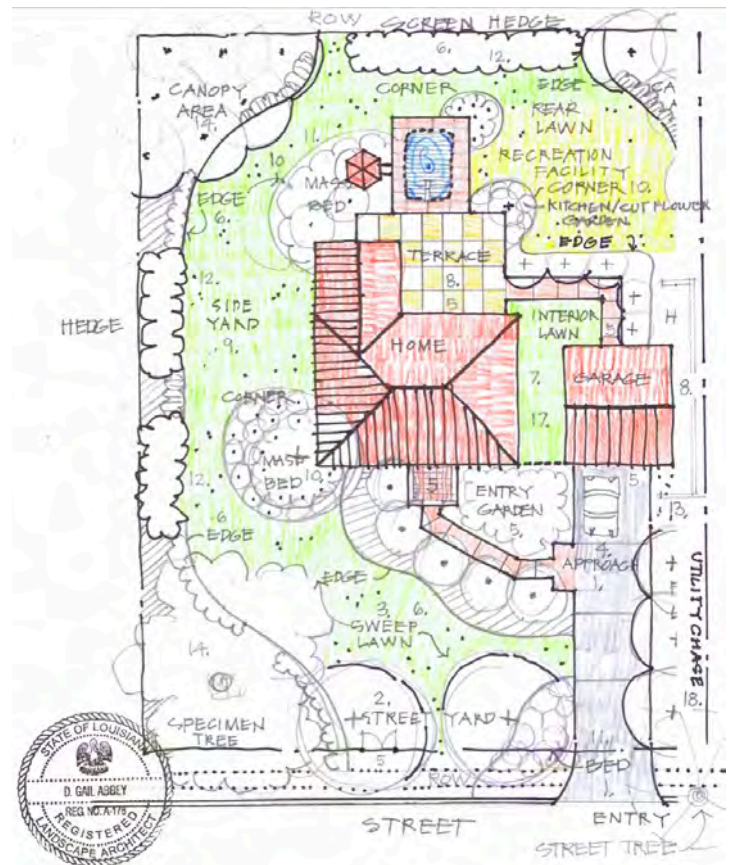
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Geography of a Garden

All gardens have parts. These parts can be referred to as the “geography of a garden”. The parts referred to as Garden Elements below define areas within a property in which different activities take place. Each Garden Element can be arranged for a set of uses, and has a location that is consistent with respect to the home, interior rooms and the physical environment of the building site. These garden areas can be seen on the drawing but they can be summarized as:

1. Gates- Planted or gated entry point for the arrival of cars, pedestrians, visitors, service people with plantings and or structure that highlights the entry point.
2. The Street Yard- The front garden including the public street edge. Specimen Tree-Almost every garden has a specimen tree. It is best if this tree is on the South side of a home in the where it can spread its shady branches of the front garden area of the home.
3. The Lawn Sweep- The lawn that wraps the building must sweep around the building to allow garden space to flow around the home. Spatial flow in a garden is one of the most important principles of garden design. This is a highly popular practice that can be traced to the teachings of landscape gardener and garden writer Andrew Jackson Downing 1815-1852.
4. Parking & Approach- Walkway to the front door though an entry garden.
5. Entry Points or Entry Garden- Plantings and related structure create a space near the front entry, terrace or porch.
6. Edges- Numerous edges may exist in the garden. These edges are treated as transitions between plant material types or screens that define a hard edge. A flowering border is a good example so is a hedge as are plantings along walkways.
7. Interior Garden- Planting areas surrounded by structure as in an enclosed court or patio.
8. Living Terrace- Usually a paved terrace or a wood deck attached to the rear or a side of house which acts as a transition zone between the house and a swimming pool of other type of activity area.
9. Yard- Often between a side of a house and a property line. Foundation planting should be limited here. Foundation planting is a too common notion for residential design and a relic from the 1930's. Foundation planting is often solely used in suburbia as the main garden planting area.
10. Corner Beds- These are small planting areas for small flowering shrubs, perennials, annual or ground cover that are used to reduce the sharpness of 90 degree corners. Gardens do not like sharp corners. Kitchen and Cutting Gardens can be placed in these special garden forms.
11. Mass Bedding- These are random beds that may be circular, geometrical or curvilinear and consist of border plantings, small shrubs and even small flowering trees that can be placed juxtaposition to pavements or other constructed elements such as terraces, decks, patios, arbors and garden structures.
12. Hedge- A more formal evergreen planting of small trees, tall shrubs or mixed shrubs free standing or pruned used to screen garden activities, block views, deaden noise or provide privacy.



