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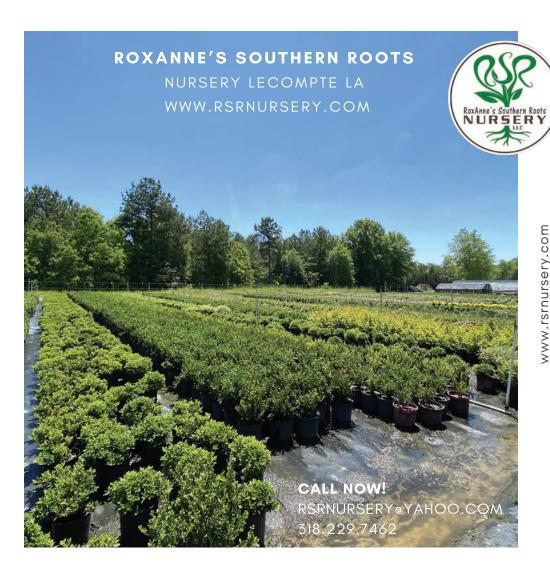


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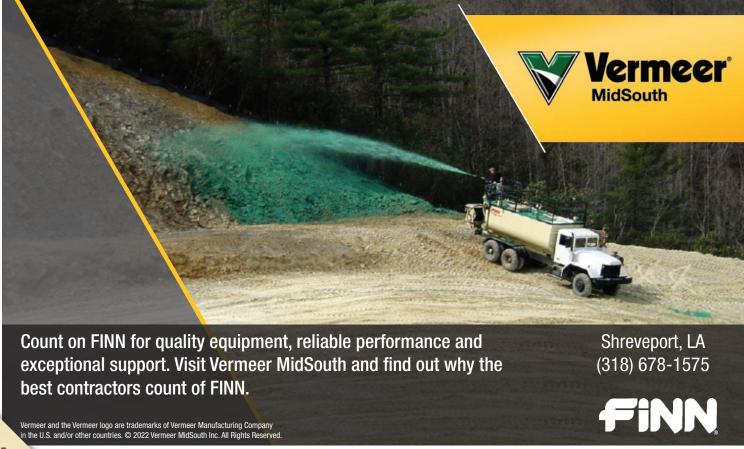
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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello LNLA Members,

I would like to begin by thanking several of our industry partners for all that they do for LNLA and our industry as a whole. First, a thank you to Dr. Jeb Fields and the entire staff at Hammond Research Station for hosting our board meeting on July 19 in conjunction with their LSU AgCenter Field Day. The event was very well attended, and the gardens looked as beautiful as ever. Secondly, a very big thank you to Brian Breaux who has retired from the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation after 43.5 years!!! Brian has worked with LNLA and provided us with pertinent industry information for many years and his services will be sorely missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue offering events that will further support your professional growth and business success. Our upcoming events will offer valuable opportunities and educational sessions designed to address the latest trends and technologies in our field. Some of these upcoming educational events are the Landscape Education Day in Bossier City October 10 with LSU's Dr. Damon Abdi. CNLP (Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional) Manual Review and Certification Exam will be held October 22-23 at the Ewing Irrigation classroom in Shreveport. There's also the Gulf States Horticultural Expo (GSHE) just around the corner. The 2025 show is January 23-24 with educational sessions beginning on January 22.

In addition to these opportunities, we are also focusing on strengthening our advocacy efforts to ensure that our industry's voice is heard on key issues affecting our profession. Your involvement and feedback are crucial as we work to shape policies that support and benefit our members and the broader community.

As always, I am deeply grateful for your continued support and engagement. Together, we are not only cultivating beautiful landscapes but also fostering a vibrant and resilient industry. Wishing you a wonderful fall season filled with success and fulfillment. Let's continue to grow and excel together. Our industry continues to thrive, thanks to your dedication and hard work.

Thank you,
Michael Roe



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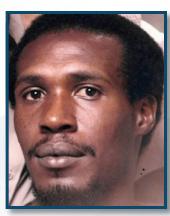
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In Memorandum

Lavone Leo Ratcliff

Lavone "Leo" Ratcliff, a Purple Heart decorated Vietnam Veteran, passed away on August 14, 2024, in Baker, LA. Leo, as he was loving known to family and friends, was born May 13, 1948, to Cleo and Mildred Ratcliff. He attended Hope Elementary School and JJ Gullage High School, and upon completion of high school he was awarded a partial scholarship to Jackson State University by the National Defense Fund before enlisting in the U.S. Marines.

Following his years of military service he returned home to New Orleans, LA, and his consummate work-ethic transferred to the private sector working at Brice Construction, Landus Construction, Bannings Plant Nursery, and Rose Plant Nursery. He was a licensed and certified Horticulturist from the LSU school of Horticulture. His work can be seen all around the city and was featured in the New Orleans Magazine.



His hobbies included his love of the New Orleans Saints as well as equestrian sports. He enjoyed spending time at the New Orleans Fairgrounds with his friends. His last trip to the fairgrounds was a delightful trip arranged by his eldest daughter, Monique, and his happiness was evident at being at one of his favorite places with one of his favorite people. His commitment as a father was evident throughout his girls' lives. He took pride in being able to pick Leona up from high school, and bragged about his daughter, Ambrosia's, work with the military.

He was married to Maxie Jefferson Ratcliff, and he was a member of New Life Church of Christ (Holiness) USA in New Orleans, LA, where he attended with Maxie each Sunday when his health allowed.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents: Cleo and Mildred Ratcliff; siblings: Jacquelyn Delores Henry, Lacy Bernard Ratcliff, and Eddie Joe Ratcliff.

He's survived by his devoted wife: Maxie Ratcliff. his loving daughters: Monique Carter (Mike Jones), Leona Ratcliff (Barrett), Ambrosia Roumell (Derrick). Siblings: Sylvia Ratcliff Carey, Billy Ratcliff (Charlene) and Betty Ann Ratcliff. Grandchildren: Christopher Ratcliff, Justin Carter, Jasmine Carter, Emanuel Jefferson, Elijah Smith, Isaiah Roumell; Great grandchildren: Jace Carter, Paisley Ratcliff, and Harlee Ratcliff; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncle other relatives and friends.

Jerome "Jerry" Plauché

A Memorial Mass will be held for Jerome "Jerry" Plauché at 10:30 AM on Friday, August 23, 2024, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Grand Coteau. Jerry was 68 when he died on August, 19, 2024, in Lafayette.

