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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Mike & Barbara Levy

This quarter we'll highlight a very innovative couple who has successfully operated two separate businesses with high efficiency and skill. Mike and Barbara Levy own Michael Levy Horticultural Services, Inc. – a maintenance and instillation business in Metairie, LA and Dogwood Ridge Farms – an annual, herb and perennial wholesale nursery in Poplarville, MS.

Long before they were married in 1988, Mike expressed an interest in growing plants. He attended LSU, majoring in Horticulture, from the fall of 1967 till the spring of 1971. Mike recounted that he well remembered Dr. Ed O'Rourke who he had taken a floriculture class under and later used much of what he had learned from Dr. O'Rourke when he became a grower.

Mike's first job was working in the greenhouse at Holiday Nursery in Bay St. Louis, MS. There he had his first experience growing mums, poinsettias, ferns, geraniums and bedding plants all from seed. A short time later, Mike went to work for Donald O. Heumann Greenhouses in Poydras, LA where they grew a much greater variety of plants, including; Kalanchoes, poinsettias, mums,



ferns, gloxinias, Easter lilies and a vast selection of tropical foliage and flowering plants.

By the time I met Mike in the summer of 1975, he had become a very accomplished grower. I stopped by to introduce myself as I was just hired to the position of Area Horticulturist for Metro New Orleans with the LSU Cooperative Extension Service. Mike and Cricket Heumann, his boss and good friend, toured me around the extensive greenhouse complex. After the tour I told them

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'Bridal Party' Hibiscus,
The 'Hibiscus of the Year' Award for 2009,
details on page 24.

SELECT THE APPROPRIATE MITICIDES

Two-spotted spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae*) is a major pest of ornamental plants in both production and landscape, particularly during the drier months of summer. Other common spider mite pests include the spruce spider mite (*Oligonychus ununguis*) and the southern red mite (*Oligonychus illicis*), which are more problematic in the spring and fall. The spider mites feed by puncturing cell wall and removing cell content. The typical symp-

ptoms of spider mite infestation include leaf bleaching, stippling, and bronzing. Another common group of pest mites are the eriophyid mites. Although individual species are usually host-specific, as a group the eriophyid mites can infest grasses (e.g. the bermudagrass mite, *Eriophyes cynodontensis*), woody ornamentals

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(P) 337.232.5967, (F) 337.232.1469
(E) rustygrassroots@bellsouth.net

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Newton Landscape Group
8930 Buzbee Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(P) 225.756.4321, (F) 225.756.4324
(E) pete@newtonlandscapegroup.com

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(E) scd357@cmaccess.com

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Folsom, LA 70437-0580
(P) 985.796.3488, (F) 985.796.3488
(E) folsomnursery33@aol.com

Past-President

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Clegg's Nursery, Inc.
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Denham Springs, LA 70726
(P) 225.791.6060, (F) 225.791.6033
(E) tefennell@cleggnursery.com

Administrative Assistant

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

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LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Sta.
21549 Old Covington Hwy.
Hammond, LA 70403
(P) 985.543.4125, (F) 985.543.4124
(E) aowings@agctr.lsu.edu

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(P) 225.578.2413, (F) 225.578.0773
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Baton Rouge, LA 70817
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(E) mgoree@polydrip.com

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(E) gardener.g@cox.net

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Poole Brothers Nursery
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(P) 318.748.6579, (F) 318.748.7441
(E) poolebroshsny@msn.com

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Banting's Nursery
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(P) 504.436.4343, (F) 504.436.2749
(E) bethbperkins@yahoo.com

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(P) 337.396.5638, (F) 337.462.1642

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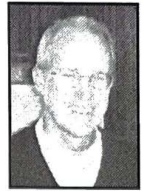
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(E) todd@windmillnurseryllc.com

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Oakdale, LA 71463
(P) 318.446.2020, (F) 318.748.6276,
(E) g082562@aol.com

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THE PRESIDENT'S VOICE

Hello LNLA Members,

Well, the year is flying by. Spring has sprung and summer is behind us. With that said, we need to get out of the slow summer attitudes and get busy promoting our industry. Our state boasts an estimated 2.21 billion dollar "Green Industry" and the time has come for us to be more vocal and proactive in the fate of our industry. You can get involved in many ways. As an example, you could call on your legislators or speak with the local media about the importance of the Green Industry to our state's economy. Let them know that our industry continues to grow when so many others are suffering. LNLA has been involved in many projects that serve to grow our industry such as commercials on PBS, research studies and educational programs. YOU also can play a vital role in the success of our industry just through conversation! So please get your voice out there!

I also wanted to take a moment to remind you of several upcoming events that may be of interest to you. The 12th Annual Gulf States Horticultural Expo will be held on January 21-23 at the Arthur Outlaw Convention Center in Mobile, AL. Our annual LNLA Breakfast meeting will be held on Friday, January 22nd from 7:00-8:45am. We have invited Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture, Mike Strain, to be our keynote speaker. Please make plans to attend these events. We encourage you to check the LNLA website at www.lnla.org to get up to date information about this and other upcoming events.

Thank you for your support of our organization. I know that, like me, you are proud to be a part of our Green Industry. I have always believed that it is my responsibility to be contributor and not just taker in our society and our industry. I encourage to you to share in this philosophy and to make an effort to be a contributor to our industry by letting your voice be heard so that others will join our organization and so that we can make a difference in our industry and in our state.

Have a great Fall!

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Rusty Ruckstuhl,
LNLA President

REGIONAL REPORT FROM GREEN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

► NOWLNLA MINUTES:

A meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association was held on September 3, 2009 at Ewing Irrigation, 234 Lynbrook Blvd., Shreveport, LA. The meeting began at 6:00 P.M. and those in attendance were: Dr. Peter and Marty Gallagher, Rosemary Dewett, Dorothy Long, John Harris, George Peters, Jeff Shows, Bronson Candler, Greg Woodruff, John and Lou Kavanaugh, Mary and Richard Reising, Dr. Joe W. White, Danny and Emily Mobley, Bill Fleming, Bill Saxton, David and Rosemary Lassiter, John and Mary Cash, Joseph and Marsha Pedro, Sheila J. Wiggins, Preston Thurman, Rick McAnn, Gary Knipper, Dr. Allen Owings and Severn and Caro Doughty, Sr.

Danny Mobley, Manager of Ewing Irrigation, hosted the meeting and provided everyone with delicious Bar B Q supper with all the trimmings. As soon as everyone arrived supper was provided and afterwards many folks looked around the show room at products offered for sale there at Ewing's.

Severn made sure everyone signed the sign-in sheet as four door prizes were given out before and after the educational program. Also, Severn asked if anyone wanted membership applications for the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association and the Louisiana Irrigation Association. Quite a number of folks asked for membership applications. Severn then sold three Hutchinson's Tree Books and one Betrock's Cold Hardy Palm Book. Finally, Severn asked for sponsors for next year's meetings. John and Mary Cash offered to host the late August meeting in 2010. Other candidates included the Keeling Company and a return visit to the Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum in November to see the camellias in bloom.

Danny Mobley provided an excellent talk on low voltage night lighting and discussed transformers, wiring, lighting and techniques on the lay-out of night lighting in landscapes. He demonstrated how to wire a lighting fixture and showed how to use a voltage meter to test the fixture to be sure the voltage was between 10 ½ to 11 ½ volts which was recommended.

After his presentation there were many questions and after the last door prize was given out, many folks stayed around networking and visiting others. The meeting concluded around 8:10 P.M.

► SELNA UPDATE:

The summer meeting of SELNA was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Mike's Catfish Inn in Amite, La. The following attended: Paul Benham, Sandra Benjamin, Rosanne & Beth Blackwell, Regina Bracy, Annie Coco, Severn Doughty, Taylor Frazier, Bill Furlong, Mona Graham, Martin Hackney, Philip Ingles, Dub & Nancy Jenkins, Margie & MargieAnn Jenkins, Grant Kirker (USDA), David Lowery, Bob Miller, Carijane Murray, Pat Newman, Jimmy & Vivian Newsham, David Norris, Tim Rinehart (USDA), Dale & Lynette Westmoreland, Anthony Witcher (USDA).

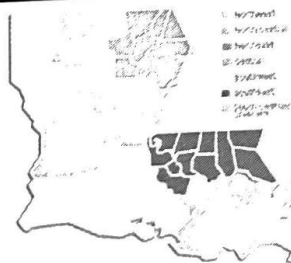
After dinner, the meeting was called to order by president Taylor Frazier and the speakers from USDA-ARS Southern Horticulture Lab, Poplarville, MS, were introduced.

1st Speaker – Anthony Witcher, Horticulturist, spoke on alternative substrates for production & propagation of nursery ornamentals. He has conducted research on chipped/shredded whole pine tree, trunks, and pine tree refuse with and without peat added. He showed photos of the results on several plants. Whole pine tree and refuse were most similar to pine bark. Any can be used with altered management.

Anthony also announced that USDA will host its 2009 Liaison Meeting on the morning of August 20; everyone is invited to attend.

2nd Speaker – Dr. Grant Kirker, research entomologist, spoke on the strawberry root worm, which has been damaging azaleas, *Itea virginica*, coto-neaster, *Lorapetalum chinensis*, some varieties of *Raphiolepis indica*, and minor instances on cleyera. Last year, these pests were found in Folsom, Amite, and Franklinton. They are often found in carryover plants and are a bigger problem in closely spaced pots than those in larger blocks. The small beetle's larvae feed on blooms, bare roots, and buds in early spring (Feb-March) and again in June-July. Pat Newman said she found them on April 1 and May 10. For control, use sanitation, check liners and carryover plants. Drench with Safari, Marathon, or Flagship. MS growers are spending \$5,000-7,000 per year for three drenches or sprays per year to gain control.

(Continued on page 12)



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

CLNA: Myra Poole Maloney, President, PO Box 485, Forest Hill, LA 71430-0485, (P) 318-748-6527, (E) hcn418@aol.com.

NOWLAN: Severn C. Doughty, Sr., LNLA Exec. Secretary, 444 Fox Trot Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052 (P) 318.872.4677 (E) scd357@cmaaccess.com

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

SWLAN: Frances Thorne, 17868 Lake Charles Hwy, Leesville, LA 71446 (P) 337.462.1642

THE BUG DOCTOR



NURSEYMEN BEWARE

Over the years we have talked about the potential for invasive species to enter our businesses and have made decisions that assist us in the management and protection of our plants. We have sent out notices about their movement, damage, host preferences and economic impact on the nursery business. Now in these times of economic stress, there appears to be a greater influx and dispersal of these pests through many means. They are capable of faster movement over greater areas in shorter times through improved methods of transportation and sometimes through extreme weather conditions. Plants and flowers that used to take days or weeks to come from other areas now can be here in 24 hours or less, and with them comes the potential of new pest problems. Although this is common knowledge and we use these same methods to promote and grow our businesses, we are at a greater risk than ever before. Over the last few years it appeared every time we turned around there was a new influx of pests.

Some of the newer invasive pests include African honey bees, Mexican rice borer, giant white fly, woolly white fly, black fly, cactus moth, varroa mites, small hive beetle, Formosan termites, hibiscus midge, citrus psyllid, pink hibiscus mealybug, citrus leaf miner and diaprepes weevil. Also, there are several trying to get in, such as chili thrip, Japanese wax scale, lobate lac scale, white wax scale, emerald ash borer, sirex wood wasp, Asian longhorn beetle, basswood leaf miner, gypsy moths and red palm mites. With all these, we still are finding new insects in the state, such as the giant pecan mealybug on ash trees and the ensign scales on moss. Although these are not of economic importance, they have not been found in Louisiana before.

Nurserymen have to become aware of the potential for these invaders as to how they can affect their nurseries and in some cases, the crops around them – primarily using them as alternate hosts. Pest like chili thrip can infest cotton, beans, soybeans, peppers, peanuts, strawberries and tomatoes. Mexican rice borer can get into corn, small grains, ornamental grasses and sugarcane. It is apparent that pests in surrounding crops are becoming as much of a concern as those in nursery crops. These examples show why these pests can create serious and economic situations.

Climatic conditions in Louisiana are mostly semitropical

and tend to be very adaptable for certain insect invaders. Top this with the fact that insects are the most adaptable living creatures on earth and there becomes a need to be very, very observant and cautious. Improved techniques of detection and monitoring as well as methods of management could decide the fate of a business.

What makes decisions more difficult is the fact that many pests under other conditions or situations could be beneficial. A good example is the cactus moth. In some cases there are look-a-likes that can confuse an observer and if misidentified, it can be very damaging or costly. Use all your resources to assist in making positive identifications and management decisions.

Article submitted by Dr. Dale Pollet, LSU Department of Entomology, (P) 225.578.2180, (C) 225.281.0585, (E) dpollet@agctr.lsu.edu .

TAKE A "STAND FOR FORESTRY" WITH LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The Louisiana Forestry Association suggests that Louisiana citizens take a "Stand for Forestry" during these hard economic times by buying forest products made in Louisiana by people in their own communities. A listing of companies and products is available at www.laforestry.com.

"From Brawny paper towels to plywood and lumber from our Louisiana companies, the product listing is important to people who want to help our local companies," said Louisiana Forestry Association Executive Director CA. "Buck" Vandersteen.

Surveys have shown that the public responds to products made locally and that are from certified programs. "All of our companies make products that benefit not only the state economy but also our small rural areas that would have little to replace forestry if the industry were lost," said Vandersteen.

Forestry is a \$3.3 billion industry in Louisiana and trees are the number one crop in this state. Forestry employs almost 16,000 people in the manufacturing sector. "These are good paying jobs with benefits," Vandersteen reminded. This figure has been declining over the last 10 years. In 2000, there were 25,802 people employed in forest products manufacturing.

Half of the state is forested, the single greatest land use in Louisiana. It is the men and women of the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA), the largest non-profit-group of forest landowners in the state, who work to keep this state so green. Most of the land -over 80%-is owned by small private landowners. All of the listed companies are third party certified as following accepted sustainable forestry practices. For more information, contact the LFA at (318) 443-2558. The Louisiana Forestry Commission provides underwriting for Louisiana: The State We're In and Louisiana Public Square.

'AMELIA ROSE' AZALEA BRANCHING HABIT AFFECTED BY PRUNING AND PGR APPLICATIONS

Problem: Many woody ornamental species do not branch adequately when grown from small liner plants in the nursery. These plants have to be pruned frequently in order to produce a compact and well branched product. Plant growth regulators may improve branching of woody ornamentals and reduce production cost with fewer pruning events and shorter production cycles.

Objective: To determine the effects of cyclanilide (CYC), Fascination (6BA+GA4+7), MaxCel (6BA), and NovaGib (GA4+ 7) on branching and growth of 'Amelia Rose' azalea; and to determine the timing and application frequency of cyclanilide for its use on this cultivar.

Experiment 1 Treatments:

- Fascination (Valent Inc.) - 100 ppm foliar spray
- MaxCel (Valent Inc.) - 100 ppm foliar spray
- NovaGib (Fine Americas) - 100 ppm foliar spray
- Cyclanilide - 112 ppm as a single spray or two applications at a

(Continued on page 30)

7th Annual

SELNA TRADE SHOW

Friday, October 2, 2009

8:30am – 3:35pm

Castine Center at Pelican Park
63350 Pelican Drive, Mandeville, LA

SPEAKER SESSIONS*

- 9:00am **Weed Control in Landscapes...**
by Dr. Ron Strahan
- 10:00am **Southern Living Plants & New Comers**
by Buddy Lee
- 11:30-1:00 **BBQ Lunch**
- 1:00pm **Major Insect Issues in the Landscape**
by Dr. Dale Pollet
- 2:00pm **Sustainable Landscaping**
by Dan Gill

*CEU opportunity for Landscape Architects. Certifications will be distributed at the end of each session.