13. Screen- Vegetation planted to partially reveal and on-site or off-site views. May be a structural fence or wall.
14. Canopy Area- Tip to tip tree plantings that produce a shaded zone for understory plants that require shade rather than full sun.
15. Rear Garden- There needs to be an open lawn area where various activities may take place such as a children's playground, croquet lawn, a living terrace, swimming pool, a sunny spot to relax or a space for outside gathering.
16. Rear Lawn- Location for out door activities usually covered in top quality lawn grass.
17. Specialty Garden- A special planting garden such as a rose, vegetable or fruit, plant collection or pond garden.
18. Utility Chase- The working part of a garden in which water, electric, cable, waste, AC, satellite and other connections to site services. Potting areas and outside storage for gardening (soil, mulch, composting) are also treated as utility areas.
19. ROW- Right of Way for utilities, setbacks, walkways and street trees.

If you look carefully at a well designed garden you will see many of the fine features of landscape design which you now know consists of the geography of a garden. There is a pattern to this geography. But keep in mind while viewing the drawing below that rarely would all 19 garden elements be found on a single building site. Although the drawing implies a residential site, similar design elements can be arranged on commercial, institutional, or multi-family building sites.

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NATIVE PLANTS LOUISIANA NEEDS FOR PRAIRIE GARDENS

By Phyllis Baudoin Griffard, Louisiana Native Plant Society

Did you know that Louisiana is home to prairies? Many of your clients do. They are waking up to the value of even small patches of prairie gardens in their yards. Pocket prairies are becoming a popular way to reduce the lawn footprint while adding butterfly, native bee and bird diversity to typical suburban yards. It turns out that even small patches distributed throughout a neighborhood are having mighty effects, including improving/enhancing stormwater management, carbon sequestration, pollinator diversity and migratory bird flyways. In many cases, pocket prairie gardens host more native bee species than larger prairie tracts in rural areas! What's more, the late freeze last winter followed by a long drought this summer had little impact on native prairie plants. They evolved in such uncertain conditions, and it showed this year when nonnatives and cultivars really suffered. Prairie natives didn't miss a beat, even without supplemental watering.

It's no wonder that in recent years, natives, especially prairie species, are gaining respect and popularity. Nonprofit groups like the Louisiana Native Plant Society, Wild Ones chapters in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and the DeRidder area, and the Acadiana Native Plant Project in Lafayette have seen huge increases in membership and interest in gardening for wildlife and ecosystem function. Even Master Gardeners and Garden Clubs have turned their attention to Louisiana natives and prairie plants. Why not capitalize on this interest by adding a few prairie species to your stock?



Stelly Prairie Garden, Phyllis Griffard

Ecologically, prairies are flat, sunny, treeless grasslands with high wildflower diversity. Natural prairies have a lot of grass that provides forage for grazers and fuel for effective burns. In prairie gardens, however, grasses take a back seat to give showy wildflowers the limelight: the native mallows/hibiscuses, asters and coneflowers, mints/sages and legumes like false indigos take turns throughout the year flowering, providing nectar for pollinators and fruit and seeds for birds and mammals. Most of what is called Cajun Prairie in the Southwest corner of the state is wet, so water-loving plants like Louisiana irises (an LSUAg Super Plant), spider lilies and a few woodies like buttonbush also have a place in prairie gardens. Grasses still have a foundational role in pocket prairie gardens, especially Muhly grass (another LSUAg Super Plant) and little bluestem.

The nursery industry in Louisiana has risen to meet the demand for some natives in large-scale installations. Species like muhly grass, sweetbay magnolia and many native oaks, maples and elms grace our parks and roadways, and purple coneflower and black-eyed Susans add multiseason color to native and mixed beds. How about adding a

few more native species to the rotation? Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*), lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), and blanketflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) are showy prairie plants that are easy to start from seed. Local ecotype seed is readily available, just ask us! Small nurseries are always selling out of native milkweeds. Consider adding butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and aquatic milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) to your stock. Once these plants have become regulars, get even wilder by adding rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), white false indigo (*Baptisia alba*), blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), sweet coneflower (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*) or salt marsh mallow (*Kosteletskyia pentacarpus*). All are sturdy, foundational perennials with showy flowers popular with pollinators and homeowners.

Since the most popular native species are also native to the Southeastern US, many of these are available as nativar liners from outside Louisiana. Why not start a homegrown liner operation for our favorite, most popular natives, and bring the nursery economy home? If you do, consider starting with seed with provenance from wild remnants in Louisiana rather than great prairies of the Midwest or mass produced in Florida. We can help. Research has confirmed that local genetic ecotypes are important for retaining ecological function and matching it to local conditions like weather, soil and pathogens. Breeding often eliminates characteristics we don't notice, but wildlife does. So why not go with Mother Nature's tried and true native Louisiana ecotypes? With a small seed investment to start up, you can proudly advertise that your plants are the epitome of Louisiana. When you have plants ready for market, let us know so we can send our members to your nurseries.

If you are a landscape professional, have a look at some native landscape designs for Louisiana gardens. One is a 20 x 20 pocket prairie garden (greauxnative.org/plan). Another is a complete landscape plan for Lafayette LA selected by Wild Ones (<https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/>). Both designs are by Acadiana-based landscaper Dona Weifenbach that can give you inspiration and ideas for plant palettes to suggest to your clients. Even tucking a few natives into the non-native mix can make a difference. More firms are requiring natives in their specs. In fact, did you know that the Louisiana Legislature passed a resolution last summer that prioritizes LA natives in state landscaping? Be ready with a broad inventory that includes prairie natives.