Survivors include his wife, D'Ann Barry Plauché; his sons, Sam Plauché and his wife Victoria and Jack Plauché; his sister Ady Bergeron; his brother, Jimmy Plauché and his wife Gayle; his in-laws, Beverly Plauché, Rob and Shelia Barry, Mike Barry, Peachie Barry, Karl and Karen Barry, Mark Barry, Linda and Baye Player, and Tim and Cathy Barry and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

Preceded in death by his parents, Foch and Marie Plauché; his brother, Donald Plauché; his in-laws, Robert and Karleen Barry; his brothers-in-law, John Bergeron and Charles Barry.



Jerry was born in New Roads and attended Catholic High School of Pointe Coupee from grades 1 through 12 and was a Parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was a multi sport athlete playing basketball, football, tennis, golf, and he especially enjoyed playing youth baseball and was a member of the CHSCP State Championship team. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed outdoor adventures with his family and lifelong friends.

Jerry was a devout Catholic and worked diligently to deepen his faith. He was a history buff and a voracious reader making him a great conversationalist. He also had a ear for Classic Rock and was truly a child of the 70's in many ways. He especially loved cooking for family and friends at duck and goose camps.

After high school, he earned a Bachelor Degree from USL in Business Administration. While there in Lafayette he met and eventually married D'Ann Barry of Sunset. In his life's careers, he worked in various fields until settling as a business partner in Barry's Nursery in Grand Coteau. He also coached little league and enjoyed developing children's interests in various sports. Although he had many interests in life, his greatest passion was raising his family. His was a life well lived.



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BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE

Lisa Loup, AMK Landscape



I am Blessed

It would be difficult to list all the reasons why I feel so blessed, many of my blessings are indescribable. I am truly grateful to the Lord God our Savior for his generosity toward me and my family. I was given the greatest parents and deeply respect them for their excellent parenting abilities. I could not have been loved more by anyone in the world. I would have to say becoming a mom and grandparent has been some of my greatest moments in life. My lifelong friendships have lifted me up to become the best friend I could be. I have been through a lot of different relationships, some would say, not all successful, but I would say, all experiences prepare us for the best that is yet to come. My relationship with the Best that is yet to come has been worth the wait. I Love you with my heart and soul.

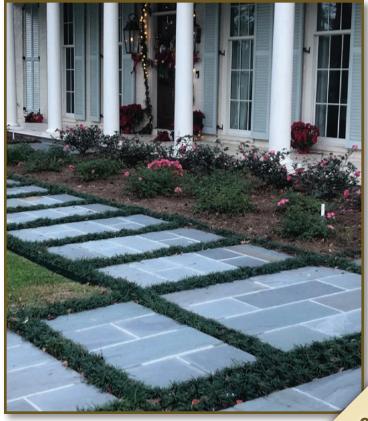
Owning my own Landscape contracting firm is right up there with my many blessings and has given me so many challenging opportunities. Growing up, if I would have known my career destiny, maybe I would have studied horticulture in college. I received my bachelor's degree in education which I have used to advance my career in horticulture. So, all education is valuable and we should constantly strive to continue educating ourselves as we journey through life. I would challenge our youthful students to educate themselves in all studies and to be open to all opportunities that may arise, even if it is not the career opportunity you have thought for yourself. You will land exactly where your meant to be. To all of our oldies but goodies please take advantage of the educational opportunities available to you because we are ever changing and so is our industry.

If owning a small business was easy than we would all own one. It takes dedication and perseverance to ride the roll coaster of ups and downs, hoping there are more ups than downs. Success to me has never been all about financial windfalls but about how others respect you, the

honest business you have created and have you somehow given your clients a more enjoyable life, while continuing to improve the environment God gave us. There is no greater joy in business than when your clients sings your praises and declares you have made their lives better.

I realized early on having positive relationships with my competitors are not only healthy but beneficial in so many ways. Joining Horticultural organizations are the key to building relationships within our industry and opening doors you may not have realized were even there. I am very grateful to all of my friend competitors for sharing so willingly their expertise. I could not have succeeded without your help and guidance. It came natural to me to want to serve an industry which had given me and my family so much. Allowing me to serve has been an honor and almost like a badge of acceptance in our industry. The relationships spawn out of service will be lifelong and cherished. My advice is to seek ways in which you can give of yourself and your talents for the continued success of our industry. The rewards for giving will far out-way the time you give.

My wish for you is to have as many Blessings as I have had and actually realize the Blessings you do have. The hustle and bustle of everyday life does not always give us the opportunity to look pass how many more things we need to do in a day. Please take the time necessary on a daily basis and give thanks for the Beauty around us, the family and friends we so cherish, the business we have and all that fulfills our lives. We are Blessed.



Landscape Professional Education Day Series



Bossier City



October 10th, 2024

Red River Research Station

262 Research Station Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112

8:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.

Join us for a day full of presentations and discussion from LSU AgCenter Faculty, LNLA Board Members, and members/suppliers of our Industry including:

- Weed Control—
 Dr. Ron Strahan
- Sustainable Landscaping—
 Dr. Damon Abdi
- Hammond Trial Garden Varieties —
 Dr. Jeb Fields
- Turfgrass Management—
 Dr. Eric DeBoer

- Industry Update—
 LNLA President Michael Roe
- Louisiana Department of Ag and Forestry
- BWI Companies Inc.
- Louisiana Cat
- Ewing Irrigation
- PBI Gordon And more!

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For more information, contact

Dr. Damon Abdi with the LSU AgCenter (dabdi@agcenter.lsu.edu)

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OR visit www.LNLA.org



LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION DAY FALL 2024: BOSSIER CITY

Dr. Damon E. Abdi and Dr. Jeb Fields

Well into its third year, the Landscape Professional Education Day series has brought timely and relevant information to green industry professionals across all corners of Louisiana. Our fall education day finds us up north once again, this time in



Bossier City. On October 10th, 2024, we will be setting up shop just outside of Shreveport at the LSU AgCenter Red River Station. From 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., AgCenter Experts and Industry Specialists will cover a wide range of topics to help nursery and landscape professionals close out 2024 and prepare for the new year. Thanks to the support of the LNLA, this is a free event specifically for industry professionals - but registration is required to save a seat and to guarantee a lunch. Visit www.LNLA.org to sign up or scan the QR code on the event flyer to locate the link.