Exhibit Booths – Rain or Shine, participating SELNA nursery & allied members will have exhibits indoors for you to visit.

For more information: Call (985)789-4301, (985)748-9381, or visit the website www.selna.net

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JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Volume 27, Number 2 (June 2009)

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A Glance from the Past... 25 Years Ago

NURSERYMEN

Official Publication of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, Inc. • Spring, 1984

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LAN profile

Garrison's Nursery

When Charley and Kay Corkey got into the nursery business almost 25 years ago, their nursery was one in the country west of Saratoga.

Today, Garrison's Nursery is right in the path of Saratoga's rapid economic expansion, and the nursery built his facilities on not one but two major thoroughfares, Interstate 20 and Highway 81.

Business has steadily climbed in the years, and the weekend trade of customers buying plants is good. Customer care and choice will continue to be a priority.

"We didn't ever expect to get this big, but it's better to be a small business than large," Charley acknowledges.

Charley prides himself on making efficient use of his facilities and his personnel. On the phone, he says, "On two highways some 2,000 feet apart, our Charley's had a very big store. But he has never lost sight of the parcel of land in his nursery. In 1954, when the planting in a location among colorful plants and groups of trees.

As an customer proceeds into the store, he has seen a greenhouse full of tender plants, they had good, thin concrete stems, some small copper cactuses, and finally the large landscape material.

A small variety of the length of the property above colors create in deep places directly in the department receiving the shipment, handling the day problems.

Garrison employs ten persons.



entirely, some of them with diggers. "We're not proud of our employees' enthusiasm here," Charley says. "We have variety and interest in plant objectives and problems."

We saw good choices and give business, and we're looking at it. Choosing employee there in the business through incorporating the nursery."



Aubrey Henderson took office in 1954 as the first president of LAN.

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Vallot

Our apologies for two mis-identified people in the previous issue of this magazine. Joe Vallot, left, was incorrectly identified as Eucharist Mouton in the cover photo caption. Nurseryman John Smith of Grand Coteau, who was featured on the front cover of the 1955 LAN convention program, and who should have appeared in the retrospective 1984 issue, was pre-empted by a young woman with a basket of roses. In this case the printer took the image from the back cover ad of the 1955 publication rather than from the front cover photo identified in the caption. Let this set things straight, with regrets for the mistakes.

Smith

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USL Box 40024
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- Editor**
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Rt. 1, Box 759
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- Production**
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Lafayette, 70508

TAN-MISLARK, August 17-20

Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, Inc.
USL Box 40024
Lafayette, LA 70504



Notes From The Secretary

Severn C. Doughty, Sr., LNL Executive Secretary



Hi to all my good friends,

I truly hope all of you are faring well through this economic uncertainty and business is holding up O.K. Most 'Green Industry' folks tell me that they are hanging in there – business many not be as good a last year – but not devastating. Wholesale B&B growers probably have been hit the worst here in Louisiana followed by wholesale container growers. I recently heard that three nurseries in the Forest Hill area were filing for bankruptcy. That's not too bad considering there are between 200 and 300 nurseries there. The good news is I heard from several growers who stated that they wrote some very good sales orders for this fall.

Retail is doing better throughout the state with some areas, like the Northwest part of Louisiana, doing pretty well – especially this past spring. The Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas, so I'm told, may not have experienced as much sales as their northern counter parts, though. Of course summer sales have been dismal all over the state. All Louisiana retailers have reported exceptional sales in fruit plants and vegetables this past spring. And according to 'Gardencenter' magazine, nationally, vegetable sales at retail garden centers were up by 49% and less than 4% said that vegetable sales declined.

Most landscapers and irrigation contractors tell me that business is good and that they have more work than they can handle. A few have experienced some decline in business, but not enough to hurt them. Sooo, all in all Louisiana is faring well when compared to other parts of the country.

I just returned from the 2009 Texas Nursery & Landscape Expo held in Dallas, TX and it was a pretty good show. It surprised me as I was anticipating the attendance to be what it was in Houston, TX last year which was very low and slow. A lot of other exhibitors told me that they had a good show as well and they felt attendance was up too. Louisiana had 27 member businesses exhibiting and 13 out-of-state member businesses represented. There were 8 non-member Louisiana businesses exhibiting and a total of 622 exhibitors listed in the catalogue and supplement. I'm told that next year it will be in San Antonio, TX and I'm afraid fewer Louisianans will exhibit or attend. That seemed to be the scenario the last time it was held in San Antonio. We'll see.

The Department of Homeland Security proposed to withdraw the "Social Security No-Match" rule that was promulgated during the Bush Administration as an immigration enforcement tool. ANLA was a co-plaintiff in litigation that successfully blocked implementation of the rule. The Obama administration has concluded that there are more effective ways to pursue employment-based immigration enforcement. "We applaud the Department of Homeland Security's action. The no-match rule was a blunt instrument, much like performing brain surgery with a garden instrument," said Craig Regelbrugge, ANLA's vice president for government relations.

Another good tid-bit from the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Update revealed that two cats were rushed to the vet after eating lilies in a floral arrangement. Most all lilies contain substances that shut down the kidneys of domesticated cats. Treatment consists of IVs to flush the kidneys of the toxic materials and practically all parts of lilies can be fatal to cats if not treated within 4 to 8 hours. Signs to look for in cats after ingesting lilies are vomiting and lethargic behavior. The two Connecticut cats survived, but retail nurseries and florist owners might want to consider attaching a note on lily plants cautioning buyers who have cats that it could be lethal and to take the necessary precautions. I have six indoor cats and they love to eat floral arrangements. Fortunately, when I have bought Easter Lilies in the past, none of them ate the lilies. But I'll be extra careful in the future.

Can you believe it? Nintendo DS offers a new game for garden enthusiasts. According to the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association, August 2009 Buckeye Magazine "Gardening Mama" is Nintendo DS's new video game and it offers an opportunity to garden regardless of the weather. The game has touch screen technology, so players dig holes, mix fertilizer and plant seeds to grow a variety of green life using their 'green' thumbs. In one challenge, the player must water his/her garden in the correct pattern, with curves and zig-zag shapes. If it's done right, a rainbow arching over their garden is the colorful reward. What will they think of next?

According to LABI, and confirmed by Brian Breaux with the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the Louisiana Senate and House passed the Taxpayer Fairness Act 493 this summer. The Act will (1) allow taxpayers to put up security in local sales tax cases, rather than having to pay the tax under protest in cash, which puts a significant strain on their business cash flow and is a disincentive for taxpayers to pursue their legal rights in court; and (2) It will provide relief to taxpayers in tax cases with respect to attorney fee awards that have to be paid by the taxpayer to the tax collector's attorney. The previous law stated that taxpayers

(Continued on page 10)

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(Continued from page 9)

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Until next time....

Severn C. Doughty, Sr.
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(1) GOLD WINNER



(2) SILVER WINNER



(3) BRONZE WINNER



People's Choice Award Winners:

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"Newton Team" (above left-to-right) - LNLA Vice President Pete Newton, Seth Bates, Craig Rhodes, LNLA President Rusty Ruckstuhl, Mike Misuraca (Meadowbrook Insurance) and Tom Misuraca at the Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout.



"The Winners" - Benchmark Group's winning team of Mark Boudreaux, Jimmy Culpepper, Wes Wilkerson and Josh Hoff-pair.

Associations... (Continued from page 4)

Minutes of Last Meeting – The minutes from the 3-24-09 spring meeting were sent in the April 2009 newsletter with the Crawfish Boil announcement. Motion made by Regina Bracy to dispense with reading of minutes; second by Bob Miller; motion passed.

Treasurer Report – MargieAnn Jenkins reported that there is a little over \$14,000 in the checking account.

SELNA Trade Show – Annie Coco reported on the committee recommendations and updates. Members may request more than one 10x10 booth space; \$200/10x10 space, first paid. No wall directly behind any booth will allow customers to view from back and/or sides. After brief discussion, CariJane Murray motioned exhibitors can request wall or no wall; second by Philip Ingles; motion passed.

One rectangular 8' table and 2 chairs available for each exhibitor included upon request. 8 rectangular tables are needed for registration, etc. Complimentary booth for LNLA in exchange for publicity in newsletter and TNLA booth. 20 round tables for seating 160 (last year 12 seated 96). Same lunch items to serve 250; stronger plates requested.

Silent booth auction ends at 12:30 pm; pay by 1 pm; if not, go to next highest bidder. Will request ditty bags and name tags from St. Tammany tourism. Speakers being contacted: Dan Gill, Buddy Lee, maybe Neil Odenwald, & Allen Owings.

Open house was not discussed at committee meeting, so question asked – same or separate date? Nurseries can offer their own open house at any time. Exhibitors can give directions to their nursery during trade show. With speakers to get people to stay and visit booths, not much time to drive to nurseries. Regina Bracy motioned to have no (announced) open house with trade show; second by Pat Newman; motion passed.

Marketing Committee – David Lowery reported his committee met on July 2. There is competition from out of state, Forest Hill, and Alabama. They discussed cooperation among nurseries, maybe forming a co-op or association that might have a wholesale yard. Need to increase quality and size of plants. Perhaps create a flyer for SELNA to encourage buy local; maybe send monthly.

David offered to conduct a Marketing 101 type course for those interested. Severn Doughty offered a half page ad to be sent to him in August with trade show ad. Pat Newman suggested a one day workshop be offered to landscapers using SELNA members as speakers. David will set a date for the committee to meet again and plan.

Fall Meeting Date – By majority voice, the date of September 1 is first choice and first choice location is Mike's Catfish in Amite.

LNLA – Dr. Severn Doughty reported their board will meet tomorrow morning (July 15) at the Hammond Research Station, starting at 10 am. SNA will have their trade show in October with limit of 200 exhibitors.

Hammond Research Station – Dr. Regina Bracy reminded everyone they are welcome at any time to visit and see research being conducted. They had a successful field day last month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned about 9:05 pm.

**Submitted by Annie Coco, SELNA Secretary, and County Agent, Tangipahoa Parish, LSU AgCenter.*

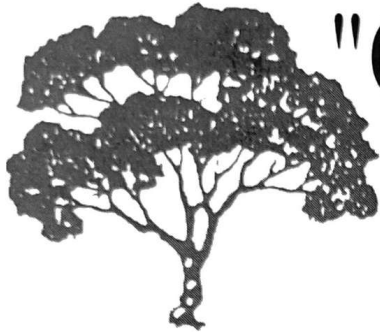
(Continued from page 1)

that I would be back to visit with them and left.

After I left, Mike told Cricket "Well, that's the last time we'll see him!" Actually, I came back in a few weeks and Mike and I have been very close friends since – one of my best friends.

In 1978, Mike was promoted to manager of all the growing operations and stayed in that position for over a year. However, Mike had aspirations to be on his own and by that time Mike was very active in the New Orleans Horticulture Society – a member since 1974, the Metro Area Horticulture Advisory Committee

(Continued on page 34)



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Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional Manual Review and Exam - 2010

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LSU AgCenter
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 763-3990

June 17-18
Ira Nelson Horticulture
Center, ULL
Lafayette, LA
(337) 482-5339

Sept 16-17
Botanical Garden
City Park
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Register for the Manual Review and Exam by selecting the appropriate location above:

Company Name _____
 Address _____
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Person(s) Registering:

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\$75 per person for review and full exam.

\$15 per section(s) re-taken by each person.

- * Please specify re-take section(s) if known.
- Sec #1- Plant Classification, Growth & Development
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- Sec #3- Culture of Nursery Stock in Retail Yards
- Sec #4- Landscape Contracting, Tree & Turf Mgt.
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\$35 per person for manual review only
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license test or professional training.

\$60 per copy for "*Louisiana Manual for the
Environmental Horticulture Industry*", the
suggested manual for this course.

\$60 x _____ @ Manual = \$ _____
 Shipping & Handling \$3 x _____ @ Manual = + S/H \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to:

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Total \$ _____

Mail check to:

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c/o Severn C. Doughty, Sr.
444 Fox Trot Drive
Mansfield, LA 71052

Check # _____

Date _____

For further information contact:

Dan Gill, LNLA Training Director, (P) 225.578.2222, (F) 225.578.0773, (E) dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu
 Severn C. Doughty, Sr., LNLA Executive Secretary, (P/F) 318.872.4677, (E) scd357@cmaaccess.com



Landscape Design Sketchbook

-green laws, design principles, designer plants-

Buck Abbey, ASLA

Associate Professor,

Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture

Louisiana State University

*"Designing a landscape more in harmony with the environment
requires commitment and careful planning."*

Louisiana Yards & Neighborhood Program, 2007.

Sustainable Landscape Practices

It is wonderful to see that society is coming to see what landscape architects, horticulturists, maintenance companies and landscape horticulturists have known for a long time.

The green industry of Louisiana knows that the rest of society is starting to understand that greening the earth is something important to everyone's life.

To live *sustainable* means to use resources wisely to meet the needs of this generation without impairing the ability of future generations from meeting their needs.

But we green professionals know, that the earth is the center of what we do, who we are and what we are interested in. Our future is tied to the earth so we must not sit back on our green laurels at this time when others are going green. We must push further ahead and become a leading voice in sustainability. Particularly in regard to *sustainable landscape practices*.

Greening Louisiana

But where do you start? The first homework assignment is to acquire a copy of the LSU AgCenter's document *Louisiana Yards & Neighborhood Program*. After you have studied this fairly basic reference guide, your practice as a green industry professional will change - as it has for others in California, Florida, Pacific Northwest and in the Chesapeake Bay region. These parts of the country have responded to the challenge of sustainable landscape practices and this knowledge and skill has become a profit center for many companies.

Your Sustainability IQ

To expand your knowledge of sustainable landscape practices, consider this. Let's take a little step forward and think for a minute about the 12 Basic Sustainability Canons. These are essentially the green rules of the road that will help you understand and organize the technical details as you practice and grow your business.

Right Plant encourages using native plants that are well adapted to Louisiana's growing conditions.

Regional Design landscapes should be planned and designed to express the wonderful character of our local landscape. Look at our meadows, prairies, marshes, wetlands, hills, terraces, savannahs, swamps and water ways and you will find plenty to inspire your design.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Irrigate Wisely suggests that you find a way to not use ten thousand year old water that fell during the *Holocene*. Save the pure water for people.

Maximize Mulch & Enrich the Soil means that all other aspects of the successful garden must result from the soil, use of organic mulch, compost and other yard waste that is in fact a resource for gardeners.

Fertilize Effectively is something very important in the city. Inorganic compounds may allow plants to flourish quicker than organic fertilizers, but what price is being paid to the earth?

Manage Yard Creatures & Provide Beneficial Habitats certainly are a sustainable landscape practice because we understand that the landscapes we design and build are homes to many creatures that live with us in the city. Yes, there is a place for snakes, bees, butterflies and fireflies in a sustainable landscape.

Protect Surface Waters are something the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is working real hard to do. So should you. You as a green industry professional must protect the surface waters and wetlands of this state.

Repurpose Construction Materials by recycling and reusing structural elements in our gardens and public spaces, makes so much ecological sense. Why use poured-in-place concrete if high density concrete pavers will work just as good. The nice thing about these materials, if you move, you can pick up your garden terrace surface and take it with you.