Don't hesitate to reach out to LNPS at LNPSinbox@gmail.com if we can help connect you to seed or plant sources or expertise. Together we can connect habitats, one garden at a time.

Phyllis Baudoin Griffard is a biology educator in Acadiana active with the Acadiana Native Plant Project (greauxnative.org) and the Louisiana Native Plant Society.



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LSU AgCenter's Newly Funded Water and Energy Conservation Program for Agricultural Businesses

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

The USDA Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) recently awarded a one-year grant to LSU AgCenter to establish the framework for a water and energy conservation program to help rural agricultural communities understand their resource footprint. The major objectives of this year's funding are to provide sustainability assessments for eight rural stakeholders, produce extension material for water and energy conservation recommendations, and establish the need for continued funding through USDA REAP.

This program is at no cost to the participating agricultural businesses to minimize the strain on day-to-day operations. The grant funding provides growers and processors the opportunity to have water quality and energy experts assess their operation to scope potential projects and offer water and energy-saving recommendations. Designed as an experiential learning program, a small team (typically 4-6 people) including faculty and environmental management systems students will make a site visit to see the layout and operation structure. This provides students the opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world settings and network with Louisiana's agricultural businesses.

While at the facility, the faculty and students will discuss goals with management and craft projects based on the business's current needs. The assembled faculty team has over 10 years of experience with sustainability-based assessments and a large portfolio of recommendations for immediate practical solutions and future expansion of an operation. A few recommendations from past assessments include rainwater harvesting calculations from current roof spaces, fabric ducts for low-cost greenhouse ventilation, and motor efficiency analysis for upgrades. With a push for renewable energy, the team can also calculate the solar capabilities of the land-based agricultural operation and apply new research on floating solar panels to optimize space, reduce evaporations of ponds, and reduce your energy footprint.

Other focus areas align with the USDA REAP grant recommendations including highly efficient ventilation or air conditioning units, insulation, lighting, cooling units,

doors/windows, sprinkler pumps, irrigation motors, replacement of inefficient equipment, and transition to renewable energy (small to large scale). By aligning the recommendations with the USDA focus areas, the LSU team can offer data for partnering businesses to use for USDA's Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants program. This resource helps growers upgrade equipment and space as their business expands by providing feasible loan and grant opportunities specifically for rural small businesses and agricultural producers. Additional resources include incentive programs with area energy providers.

For example, if the participating agricultural business is an Entergy customer, they are eligible for incentives from the Entergy Solution Agricultural program to help pay for energy efficiency upgrades. The LSU team will provide a report outlining general savings, implementation cost, and payback period for management to leverage for funding opportunities and practically approach future sustainability goals. For more information about the program or to schedule a site visit, please email M.P. Hayes at mhayes@agcenter.lsu.edu.



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TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

Eric DeBoer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor - Turfgrass Management, School of Plant Environmental, and Soil Sciences, LSU Ag Center



Although December 1st only marks the first day of meteorological winter and is still 20 or so days away from the start of astronomical winter, it's never too early to discuss plans for spring turfgrass fertilization throughout the state of Louisiana. It may be tempting to get out and start fertilizing lawns throughout the state at the first sign of spring green-up. However, having patience and choosing the right fertilizer source for that first application can go a long way toward kickstarting a healthy warm-season lawn for the spring and summer months ahead.

Importance of Timing

Your location within the state will play a major role in dictating the best time to head out with the first round of spring lawn fertilization applications. Generally, warm-season lawns throughout Louisiana will not need any fertilizer applications before mid-March and in more northern regions of the state can wait until as late as the end of April. Fertilizing lawns too early will only help feed winter weeds and lead to lush turfgrass growth susceptible to damage from large patch disease (*Rhizoctonia* spp.) and any late frosts waiting to rear their ugly head (Fig. 1). Monitoring soil temperatures can be helpful in deciding when to apply fertilizers in the spring. A soil temperature of about 60 °F is commonly recommended before any fertilizer should be applied to warm-season lawns.

Importance of Fertilizer Source

When fertilizing for the first time in the spring, using slow-release or controlled-release fertilizers can be a useful tool to help get the most bang for your buck out of the application. The nutrient release of many slow-release fertilizers is dictated by the soil temperature. This can be particularly advantageous during the spring months. As soils warm, a steady supply of nutrients will be made available for plant growth. The controlled-release aspect will limit any major flushes of lush growth that can be susceptible to winter injury. Once soils have warmed considerably and the threat of frosts has passed, the use of more readily available fertilizer sources is warranted.