What's on the agenda? AgCenter Experts from around the state will weigh in on a variety of topics. Headlined by Dr. Ron Strahan, Regional Director of the LSU AgCenter Northwest Region and well-renowned weed expert, best management practices to control weeds will be discussed. Your Hammond Research team will cover up-and-coming plant materials from the Hammond Trial Gardens (Dr. Jeb Fields) and sustainable landscape practices (Dr. Damon Abdi) to keep your landscape (and budget) in control. Dr. Eric DeBoer will talk turfgrass, highlighting principles and practices to maintain a lush lawn.

Industry insights will be shared by LNLA President Michael Roe, who will address the audience with updates highlighting how the LNLA is serving green industry stakeholders throughout Louisiana. Representatives from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry will speak on several topics of interest relevant to the green industry, while folks from Louisiana811 will provide the 411 on excavation safety. Talking tools and technologies for the green industry will be BWI Companies, PBI Gordon, and Louisiana CAT. Ewing Irrigation will spread some Xmas cheer with an exciting presentation on holiday lighting.

The Landscape Professional Education Days are a great chance to catch up on continuing education credits (landscape architects can receive up to 6 CEUs) and catch up with your fellow industry members. We look forward to bringing this event back up north! Check out the flyer for more information, and/or email Damon (dabdi@agcenter. lsu.edu) with any questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone this fall in Bossier City!



WHERE:

Red River Research Station 262 Research Station Drive Bossier City, LA 71112

WHEN:

October 10th, 2024 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Certified Nursery & Landscape Professionals

Congratulations to our newest CNLP recipients!

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

Jeremy Breland S Rebecca Logan Bra Catherine Russell

Samuel Cabok
Bradley McCollough
sell Rachel Swartz

Amber Chinsky Nguyet Nguyen CJ Thomason David Hock Zach O'Donnell

11

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

Certification is not required to conduct business as a landscaper however a Landscape Horticulture license issued by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is.

The CNLP manual review is a great study quide for those looking to obtain this license.

Our next manual review/certification exam will be October 22-23 at Ewing Irrigation in Shreveport, LA. For more information visit LNLA.org.

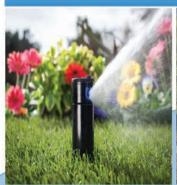
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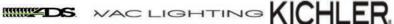














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AN OFF-SUIT ACE WITH LOVE FROM SUSAN AND YOUR LNLA FAMILY



Flip back in the LNLA/LAN archived newsletters to Summer 1991. You'll see this same title for an article about Rick Webb, a young wholesale nurseryman in the early challenges of starting his own business, Louisiana Growers, after an eight-year career with Windmill Nurseries, Inc. and Dennis McCloskey. Rick's quote in 1991 was: "I was happy at Windmill and could have worked there all my life. I just wanted to play my own game. I wanted to use my own creativity. If you're in a bourree game and you're holding an off-suit ace, you need to play it early or not at all."

How have Rick and Louisiana Growers fared for the last 33 years? Did that off-suit ace pay off? Let's check back in!



Rick is a good listener; he is thorough and level-headed, has sound ideas and loves to network with his peers. This led to leadership roles in the nursery industry, most notably on the Board of Governors for the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN is the national trade organization of the nursery/landscape industry and is now AmericanHort) and

as president of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen. Rick was president of LAN in 1999 and 2000; 1999 was the last year of LAN and 2000 the first year of LNLA; Rick and his Board also provided leadership to help form the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in 2000, which is a partnership with Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Associations. Rick was also president of LAN Region III (now the Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association) and led the Louisiana Native Plant Society and the Amite Chamber of Commerce, as well. He has stayed busy with these and many other organizations!

Rick was rewarded for this hard work with four major awards: LAN Nurseryman of the Year 1992, L N L A Professional of the Year 2016, LNLA James A. Foret Award 2020, and the LNPS Karlene DeFatta Award 2022.

"The jury is out on whether Louisiana natives will sell" admitted the article from 33 years ago. After years of trade shows, open houses, workshops, persuasive speeches and slides of native plants he knows to be right for Louisiana landscapes, Rick will tell you that yes, native plants do sell and demand for them is ever-increasing. What has been his advice? Here are a few quotes from Rick that have caught the interest of varied audiences, some native plant lovers and some not:

• PLAN first, then add the "T" at the end. • Select the right plant for the right place in space and time. • This is not rocket science, that's real simple! • What we are doing is making happy the people of our environment. • Buy plants that attract wildlife; place and care for them in the garden and you will give the human bystanders a treat as well. • Accept species over scale. If it is important to have a given plant in that space, selecting a plant smaller than specific specs suggested is fine. • Yes, Louisiana does have fall color!

Fall is for Planting! Diversity Rules.



One last ace was played: ten years ago, Susan left her professional career and joined Rick full-time in his nursery business. It has been a glorious decade. Our products have never been just inventory codes in QuickBooks, but living plants that we

admire and respect for their characteristics. It has been fun to learn, aided by other plant people who freely share their knowledge. Rick and Susan have been blessed beyond measure with health, dependable income, and friendships with customers, suppliers, and other growers. What a wonderful life!

As of June 30, 2024, Louisiana Growers is closed. Rick and Susan want time to finish a renovation of a century-old family farmhouse, travel to explore natural and manmade landscapes here and abroad, and visit with family and friends.





A selection of our plants is being grown by Windmill Nursery of Louisiana, LLC, an appropriate ending for a career started at Windmill over 36 years ago. Rick has played his off-suit ace and has had a marvelous time doing so. We thank all of you for that!



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LSU AGCENTER HORTICULTURE FIELD DAY 2024 - RECAP

Dr. Jeb Fields and Dr. Damon E. Abdi

Hammond Research Station hosted our annual Horticulture Field Day on Friday, July 19th, where we show off all the new and exciting research and plants we have each year. This year the weather was fantastic, as the morning remained



overcast and dare we say, somewhat cool? The program kicked off with welcomes and introductions from LSU AgCenter, LDAF, and LNLA.

With no time to spare, we quickly jumped into our research tours which took attendees all throughout the station, highlighting several different areas of active research. The first stop on the tour focused on water, where Dr. Damon Abdi showcased a project evaluating different media blends for use as a raingarden substrate. This project was part of an EPA funded initiative to reduce the environmental impact of nutrients in runoff water, where water spiked with nitrate and phosphate were passed through the raingarden media to assess if, and to what extent, contaminants can be removed. Dr. M.P. Hayes energized the crowd with a solar panel demonstration, where a floating solar panel installed on the irrigation pond showcased how the surface space for this common on-farm resource (ponds) could be maximized as a source of on-site power.