Use of High Performance Grass will get your attention every time! Most landscape professionals may not even know what this means. Presently, we use low performance grass and then care for it in a

very wasteful manner.

Promotion of Food Production is a sustainable practice tracing back at least five thousand years to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Gardens were created not for pleasure but for production. This is a very sustainable practice in some of our urban centers today.

Conservation of Energy is something we know plenty about. Every time we plant a tree, we do so to reduce energy consumption. Don't we?

Promotion of Air Quality is basic. People need oxygen to live; plants consume carbon dioxide which is deadly to people. Every time we build a private garden or public landscape we add to the 'lungs' of a community.

Furthering Your Education

There are several programs across the country well worth studying. There are many books being published too. But this may be a subject for another lesson at a different time. The author intends to revisit some of these *Canons* in future columns of the *Landscape Design Sketchbook*.

Meanwhile, Hilltop Arboretum owned by LSU and a research facility of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture is planning some continuing education programs for landscape architects and other green industry people. These courses will increase your Sustainability IQ to allow you and your company to be a stronger green voice. The Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association will lead the charge, but you must do your part.

Should readers like to contact Abbey, get in touch at lsugreenlaws@aol.com. You may call at the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture at 225.578.1434.



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Debbie Head, Owner

In the News

IN MEMORIAM

The LNLA board of directors, officers and members would like to extend their condolences to the following green industry families:

Severn Doughty, Sr. and his wife, Caro, in the loss of her father, Joseph F. Pecarrere, on August 5, 2009.

Edward L. "Buster" Mizell, nurseryman and owner of Green Thumb Nursery, in Folsom, passed away on August 23, 2009. Buster was a life long resident of Folsom and former member of SELNA and LAN. Buster was also an active member of the St. Tammany Parish Fair Association working directly with the youth, serving as President and as a board member. He supported the Folsom Recreation Youth Program having coached and sponsored youth for many years. The family has requested in lieu of flowers that a donation be made in his name to the St. Tammany Parish Jr. Livestock Show Fund, P.O. Box 3194, Covington, LA 70433.

KUDO'S

This summer ANLA noted in their Annual Report that Todd Ellefson, of Windmill Nursery of Louisiana, LLC, was named to the ANLA Senate to represent Louisiana. Should you wish to contact Todd, you may do so at todd@windmillnurseryllc.com or call him at 1-800-370-3854.

Louisiana Nursery Home & Garden Showplace was the subject of a cover story in The Nursery Retailer, IGC Show Issue 2009 a national trade magazine. The article looked a Louisiana Nursery, headed by the father-son team of Roger and Mitch Mayes. Roger Mayes recently stepped down as president of the 25-year-old nursery, turning the reins over to Mitch Mayes. To read the article go to; [http://www.louisiananursery.com/PDF%20Files/LNO Nursery Retailer Article.pdf](http://www.louisiananursery.com/PDF%20Files/LNO%20Nursery%20Retailer%20Article.pdf)

Ms. Charlene Oliver, manager of Prairie Wholesale Nursery, Inc., in Washington, LA reported that the new owner, Dr. Ron Padgett, has changed the nursery's name to Prairie Sunrise Tree Farm.

The 9th annual LSU AgCenter's Nursery and Landscape Golf Shoot-out was held Friday, July 10th, at the LSU Golf Course in Baton Rouge. This year's winners were the Benchmark Group of Baton Rouge. The team consisted of Wes Wilkerson, Jimmy Culpepper, Mark Boudreaux and Josh Hoffpauir with a score of 56. In a scorecard playoff, second place went to the LSU AgCenter team of Freddie Martin, Gerry Berggren, Keith Bischoff, Bill Kelso, and Ken Paxton; over the team of Ed Bush, Nathan Bush, Boo LeBlanc, Dave LeBlanc, Sr. and Dave LeBlanc, Jr. This year's tournament sponsors and supporters included the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association, Meadowbrook Insurance, Louisiana State Horticulture Society and McIlhenny Company.

(Continued on page 12)

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“Change of Address”

by Mark Mayberry

One of the challenges with moving is that everyone needs to be notified of your change of address. As many of you know, I recently moved back to Rockford, IL, where I grew up. (I actually claim Freeport, IL, where I went to high school. We were the “Freeport Pretzels!”) My Mom had open-heart surgery earlier this year, and I felt like I needed to be closer to her as she recovers. She’s 89 years old, and this is a very slow process.

Anyway, back to my story about moving. I subscribe to two magazines, “Inc.” and “Rolling Stone.” (That’s all I have time for!) To me, “Inc.” is the best business magazine going, and Rolling Stone continues to offer articles that I enjoy, even though we’re long past the 60s. I opened a copy of each magazine to figure out what I needed to do to change my address. Much to my surprise, “Rolling Stone” is miles ahead of “Inc.”

With “Rolling Stone,” I simply went on-line, easily logged on to my account and changed the address. It quickly told me that the next issue would go to my old Georgia address, but that the following issue would be delivered to Illinois. Shazzam!

With “Inc.,” a business magazine that *should be* better than “Rolling Stone,” I had to squint to see the small print about how to change my mailing address. Instead of making it easy for me, like Rolling Stone did, I had to cut off the mailing label and send it in to their Iowa distribution address. Even though Iowa is right next to Illinois, I was informed that it would take “at least six weeks” for my subscription to be changed. Now wouldn’t you guess that a business magazine would be a lot more customer friendly than a rock ‘n roll

magazine? What gives?

For the past 3 years, I’ve been doing Customer Service workshops for the staff at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Their service vision is one of the best I’ve ever seen – “Faster, Friendlier, Easier.” Isn’t that great! “Rolling Stone” has done just that. My change of address was faster – only one issue would go to my old address. They were also easier – I could do it on-line instead of spending 44 cents to mail in my old address label, which I had to cut from the cover of a back issue. And because of the first two, “Rolling Stone” was definitely friendlier than “Inc.”

Look at your business through your customers’ eyes. Is it faster than the competition? Is it friendlier? Is it easier? In this difficult economic time, it’s imperative that you deliver as many “Shazzams” as possible. Don’t be like the manufacturers that “shrink-wrap” their products in hard-to-open, even dangerous plastic that you have to cut open with a scissors. That’s good for the manufacturer, not the Customer, who actually finds this dangerous. Again – how do your customers perceive the service that your garden center/nursery is delivering? Make sure they’re getting a “Shazzam!”

The Nega-zzam Extra

I’m sick and tired of poor customer service. When a company does something stupid, or if one of their Team Members fails to deliver, I get hot under the collar. So hot that I’ve decided to start writing about some of these experiences. I try to stay positive, but enough is enough! And yes, I’m going to “name” names.

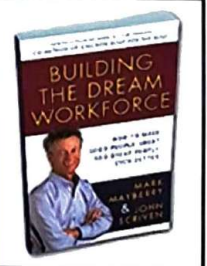
Here’s my Nega-zzam for this month. I was trying to find a monitor for my Mom, something that she wear around her neck and push a button in case she falls, or has any other accidents. I wanted a way for her

to call for help immediately. Since she has ADT for her alarm service, I called them figuring that they would have some kind of medical alert device.

Remember – I’m trying to buy a product/service here. This is a sale for someone! When I called ADT’s number, a recording gave me a series of ‘prompts,’ and I became more irate with each button I pushed on my phone. I don’t remember how many hoops I had to jump through, but I finally was put on “hold,” and told that someone would help me very soon. I was on hold for nine minutes and twenty-seven seconds! Remember – I’m calling out of the blue, trying to give them some business!

I finally did get someone on the line, I was told that they could not help me, and that they would have someone call me back “right away.” A week later, I still had not received a return call, and called them again. This time I got to someone, but I was so “turned off” by the whole process, I quickly said good-bye and took my business elsewhere. Again, are you paying attention to your Customers? Are you making your Customers crazy?

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



Mark Mayberry is an international speaker, author, and consultant. Mark wants your input about his newsletter! Please write him at: Mark Mayberry, 3720 Marieme Drive, Rockford, IL 61108. You can call Mark at (815) 209-1381, or send Mark an E-Mail: Mark@Markmayberry.com Visit Mark’s website at www.MarkMayberry.com

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BURDEN RESEARCH STATION: Biodegradable Container Study Research Update

Biocontainers provide the ornamental industry with an opportunity to improve its level of adoption of sustainable products and practices. However, there are many factors that one must consider prior to using these containers for greenhouse production and transplanting into the landscape. a) Biocontainers are generally made from a variety of organic components that readily decompose, although the time to decompose may vary widely depending upon composition. The first are those that decompose but do so slowly. These types of containers are designed to be removed before planting into the landscape or into final containers. Other biocontainers are designed to be planted directly into the landscape or the final container. b) As mentioned above, all biocontainers are designed to decompose, but the rate of decomposition varies among the containers. c) Furthermore, the strength and rigidity of the containers vary. Strength is very important because if the containers tear or break during handling and/or shipping, this can result in the loss of saleable product. d) Water usage is an important property of biocontainers because some of the containers allow more or less water to evaporate from the surface walls of the container. e) Another problem that some biocontainers experience is the growth of algae or fungi on the outside surface of the container. The various dynamics of the different containers such as water loss are a result of the materials that biocontainers are fabricated from and this can affect water holding capacity of the substrate. These factors could greatly affect root growth and therefore affect shoot growth and flowering. f) Some biocontainers may contain significant levels of mineral nutrients. Nutrients may leach from the container wall into the root substrate and roots may grow into the container wall and absorb these nutrients. In one sense this

may be an advantageous way to provide mineral nutrients to the crop, but at the same time might require growers to make adjustments to their nutrition program. g) Finally, all of the factors previously listed may have an effect on plant growth and development during greenhouse production and after transplanting into the landscape.

We tested 8 different biocontainers and 2 typical plastic containers for physical and chemical characteristics, as well as their affect on plant growth and development during greenhouse production and in the landscape. The plantable biocontainers included: a) Jiffypot® manufactured from a combination of sphagnum peat, wood pulp fiber and lime to adjust the pH. b) Fertilpot or DOT Pot™ composed of spruce fibers and peat with no glue or binders and are the only one of the containers tested that is certified organic. c) Coir or coco fiber pots manufactured by using high pressure to bond coconut husk fibers and latex from rubber trees. d) CowPots™ manufactured using cow manure. e) StrawPots are manufactured from 80% rice straw and 20% coco fiber with a natural latex sprayed on. The biocontainers produced solely for production include: a) Kord fiber pots manufactured from recycled paper or cardboard. b) Rice hull pots formed using rice hulls. c) OP47 Bio Pot is manufactured from 100 percent renewable resources and are designed to be completely biodegradable and compostable.

So what were the results? Measurements of the physical properties were conducted first. The production only containers; plastic, Kord “paper” and rice hull were similar in container wall strength (Figure 1). This was true whether the containers were dry or wet. Thus, the containers manufactured so that they do

(Continued on page 21)

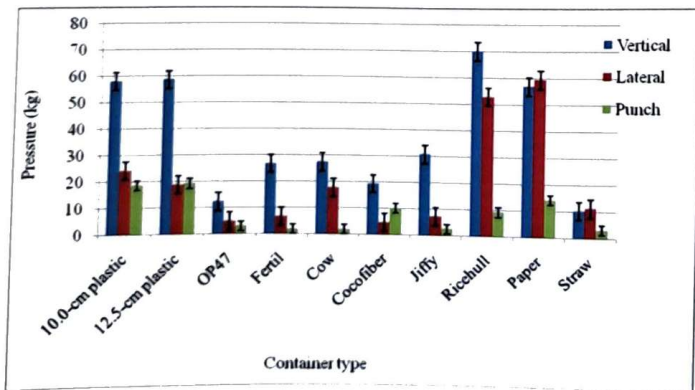


Figure 1. (above) Dry strength (kg) of containers.

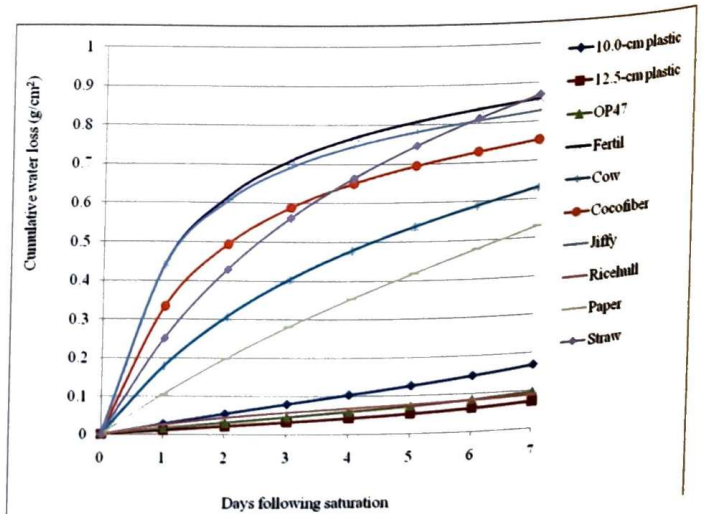


Figure 2. (right) Cumulative water loss from container walls over 7 days.

(Continued from page 20)

not have to be removed for planting may take a little extra care in production, shipping and handling. Algal and fungal growth was greatest on the Jiffypot® (~45%) and Fertipot (~25%), while there was very little to none on the remaining containers. The algal and fungal growth did not appear to be deleterious to plant development, however, as all plants finished or were of marketable quality after 5 weeks of production.

The greatest water loss was from the Jiffypot®, Fertipot, StrawPot and coir containers followed by CowPots and Kord (Figure 2). Irrigation frequency also was recorded during greenhouse production where similar results were found. When growing plants in these types of plantable containers one will have to consider increased irrigation frequency in both the greenhouse and retail environs. The least water loss was from the nonplantable rice hull, OP47 and plastic containers.

In the second part of this study, the containers were filled with Sunshine Mix LC1. *Pelargonium x hortorum* 'Score Red', *Catharanthus roseus* 'Grape Cooler' or *Impatiens wallerana* 'Dazzler Lilac Splash' plugs were transplanted into containers and placed in a greenhouse 2 April 2009, irrigated as needed with 200 mgL⁻¹ N 15-5-15 and grown for 5 weeks after which time the first set of growth data was taken. We planted in the landscape after 5 weeks of production and measurements were taken on those plants and containers after 7 weeks.

The following results are from the portion of the study in which vinca 'Grape Cooler' were grown. During greenhouse production, the plastic, Fertipot and Kord containers produced the largest plants, while those plants grown in the coir containers were the smallest (Figure 3). However, all plants were of marketable quality at finish (Figure 4 below). Pour-through leachates were conducted at finish and the pH was similar, approximately pH 6, for all containers. The electrical conductivity (EC) of the leachate, however, was slightly higher from the CowPot, StrawPot and coir container than the other containers. The higher EC may have been from mineral nutrients that were either part of the containers initially and/or adsorbed during production. These mineral nutrients were not analyzed in this study.