Educating Customers

Customer education can also be helpful at this time of year. Many people may wonder when their lawn will be fertilized as soon as it shows signs of active growth in the spring. Taking the time to educate customers about the threats of late frosts and other winter issues exacerbated by early spring fertilizer applications will go a long way toward ensuring them that you have their best interests in mind. Waiting an extra two or three weeks to begin fertilizing and using slow-release fertilizers first thing in spring may end up saving future headaches from damaged lawns later in spring.



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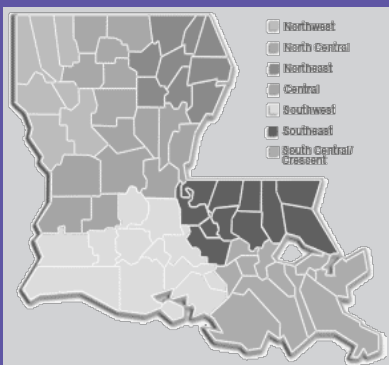
The Baton Rouge Landscape Association held their annual holiday social and dinner at Drusilla Seafood in Baton Rouge on November 29th. President Allen Owings welcomed everyone. BRLA voted to contribute funds in memory of Pete Newton to the Louisiana Foundation for Scholarship and Research and LSU Hilltop Arboretum. A few tears and memories of Pete were shared. We enjoyed a dinner with many seafood opinions. An update on Louisiana Super Plants, upcoming events at the Hammond Research Station and LNLA events (including GSHE) was provided. A spirited game of HORTICULTURE JEOPARDY was played with many stumped participants - but also many smart ones. Members are to be invited to the LSU AgCenter / LNLA landscape conference at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens on March 1st. Future meeting dates in 2024 will be May, September and early December.

THE NEW ORLEANS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The NOHS is a non-profit organization that began in 1885, the second oldest of its kind in the United States. It's a place where like-minded professionals in the green industry can meet and talk about the trade and attend lectures and activities that promote all aspects of the landscape profession. The group is comprised of licensed horticulturists, florists, nurserymen, garden center operators, pesticide applicators, landscape contractors and architects, arborists, and those in allied trades. Our meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of every month unless an event or holiday changes the day.

We meet at the City Park Garden Study Building which is set among the beautiful New Orleans Botanical Gardens.

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



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

Contact the following:

BRLA: Elena Fennell, Secretary • 225-921-4095 • ecfennell@cox.net

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

LIA: Dan Johnson, Executive Director • geauxlia@gmail.com

NOHS: Shaun Hebert • nohs1885@gmail.com

SELNA: William Afton, LSU AgCenter County Agent, St. Tammany Parish, Secretary,
SE LA Nursery Association, 1301 N. Florida St., Covington, LA 70433
(p) 985.875.2635 • (f) 985.875.2639 • www.selna.org

LOUISIANA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION

Dear Members of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is both an honor and a pleasure to address you as the incoming Executive Director of the Louisiana Irrigation Association (LIA). As I step into this role, I am filled with enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility to serve the members of our esteemed association.

First and foremost, I would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated service of Cari Jane Murray, the outgoing Executive Director of the LIA. Cari has played a pivotal role in steering the association through various challenges, and her commitment to the betterment of our community has been truly commendable. On behalf of the LIA, I extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Cari on her journey ahead. Her contributions have laid a solid foundation for the LIA, and we are grateful for the positive impact she has made.

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of water and irrigation, it becomes increasingly evident that these resources are not only precious but also vital for the sustainability of our industry and life as a whole. With growing concerns over droughts, low river levels, and other environmental challenges, the need for responsible water management and irrigation practices has never been more crucial. The LIA is committed to addressing these concerns head-on, promoting sustainable solutions, and ensuring that our members are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate these challenges successfully.

I am eager to get to know each of you and to collaborate with the members of the LIA in our shared mission. Together, we can build a resilient and forward-thinking community that adapts to the ever-changing landscape of water and irrigation. I am dedicated to working tirelessly to provide value and resources that will empower our members and contribute to the overall success of the LIA.

In the coming months, I look forward to meeting many of you and hearing your insights and experiences. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or ideas that you would like to share, please feel free to reach out. Together, we can make a positive impact on the future of irrigation in Louisiana.

Thank you for your warm welcome, and I am excited about the journey ahead.

Dan Johnson
Executive Director
Louisiana Irrigation Association



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Angel Rubio, Production Mgr. - (318)613-7871

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Glenmora, LA



In Memorandum

Karleen Guilbeau Barry



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Karleen Guilbeau Barry of Sunset, Louisiana, born in Cankton, Louisiana, who passed away on October 23, 2023, at the age of 90, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to send flowers or leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

She was predeceased by : her husband Dr. Joseph Robert Barry Jr. of Sunset; her son Dr. Charles P. Barry; her parents, Preston Guilbeau and Beatrice Guidroz; and her step-father Cyrus Roy.