Following up the water focus, the Fields lab team discussed ongoing production research at the Hammond Research Station. Here we discussed the stratified substrate research that is being funded by the American Floral Endowment, as well as student projects with Kristopher Criscione, Ashley Hickman, and Amanda Mizell. Maureen Thiessen also shared her work on stratified propagation techniques. Finally, we highlighted some of the new substrate temperature work that our lab is conducting in collaboration with Oregon State, Ohio State, and the USDA-ARS to evaluate energy balance in nurseries.

Next on the tour were several projects to support the sustainability of the landscape industry. Dr. Damon Abdi showcased a mulch evaluation study, assessing how the color of mulch may impact soil temperatures. Shredded hardwood mulch, dyed either red, black, or brown, was installed at depths of 2" and 4", and compared to bare, unmulched plots. Soil temperature sensors were buried within the mulch and in the bedding mix just beneath the mulch rings, recording the temperatures at the two layers of the landscape every 30 minutes. Insights from this research can help answer a common question homeowners (and contractors) have—"do darker mulches cause landscape soils to become warmer?".

Continuing the landscape tour, Dr. Abdi showcased an LNLA funded project where best management practices for tree installation and establishment were compared. Swamp maples sourced as either B&B or container grown stock were installed into the landscape prior to the new year. Different pre-planting practices were employed for B&B and container trees, respectively. For B&B trees, the wire surrounding the rootball was either removed or allowed to remain intact; for container trees, the rootball was either shaved with a Sawzall or left to remain intact. Over the next several years, the growth of the swamp maples will be assessed with the goal of identifying if, and to what extent, pre-planting practices may have on the establishment of either type of nursery stock.

The research tour concluded with Dr. Eric DeBoer showcasing another LNLA funded project, where best management practices for sod establishment were compared. Centipede grass sod was installed over soil where various amendments were tilled into the surface. This project sought to identify if different soil amendments can enhance the rooting and establishment of centipede grass, with soil cores collected to take a closer look at how the newly installed turf took root into the soil.

After the research tour, attendees were able to stroll through the gardens and check out the ornamental trials for this year. As always, we asked the industry to vote on their favorites for the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station Industry Choice Awards.

The Top 10 Selections are as follows:

- 1 Goldblitz Rudbeckia (Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii) PanAmerican Seed
- 2 Limelight Prime Hydrangea (Hydrangea paniculata) Proven Winners
- 3 Sun Parasol Original XP Bluphoria Mandevilla (Mandevilla hybrid) Suntory Flowers
- 4 Micky Mouse Elephant Ear (Alocasia 'Mickey Mouse')
- 5 Castor Bean (Ricinus communis) ***I honestly don't know why people vote for this one every year!***
- 6 Bolo Bolo (Clappertonia ficifolia)
- 7 Paraplu Violet Rose of Sharon (Hibiscus x) Proven Winners
- 8 Blue My Mind Evolvulus (Evolvulus hybrid) Proven Winners
- 9 Enchantia White Cuphea (Culphea hyssopifolia) Ball Seed
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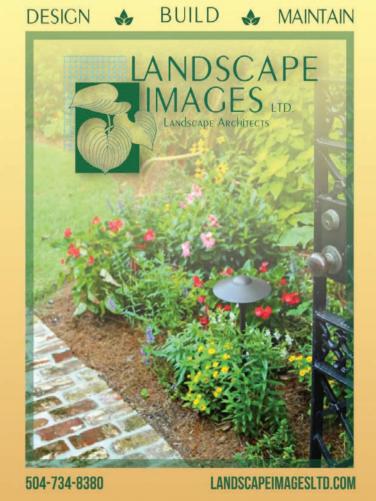
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LATE SUMMER LOUISIANA IRIS CARE

Tammany Baumgarten

Louisiana Iris are an iconic symbol of Louisiana flora and a gorgeous addition to any landscape. You can look for the five straight native species, or shop the countless and most exquisite hybrids and cultivars imaginable. Louisiana Irises never fail to attract attention in the Spring as they pop off intricate bloom after bloom in a relatively short window of time, but what I use Louisiana Irises



for in landscape design is their winter foliage. These irises have a timetable that is opposite of most of our plants in that they break dormancy in early Fall and are in active growth all winter long. It is extremely useful in a winter landscape to have the lush green foliage of irises to carry the visual appeal of a garden. It is especially useful in gardens with deciduous plants and perennials that don't have much to show at this time of year. The irises help hold the structure and fullness of the design during the seasonal slump between late November and February.

Late summer is the time when a little attention to your Iris plantings will pay off. Rhizomes only bloom once, then elongate and fork to form the offsets that will bloom the next Spring. Plantings just a few years old can have a long, unproductive rhizomes attached to an active growing tip. Plantings often expand out, leaving a dead, unproductive center. To rejuvenate the situation, unproductive portions of the rhizomes should be cut away and the growing ends replanted in the center to recreate a dense active stand and bring the planting closer to the original placement. It is not necessary to dig out the entire planting. If every year, you target a few rhizomes, you will keep the planting thick and blooming beautifully.

Louisiana irises will stay in active growth through the summer if they have adequate, consistent moisture throughout. However, if they experience dry, hot spells, which are common in August, they go into dormancy and can exhibit quite a bit of brown, yellowed or yellowing foliage that makes them look quite scruffy. August/ September is a good time to clean them up by trimming off any unsightly foliage. You can even shear down dense clumps without having to handle each plant individually. New growth will be noticeable in the center of each fan starting in late summer and really taking off in the Fall when you can fertilize them lightly with a general fertilizer. With a little extra care, Louisiana Iris can be an attribute to any landscape year-round.

Please note that Yellow Iris Pseudacorus is not a native Louisiana iris. In fact, this iris has been identified by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries as a Tier 1 Invasive Plant in our state. The invasive Yellow Iris can be distinguished by a prominent midrib along the leaf blades. It is a very aggressive plant and will take over any other iris species in a mix.