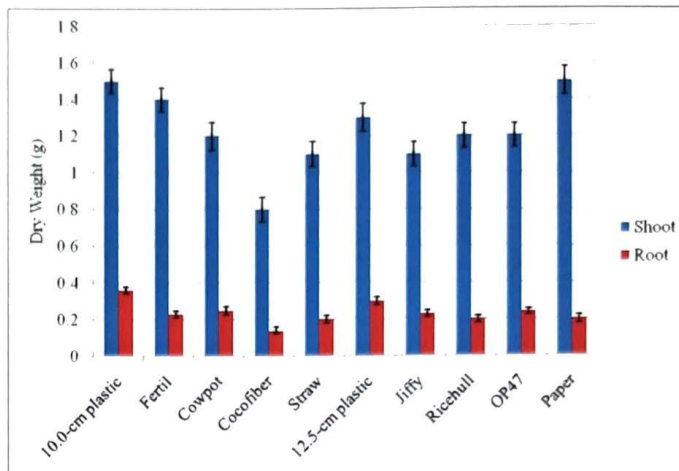


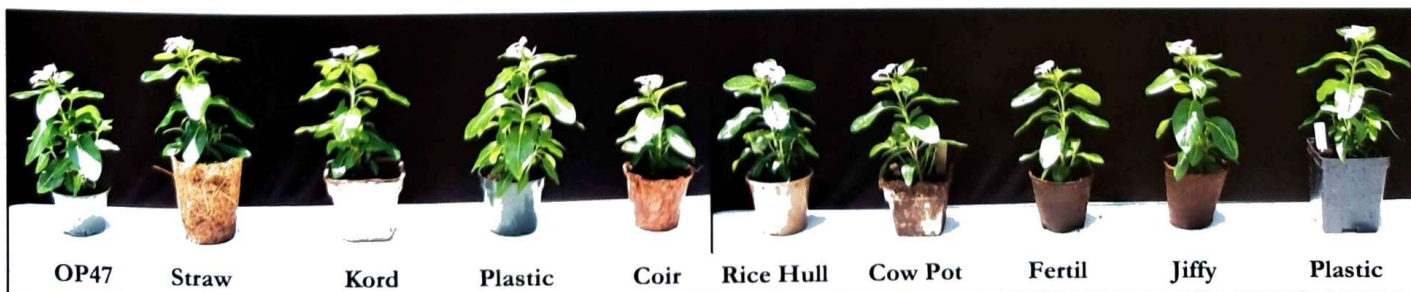
Figure 3. (above) Shoot and root dry mass of vinca 'Grape Cooler'

After being planted in the landscape for 7 weeks, plants grown in the Fertipot, CowPot, StrawPot and Kord containers were somewhat larger than those plants grown in the other containers. Again, plants grown in all containers were of acceptable quality after 7 weeks in the landscape (Figure 5, back cover). Interestingly, the CowPot had the greatest degradation in the landscape (>45%) while the Jiffypot® and StrawPot containers had the next greatest percent degradation, approximately 10%.

After reading all of these results you are probably wondering which biocontainer(s) we recommend for greenhouse and/or landscape production. Although the properties of each container were somewhat different as well as the production results, all of the containers tested in this study produced marketable plants for both the retail and landscape markets. So based on this information, your production techniques and market, we are going to leave the answer to that question up to you. One also will have to consider the cost to benefit ratio and your commitment to producing a more sustainable product. Things you should consider... Results from our research show that growing plants in biodegradable containers will cause you to change your production techniques compared to growing in plastic containers. The cost of these containers will also vary. For example, the cost per 4" container from one greenhouse supply company was: CowPot

(Continued on page 36)

Figure 4. Vinca 'Grape Cooler' after 5 weeks greenhouse production.





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NOTES FROM S.F.A. MAST ARBORETUM

SFA has enjoyed a long and exciting history of blueberry research. The sad truth is that I'm old enough to have actually helped plant the very first blueberries in east Texas, way back in 1967. Of course, I was a young undergraduate student in Horticulture at TAMU and had no idea what a darn blueberry was, but my boss did. Dr. Hollis Bowen, as a new Ph.D. fresh out of Rutgers University, New Jersey, studied under the legendary fruit scientist Norman Childers. Hollis speculated that Texas could grow blueberries. The first planting near Buna on the farm of Herbert Durand and the varietal trials at Magnolia Springs, Texas, were a big success and an industry was born. It's been a long and arduous task to where we are today. For those of you who want more information, there are plenty of websites across the south dealing with blueberry production. SFA has a good webpage on the crop, found through <http://arboretum.sfasu.edu> under the Pineywoods Native Plant Center "Plants" selection. *Vaccinium!*

For those of you strolling through the economic mine field of the nursery and landscape industry, you've surely noticed that consumers are out there scrapping up nut trees, fruit trees, berry plants, vegetable transplants, and seed in volumes not seen in past years! Blueberries are a part of that mix. Most analysts feel that the recession and economic fears has tipped the scale to more folks thinking about having something to eat if times get tough. That's part of it. The other part of the growing popularity of blueberries is health and a growing population of baby boomers bent on living forever.

One thing for sure: the word has gotten out. Blueberries are now the second most popular berry in the U.S.A. and consumption is now at 20 ounces per year per person, up from 14 ounces a decade ago. Blueberries have been shown to help eyesight and prevent macular degeneration. Blueberries help memory and cognition and may even slow the onset of Alzheimer's. Blueberries are good for the cardiovascular system. Blueberries fight aging and are touted as the # 1 source of antioxidants (which is not totally true; the muscadine grape crowd have an argument to make). Research shows that blueberries fight cancer. Finally, blueberries are high in fiber, high in vitamin C, no fat, and no cholesterol!

In their natural range in the southeast, rabbiteye blueberries prefer alluvial floodplains, a low soil pH and good humic content. East Texas and Louisiana are blessed with acid sandy loam soils, nearby sources of high quality irrigation water and ready access to a number of organic soil amendments (pine bark, straw, chips, hay, etc.). The first plantings were primarily variety trials that included 'Tifblue', 'Briteblue', 'Delite', 'Woodard', 'Garden Blue', 'Southland', 'Menditoo', and 'Bluegem'. In 2009, only 'Tifblue' remains a major part of the commercial picture as newer varieties have taken over the scene.

There are two types of blueberries adapted to East Texas and Louisiana: Rabbiteye blueberries (RE) and Southern Highbush (SHB). A good website via the University of Georgia that describes most varieties in commercial use today is:

http://www.smallfruits.org/Blueberries/production/06bbcvproc_Nov0206.pdf.

Commercial fields in East Texas are based primarily on five varieties: 'Climax', 'Premier', 'Brightwell', 'Tifblue' and 'Powderblue'. Average production (lbs./acre) at Mill Creek Blueberry Farm in Nacogdoches, Texas (approximately 70 acres) over the last five years (2004-2008) is as follows: 'Climax' (6,530), 'Premier' (6,641), 'Tifblue' (8,132), 'Brightwell' (12,063), and 'Powderblue' (16,063). At Mill Creek Blueberry Farm, we manage a little over one acre of a wide range of varieties and selections, all part of a cooperative effort with the USDA's Southern Region Blueberry Germplasm Evaluation project. In our plots, 'Alapaha' and 'Austin' have performed well and are recommended for planting in commercial numbers. SHB (Southern Highbush) varieties are generally restricted to the southeastern portion of Texas and south Louisiana. SHBs bloom and ripen a bit earlier than REs. SHBs are smaller statured and prefer an extremely well-drained soil with high organic matter - and plants need perpetual mulch, preferably pine bark. If spring frost damage is avoided, they generally ripen in May at a time when prices are exceptionally high.

While tissue culture plants are available, propagation is normally by cuttings taken in June and placed under mist. The best cuttings are robust, vigorous, three to four inches, and as thick as a pencil. For nurserymen, cutting back stock plants about half in the winter and harvesting the regrowth in June is a great approach. We commonly use 2,500 PPM K-IBA as a five second dip and rooting occurs in 8 to 12 weeks. Plants removed from mist should be given soluble fertilizer and a saleable one gallon can be achieved in 12 to 8 months from the time of cutting collection. Plants grow best in a pine bark, sand, peat moss mix and require high quality (low sodium, low bicarbonate) water.

We are pleased to announce that we will be introducing a joint release with the USDA in 2010. MS 108 is a SHB and has been a consistent producer since the late 1980s. It's an early berry, generally ripe in mid-May. MS108 is a smaller statured plant reaching only four to five feet at maturity and is being introduced as a home-owner berry. This clone will not be recommended as a commercial berry for a couple of reasons. First, it must be held on the bush until fully ripe or it can be quite tart, and, second, there's a bit of a wet scar problem with hand harvesting (slight tearing of the skin around the base of the peduncle when harvested early). For cuttings or small plants to give you a start, feel free to contact us . . . and if you've got a catchy name to recommend, don't hesitate to send it our way! Until next time, keep planting!



Dr. Dave Creech is a Regent's Professor of Horticulture and Director of the SFA Mast Arboretum, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. dcreech@sfasu.edu





NEWS, VIEWS & THANK YOU'S

The American Hibiscus Society presented the 'Hibiscus of the Year' Award for 2009 recently at their annual convention in Baton Rouge, LA. The winner this year is a 2005 seedling, now named 'Bridal Party' (pictured on front cover), hybridized by Bobby Dupont, Plaquemine, LA and Father Bob Gerlich, New Orleans, LA. This plant is now part of the Cajun hibiscus series offered by Dupont Nursery. Congratulations!

American Nursery and Landscape Association endorses an important natural disaster crop insurance policy provided by Live Asset Insurance. It covers acute weather occurrences such as hail, freeze, flood, wind, fire, and other named perils including theft and vandalism. Limits to \$10,000,000 per policy are available in 19 states, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, NM, NV, OK, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT and VA. Other states will become eligible based upon participation from the existing states.

The Live Asset Insurance program was developed with the input of ANLA's Board of Directors and the Grower's Division. This insurance program can be purchased either directly or through existing insurance brokers. ANLA members and participating

Lighthouse members receive a 10% upfront discount. ANLA's webpage highlights Live Asset Insurance as a member benefit: (<http://www.anla.org/index.cfm?area=&page=Content&CategoryID=258>).

Contact: David J. Teed CIC, Managing Director, Live Asset Insurance: (P) 800-644-0178, (E) dteed@liveassetinsurance.com, (W) www.liveassetinsurance.com.

Dear Severn,

Enclosed is a copy of the first letter I mailed January 29, 1986 after being named Secretary of the LA Association of Nurserymen (see page 35). If you have a copy, it may be of some value for your records. Please excuse my delay in mailing it to you. I must tell you that I was more than a little "pleasantly astounded" with your article about me in the recent LAN Nursery & Landscape News magazine. Thanks for your very kind comments.

In the enclosed 1986 letter, the address 4560 Essen Lane, was the Burden address. Since I have a bit more space here I will add a bit more "specific" info that may, or may not, be of interest to you.

I graduated from Innis High School in Pointe Coupee Parish in 1947 and enrolled at LSU for the summer semester. It quickly became abundantly clear that my parents could not afford to

(Continued on page 32)

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THE WEED DOCTOR'S CORNER

The Weed Doctor's Corner was written by Dr. Ron Strahan, Assistant Professor in Weed Science, LSU AgCenter, (P) 225.578.2392, (E) rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu. Updated versions of the LSU AgCenter's useful guides to controlling weeds, insect pests and plant diseases are available. Free downloads of the 2006 edition guides are available from the LSU AgCenter's Web site www.lsuagcenter.com

TORPEDOGRASS STILL DRIVING HOMEOWNERS CRAZY

If you live in south Louisiana, it is a sure bet that you have heard of torpedograss. I probably get 10 or so calls on torpedograss every month during the growing season. Torpedograss is a perennial rhizomatous grass that is considered one of the most invasive grasses in the world. Although the plant does produce seed, the seeds are not viable. The weedy grass solely reproduces vegetatively by robust rhizomes.

The spread of torpedograss in Louisiana is mainly attributed to the movement of soils infested with torpedograss from the Bonnet Carré Spillway. The spillway is located just west of New Orleans and is the main source for southeast Louisiana; especially within the New Orleans metro area. However, I see torpedograss throughout southeast Texas and regularly get calls on it from Mississippi and Alabama.

The fact is, you can find torpedograss everywhere along the Gulf Coast. Have you ever wondered why? Believe it or not torpedograss was actually deliberately spread in the region in the 1920's because the grass was thought to be the next great forage for cattle and horses. It made a lot of sense at the time because torpedograss certainly spreads quickly and has very good salt tolerance. Unfortunately, compared to other forage grasses used in the South, torpedograss is not suitable at all as forage due to its low protein concentration. The grass can actually be toxic to horses. Unfortunately due to this error, torpedograss infestations have expanded considerably over the years and turf and landscape beds, throughout the region, are heavily infested with this weedy grass.

LSU Research on Torpedograss Infesting Centipedegrass - I get the most calls regarding infestations of torpedograss in centipedegrass. Centipedegrass is our most common turfgrass and is usually the choice of lawns in new subdivisions. However, it is easily infested by torpedograss because the turf is such a slow grower and it does not compete very well with aggressive weedy grasses. Danny Taverner, recent graduate of LSU, did his masters research on torpedograss management in centipedegrass. Danny screened many herbicides (experimental and labeled) for torpedograss activity and centipedegrass safety. Unfortunately, he was never able to discover an herbicide that killed torpedograss selectively in centipedegrass. He was only able to suppress the weed without significant centipedegrass injury using multiple applications of sethoxydim (Segment, Sethoxydim E-Pro) spaced 4 weeks apart. His work showed that frequency of application was the most important aspect of using sethoxydim. Surprisingly, there was no advantage in exceeding the sethoxydim manufacturer's labeled rate.

Danny also evaluated cultural practices such as mowing height and nitrogen fertility in centipedegrass infested with torpedograss. Although there was a slight advantage in reducing the mowing height below 2 inches, no cultural practice evaluated gave centipedegrass a competitive advantage over torpedograss. Right now, our only option for centipedegrass lawns that have torpedograss is multiple (at least 3) applications of sethoxydim. Sethoxydim will not get rid of torpedograss but, it will keep the weed knocked back to a certain extent with frequent use.

The Nuclear Option - There is also the nuclear option. Some centipedegrass lawns are so severely infested with torpedograss that total renovation is necessary. This requires spraying the lawn area with a very high concentration of glyphosate with the goal of killing torpedograss and starting over with a new lawn. Sometimes it takes two applications to get the torpedograss killed. If you end up killing out the centipedegrass, consider installing zoysiagrass (semi shady or full sun properties) or bermudagrass (full sun properties only). Switching to zoysiagrass or bermudagrass will allow the use of Drive Herbicide (quinclorac). Drive is one of the more effective herbicides for managing torpedograss but, it is too damaging to be used in centipedegrass. Renovation and switching to bermudagrass or zoysiagrass is absolutely the last resort and definitely not the cheapest route to travel but, it may be the most effective way to manage severe torpedograss problems. ♦



USDA-ARS Quarterly News

Thad Cochran, Southern Horticultural 1, ah Poplarville, MS
Dr. Grant Kirker, Research entomologist, Editor

ESSENTIAL OILS SHOW PROMISE AS POTENTIAL BIO-PESTICIDES

For the past 5 years, Dr. Blair Sampson, research entomologist, has been evaluating essential oils as bio-pesticides. The test subject that he is using is near and dear to many home gardeners; the azalea lace bug. The azalea lace bug is a major pest of azaleas in the southeast, particularly azaleas grown in full sun. The bugs probe leaves from underneath and suck juices from the plant. The feeding causes a yellow stippling on the tops of leaves that is visible in almost any home landscape. Dr. Sampson is using a bio-assay that exposes groups of lace bugs to low doses of potent bio-pesticides. Several compounds have been found to be more effective than Malathion at killing this pest. Essential oils from ginger, paw-paw, and geranium show the most promise for controlling azalea lace bugs. Essential oils are being extracted at the USDA-ARS Natural Products Utilization Research Unit (NPURU) in Oxford, MS. For more information about this research, contact Dr. Blair Sampson, Research Entomologist at (601) 473-8765 or blair.sampson@ars.usda.gov

'SUPER FOODS' GROW IN THE SOUTHEAST

Antioxidants are all the rage these days. These compounds are being shown to slow the aging process and provide endless health benefits at the same time. Dr. Donna Marshall is a post-harvest horticulturalist working with fruit crops (both blueberries and muscadine grapes) to evaluate levels of naturally occurring chemicals like resveratrol, ellagic acid, anthocyanins and other phenolic compounds that have been proven to drastically improve health when incorporated into a healthy diet. Resveratrol, a compound that makes red wine so good for you, is found in muscadine grapes and muscadine products, and is more concentrated. Muscadines contain more of these compounds than do typical table grapes. But here is the secret; about 90-95% of the resveratrol is in the skin and seeds. Dr. Marshall and the research geneticist at the TCSHL, Dr. Steve Stringer, are working together to develop even healthier berries. For more information pertaining to their research, contact either Dr. Donna Marshall, horticulturalist at 601-403-8762 ; Donna.Marshall@ars.usda.gov or Dr. Steve Stringer, research geneticist at 601-403-8768; Stephen.Stringer@ars.usda.gov.