She is survived by : her sons, Robert Barry, III (Sheila) of Sunset, Dr. Michael D. Barry of Grand Coteau, Karl Barry (Karen) of Lafayette, Dr. Mark Barry of Grand Coteau and Dr. Tim Barry (Cathy) of Lafayette; her daughter-in-law Patricia "Peachie" Barry of Grand Coteau; her grandchildren, Hope Barry Marks (James), Robin Barry-Olivier, Lilly Mestayer Hayes (BJ), Olivia Pilar Barry, Julia Angelle Barry, Lauren Barry Donadieu (Robert), Anne Camille Barry, Emily Marie Barry, Jeanne Michelle Barry, Amanda Barry Benoit (Harry), Tucker Barry (Rachel), Matthew Barry, Adam Barry, Robert Preston "Robbie" Barry, Sam Plache' (Victoria) and John Robert "Jack" Plache; her great grandchildren, McKinley Marks, Emme Marks, Addisyn Olivier, Wyatt Olivier, Sawyer Oliver, Jude Hayes, Eleanor Hayes and Cecile; her great great grandchildren, Rhett Marks and Ahni Melancon; and her sister Janelle Guilbeau Broussard (Elmo Bruce") of Cankton. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Charles H. Gilliam

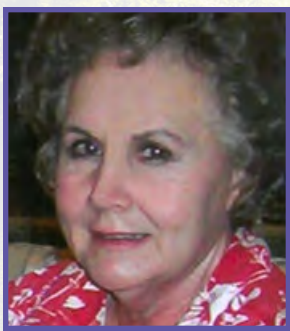
Charles H. Gilliam of the Beauregard Community went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Charles was born in Lexington, TN on October 14, 1952, to James Wallace and Joy Clifford Gilliam. He was preceded in death by both parents, brother Jim Gilliam, and son-in-law Brent Cobb. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Gail Cross Gilliam, son, Jeremy Gilliam (Jenny), daughter, Catherine Cobb Morrow (Jamie), brothers Denny Gilliam (Janet) and Jeff Gilliam (Tammy), sisters-in-law Cathy Gilliam and Brenda Scott, and brother-in-law Norman Cross (Barbara). Charles was blessed with eight grandchildren: Carleigh, Andrew, and Jack Gilliam, James and Matthew Cobb, step-granddaughters Meredith and Margaret Morrow, and foster grandson Dustin.

Growing up on the farm, Charles hoed, picked cotton, and learned the joys of hunting and fishing as a child. He attended The University of Tennessee at Martin, where he received a B.S. in Agricultural Education. He continued his education at Virginia Tech, earning both a M.S. and Ph.D in Horticulture. After a teaching and research appointment of three years at The Ohio State University, Charles joined the faculty at Auburn University in 1980. During his 38 years at Auburn, Charles was extremely active in both the college and horticultural industry as a whole. He served as Horticulture Department Head from 2000-2005. Charles' main areas of research were weed control and alternative substrates for nursery crops.

Charles loved Jesus and was an active member at Lakeview Baptist Church. He enjoyed sharing his faith with these acronyms: Are you being a F.R.O.G.? Fully Rely On God. Are you being a D.O.G.? Depend On God. Do you know how important C.O.F.F.E.E. is? Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere.

Mildred M. Vercher



On Friday, October 6, 2023, Mildred M. Vercher, 83, peacefully embraced eternal rest following a short illness while seated in her favorite chair, gazing upon her blooming flowers.

Mildred is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Richard Vercher; her parents, Ernest and Viola Messer; and five siblings, Bobby Messer, Stanley Messer, Victor Messer, Maxine Robinson, and Linda Pickering.

Mildred was born in Ville Platte, Louisiana on March 9, 1940, and she was the 3rd oldest of 12 siblings. She worked for K-Mart during the 1960s and 1970s, where she held the post of checkout supervisor, ensuring every customer experience was smooth and pleasant. Her knack for organization and attention to detail soon led her to a new role as an Automotive Department Accountant. Afterwards, Mildred worked with husband, Richard, in his trucking business. After Richard's health declined, Mildred started Vercher's Nursery, which is still operating today as Green Garden Nursery. Mildred could always be found working in her flower beds, her true passion. She also loved to watch birds and collect bird figurines. Each year, Mildred's hard work attracted all kinds of birds to her yard. She will be missed by all; especially, her fat cats and feathery friends.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughter, Donna Vercher Wade and her husband, Steve, of Forest Hill; two grandsons, Garrett Wade of Baton Rouge and Ben Wade of Forest Hill. Mildred also leaves behind five sisters and one brother, Yvonne Stockman and Audry McMahon, both of Franklinton, LA, Joy Holloway and Debra Meshell, both of Forest Hill, Brenda Miller of Jacksonville, FL, and Shelby Messer of Sacramento, CA; along with a host nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In Memorandum

Danny Kent Schilling



Danny Kent Schilling, a resident of Bogalusa, LA, passed away in his home surrounded by his family on Monday, December 18, 2023, at the age of 77. He was born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1946.