Figure 1 Louisiana Irises make an exceptional show in Spring



Figure 2 Louisiana Iris foliage brings a lush fullness to winter landscapes



Figure 3 Iris plantings can be rejuvenated by removing the spent portion of the long rhizomes and replanting the active growing tips



Figure 4 Unsightly, dormant foliage can be sheared down in late summer to clean plants and make way for a fresh flush of growth



Figure 5 Actively growing portions of iris rhizomes are replanted



Figure 6 Iris plantings can expand outward leaving a dead center of unproductive rhizomes





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SLIME FLUX OF HEARTWOOD TREES IN LANDSCAPES

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

Bacterial wetwood, also known as bacterial flux or slime flux, is a disorder of many tree species. Some of the common trees affected include ash, birch, beech, boxelder, cottonwood, elm, fir, hickory, maple, oaks, pines, yellow poplar, sweet gum, sycamore, walnut and willow. Wetwood normally occurs in the inner wood of heartwood



trees without causing any harm in response to biotic and abiotic stresses including pruning and wounding. On the contrary, wetwood colonized by facultative and obligate anaerobic bacterial species may inhibit fungal wood decay. However, the gases produced by anaerobic bacterial growth result in pressure to buildup which then forces sap from within the tree to the outside surface through cracks and wounds on the trunk. This ooze is often colonized by surface inhabiting fungi, bacteria or yeast and results in the formation of slime flux with a rancid odor that may be detected from a distance (Figure 1). Slime flux may appear anywhere on the tree as low as near the base (Figure 1) or several feet up on the trunk (Figure 2). Slime flux runs down from the point of exit, leaving behind stained (Figure 3), discolored (Figure 4), water soaked areas on the trunk. Older slime flux will dry out and can be seen in the form of opaque white crystals deposited on the trunk (Figure 5), whereas active slime flux can be seen bubbling out from an exit point along the tree trunk (Figure 6). Although slime flux is not considered a disease, the forceful outward expulsion of sap under pressure may damage sapwood living tissue and the bark resulting in wilting of leaves, branch dieback and general decline in tree vigor. Additionally, slime flux may delay wound callus formation.

There is no preventative treatment or cure for slime flux. Adopting good horticulture practices that improve tree vigor including proper planting in well drained fertile soils, adequate fertilization, avoiding water stress, proper pruning and disinfestation of pruning tools in between trees, proper management of pest problems may help reduce the incidence of slim flux.



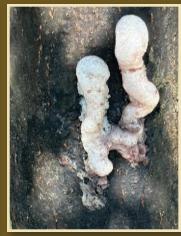
Slime flux ooze presents at the base of an affected Nuttall oak tree



Slime flux ooze appears several feet up on the trunk of a Nuttall oak tree



A tree trunk exhibiting rundown streaks left behind from the slime flux ooze from an exit point



A Nuttall oak displaying active slime flux bubbling out from an exit point along the tree trunk



Older dried slime flux appears as opaque white crystals deposited on the trunk of a Nuttall oak tree



A dark discolored trunk of Nuttall oak resulting from slime flux



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Prof. Buck Abbey, Landscape Architect, Abbey Associates Inc., The Green Laws Organization, New Orleans

Bartram's Visit

The 1700's was indeed an interesting time for America. These were the days of Colonial families many of which were immediate descendants of the first colonist that arrived as Pilgrims or Post Pilgrims in the mid 1600's. These people settled in Massachusetts Bay Colony were actually English citizens living under the flag of King James I of



England and soon there after by Charles I and then in 1760, George III.

The English were interested in the natural resources found in North America. They needed the tall pine, the strong live oak and medically important g sassafras trees that did not grow in Western Europe. In fact, George III was very interested in the unknown native plants of his colonies and wanted more information. He appointed a Philadelphia gardener as Royal Botanist and charged him with exploring for plant material that could not be found in England.

John Bartram 1699-1777 was a well respected horticulturist and created the first botanical garden in British North America. As the King's Royal Botanist, he was asked to discover, box up and ship to England seeds, bulbs, root stock and cuttings of native plants in demand by wealthy families and physicians Well known American plants in English gardens include tobacco, strawberries, coreopsis, monardia, rudbeckia, echinacea, magnolia, asters, solidago, and helianthus.

Perhaps Bartram's most important discovery was Franklina altamaha, the small flowering trees named for his friend Benjamin Franklin and thought to be a variation of Gordonia lasianthus, Louisiana's native Loblolly Bay tree.

William Bartram

But it was John's son, William Bartram 1739-1823 that left his imprint on the State of Louisiana. William followed his father as a plant explorer and nature writer.

In his great book, Travels, published in London by James & Johnson in 1791 he records his trip though the Southeast and South.

William went farther traveling the East Coast, the Deep South and into Louisiana. William was a writer, a noted painter, a plant collector and a most astute observer of nature. and someone who felt at ease among the native Indian Tribes of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and Alabama. He wrote, "I found a very large party of the lower Creeks encamped in a grove. This was a predatory band of Seminoles, consisting of about forty warriors destined against the Choctaws of West Florida."

When you think of other important nature writers such as

Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Edward Abbey, Rachel Carson and Thomas Nuttal you have to appreciate how carefully Willam Bartram describes nature in its most secret manifestations.

His eye and his writing captures the loveliness of nature. "I observe here a very singular and beautiful shrub which I suppose is a species of Hydrangea (H. Quercifolia). It grows in coppices or clumps near or on the banks of rivers and creeks; many stems usually arise from a root, spreading itself greatly on all sides and lay suckers or offsets; the stems grow five to six feet high. At a certain age the stems crack through to the next bark, and is peeled off by the wind, discovering the under, smooth, dark reddish brown bark, which also cracks and peels off the next year." His writing brings nature alive to the reader.

Louisiana.

Bartrum traveled more than a thousand miles between 1774-1777 by foot, horse, canoe and sail boat. He rode the trails though forested land used by White Traders who dealt with the numerous Indian towns scattered along the lonely trails though the primeval forest and burnt lands used by the agricultural tribes of the Southeast to grow zia(corn), batata(potatoes),



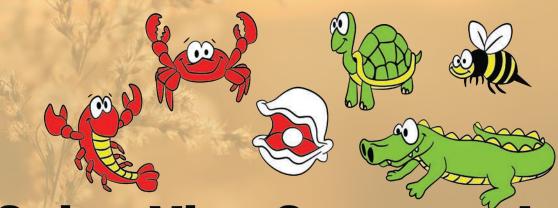
cereals, wheat, pears apples, figs, nectarines, oranges, cydonia(quince), grapes and other fruits and vegetables.