STRAWBERRY ROOTWORMS CONTINUE TO 'BUG' AREA GROWERS

The strawberry rootworm (SRW) continues to be a key insect pest of production azaleas in the southeast. These small beetles feed at night and are extremely difficult to find during the day. Larvae normally feed on the roots of the plants, but have recently been found to feed in the blooms. Larvae escape to the soil as blooms are shed and pupate in the soil. Adults emerge from the soil and feed on the foliage. SRW feeding damage

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Chinquapin Oak	Red Maple
Burr Oak	Savannah Holly
Bald Cypress	River Birch
Magnolia	

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Member: LMLA, CLNA

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causes small irregular shot holes in the newly formed leaves that will eventually develop a brown margin. Severe SRW damage can adversely impact the marketability of infested plants.

We have found SRW damage on a wide range of ornamental plants: Indian Hawthorn, Loripetalum, Cleyera, and Virginia sweet spire all can be damaged by SRW feeding. Although the damage found on these plants has not been as severe as what is found on azaleas, these plants could harbor SRW populations and provide more routes of entry into nurseries that don't grow azaleas.

Effective chemical controls are available in the form of drenches and sprays and we are currently evaluating controls that can be incorporated into potting media in order to reduce pesticide applications and provide longer periods of insect suppression. We are currently monitoring all nurseries in the state of MS that grow azaleas to monitor the seasonal occurrence and damage caused by this insect pest. If you believe you have damage caused by the SRW, please contact Dr. Grant Kirker at 601-403-8773 or Grant.Kirker@ars.usda.gov.

HORTICULTURALIST EVALUATING WHOLE PINE TREE SUBSTRATE

Working together with Mississippi State and Auburn Universities, horticulturalist Anthony Witcher is evaluating the use of

(Continued on page 42)



PLANTS... A PATHOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE

BROWN PATCH

Brown patch, or large patch, (as the disease is now called on warm-season turfgrasses) is the most common disease of turfgrasses in Louisiana. This disease is caused by the soil-borne fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*. Although brown patch is especially prevalent on St. Augustine, it also occurs on all other warm-season turfgrasses, such as bermuda, centipede, and zoysia. As the name suggests, the disease is characterized by the development of somewhat circular or irregularly-shaped patches of diseased turf that can become quite large if not treated. The brown patch fungus does not usually kill the grass, but rather attacks the bases of the leaf sheaths causing them to rot and die. This results in brown, thinned areas of turf that are readily invaded by weeds. Typically for St. Augustine, the leading edge of the patch that is being attacked by the pathogen exhibits a yellowish cast, whereas for centipede it exhibits a reddish cast.



Early development of brown (large) patch on St. Augustine grass

Since *R. solani* needs free water on the grass blades to grow, brown patch generally develops first in areas surrounded by trees, shrubs and fences that impede air movement and delay the grass from drying after rain or irrigation. Although we typically think of brown patch as being a disease of the fall, it can also develop in the spring. Optimum conditions for disease development occur when nighttime temperatures are in the range from 60-75°F and daytime temperatures do not exceed 85-90°F. However, disease can still develop when conditions are less than ideal.

Fall and spring applications of fungicides can limit damage to the turf until conditions become unfavorable for disease development. The duration of cool fall weather and the frequency of rain will dictate how many fungicide applications are necessary. We generally recommend at least two fungicide applications in the fall when disease is present, the first being in mid- to late September and the second in mid-to late October. However, if conditions remain favorable for disease development into November and December, additional fungicide applications may be necessary. In areas where brown patch is known to have occurred previously, an application of a fungicide in mid-March at "green-up" is advisable. Again, if we experience an extended period of cool, wet weather in the spring, additional fungicide applications may be necessary until environmental conditions become unfavorable for disease development.

When fungicides are being applied to prevent disease in areas where it has not already become established, the use of granular formulations of fungicides is quite appropriate. However, once the fungicide has been applied, it must be wetted to activate it. On the other hand, when fungicides are being applied to areas where brown patch is active, it is better to use sprayable formulations of fungicides as these will give better coverage. In this case, the material should be allowed to dry before additional water is applied. Systemic fungicides that are absorbed into the plant should be considered when the turf is still growing actively and prior to periods of rainfall.

Most fungicides registered for use on turfgrasses are labeled for the control of brown (or large) patch, all of which do a good job of controlling this disease when used properly. However, please note that chlorothalonil may no longer be used on residential turf!



Brown (large) patch on Centipede grass



Article written by Dr. Don Ferrin, Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. (P) 225. 578.8537, (C) 225.573.6510, (E) dferrin@agcenter.lsu.edu.



**LNLA MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009
HAMMOND RESEARCH STATION
HAMMOND, LA**

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by President, Rusty Ruckstuhl. Regular board members present included: Gerritt Monk, Debbie Head, Todd Ellefson, Albert Durio, Bobby Guillot, Pete Newton, Tom Fennell, Pat Newman, Rusty Ruckstuhl and Severn C. Doughty, Sr. Non-voting board member present was Dan Gill. Guests present included Andy Blumberg, Regina Bracy and Brian Breaux. Seven regular members and officers of the board constitute a quorum and 10 were present.

Rusty Ruckstuhl welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each person present to introduce themselves. After the introductions, Rusty asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Rusty asked everyone to review the minutes of the last meeting and, if acceptable, move that they be accepted. Bobby Guillot moved, seconded by Pete Newton, to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Since one of the guest speakers had to leave early, Rusty asked Lisa Frederick, of Southeast Louisiana Web Designers (the company currently hosting our website), to present "New Look" website possibilities. She explained a myriad of new look possibilities for our website upgrade and ways to increase traffic to our site.

After Lisa Frederick's presentation, Rusty asked Todd Ellefson, chair of the Website Committee, to report on the committee's findings. Todd indicated that the website should be used as a marketing site and target everyone in the industry. This would be considered a broad approach. Tom Fennell suggested targeting potential members. Lisa Frederick stated that the site should include advertising; with ads ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00 per month.

With all that being said, Todd Ellefson moved, seconded by Tom Fennell, to keep the committee as a standing committee composed of Todd Ellefson, chair, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Rick Cicero, Tom Fennell, Allen Owings and Dan Gill. Also, we moved to ask Lisa Frederick to upgrade the site at a cost no greater than \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

Rusty asked Todd to explain 'FaceBook'. Allen Owings highly recommended that LNLA have a Face Book page and volunteered to manage it. Todd demonstrated how FaceBook worked, indicating that LNLA would put its profile on a page and send it to 'friends' of LNLA. 'Friends' would simultaneously receive the profile, plus any message from LNLA, and the 'friends' receiving the message could respond back with messages that would go back to all the 'friends'. 'Friends' then could send the same message or a new message to new 'friends' and the 'friends' list could grow geometrically. After little discussion Todd Ellefson moved, seconded by Albert Durio, for LNLA to have a page on FaceBook managed by Allen Owings. Motion passed.

Rusty asked Pat Newman to give the financial and UBS reports. Pat indicated that year-to-date total revenues were \$93,669.00 and total expenses were \$66,038.00 leaving \$27,631.00 in revenue over expenses. Other investment income in addition to the above was \$1,030 totaling \$28,661.00 in revenue over expenses. Cash in the bank was \$66,596.00 as of June 30, 2009.

Pat asked Severn C. Doughty, Sr. to report on the UBS investments. Severn indicated that Richard Domingue had recently purchased three CD's which were: Wilmington Trust, 2 month CD, paid \$25,000.00, maturing on Sep. 22, 2009 and yielding 0.45%; American Express Bank, 6 month CD, paid \$25,000.00, maturing on Jan. 22, 2010, yielding 0.35%; and Wilmington Trust, 9 month CD, paid \$30,000.00, maturing on Apr. 22, 2010, yielding 0.75%. The CD's currently invested were: Bank of America, paid \$25,000.00, maturing on August 19, 2009, yielding 0.90%; First Bank of Puerto Rico, paid \$25,000.00, maturing on Nov. 20, 2009, yielding 1.1%; and American Express Bank, paid \$25,000.00, maturing on Feb. 19, 2010, yielding 1.4%.

Severn further indicated that Richard had told him that the best CD rates he could get currently were: 3 month, yielding 0.25%; 6 month, yielding 0.50%; 9 month, yielding 0.85%; 12 month, yielding 0.90%; and 24 months, yielding 1.85%. Richard also had told Severn that predictions were that later this year the economy was going to drop greater than it did initially, it could be severe and it could last up into 2010. There being no questions on the financial or UBS reports, Pete Newton moved, seconded by Bobby Guillot, to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

Rusty Ruckstuhl called on Tom Fennell to give the GSHE report. Tom reviewed the business discussed at the May 19, 2009 GSHE board meeting. Move-in/move-out changes for next year include; 1) add a Port-a-let to the marshalling yard, 2) add a forklift with long forks. Educational program attendance in 2007 was 247 – income distribution, \$5,940.00; attendance in 2008 was 177 – income distribution, \$5,879.36; and attendance in 2009 was



Lisa Frederick (above), of Southeast Louisiana Web Designers presents "New Look" website possibilities.

(Continued on page 37)

SELECT THE APPROPRIATE MITICIDES

Feature Article (*front cover cont'd*): (e.g. the maple bladder galls caused by *Vasates aceriscrumena*), and some herbaceous species (e.g. on cone-flower or *Echinacea* species). Tarsonemid mites (e.g. broad and cyclamen mite) are also serious pests of ornamental plants.

The main option in managing mite populations in production and landscape is the use of miticides. Because the damage caused by mites is permanent, it is prudent to employ biological control or preventive treatments on the most susceptible host plants before or during the season when the mites are most active. To achieve preventive control, operators should know the life cycle of the mites (so to determine the best application timing) and select miticides that will provide residual control. The residual activity of miticides depends on the physical and chemical characteristics of the miticides. Most research have been conducted on two-spotted spider mite so we will focus our discussion on the management of this species. The discussion may be applicable to other mite species.

Miticides generally have either contact or translaminar properties (Table 1). Contact miticides, such as acequinocyl (Shuttle), bifenazate (Floramite), clofentezine (Ovation), fenbutatin oxide (ProMite), fenproxymate (Akari), hexythiazox (Hexygon) and pyridaben (Sanmite), kill mites when the active ingredients land on and penetrate the cuticles of the mites. Horticultural oil and insecticidal soap are generally considered insecticides but in this case it can also be used as miticides. The reported maximum residual period of contact miticides are between 28 to 45 days, but re-applications may be needed in less than 28 days because of environmental degradation. Contact miticides typically have a broad spectrum of activity against all life stages of spider mites.

Some miticides have both contact and translaminar properties, such as abamectin (Avid), chlorfenapyr (Pylon), etoxazole (Tetrasan), and spiromesifen (Judo and Forbid) (Table 1). The active ingredients of translaminar miticides are capable of penetrating the leaf cuticle and

Table 1. Miticides and their modes of action, activity properties, effective life stages, residual period, labeled sites, and compatibility with biological control.

Active ingredient	Trade name	Chemical class (IRAC number)	Activity property	Labeled site	Effective life stage			Maximum residual period	Compatibility with biological control
					Egg	Immature	Adult		
abamectin	Avid	Avermectins (6)	T and C	G, N, L		✓	✓	28 days	SC
acequinocyl	Shuttle	Acequinocyl (20B)	C	G, N, L	✓	✓	✓	28 days	C
bifenazate	Floramite	Unknown	C	G, N, L, I	✓	✓	✓	28 days	C
chlorfenapyr	Pylon	Chlorfenapyr (13)	T and C	G		✓		28 days	NC
clofentezine	Ovation	Clofentezine (10A)	C	G, N	✓	✓		45 days	C
dicofol	Kelthane	Unknown	C	G, N, L			✓	28 days	NC
etoxazole	Tetrasan	Etotozole (10B)	T and C	G, N, L	✓	✓		28 days	C
fenbutatin oxide	ProMITE	Organotin miticides (12B)	C	G, N, L		✓	✓	30 days	SC
fenproxymate	Akari	METI acaricides (21A)	C	G, N, I	✓	✓	✓	21 days	C
hexythiazox	Hexygon	Hexythiazox (10A)	C	G, N, L, I	✓	✓		45 days	C
horticultural oil	Various	Suffocation	C	G, N, L, I	✓	✓	✓	None	C
insecticidal soap	Various	Desiccation	C	G, N, L, I	✓	✓	✓	None	C
milbemectin	Ultriflora	Milbemycins (6)	T and C	N	✓	✓	✓	28 days	SC
pyridaben	Sanmite	METI acaricides (21A)	C	G, N	✓	✓	✓	45 days	NC
spiromesifen	Forbid	Tetrionic acid derivatives (23)	T and C	L, I	✓	✓		30 days	C
	Judo		T and C	G, N	✓	✓		30 days	C

Activity properties:
Labeled sites:
Compatibility with predatory mites:

T = translaminar; C = contact.
G = greenhouse; N = nursery; L = landscape; I = interiorscape.
C = compatible; SC = somewhat compatible; NC = not compatible.

remain in the mesophyll and palisade parenchyma cells. This resident concentration of active ingredients provides extended residual activity against the spider mites. Each translaminar miticide has its own spectrum of effective life stages; therefore it is important to determine the predominant life stages of the mite population through scouting. The activity of these miticides against spider mite eggs is provided by the contact properties, while the activity against 20 immature and adult mites is provided by the translaminar properties. It may be possible to tank mix translaminar miticides of different modes of action to achieve control of a full spectrum of life stages; however, such practice should be discouraged to avoid the development of miticide resistance. Because the active ingredients are able to move into leaf cells and be ingested by mites feeding on the underside of the leaf, there is less stringent requirement for complete spray coverage of the plants (still a good idea to achieve complete coverage!).

The success of a mite management program, whether it is in the greenhouse, nursery or landscape, depends on selecting the most appropriate miticides. The factors to be considered include the properties and residual activity of the miticides, the life stages of the mites, and the spray coverage of the plants. Always rotate among miticides of different modes of action when designing a management program. Table 1 will assist you in the selection process. For a more complete list of pesticides available for management of mites, please refer to University of Florida publication <http://>

(Continued on page 40)

Welcome!