Danny was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Bogalusa, serving as a Deacon since his early 20s. He was a member of the choir most of his adult life, served on many church committees, and worked as a Royal Ambassador Leader (RA) for many years. He also participated in many First Baptist-sponsored Alaska mission trips and was a member of Gideon International Ministries.

Danny was a Bogalusa High School graduate where he played football for the Bogalusa Lumberjacks. After graduation, he went to Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) where he earned a degree in Business Management (BS) and also played football for their team. His senior year at SLU, he made captain of the football team and played center and linebacker. His SLU teammates have been lifelong friends and have many stories and tales to tell of college life and adventures after college.

After graduation, Danny became the owner of Schilling Greenhouses and Lake Choctaw Estates. He also served on the Bogalusa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the SLU Athletic Board of Directors, and provided an endowment scholarship fund in athletics for football students.

Danny is survived in death by his wife of 55 years, Beth White Schilling; son, David Grem Schilling; daughter, Greta Fornea Schilling and son-in-law, Ruffin Daniel Fornea; and four grandchildren, Seth Jameson Schilling, Sydney Addison Schilling, Lorna Danielle Fornea, Lillie Beth Fornea. He is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Danny was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Alice De Moss and Swayne G. Schilling and his two brothers, Swayne G. Schilling, Jr. and Larry Leslie Schilling.



Bruce G. Sharky



Bruce G. Sharky, 82, of Baton Rouge passed away peacefully, with his family at his side on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Bruce was born July 10, 1941, in Los Angeles, California. He earned his undergraduate degree (1965) and master's degrees (1970) in landscape architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. He married his beloved wife Nola on April 2, 1966. He worked professionally in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Winnipeg, joined the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. during the design and construction of the 800-mile oil pipeline project and was co-founder of the first private landscape firm in Anchorage, Alaska, Land Design North, for 14 years prior to joining the faculty at Louisiana State University in 1990, in Baton Rouge. Bruce served as the director of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture (RRSLA) until 2001, and as a professor until his retirement in 2021. Bruce's dedication to his family and his profession and his undivided care of the landscape architecture students at LSU, continued throughout his career and retirement, resulting in his well-deserved designation as one of the RRSLA's 'Legacy Professors.'

He was a gifted artist and inspired many students to become landscape architects through the passion he showed for the profession and the RRSLA program, and generously shared his time to any student or faculty member in need. In 1990, Professor Sharky was honored as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects for his years of service and contributions to the profession, having served as an ASLA National Trustee and Executive Committee Vice Presidency positions both before and after coming to LSU. Throughout his life, Bruce enjoyed hiking and sketching, and travel with his family and students.

Bruce led study programs to Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, and China, seminars in Chile, was a visiting scholar in Japan and had two Fulbright Fellowships to Mexico and Portugal. His RRSLA undergraduate studios worked with the National Park Service to develop alternate plans for a backcountry camp at Denali National Park in Alaska, and he also led a collaborative agricultural and ecological tourism studio in China. During retirement he continued to participate remotely in student critiques in China and a studio class at the University of Austin, Texas. Bruce was also an author of four published books on subjects as varied as professional practice, grading and drainage, introduction to landscape architecture, the theory and use of shadows in creating memorable outdoor spaces and most recently, nature-based design in landscape architecture.

Bruce befriended many faculty members from other disciplines, and often participated in collaborative projects with other faculty in the LSU College of Art + Design. He loved to walk across the LSU Campus or spend time in coffee shops and interact with others and to share his passion for making life better for everyone. Bruce will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Nola Cruz Sharky, and children, Aaron Louis Sharky, Ileana Rebecca Sharky and Rie Marie and Valentin Laticevski, grandchild Leo Laticevski, sister Elaine Hochhauser, nephew Aron and Lauren Hochhauser, their children, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents Sophie Klein and Louis Sharky.

In Memorandum

Adolph "Sam" Laiche, Jr



Adolph "Sam" Laiche, Jr., age 89, of Poplarville, MS passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Sam was born in Metairie, LA on December 1, 1933. He graduated from Kenner High School and went on to study horticulture at USL in Lafayette, LA. It was during this time in college that he was given the nickname "Sam" by his closest friends. Following completion of his studies, he served in the US Army during the post-Korean war. Sam went on to work at Hodges Gardens in Many, LA and Nicholls State in Thibodaux, LA before making the decision to attend Mississippi State University to further his education in the study of ornamental horticulture. He graduated with a PhD in 1970 and accepted a research position with the MSU Experiment Station in Poplarville, MS. While employed with MSU, he published numerous studies/papers which subsequently benefited many plant nurseries in the south. He was awarded the distinguished Porter Henegar Memorial Award in 1985 for Outstanding Horticultural Research by the Southern Nurseryman's Association. Sam enjoyed reading, traveling, hunting and watching sporting events.

Sam was of the Catholic faith. He practiced his faith and served faithfully at St. Joseph Catholic Church as a lector and as a member of the committee to build the new church and rectory.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Juanita "Nita" Ann Brashear Laiche; his parents, Adolph J. Laiche, Sr. and Babette Laiche; and a brother, Leon Laiche.