William Bartram 1739-1824

He leaves Mobile on September 5, 1777 after receiving permission from the British governor in Pensacola to travel in West Florida to collect plants and to visit the Gulf Coast including Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. In Louisiana where he sails and camps on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain before continuing on through Lake Maurepas, up the Amite River though Bayou Manchac and on to Baton Rouge which was then called 'New Richmond' following the Treaty of Paris in 1763. He works his way up the Mississippi to Pointe Coupée by late October. He camped in many places along this route and enjoyed the hospitality of many French Planters who treated him in the usual Louisiana way. But what we find from his travels is that many of the forest trees he identified through the Carolinas to East Florida and along the Gulf Coast are some of Louisiana's best garden plants. Tree genera he saw, time and time again, include Quercus, Magnolia, Acer, Platanus, Liriodendron, Liquidambar, Fagus, Pinus, Aesculus, Fraxinus, Sabal, Nyssa, and Gordonia. But perhaps the one plant he noted that best represents the Southeast was Quercus virginiana, the Coastal Live Oak.

Perhaps it is time for St. Tammany Parish to recognize Bartram's visit.

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WATER AND ENERGY: UTILIZING POND SPACE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

The diverse landscape of Louisiana has sparked interest in the topic of renewable energy and agricultural or agrivoltaics. This practice utilizes the same space for solar energy production and agriculture. Agrivoltaics can offer a wide range of benefits to farmers including energy offsets, economic growth, and sustainable agriculture. While looking into opportunities for



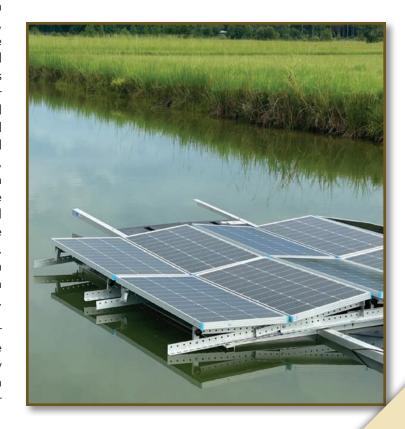
shared spaces, one must think of available resources on the farm or nursery. An innovative approach to incorporating renewable energy in unutilized space is the implementation of floating photovoltaics (FPV).

Currently at the Hammond Research Station, the LSU Water Quality Extension Lab has built a floating and landbased photovoltaic (LPV) unit to compare efficiencies and study additional benefits of using pond space for solar applications. Previous studies have shown that water cooling reduces the temperature of panels and increases the efficiency of energy production. Both the floating and land units will be monitored for energy production and weather conditions including temperature, wind, and humidity. Though ground mount systems can handle extreme conditions, the academic teams see added resiliency benefits from the lower profile of floating panels near the water. In addition to the energy and weather parameters, the floating panels will be monitored for pond health parameters. Water quality sensors will be deployed under the shaded floating unit and in the adjacent pond area to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, algae, and nitrate. It is hypothesized that the shade from the floating panels will decrease surface water temperature thus lowering the potential for algae, increasing dissolved oxygen for nutrient conversation, and reducing the evaporation of water to maintain more stable pond levels. There are many impactful benefits for pond health from shading and the innovative use of floating panels can provide a two-fold benefit to even a small pond ecosystem.

When exploring the idea of floating panels on your water space it is essential to think about how your facility will use the generated power. The scalability of floating panels is only limited to the available water acreage. The demonstration project in Hammond incorporates 1000 watts of power for

direct power to a pond aerator to increase dissolved oxygen in the small irrigation pond. In some cases, with enough space, an owner could look into running large pumping systems or irrigation for their farm with power generated onsite. This offset would impact the farm or nursery overhead and lead to more sustainable agriculture.

As the team collects more data from this pilot study, extension publications will be generated to showcase the energy production and efficiency difference between the floating and land-based units. LSU AgCenter students mapped 192 ponds across the state and performed preliminary analysis using the National Renewable Energy Lab's (NREL) online PVWatt Calculator to estimate the energy production per acre of pond space. These results were calculated using Louisiana's average yearly solar radiation of 5.31 kWh/m2/day (total energy per square meter per day). The generous results show the average energy estimated was 861,434 kWh per year (or 71,786 kWh per month) for one acre of pond space. The LSU team will be comparing values generated from the floating solar units to the NREL PVWatt Calculator estimation in hopes of providing a template for future stakeholder outreach and technical assistance.



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THE ONLY FORMATION FOR LARGE PATCH (RHIZOCTONIA) CONTROL

Eric DeBoer, PhD - Louisiana State University AgCenter

Prevent Defense

Football season arriving in Louisiana means we're near the end of summer lawn care and our focus shifts to winter lawn preparation. Cooler temperatures are welcomed with open arms by turfgrass managers across the state. However, our warmseason grasses may not welcome the drop in temperatures as warmly. For warm-season grasses, the cooler temperatures indicate the transition



to a more stressful period. As soil temperatures begin to dip back below 80 °F, warm-season turfgrass metabolism begins to slow as they prepare to enter dormancy (or not.. depending on your location in the state). It's this time of year when many warm-season grasses become susceptible to infection by the pathogen Rhizoctonia solani. This pathogen and its symptoms may be referred to by several names, including large patch (my favorite and referred to as LP for this article), brown patch, warm-season brown patch, or zoysia patch due to its initial association with Zoysia species.

Symptoms

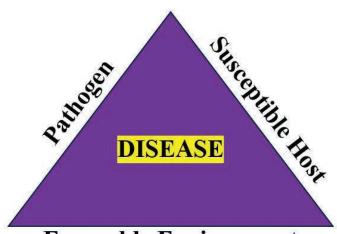
Symptoms typically appear as yellow, orange, or brown patches of grass that can expand to as much as 25 feet in diameter or more. Bad outbreaks can result in patches coalescing into larger monstrosities. During active infection, the outer edges of these patches may exhibit a more vibrant color (orange firing; Photo 1- right) as the fungus spreads. Symptoms during the fall may be less obvious than what you'll see during the spring (Photo 1).



Left: Large patch symptoms on zoysiagrass in October (Photo: Dr. Wendell Hutchens) Right: Symptoms in May of the following spring (Photo: Dr. Eric DeBoer)

Conditions

When it comes to other fungal pathogens like gray leaf spot (P. oryzae) or take-all root rot (G. graminis var. graminis), we can pretty reliably count out major disease outbreaks on certain turf species. When was the last time you saw gray leaf spot on a bermudagrass lawn? Unfortunately, LP will happily infect all the major turfgrasses grown as lawns in Louisiana. In my experience, which includes more golf course heights of cut, zoysiagrass is incredibly susceptible given the proper conditions. And if we're going to discuss conditions for disease development, we must take a look at the disease triangle (Fig. 1).