New LNLA Members

June - September 2009

A Touch of Paradise, Inc.
Tina Mauzy

Babin Landscaping, LLC
David Babin

J & J Services
Nicki Solomito Pugh

Louisiana Master Gardener
Lois Manuel

St. James Parish Schools
Felix Landry

USDA-ARS
Timothy Rinehart

Veranda & Company
Louis Hebert

(Continued from page 6)

two-week interval.

Treatments were applied when new shoot growth was visible to plants that were un-pruned or plants with stem tips pruned. Plants were evaluated for numbers of new shoots, plant height and branch diameter during ten weeks after treatments.

Results: PGR treatments did not increase number of new shoots when the azaleas were not pruned prior to treatment. Cyclanilide applied after pruning resulted in increased numbers of new shoots. Plant height was not affected by PGR treatments regardless of pruning practices.

Provided by Yan Chen, Regina R. Bracy, and Allen Owings, Hammond Research Station.

For more information, contact

Dr. Yan Chen

Hammond Research Station

21549 Old Covington Hwy

Hammond, LA 70403

(P) 985-543-4125, (E) yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
Horticulture & Quarantine Program Update

URBAN FOREST PESTS

Urban forest plantings are an important component of Louisiana's urban landscape – and with them comes the potential for pest introductions. At least five urban forest pests of concern to LDAF have yet to reach Louisiana's borders.

Asian Longhorned Beetle – *Anoplophora glabripennis*

ALB attacks many common hardwood trees. Adults are 37-50mm (1 1/2 - 2") long, and are black and shiny with white spots or splotches. Females chew depressions in bark for egg-laying. Larvae tunnel into branches and trunks where they feed and damage trees. Adults emerge leaving a circular hole in the bark. Yellow, drooping leaves are a symptom of ALB damage. Infested trees die. ALB spreads through movement of timber, firewood and infested live trees, including larger nursery stock.

LDAF Activity: Because no pheromone has been identified, survey is done visually, often with binoculars or tree-climbing crews. Survey usually is accomplished by selecting high-risk areas (with host trees) or through follow up on shipments of infested material that may enter the state. There is a federal quarantine in place and there are federal protocols for survey and response. LDAF may conduct surveys for ALB in the future.

Emerald Ash Borer – *Agrilus planipennis*

EAB is a beetle that attacks ash trees. Adults are a metallic copper-green color, 12mm (1/2") long. They feed on leaves and lay eggs in ash bark. The larvae tunnel into the branches and trunk where they feed and damage the tree, creating galleries in the wood. Adults emerge leaving a "D"-shaped hole in the bark. Treetops die back and the tree usually dies in two years. EAB spreads through movement of firewood and infested nursery stock.

LDAF Activity: We have conducted statewide trap surveys for the past two years using an attractant. No EAB have been found. Survey usually is accomplished by selecting high-risk areas (with host trees) or through follow up on shipments of infested material that may enter the state. There is a federal quarantine in place and there are federal protocols for survey and response.

Gypsy Moth – *Lymantria dispar*

GM larvae are voracious eaters and feed on hundreds of deciduous and evergreen tree species but prefer oak and aspen. They

(Continued on page 32)

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Pests... (Continued from page 31)

can defoliate large stands of forested areas in a season. Adult male moths (brown) can move through natural spread about 15 miles annually. Female moths (white) of the common European variety do not fly. Male GM wingspan is ~2.5 - 4 cm (1 - 1 1/2").

LDAF Activity: We conduct annual surveys for this pest using pheromone lure traps. Traps are deployed from April through September. Risk factors include presence of host plants - particularly in wooded areas near suburban neighborhoods and trees near well-traveled sites (campgrounds, highways, military bases, rest stops). We also spot-check Christmas trees entering Louisiana for GM egg masses. GM can also move on nursery stock. USDA maintains a federal GM quarantine.

Pine Shoot Beetle - *Tomicus piniperda*

PSB attacks many pine species and can be spread through nursery stock or cut Christmas trees movement. Adults overwinter in bark at the base of standing host trees and feed on growing shoot tips; larvae develop beneath the bark of stumps or cut logs. Adults are reddish-brown to black and are 3-5mm (1/8 - 3/16") long. Evidence of presence is yellow shoot tips and/or 'shotgun holes' found at the base of a pine tree or cut Christmas tree. Tree height and diameter are negatively affected by this pest.

LDAF Activity: We conduct annual cut Christmas tree inspections at retail and wholesale locations, looking for evidence of damage by PSB. We also check certification paperwork to confirm tree origin. Paperwork checks for proper certification are the main regulatory tool available. When non-certified trees are found, stop sales are issued and material may be destroyed or returned to origin if proper certification cannot be provided by the shipper.

Sirex Wood Wasp - *Sirex noctilio*

Sirex is a pest of numerous pine species. It spreads through movement of infested wood packing materials or cut wood. Needles of infested trees wilt, turn yellow then red-brown. Trunks and branches ooze resin. Adults are 25 - 38mm (1 - 1 1/2") long, metallic blue-black with reddish legs and abdominal bands. Larvae ('hornworms') tunnel into branches and trunks where they feed and damage the tree, resulting in tree death. Adults emerge, leaving a round exit hole. One nematode is effective for biocontrol.

LDAF Activity: Because no pheromone has been identified, survey is done visually or with non-specific beetle traps. Survey usually focuses on high-risk areas (with host trees) or through follow up on shipments of infested material that may enter the state. There is a federal quarantine in place and there are federal protocols for survey and response. We may conduct surveys for *Sirex* in the future.

Article written by Tad Hardy, August 3, 2009

News & Views... (Continued from page 24)

send me there, even though I had a job waiting on tables at the Faculty Club. No tipping was allowed! So I transferred to SLI in Lafayette for the Fall Semester where I had a student job in the Geology Department, my listed major course of study. Two of my older brothers, Marion and Sidney, were SLI graduates. Marion went on and completed the PhD program at Cornell University in New York and was on the Cornell faculty until his untimely death in an auto accident there. Sidney became a well known nurseryman at Flowerwood Nursery in Mobile, Ala. and SNA activities.

Another brother, Joseph H. "J. H.", decided that his interest was in "things mechanical" and became an expert in repairing monstrous draglines, cranes, etc. with Manitowoc Equipment Corp. An interesting thing about J. H.'s career - his boss approached him one day and said, "Pops, your time is too valuable to run around fixing all of these machines.

Get rid of your truck and tools and go to a "problem" and tell them how to fix it and let them do it!" He subsequently traveled far and wide doing just that! I must admit that my expertise with things mechanical is confined to manual screwdrivers, provided that the handle is well defined!

One other point - in late 1950 I was suffering from a severe case of "academic burnout" back at LSU and decided to join the Navy. I went thru boot camp and the Navy Photo School at Pensacola. I later selected and was assigned to aerial photo duty aboard the aircraft carrier USS Essex, operating out of Yokohama, Japan, and off the Korean Coast. After about five months, the Essex was ordered back to the U. S. for decommissioning. I was then assigned to the U. S. Navy Photo Lab in Anacostia, D. C. doing secret and top-secret photo duty. For this work there were five of us who were on the Night Crew and worked only 3 to 5 hours a night and lived off-base. For the remainder of my Navy career, I never stood an inspection of any kind! Following discharge, I returned to college - my academic "bum-out" cured!

Letter from Warren Meadows, July 27, 2009

(Continued on page 33)

DWARF CRAPE MYRTLE LANDSCAPE TRIAL 2007 AND 2008

Trial Location: Burden Center, Baton Rouge, LA

Back ground/Introduction:

The Razzle Dazzle® dwarf crape myrtles are a new series of crape myrtles developed by world-renowned horticulturist and breeder, Dr. Michael A. Dirr. As the first series within the Gardener's Confidence® Collection, the Razzle Dazzle® dwarf crape myrtles have been developed with the trustworthy attributes of easy care and mildew resistance, as well as exceptional color and compact habit. Mature height is 4 feet. Plants are being evaluated for flowering, cold hardiness and disease resistance at Burden Center in Baton Rouge. These are available at some wholesale nurseries in Louisiana.

Plants were available starting in 2006 and have been available at retail garden centers in Louisiana since 2007. Varieties in the series include: 'Ruby Dazzle' (pink blooms with bronze-red foliage), 'Cherry Dazzle' (cherry red flowers), 'Snow Dazzle' (white blooms), 'Dazzle Me Pink' (pink blooms) and 'Raspberry Dazzle' (raspberry red blooms).

More information on these plants:

<http://www.gardenersconfidence.com/RazzleDazzle/RazzleDazzle.aspx>

Materials and Methods:

Three gallon containers of the 'Razzle Dazzle' series crape myrtles, 'Chickasaw' crape myrtle and 'Pocomoke' crape myrtle were planted in late summer 2006 in full sun landscape trials at Burden Center, a LSU AgCenter agricultural experiment station in Baton

Rouge, LA (USDA hardiness zone 8B, AHS heat zone 8). Plants were placed in raised rows of Oliver silt loam soil (normal pH 6.2) approximately five feet apart in a randomized complete block design with each cultivar replicated three times. Supplemental irrigation was provided as needed via a drip system. Plants were fertilized in March 2007 with Sta-Green Nursery Special 12-6-6. Pine straw mulch is maintained on the planting at a depth of two inches refreshed two times annually. Hand weeding, glyphosate and Amaze pre-emergent granular herbicide (at the recommended rate) were used for weed control. Plants have not been pruned, pinched, or deadhead from the initial planting time through 2008. In addition, fungicides and insecticides have not been applied.

Data:

Visual quality ratings based on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = dead, below average landscape performance, 3 = average landscape performance, 4 = above average landscape performance, 5 = superior landscape performance) were taken monthly from April- November 2007 and monthly from April- November 2008. Included in this rating were plant foliage color and appeal, uniformity, flowering and overall growth habit. *Cercospora* leaf spot ratings were taken in October 2007 and October 2008 based on a scale from 1 to 6 where 1 = no leaf spot, 2 = 1-10% foliage with leaf spots, 3 = 11-25% foliage with leafspots, 4 = 26-50% foliage with leaf spot, 5 = 51-75% foliage with leaf spot, and 6 = 76-100% foliage with leaf spot. Height measurements were taken in October 2007 and October 2008.

Contact Information:

Allen Owings, Professor (Horticulture)
LSU AgCenter - Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Highway
Hammond, LA 70403
(P) 985.543.4125, (F) 985.543.4124
(C) 225.603.8096
(E) aowings@agctr.lsu.edu



			<i>Cercospora</i>		Plant Height	
	Visual Quality Ratings		Leaf Spot Rating		(cm)	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Dazzle Me Pink	2.5	3.0	4.7	3.8	38.0	55.7
Snow Dazzle	2.7	3.1	4.7	3.2	61.0	88.7
Raspberry Dazzle	4.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	67.7	85.3
Ruby Dazzle	3.4	3.1	1.7	2.0	40.7	53.7
Cherry Dazzle	4.2	3.7	3.0	3.4	61.3	71.7
Chickasaw	2.8	2.8	4.3	1.5	48.3	49.3
Pocomoke	3.5	3.7	3.3	2.2	95.0	111.7

The Spotlight Continues from page 23

later to become the Metro Area Horticulture Committee Foundation - a member since 1978, and the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen (LANA) - a member since 1978.

He had met many other professional horticulturists through his memberships and decided to start his own business. In October of 1977 Mike started Michael Lem Horticultural Services, Inc. He didn't know much about maintenance because he was trained as a grower but he felt it would give him a business advantage to be knowledgeable in several aspects of the "great industry".

Mike solicited the help and mastery of Vaughn Barring, Jr. Nicholas and Barring, a prominent landscape maintenance company in New Orleans. Vaughn invited Mike to work with him on the weekends to learn the maintenance business. In addition Robert Tackett, a prominent New Orleans landscape architect invited Mike to work with him three days a week to further his maintenance and design skills.

After about a year, Mike felt competent to be totally on his own. When he began his new profession, he first worked out of his 1978 Monte Carlo. He took the back seat out to accommodate his tools and plants and used it for about a year. Afterwards he bought a pick-up truck which made him look much more professional. After seeing the need to carry more equipment, Mike bought a van. Vaughn Barring spent hours helping Mike set up the van to accommodate all the necessary equipment.

Back in those days professional horticulturists in New Orleans helped each other out as much as they could. There was never a rivalry or fear of competition - just a feeling of helping someone else to become a professional. It was more of a right and ethical thing to do and we were a close knit group.

When Mike bought his van he had two employees. They would take the van and Mike drove his truck to the job sites. As business grew Mike bought another van and had a total of eight employees at the height of his maintenance business which was about 75% commercial accounts and 25% residential.

In 1988, Mike met the love of his life and married Barbara Gask, a CPA. She worked for a CPA firm until 1991 but helped Mike part time taking care of the books and did so ever before they were married. After 1991 Barbara went to work full time with Mike.

From 1991 through the late 1990's business was very good. Mike and Barbara began to look at buying property near Poplarville, MS and in the mid 1990's bought some land and began to plant blackberries for a blackberry operation. Later in 2003 Mike's yearning to get back into growing caused him to construct a greenhouse to grow annual and perennial bedding plants and herbs. A year later he built another greenhouse and once again began to hone his growing skills. Having a natural knack for it, they built a third greenhouse at 2005. Construction of three additional houses was put on hold by Hurricane Katrina but was completed in the spring of 2006. They now have six houses, totaling just less than 15,000 square feet.

Then in late August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina significantly

changed their lives. The maintenance business in New Orleans was virtually impacted and for weeks they were left with no work consequently no income. Many of Mike's clients left New Orleans and he lost a lot of business. The maintenance finally had about 50% commercial and 50% residential accounts. Now, after four years, it's 15% commercial and 85% residential.

The growing operation was impacted too. They didn't have any greenhouse structures, per say, but there was virtually no business because the public wasn't buying and retailers weren't selling due to the horrific damage done by Katrina. So there was no income from their growing operation either. Additional stress was placed on Mike and Barbara because Mike's mother, brother and their families plus several neighbors evacuated to stay with them. Due to the major hurricane damage in New Orleans, they ended up living with Mike and Barbara for months after the storm.

By March 2006 they had repaired and finished all six greenhouses and were ready to plant for spring. In the spring sales were fair and Mike remarked to me that "the market had shifted toward plants because of being the Gulf Coast there was no shade." Business has increased every year since then except for this year but sales this year were greater than those in 2007. Now they employ four full time employees and in the spring one or two part time ones. Spending in quality Barbara stated that "they are not the biggest greenhouse operation but they stress quality vs. quantity."

I asked Mike what advice he had for a new grower going into business. He said, "Consider automation. Labor is difficult to find, especially trained ones. To be efficient and effective in today's marketplace, you have to consider automation." Then I asked Mike what advice he'd give someone going into the maintenance business. He said, "Be an auto professional. Have all of your licenses and insurance and contract with someone who has a good business background." Mike added that "it's important to gain in-service training in marketing, business and growing. And for both growing and maintenance businesses, marketing and good salesmanship are extremely important."

Over the years Mike and Barbara have generously given back to the "Great Industry". Mike was Vice President and President for two years each for the New Orleans Horticulture Society, founding member of the Metro Area Horticulture Committee Foundation, serving as Treasurer for eight years and President for two years. Later Barbara served as treasurer for five years and as a board member. Mike also served on the Spring Garden Show Committee from 1981 till 2007. He served on the New Orleans Tree Rating Committee, Shrub Rating Committee and the Groundcover Rating Committee, which resulted in LSA Extension publications being distributed to thousands of residents in Metro New Orleans. Also, they are members of the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association. Mike and Barbara have been the most faithful friends of the first of these years.