Sam leaves to forever cherish his memory to one daughter, Lynette Laiche Wesley; one son, Eric A. Laiche (Kelli); one brother, Vernon Laiche (Peggy); one sister, Babette Laiche Pellettiere; four grandchildren, Jay Wesley, Shane Wesley, Jessica Laiche Holland and Jacob Laiche and five great-grandchildren.



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Debbie Head, Owner



LNLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MINUTES
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 10:00 am

The Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association officers, directors and guests came together at Doug Young Nursery in Forest Hill on Wednesday, October 11th at 10:30am. Those in attendance were: Lisa Loup, Michael Roe, Brandon Adams, Brian Bridges, Samantha Young, Matthew Knick, Chad Everage, Matt Fennell, Reuben Mitchell, Tony Carter, Dr. Allen Owings, Dr. Jeb Fields, Dr. Damon Abdi, Marsha Dugas (LDAF), Debbie Head and Brian Breaux (LAFBF). Jeff Reid attended via zoom.

LNLA President, Lisa Loup welcomed everyone and introduced Debbie Head as our newest director replacing Candria Ray. There was a special voted taken via email on the matter and all were in favor. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Lisa asked everyone to review the minutes from the last LNLA board meeting in July 2023. Matt Fennell motioned to accept minutes. Tony second and all were in favor.

LNLA Treasurer, Brian Bridges gave the financial report for the third quarter. Cash in bank \$91K. In cd's \$110K .. \$143K year to date income .. expenses \$134K we still have newsletter bills to pay and website expenses. Dues \$42K up 22%. Ads up 3.5%. Gshe up and CNLP up as well as income from raffle. Expenses to highlight, CNLP expenses up, labor up, insurance up, meeting cost up, sponsorship up. We are operating within budget and doing good. CD matured last month and we bought back in at 5.5%. Tony Carter motioned to accept the financial report, Matt Knick second and all were in favor.

Brian also informed the board the budget committee will be meeting Thursday, November 16th in Baton Rouge to prepare the 2024 LNLA budget

Matt Fennell, Funding Committee Chair, reported that since the last meeting we have had a few deaths. LNLA will send memorial donations to the Foundation in memory of Jordan, Yvonne, Pete and others.

Marsha Dugas with the LDAF gave an update. Tina apologizes for not being here today. There was a commission meeting last week. The commission meetings for next year are already set ... Feb 29, end of July, end of Nov .. meetings are open to public. Marsha will be headed to national plant board in Ohio. LDAF will be taking licensing testing out of district offices. Looking at having testing facility. And online platforms ... more to come in the future.

Brian Breaux with Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation reported on many issues the FB is keeping sight of.

Jeff Reid, the Legislative/Labor Committee chair gave an update to the board. We are looking at having another LNLA Legislative day April 19 or 20, 2024. We will be asking for room in the rotunda on January 1, 2024. We will be there quick (at the start of session) to get in front of the legislators to let them know who we are and have relationships with them so when questions about our industry arise, they can call on us and we can call on them. Do we want to change the name or leave as Plants Make a Difference Day? We appreciate Bracy's nursery for letting us use the name. We want to make sure we have a presence. We will be seeing some new faces with the election. The plants we gave away we could have a branded LNLA pot \$2500 minimum. Tony is donating these plants and we wouldn't want to take away his advertisement. The card in the stake in the plant is nice. Matt Knick thought we should offer a member to sponsor Allen Owings suggested we should get creole tomatoes. Matt Knick makes motion to move forward with Tony to purchase the LNLA branded pots if timing works. Michael second. All were in favor. CJ work with Tony on design for pot.

Cari Jane and others will be joining NLAE via zoom for legislative testimony training.

Matt Knick reported on labor, H2B: 64K additional visas were released and will be divided between fall and spring visa applications in the continuing resolution bill released 9-30-23.

Lisa reminded everyone about the economic impact study and asked everyone to invite a friend to fill it out. We have until October 30. We would like to promote the impact study as best we can.

Michael Roe, Membership committee chair reported LNLA currently has 596 total members. Legacy membership has been misunderstood as a lifetime so we need to change name or do some more explaining. Drill in and fine-tune where legacy money would go. Few more weeks of work on it.

Do we want to look at a 3 year membership or others? The committee will bring options to the board.

Tony Carter, Marketing committee chair reported that we have purchased all the prizes for the raffle to be drawn at GSHE in January. The gun and drone are at BWI. We will be working on getting sponsors for our raffle.

Reuben Mitchell, IT Committee Chair gave an update to the board. LNLA is in need of having computer data backup. We have an appointment for consulting to guide us through some technology issues. Malware ... I need to ask him about stopping spam emails to our members. Lisa will give me a number of a second person who can fill these needs. Where is the heat map based on Lnl membership and/or licenses .. we need to put a link on the lnla.org website. Where do we want to see our website. Put information on the front page of our website about impact study.