Favorable Environment

Disease outbreaks require all three legs of the triangle before they cause turf managers headaches.

The disease triangle describes the three things necessary for a pathogen to infect and injure a turfgrass. There needs to be a susceptible host, which is the turf you're managing, a pathogen, R. solani, and the proper conditions or environment. If any of these are taken away, disease outbreaks cease to exist.

The fungus responsible for LP thrives in conditions typical of Louisiana's fall and early spring: cooler temperatures (approx. 67-77 °F) combined with excessive moisture in soils that have cooled back down below about 75-80 °F. High relative humidity, cloud cover, and abundant precipitation or overirrigation, combined with these cooler temperatures, give LP the upper hand on most warmseason turfgrass species.

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THE ONLY FORMATION FOR LARGE PATCH (RHIZOCTONIA) CONTROL

continued >

Cultural Controls

Currently, there are no warm-season turfgrass cultivars advertised as large patch resistant, but there are specific cultivars that are more prone to disease outbreaks than others. For example, in Northwest Arkansas, 'El Toro' zoysiagrass gets hammered with large patch, and 'Cavalier' zoysiagrass in the same field looks unscathed.

Dethatching, aerification, increasing drainage (surface and subsurface), and increasing air movement can all help to make the environment mentioned earlier less hospitable to the pathogen. Increasing mowing heights can also help, as grass mowed below 1" is more susceptible to outbreaks.

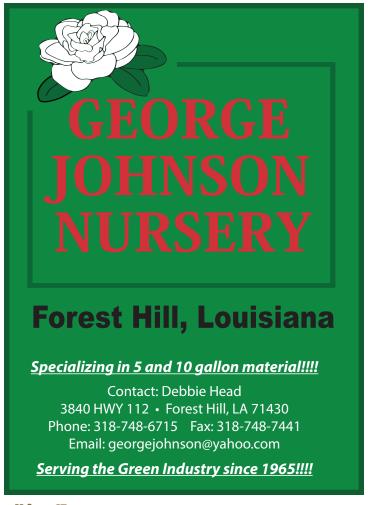
Chemical Controls

Preventative treatments are the most effective way to manage large patch. Curative controls are much less effective, if effective at all. Since the disease thrives in cooler, moist conditions, the best time to apply fungicides is when soil temperatures drop to about 70 °F before symptoms are visible. A calendar-based approach won't always be the

most reliable method for application timing. Pay attention to soil temperatures and remember it can take as much as three fungicide applications to keep symptoms at bay. Increasing your spray volume to about 2- gallons / 1000 ft2 can help by depositing fungicide on leaf sheaths and stem bases where most infections occur. Qol (Group 11), DMI (group 3), and SDHI (group 7) fungicides are typically most effective for control.

By understanding the conditions that favor the growth of R. solani and employing a preventative strategy through proper cultural practices and fungicides, turfgrass managers and homeowners can mitigate the impact of this disease and keep their lawns healthy throughout the year. Be proactive with fungicide treatments, manage irrigation carefully, and follow best cultural practices to minimize the risk of LP affecting your turfgrass.

Source: Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases 4th. Ed. (2023) - American Phytopathological Society.











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EAST BATON ROUGE MASTER GARDENERS CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Malorey Uzee at muzee@agcenter.lsu.edu

(08/14/24) BATON ROUGE, La. – East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners recently celebrated its 30th anniversary at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Ione Burden Conference Center, which honored the dedication



and passion of Master Gardeners, both past and present.

The celebration, coordinated by members-at-large Debi O'Neill and Charlotte Harelson, was a resounding success thanks to the collective effort of the board. The spirit of community and collaboration was evident throughout the event. Highlights included a cookout, beautifully decorated tables with simple arrangements of rudbeckia and esperanza flowers and a signature cocktail made from local honey

Key to the event's success was the seamless delivery and preparation of food and beverages by hospitality chairs Keith and Carol Nordyke. Some of the culinary highlights were Jerri Becnel's award-winning Lone Star caviar and the signature honey lemon "mintini" cocktail crafted by Debi O'Neill and Charlotte Harelson using honey from O'Neill's beekeeping.

Bert Hammett, East Baton Rouge Parish extension agent, served as the grand master of ceremonies. Jeff Kuehny, director of LSU AgCenter Botanical Gardens, presented an engaging history of the Master Gardeners, complete with a pop guiz on the shared history.

Bob Souvestre, the guest of honor and the East Baton Rouge coordinator of the inaugural Master Gardener class, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the celebration. He reflected on the memories shared and the talents within the Master Gardener community, highlighting the members' significant contributions over the years.

"I was overwhelmed at the LMG 30th anniversary celebration," Souvestre said. "Thank you for the opportunity to enjoy this milestone of history. Master Gardeners have both personal and educational talents that they are willing to share with our community."

The 30th anniversary celebration of the EBR Master Gardeners was a testament to the strong community bonds and dedication of its members. It was a night of reminiscing, celebration and looking forward to the continued growth and success of the program.





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









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LNLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Friday, July 19, 2024

The LNLA Board of Directors met Friday, July19, 2024 in the conference room at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station during the stations Field Day. The business meeting started at 9:00am. Those in attendance were Michael Roe, Lisa Loup, Brandon Adams, Jeff Reid, Brian Bridges, Cari Jane Murray, Tony Carter, Matt Fennell, Chad Everage, Kellie Alford, Jennifer McGimsey, Matt Knick, Craig Roussel, Dr. Ed Bush, Dr. Allen Owings, Tina Peltier, and many other guests from LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station Field Day. Those board members absent were Reuben Mitchell and Debbie Head.

Louisiana Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain addressed the board and those in attendance. He thanked everyone for their passion and commitment to the Green Industry and Louisiana Agriculture. He stated that Lisa Loup is our Louisiana tiger in reference to our busy legislative session this year. There were many battles ... our legislators helped us in the end.

The goal of one bill was to eliminate the florist license. They eliminated the floral test. Will have a negative effect on the small rural florists. They have said they will eliminate our arborist license. We will work to support our legislators and stay active in the process. We should never give up on what we believe in.