If you'd like to contact Mike and Barbara you can reach them at Digswortz Large Farms, P.O. Box 562, 100 Kammer Rd., Poplarville, MS 39470, (601) 795-4444, 564-564-4655 or 564-564-4625.

Article provided to Nancy C. Douglas, Jr., LNA's Executive Director

NEWS,
VIEWS &
THANK YOU'S ... cont'd from pg. 32

Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, Inc.

Organized September 17, 1954



"How is Beauty?"

January 29, 1986

SECRETARY'S OFFICE
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone: (504) 766-3471



Bill LaCroix

Dear LAN Member:

As you know, our long-time secretary, Dr. Jim Foret has retired. At the LAN business meeting during the LAN-MNA Short Course in Jackson, MS in early January the following officers were elected for 1986:

- Bill LaCroix - - - - President
- Louis Parr - - - - 1st Vice-Pres.
- Richard Odom - - - - 2nd Vice-Pres.
- Warren Meadows - - - Secretary
- Walter Imahara - - - Treasurer

On January 21, 1986 the transfer of the secretary and treasurer records and functions was made and the address of the LAN office is now as follows:

La. Association of Nurserymen
Dr. Warren A. Meadows, Secretary
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Pho. (504)766-3471

ADDRESS CHANGE

All future correspondence, etc. relating to the LAN should be directed to this address.

1986 DUES ARE DUE: Enclosed is a membership dues notification for your 1986 dues. Dues should be sent the new association office address shown above.

LAN-MNA SHORT COURSE: The 1986 joint Short Course in Jackson, MS, Jan. 11 & 12 was again a huge success with about 670 persons registered. Initial plans are already underway for the 1987 Short Course to be held Jan. 10 & 11, 1987 at the Bellemont Motel in Baton Rouge. If anyone has suggestions concerning the 1987 short course program please send them to the secretary.

LAN PRESIDENT: Normally the LAN President serves for a period of two years. At the meeting in Jackson, MS, Bill LaCroix agreed to serve an additional year in order that election of new officers could be held when the LAN hosts the Short Course in Louisiana every other year.

LA. HORTICULTURE COMMISSION: The LAN is currently represented on the La. Horticulture Commission by Walter Imahara, Dennis McClosky, and Louis Parr. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled during February to consider possible changes in the horticulture Law and regulations. Proposed changes in the Law would be subject to public hearings prior to requesting legislative approval.

HONORS: Two very stirring ceremonies during the banquet at the LAN-MNA Short Course in Jackson honored Dr. Jim Foret with the "J. A. Foret Award" and Frank Akin with the "La. Nurseryman of the Year" award.

LAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS: At the LAN Business meeting in Jackson, Fred Hoogland, Severn Doughty, Steve Adams, and Earl Vallot were elected to two year terms on the board of directors.

Sincerely,

Warren A. Meadows
LAN Secretary
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



"How is Beauty?"



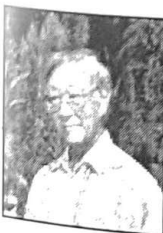
Louis Parr



Richard Odom



Warren Meadows



Walter Imahara

epr
E-1

Biocontainers.... (Continued from page 21)

~ 37c, StrawPot ~ 24c, Kord ~ 15c, coir ~ 17c, and plastic ~ 8c. Will the consumer pay more for a container that is biodegradable and/or plantable? This is a very good probability as the popularity of these types of containers appears to be increasing as does the variety of sizes, shapes and types. There also is much debate about what is considered "sustainable" when taking into account all of these variables. Oh, and we can't forget the "carbon footprint". Thus, given the results from our research and your knowledge of the business, we will leave the decision up to you as to what type of container you use. In conclusion, no matter what your choice, I believe that these alternatives to plastic containers which we have so heavily relied on, give growers and consumers various choices that have been a long time in coming.

Future studies? We are conducting a similar study with Liriope and another study this fall using these same types of containers for poinsettia production. We will let you know the results of these studies after Christmas.

Article By Jeff S. Kuehny, LSU AgCenter School of Plant, Environment and Soil Sciences, Mike Evans, University of Arkansas and Matt Taylor, Longwood Gardens. The authors would like to acknowledge the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association and the Baton Rouge Landscape Association for support of this project; Jiffy Group International, ITML Horticultural Products Inc., Fertil USA, Summit Plastic Co., Ivy Acres, and CowPots Manufacturing for providing containers for this research; Scotts Co for providing fertilizer and Sun Gro for providing substrate; Wanda Ellis, Leslie Moree-Kerin, Miao Liu, Jenifer Mader, Steven Borst, Brad Blalock and Clarence Howard at Burden Center for their assistance with this project.

Ornamentals... (Continued from page 11)

'Nirvana Sky Blue' Vinca (Syngenta Flowers)
'Luna Red' Hibiscus (PanAmerican Seed)
Ornamental Sweet Potato 'Selection Number 08-8'
(LSU AgCenter)
'Sweet Caroline Green/Yellow' Ornamental Sweet Potato
(Bodger Botanicals)
'Bronze' Copper Plant
'Pink Chaos' Coleus (Proven Winners)
'Fishnet Stockings' Coleus (Proven Winners)
'Trusty Rusty' Coleus (Ball FloraPlant)
'Pink Marble' Photinia (Conard-Pyle)
'Emerald Snow' Loropetalum (PDSI)
'Taishan Yellow' Marigold (PanAmerican Seed)
'Corey Yellow' Coreopsis (Syngenta Flowers)
'Spring Secret' Scaevola (Proven Winners)
'Blue Print' Scaevola (Ball FloraPlant)
'Southern Belle' Hibiscus
'White Texas Star' Hibiscus
'New (Blue) Wonder' Scaevola (Proven Winners)
'Profusion Yellow' Zinnia (Sakata Seed)
'Profusion Double White' Zinnia (Sakata Seed)



Contact Information:

Allen Owings, Professor (Horticulture)
Yan Chen, Assistant Professor (Horticulture)
Regina Bracy, Professor (Horticulture)
Roger Rosendale, Research Associate (Horticulture)
Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Highway
Hammond, LA 70403
(P) 985.543.4125, (F) 985.543.4124
(E) aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

DIG DEEPER... SEARCH GREEN INDUSTRY WEBSITES



www.OnlinePlantGuide.com

www.anla.org

www.HRIresearch.org

www.ldaf.state.la.us

www.lfbf.org

www.l-i-a.org

www.lnla.org

www.LandcareNetwork.org

<http://arboretum.sfasu.edu/>

Readers are encouraged to share their favorite websites. Please send to Laura Crnko at lcnrko@bellsouth.net; they will be listed in LNLA's next quarterly newsletter.

Online Plant Guide

American Nursery & Landscape Association

HRI Journal of Environmental Horticulture

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Louisiana Farm Bureau

Louisiana Irrigation Association

Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association

PLANET

SFA Mast Arboretum, SFA State University

(Continued from pg 29)

2009 - income distribution \$1,174,555. Total distribution to Louisiana this year was \$42,584.89. The GSHE Show for 2010 will be January 20-22 and the rental rate of the Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Convention Center will increase \$6,000.00. Louisiana will be responsible for move-in, move-out and 3 - volunteers will be needed. The 2010 GSHE Board Officers were elected and included: Pat Newman (LA), President & Tom Fennell (LA), Director; Jay Sulley, Sec. Treasurer (MS) & Todd Morgan (MS), Director; Jim Van Antwerp (AL), Vice-President & Phillip Hunter (AL), Director.

At this point someone asked if SNA was going to have a trade show this year. Rusty Ruckstuhl asked Severn C. Doughty, Sr. to discuss the SNA Horticultural Summit and Tradeshow October 13 - 15, 2009 in Atlanta, GA (under New Business). Severn indicated that he had received notification about the Summit but he could not go and asked if any of the board would like to go to represent LNLA. No one volunteered; consequently, Louisiana will not be represented at the Summit.

Pat Fennell asked Severn to report on the membership. As of mid June, 2009 we had 466 members and for the same time last year we had 467 members. As of mid June, 2009 we had 58 new members and for the same time last year we had 35 new members. In percentages and actual numbers and as of mid June 2009, there were 22% growers (103), 11% retailers (52), 28% landscapers (132), 6% Associate member - \$100.00 category (37), Affiliate members - \$25.00 category (24), 11% Educator/Government members (52), and others in actual numbers were 73, totaling 466.

Pat Fennell then asked Pete Newton to report on the Membership Committee. Pete indicated that the committee discussed; 1) how LNLA does for its members in a bullet fashion, paper book mark or other type hand-out. 2) State how LNLA improves the 'Green Industry', 3) Who is the LNLA? - let's put a face on our membership. 4) Why is it important to support the LNLA? Give reasons and promote them. 5) State all the opportunities for personal growth and company exposure.

Pat Fennell reported on the Funding Committee by stating that there were no requests, therefore there was no report.

Pat then asked Todd Ellefson to report on the Marketing Committee. Todd indicated that the committee came up with nineteen suggestions that LNLA could do to market itself and the 'Green Industry' here in Louisiana. These included: 1) reinstate the 'Louisiana Green Plant Program', 2) start the 'Louisiana Grown' tag program, 3) create a 'It Takes More Than A Shovel' professionalism PR campaign. 4) redo the Buyers Guide, 5) significantly improve the LNLA website, 6) list LNLA as a co-sponsor on all LSU AgCenter educational programs for the 'Green Industry', 7) Create and distribute LNLA's CNLP banners and send them complementary to all 'Green Industry' businesses who have certified CNLP employees employed. 8) create an LNLA 'It's A Growing Green Industry' bumper sticker or some other phrase, 9) create a 'Plant of the Year' program for retailers, 10) distribute a consumer news article weekly/monthly from LNLA to the media statewide, 11) create regular features in the LA Market Bulletin, 12) create a 'Garden Center of the Month' feature in the Louisiana Gardener Magazine, 13) state what the 'Green Industry' does for its citizens i.e. "What Does the 'Green Industry' Do for You?", 14) list and distribute the contributions the 'Green Industry' does everyday for people's lives, 15) create a brand like "Trees, Plants, Landscapes and Lawns Don't Just Happen - They Are Brought to You By the Louisiana 'Green Industry'", 16) Stage a 'Plant Louisiana Green Day' in the spring and/or fall, 17) sponsor guests or speakers to discuss the 'Green Industry' on morning TV and/or radio tele-shows, 18) create and sponsor 'Plant in a Park' media events in Shreveport, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and other locations in the state - do one a year around the state, and 19) create school projects sponsored by the Louisiana Green Industry. The committee also created several logo type plant tags which could be used in the Louisiana Grown campaign.

Rusty Ruckstuhl asked Dr. Regina Bracy to give an LSU AgCenter update. Regina began by stating that there were two types of Specialty Crop Grants - one offered through LDAF and one through the Federal Government. The Hammond Research Station was going to apply for a grant titled, "Louisiana Lagniappe: A 'Green Industry' Consumer Awareness/Plant Promotion Program" authored by Regina Bracy, Allen Owings and Dan Gill. The Abstract was: "Marketing programs that highlight specific plants have been very successful in generating increased sales. Many of these programs have traditionally been regional or national in scope and are primarily directed or sponsored by private companies. Frequently, plants promoted in our state are not suited to Louisiana's hot, humid growing conditions. Many of these private programs are fee-based and royalties charged can be cost prohibitive for all but the largest nursery and retail operations."

The development of a marketing program specific to Louisiana and available to all producers and retailers would benefit Louisiana's 'Green Industry'. The 'Louisiana Lagniappe' program would identify and promote exceptional plants that perform well in Louisiana. University funds would be used to promote unbiased information for making plant selections. Logo, webpage and point-of-purchase (POP) materials specific to this program will be developed to make 'Louisiana Lagniappe' program and plants readily-identifiable among producers, retailers and consumers. 'Louisiana Lagniappe' plants will be promoted through the LSU AgCenter's highly successful mass media effort (Let It Grow!) utilizing the extensive web, print and media coverage of the LSU AgCenter. Trial gardens at the AgCenter's Hammond Research Station (Hammond) and LaHouse (Baton Rouge) will provide high-traffic areas for visual displays and plant evaluation.

Pat Dr. Bracy concluded a discussion about the grant Tom Fennell moved, seconded by Pat Newman, to make a resolution for the

(Continued on page 38)

(Continued from page 37)

Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association (LNLA) to fully support the grant, the plant assessments and promotional aspects of it. Motion passed.

Dr. Bracy continued by thanking LNLA and also stated that at the recent Field Day there were 80 'Green Industry' professionals in attendance – in spite of the incredibly hot weather. An excellent Field Day publication describing plant evaluations both sun and shade locations, care and maintenance project descriptions and completed research articles with lots of information are available to anyone by calling 985-543-4125.

Regina continued by stating that several LSU AgCenter events will occur later this year. They included: Ornamental and Turf Field Day October 15th, Burden Research Center; Louisiana Plant Materials Conference, Hammond Research Station October 29th; and Poinsettia Open House, December 4th, Burden Research Center.

Rusty Ruckstuhl asked Dr. Yan Chen to present the educational program. Dr. Chen introduced her topic, 'Fertilizer Techniques for Seven Herbaceous Perennials' by stating that her objective was to investigate the effects of controlled released fertilizer in granular or tablet type as single or split applications on first year plant growth and flowering quality, overwinter survival and second year growth of the seven plants.

Plants tested were two species of Mexican Heather, purple cone flower, Guara 'Siskiyou Pink', daylily 'Stella de Oro', Lantana 'New Gold' and Rudbeckia 'Goldstrum'. Fertilizers used were OsmocotePlus granule 18-6-12 at four rates and OsmocotePlus tablets 16-9-12 two tablets per plant. Summary: Herbaceous perennials can grow larger and have more flowers when fertilized with high rate of granular fertilizer tested. However, higher fertilizer rates did not improve plant quality or overwinter survival. Recommendation: Apply 2 tablets per plant (1 lb/1000 sq ft) for most herbaceous perennials. Daylily did not require fertilizer to become established in the landscape. For a complete summary contact Dr. Chen at 985-543-4125.

Rusty Ruckstuhl asked for a short report from the Nominating Committee. There was nothing to report until the October board meeting but, Severn indicated that he had handouts entitled, 'Leadership Selection' and 'Orientation of New Leaders and Volunteers', for the Board with criteria to help guide them in the selection process for upcoming officers and new board members.

Rusty moved to Old Business by asking Severn C. Doughty, Sr. to report on LNL Foundation for Scholarship and Research (LNLFSR). Severn stated that on April 2, 2009 we received a letter from the Secretary of State that LNLFSR was officially registered as a corporation in Louisiana and on May 15, 2009 the Articles of Incorporation were certified and filed in the DeSoto Parish Clerk of Court's Office. Afterwards copies of all the official paperwork were sent to Susan Webb who, at the end of July, will proceed with applying for the 501 (c) 3 tax exempt status with IRS.

Rusty asked when we might have the tax exempt status ruling from IRS and Severn stated that it could be as late as December. Rusty then asked the Board if they wanted to proceed with any fund raising efforts. After some discussion, and since a donor could not use the donation as a tax write off, it was decided to wait until the October board meeting to make a decision and that a raffle might be an option at the GSHE Show.