Chad Everage, Awards Committee chair reported that we only have one submission for awards so far. Everyone knows people worthy of awards. We will have more to tell at the next meeting.

Brandon Adams, Nominating Committee chair is mainly collecting names for nomination. We want to make sure that when we have new members they know the commitment.

Dr. Jeb Fields gave an LSU AgCenter and Hammond Research Station update. We have not had rain but the gardens are looking great. Jason has been managing gardens for past year and doing an amazing job. LSU being audited on civil rights so more publications will be in English and in Spanish.

The CNLP manual update is that we will start updating this month. We will collaborate with other specialists to get the chapters done. We should look at grants with department of ag to cover the costs of this and translations. Hopefully have the project done by Summer 2024.

CJ asked a professional company what the cost would be to translate the current manual ... \$21K. Lisa reached out to a Spanish teacher, she can do it for \$11K and it will take 3-4 months. We need to make sure we embrace all of our community and support their professionalism. CNLP will need to be taught in Spanish and Jeb is not capable.

First Friday webinar with LNLA will now include the Margie Jenkins Lecture Series. Damon did one last week.

Dr. Abdi reported Jan 19th HRS will host a hardscape. In September we had a fantastic event at Lafriener Park. Lots of good reviews. Where would we like to do the next landscape education day. Baton Rouge in late February. And then October we could go Northwest ... talk to Hoogland. This will be great. Jeb and Damon thank you so much for all you do.

Allen Owings reported to the board that LNLA will be 70 in 2024. September would be the month to celebrate. Big or as small as we need to be. First meeting was at the Ira Nelson Hort Center. We would hope LNLA would want to budget some money and time to a special event to celebrate. Everyone keep your thinking caps on. We will get a few others to work on it.

Lisa talked to everyone about a project that she was working on for the last 2 months. We need to collaborate in an effort to bring the entire agriculture industry together. It's bigger than us. Lisa talked to many other agricultural associations and let them know that we are stronger together. We should have one annual meeting a year that we can meet up together and discuss how we can help each other. Let's start the reach out so we can make intelligent introductions. Have discussions in front of House and Senate Ag Committees? Flush out some things and put fires out before they start. Allen said he though we would need a PAC so we do not overstep the boundaries of LNLA.

New Business, Other Business, Announcements

- Consultant for LNLA Discussion: Matt Knick motioned to spend \$16,000 (4 meetings at \$4000 each/money back guarantee) on bettering the organizational structure of LNLA for growing through EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System). Tony Carter second the motion. The board had much discussion. A final vote of 9 yays and 1 no and the motion passed.

The next LNLA Board Meeting will be December 6, 2023 at Mike Anderson's Restaurant in Baton Rouge. 10-2
The meeting adjourned at 4pm

Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional



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

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

This certification is not a license. Call LDAF Horticulture Commission at 225-952-8100 to schedule the license exam.

February 20-21, 2024

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July 9-10 2024, TBD

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Horticulture Center
University of LA at Lafayette
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1

MANUAL REVIEW & CERTIFICATION EXAM

\$175

2

MANUAL REVIEW ONLY

\$100

3

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE MANUAL

\$65

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1

LNLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Company Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Business: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____
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Newsletter Preference (Free to Regular & Associate Members ONLY)

All other membership categories, add \$40 annually for printed newsletters

 Mail Only Email Only Both Email & Mail

Newsletter Total \$ _____

2

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Includes out of state business' plant items such as: chemicals, containers, equipment, fertilizer, garden decor, furniture, insurance, mulch, soil, stones, or etc. Product(s) sold _____
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- GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION MEMBER (Non-Voting) - \$25.00**
An employee of a government or non-profit entity, having a job responsibility in horticulture or closely related field, College or University Education/Extension/Research, Educational/ Regulatory Government Agency, or Public Gardens or Parks
- RETIREE MEMBER (Non-Voting) - \$25.00**
Any person formerly actively employed in horticulture or closely related field and having been a paid member of LNLA before retirement from that employment
- STUDENT MEMBER (Non-Voting) - FREE**
Full time student enrolled in a Louisiana university/ college in horticulture or closely related field.
- University/College name & location (city): _____
- Dues Amount: \$ _____

3

BUSINESS TYPE

Check up to 5 that apply.
(Regular, Associate & Affiliate Members Only)

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 Irrigation Contractor
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 Landscape Design/ Architect
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 Small Greenhouse/Field Grower
 - grow/sell direct to consumers
 Sod/Turf Producer
 Wholesale Allied Supplies
 Wholesale Greenhouse Grower
 - bedding/tropical plant
 Wholesale Field Grower
 - balled/container woody plants, perennials
 Does your company provide residential services
 Yes No

ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW ANNUALLY ON JANUARY 1ST.

4

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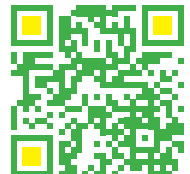
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