LNLA President Michael Roe thanked the Commissioner for being with us all the way. Michael asked everyone to introduce themselves and give a personal highlight to keep things upbeat and personal.

Michael then asked all to review the minutes from the last meeting, motion to accept the minutes from Tony Carter. Second from Chad Everage ... all were in favor.

Tina Peltier with LDAF said Dr. Strain already gave a really good LDAF report ... conference in September for inspectors to learn about Louisiana pests. Piromorum has come back negative. CAPS information available to all. Arborists are helping LSU AG and LDAF to revamp the arborist license exam. Work comp and general liability are a must to get a arborist license. Lisa asked if exams would be given in Spanish. ISA does have a Spanish version manual and the LDAF has a Spanish interpreter.

Cari Jane gave a brief report for the Foundation. The gala was a huge success Friday, June 28th at the Pavilion of the Two Sisters in City Park, NOLA. Thank you to all who attended, sponsored and donated auction items. Grant opportunities are available now for submission and scholarship application period will be opening soon as well.

LNLA Treasurer Brian Bridges gave a financial report. Total assets are \$237,621.00 Motion to accept financial report from Tony Carter and Chad Everage second. All were in favor. Brian also reported for the Funding Committee - 3 things to come up that need to be discussed before the board.

1. Continue 2 classes of EOS training through the rest of this year at a cost of \$4000 each. opinion was thinking we probably have this under our belt and we can do without but with the process of time and trying to relate it to swallowing an elephant and we are currently just working on the toenail. There is value in going through the process with a coach. To where we are more efficient and fluid ... I see the benefit of continuing. Matt K. It has been good. There have been organizational skills learned. I feel as if it's been a slow start. I think we have areas to improve on. Tony thinks 2 more meetings would be beneficial and we will get better and more efficient as we go along. I have enjoyed the process. Not knowing what will be offered to us in the next 2 meetings I can't say one way or another. Lisa said there has been lots of organization for LNLA over the last 6 years. Goal building in the last 2 years. There have been lots of board members that have been left out of the EOS process and communication has been stagnant. I do not agree with some of the methods that have been used during the whole reorganization process. Y'all asked .. I think the goal of LNLA has been lost and goals we established but haven't completed. It's not a horrible thing we have done and I'm sure There are so many wonderful people that Brandon agrees with what Lisa said. There has been a lot of stuff that has been accomplished that have been in the L10 meetings. Meetings have been progress but I feel like we are leaving people out. We could have more ideas and input from people who do not attend meetings. I haven't been to actual consultant meetings so I do not know what you have learned. Has been a lot of things that have been brought up that I didn't know until going to those.



Personally we do need some more work on L10 structure ... I would be comfortable with one more meeting with Toby and then seeing if the next is necessary.

- 2. LNLA to be a member of MNLA so we can see what they are doing and have access \$150 is the dues to another association.
- 3. Manual revision proposal to have \$5000 to revise the horticulture manual.

Matt K. motioned for us to join MNLA Tony second and all were in favor.

Tony Carter reported for the marketing committee. Shot gun for raffle has been purchased was well as a high end handbag for ladies .. we will have these 2 items for the raffle this year at GSHE instead of 3. Pots for next year's legislative day will be purchased with LNLA's logo on one side. 14400 pots per pallet. They will be in a warehouse at Langridge so they will not brake down. Cost will be determined soon. QR code on other side with Plants make a difference. The more colors the more cost.

Matt Knick reported for our new sales team that there have been 59 new members year to date. Sales team meets monthly to determine new strategies to market to nonmembers. Tony has done a good job of creating material to hand out and printed materials. We are having trouble with attendance in sales meeting. We are looking for other people to step up and help us.

Jeff Reid gave a labor and legislative update. The leaf act is legislation that would prevent anyone being restricted on gas powered equipment. Our legislature expanded on Georgia's leaf act to include all of agriculture. That passed without issue!

Brandon Adams reported for the education committee. Education is working on manual revision with Dr. Fields and Dr. Abdi and should be finished with a revision by December 1. October 10 we have education day in Bossier City with Dr. Abdi and LSU Agcenter. Hammering out details and advertising in the next meeting.

Where will the October CNLP be? Jennifer McGimsey said she can supply people to come. The education team will discuss where it will be.

Where are we going in February for an educational symposium. Will take to committee and get back to group. 2 years since we have been to Lake Charles area. Wow time flies.

Lisa Loup gave an update on the 70th anniversary party. She is in the throws of planning with Dr. Allen Owings for a beautiful, successful event on September 6th from 4 to 8pm. 2 swamp coolers on hold for us to use. Ordered string lights to create a really nice atmosphere. We will be sending out save the dates. Jim Foret will be giving a history report on LNLA at 6pm. Food will be jambalaya onsite, fruit and cheese tables as well as Salad bar and dessert ideas. We will have a small band. Providing water and iced tea dispensers. Beer and wine would be provided as well in moderation.

Back to EOS. Everyone is concerned about communication. Jeff is giving a rebuttal to things we have needed to hear. Somethings good and some things bad. I want to know what's going on overall and where we came from. I went to past presidents and say why did you do that ... whatever it was in their tenure. On the positive pro side .. if he knew the sales committee has had 5 meetings already this year, many past presidents would be stunned. We are making headway. Jennifer ... what are the list of things that aren't working. What needs to be addressed to make this system more effective for a non profit organization.

Craig thinks he's hearing that it's been a good thing for the people in the L10 meetings and the email recaps to the rest of the board Michael mentioned will help keep everyone

Matt F. Motions to approve an additional \$4000 be spend on one EOS training. Tony second. All were in favor.

Cari Jane addressed the board and asked for a leave of absence through the month of August. Brian Bridges recommended up to 60 days. Brian motioned. Paid leave of absence. Chad second .. all were in favor.

Lisa makes a motion to adjourn. Tony second and All were in favor



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— SELNA

The 2024 Folsom Fall Garden Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. SELNA and Midway Church have once again joined forces to plan and organize the local garden festival event. Midway Church will be selling plate lunches and refreshments during the event while vendors sell plants and other landscaperelated materials. The Folsom Fall Garden Festival is a great community event that facilitates conversation between nursery crop producers and retail customers.

Visit SELNA.org for association updates, membership information, and horticulture-related news. You can also download a copy of the SELNA Plant Locator while you're there.

To request a Nursery Locator Map, Folsom Fall Festival Application, or more information contact SELNA at 985.875.2635 or wafton@agcenter.lsu.edu.



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