Rusty Ruckstuhl asked Andy Blumberg to give an update on Blumberg and Associates, Inc., Insurance. Andy indicated that they were still writing policies. Severn stated that he had received a request from Jim Lastrapes to look into LNLA sponsoring a Group Health Insurance Policy for its members and asked Andy to comment on this. Andy stated that they could write such a policy but in the past when they wrote similar policies for other organizations, the group policy went well for several years then declined. Furthermore, it would require a considerable amount of research in order to set it up, such as, the total number of employees each member's business had in order to get the proper quote. If every member business accepted the quote – high or low - and continued with it, it could be sustainable. However, in the past member businesses would drop out of the program after several years which forced the premiums to rise, resulting in businesses dropping out. After some discussion Albert Durio moved, seconded by Pete Newton, for LNLA not to proceed with a Group Health Insurance policy. Motion carried.

Next, Rusty moved to the economic survey of the 'Green Industry' topic and asked for discussion. Severn stated that he had met with Drs. Roger Hinson and Matt Fannin several weeks ago and approached them about teaming together to write a Specialty Crop Grant offered through LDAF. All agreed, the grant was written and the request was for a total of \$51,547.00. The project, if accepted, would not cost LNLA financially and would be much more comprehensive than the original proposal. It would include more segments of the 'Green Industry'; namely retailers, distributors, hard good distributors, growers, landscape architects/designers, landscape irrigation and /or landscape contractors/maintenance professionals, arborists, interiorscape professionals and pest management professionals.

Concern arose pertaining to the down turn in the economy and would the study be reflective of the industry now that business had slowed. After some discussion Pat Newman moved, seconded by Tom Fennell, to accept the grant proposal titled, 'Measuring the Size, Scope and Industrial Distribution of Specialty Crop Production within the Louisiana 'Green Industry' and allow the study to be performed by Drs. Roger Hinson and Matt Fannin with the LSU AgCenter. Motion carried.

(Continued on page 39)

11/11/09 11:51 AM

Rusty asked Severn to report on the NLAAC meeting he attended in mid April in Alexandria, VA. Severn simply handed out a copy of the front page of his column which appeared in the 2nd Quarter News, 2009 and indicated that it was a good overview of the meeting, and he thanked the Board for sending him. It was very beneficial.

Rusty Ruckstuhl asked Tom Fennell to identify 'Emeritus Board Members' and to list some potential nominees. Tom reiterated that emeritus status was a past officer, board member or both who worked very diligently for LNA (LAN) in past years and would serve as an honorary member. But it would be someone who could bring wisdom and history to the Board. One nominee would be selected by the Nominating Committee each year and their name would appear on the ballot of Officers and Board Members recommended by the Nominating Committee for the entire membership to vote on at the annual meeting. The term of office would be one year. Tom suggested the following members as potential candidates and asked Severn if he would contact them to see if they would serve. They included Walter Imahara, Kent Langhams, Steve Adams, Richard Odum, Bob Barry, Fred Hoogland, J.C. Patrick, and Randy Bracy.

Rusty Ruckstuhl reported on LIA by stating that the Membership was up to 71, the second quarter newsletter has been sent and Dr. Allean Awings was the editor of the newsletter. Also, the LIA Directory was sent to its Membership as well. The next LIA training will be October 7, 8, 2009 at the LSU AgCenter, Avoyelles Parish Office, 8592 LA HWY 1, Suite 1, Mansura, LA. The two day training will be the Irrigation Association's (IA) 'Landscape Irrigation Auditor' class which can serve for both LIAA recertification and one may take the IA Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor (CLIA) exam to become IA certified. LIA will have its Annual Supper Meeting on October 10, 2009 beginning at 6:00 P.M. at the LSU AgCenter Avoyelles Parish Office in Mansura. For more information contact Severn C. Pouchou, Sr.

Rusty then called upon Brian Breaux to discuss the potential of a wholesale nursery sales tax. Brian indicated that a large wholesale nursery was audited by the LA Department of Revenue last year because the nursery bought liners and other small plants to grow to larger sizes for wholesale prices to landscapers or to retail companies. The nursery paid around \$30,000.00 in CPA and legal fees and was finally exonerated after the audit.

Louisiana Revised Statute 47:305(A)(1) provides as follows: "The gross proceeds derived from the sale in this state of livestock, poultry, and other farm products direct from the farm are exempted from the tax levied by this Chapter, provided that such sales are made directly by the producers. When sales of livestock, poultry and other farm products are made to consumers by any other than the producer, they are not exempted from the tax imposed by this Chapter."

The October 23, 2002 Louisiana Revenue Ruling No. 02-017, 'Sales Tax Exemption Applies to Sales of Farm Products "Direct from the Farm" by the Producers', further refines and clearly states that: "On sales of...plants shrubbery, trees or other horticultural products, the producers will be the persons who grow the products from seed or seedling, or the persons whose purposeful cultivation and care of the products away from a sales display location adds substantial commercial value to the product. Nurseries and garden centers who purchase or acquire horticultural products from others, and immediately offer or display those products for sale, will not be considered the producers of those products, even though the products might experience some growth while in the care of the nurseries or garden centers awaiting sale. Sales directly by producers will be considered sales "direct from the farm", regardless of the locations where the sales are made.

Brian Breaux further stated that another nurseryman several months ago thought he heard that there was going to be legislation which would force wholesale nurseries to pay sales tax. However, the Farm Bureau lobbyist indicated that they did not see any such legislation so far this year. Brian stated that they would be vigilant on these matters and, in the event that legislation should be offered for consideration in the future, that LNA and other 'Green Industry' organizations should be prepared to contact House Members on the Ways and Means Standing Committee which included: Secretary, Courtney Williams (342-2442), Hunter Green, Chair, Jane Smith, Vice Chair, Billone, Bunas, Burrell, Carter, Danahay, M. Guillory, Henry, Hoffmann, Honey, G. Jackson, Nowlin, Perry, Richard, Richmond, Cahoe, Robideaux, and Temple.

The Senate, LNA would have to contact members of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Standing Committee which included: Secretary, Simpson C. Simpson (342-0181); Researcher, Danielle Dorion (342-1773); Robert Marionneaux, Chair; Robert Adley, Vice Chair; Dorso, Dupre, Fudey, Gray, Kostelka, Long, Morrish, Riser, Shaw, and B. Gautreaux (Interim).

Brian moved to another topic and indicated that on June 29, 2009 the U.S. District Court for Middle District of North Carolina issued a preliminary injunction against the Department (of Labor's) Final Suspension of the December 2008 Final H-2A Rule. As a result of this court action, and unless and until additional court action takes place, the Suspension is no longer in effect; the December 2008 Final Rule remains in effect.

Finally, Brian suggested that LNA form a Legislative Affairs Committee to keep abreast of bills that could adversely affect the 'Green Industry'.

(Continued on page 40)

Continued from page 33.

Rusty Ruckstuhl asked Severn to obtain the annual Conflict of Interest signatures from all Board Members and Severn distributed the list. Once all signatures were obtained, Severn was to file them in the event of a future IRS audit.

Severn C. Draughton Sr. asked the Board if they would like to ask Commissioner Mike Britton to attend the annual breakfast meeting and be the key note speaker once again at C&LLE. The Board overwhelmingly agreed and Rusty Ruckstuhl stated that he would write out a letter of invitation. Severn further indicated that Alex Covington had communicated with him by stating that this upcoming Annual meeting would be the tenth anniversary of our name change from Louisiana Association of Nurserymen (LAN) to Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA). He wondered if we should celebrate in some manner. The Board decided to take the matter up at the October board meeting.

Rusty asked Severn to pass around the FFA 4-H 4-H' Magic pop letters and FFA certificates so the Board could see them.

Rusty asked Severn to report on LNLA's national lobbying effort. He indicated that through the Nursery & Landscape Association Executives of North America (NLEA), ANLA and PLANET of which LNLA are members, several lobbying issues have come to light in the last several months that LNLA and LLA participated in. One was the Enhancement of the Green Communities Act which would secure a significant investment in our country's green infrastructure by recognizing an often overlooked aspect of the managed landscape. Specifically, the U.S. green industry was most supportive of the "Community Greening Initiatives" provisions contained in H.R. 2222 that would fund 1, the revitalization of municipal parks and public spaces; 2, Landscaping community gateways and key corridors; and 3, tree planting and urban forestry projects. Forty eight associations plus other entities across the U.S. endorsed a letter in support of this Bill.

Cortey Conroy, Director of Legislative Relations with ANLA, was contacted in late July and H.R. 2222 had not passed the House at that time. Hope was that it could be attached to another Bill and be presented for a vote in August, 2009.

In another lobbying effort LNLA and LLA, plus other nursery associations, participated last April in a sign-on letter requesting USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to eliminate the rural restriction placed on the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP provides grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to help purchase energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements. However, REAP offered a very narrow interpretation of "agricultural producers" which limited eligibility to those "nurseries" located in areas of less than 50,000 people. Also, there was concern that under the current program, commercial greenhouse operations and some specialty producers would be excluded.

On June 8, 2009 we learned that USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack had agreed to issue a regulatory change through Rural Development at USDA, to eliminate the rural restriction placed on the REAP. Here was another successful lobbying effort in which LNLA was a participant.

Rusty Ruckstuhl indicated that he communicated with Dwight Hughes, Past President of ANLA, and Dwight again asked if LNLA would pay \$10,000 for each member in the association (467 and amounting to \$4,670,000) for the Lighthouse Fund which lobbies for the 'Green Industry' in Washington and across the country. There was little discussion, other than recalling that the board had voted twice before on this matter and that the LNLA Board felt it should be a voluntary decision. Each member should decide if wanted to make a contribution or not. There being no motion on the floor, the issue was dropped.

Severn also spoke with Dwight and assured him that LNLA did receive some voluntary contributions and would be sending what was collected to the ANLA office.

Rusty asked Severn to explain the Louisiana Farm Recovery Loan/Grant Program (LFRGLP). Severn indicated that the Firm of Lee Gray, CPA notified LNLA in early June that the LFRGLP was being developed to provide additional assistance to Louisiana producers and agribusinesses that were adversely affected by Hurricane Gustav. Meetings conducted by LDAF have occurred throughout the state and a post card was sent to each LNLA member, with LDAF contact information, should any member be interested in applying.

There being no more business Todd Ellefson moved, seconded by Albert Durio, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting concluded at 3:12 P.M.

Miticides... (Continued from page 29)

edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP383. Regardless of the maximum residual period, it is a good idea to mark some plants and check on the mite population density on these plants weekly to determine the longevity of the treatment. If mite population seems to be on the rebound, a repeated application using a miticide of a different mode of action (i.e. of different IRAC number) will be needed. Always check labels for target species, rates, application instructions, maximum number of application, and sensitive plants.

Article writer by Juang-Hong 'JC' Chong, Clemson University, Pee Dee Research & Education Center. 'The South Carolina Nurseryman' May/June 2009



Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association

Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association

"Serving Louisiana's Green Industry since 1954"

Phone/Fax 318.872.4677

Membership Application

Please select (x) the category that best represents your business:

- Independent Retail Garden Center
- Horticultural Services
- Wholesale Nurseries
- Sod/Turf Producer
- Retail Supplier
- Landscape/Lawn Maintenance
- Wholesale Greenhouse Grower
- Licensed Landscape Design/Architect
- Wholesale Woody Grower
- Licensed Landscape Contractor
- Wholesale Palm Grower
- Irrigation Contractor
- Government Extension Education/Research
- Interior Maintenance Contractor
- Student
- Other

Please select (x) your LNLA membership type:

Regular Members - \$ Based on gross sales

Any Louisiana corporation, partnership, firm, or person engaged in any facet of the green industry or other related business with a definite address and appropriate facilities having further been actively engaged in the nursery business in a reputable, trustworthy and ethical manner.

Dues	Annual Gross Sales
\$50.00	\$0 - \$99,999
\$75.00	\$100,000 - \$249,999
\$150.00	\$250,000 and above

Associate Members - \$100.00

Associate members shall be reputable persons, firms, or corporations outside the state of Louisiana actively engaged in the growing and selling of nursery stock, and reputable persons, firms, or corporations inside or outside the state of Louisiana engaged in the supplying of accessories incidental to the nursery business.

Affiliate Members - \$25.00

Name of business employed by: _____

An employee in any green industry nursery or landscape establishment or other allied industry.

Student Members - \$No Charge

Name of university and location: _____

Any student actively enrolled on a full-time basis in a Louisiana university and majoring in horticulture or a closely allied field.

Governmental Agency/Educational Institution - \$15.00 (effective January 1, 2008)

Any person actively employed by a governmental agency or educational institution, and having a job responsibility in horticulture or closely allied field.

Please PRINT CLEARLY!!! The information provided will be used to print LNLA's annual 'green industry' directory.

OPTIONAL: Members wishing to support these funds should add the \$\$\$ to their dues check. LNLA will forward the funds on to ANLA.

ANLA Beacon Fund - \$10.00 An industry fund supporting federal immigration and labor law reform.

ANLA Lighthouse Fund - \$36.50 An industry fund supporting grassroots legislative lobbying efforts.

Company Name _____ Member Name _____

Mailing Address _____
Street or PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ x _____ FAX (____) _____ E-mail _____

Renewal _____ Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount Remitted \$ _____ ID# _____

New Member _____ Referred by: _____ CK# _____

Turn dues application and check to: _____ \$ _____ File # _____

Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association, 444 Fox Trot Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2009 - June 2010

- Oct 2** **SELNA Trade Show**...details on page 6
Castine Center, Pelican Park, Mandeville, LA
Contact: Annie Coco, (P) 985.748.9381
- Oct 7** **O & T Pesticide Re-Certification Meeting**
Location TBA, Lafayette, LA
Contact: Marty Pousson, (E) marty_p@ldaf.state.la.us
- Oct 7-8** **LIA Training and Annual Meeting**
Avoyelles Parish Office, 8592 Hwy #1, Mansura, LA
Contact: Severn Doughty, Sr., (P) 318.872.4677,
(E) scd357@cmaaccess.com
- Oct 8** **Ornamental Horticulture Field Day**
South MS Branch Experiment Station, Poplarville, MS
Contact: Gene Blythe, (P) 601-795-4525
- Oct 13-14** **SNA Industry Leaders Meeting**
Cobb Galleria, Atlanta, GA
Contact: Eelco Tinga, (P) 770.953.3311
- Oct 14** **LNLA Board Meeting**
Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant, Baton Rouge, LA
Contact: Severn Doughty, Sr., (P) 318.872.4677,
(E) scd357@cmaaccess.com
- Oct 15** **Ornamental and Turfgrass Field Day**
Burden Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Contact: Jeff Kuehny, (E) jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu
- Oct 17-18** **New Orleans Area Fall Garden Show**
City Park Botanical Gardens, New Orleans LA
Contact: Brent Jeansonne, (P) 504.838.1170
(E) bieansonne@agctr.lsu.edu
- Oct 22-23** **SNA Fall Trade Show**
Cobb Galleria Center, Atlanta, GA
Contact: (P) 770-953-3311, (W) www.sna.org
- Oct 24-28** **34th International Plant Propagator's Society, Inc.**
IP Hotel, Biloxi, MS
Contact: Hugh Gramling, (P) 813.655.1914,
(E) hgramling@tbwg.org
- Oct 29** **13th Annual Plant Materials Conference**
Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA
Contact: Allen Owings, (P) 985.543.4125,
(E) aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu
- Nov 18** **O and T Pesticide Re-Certification Meeting**
Location TBA, New Orleans, LA
Contact: Marty Pousson at marty_p@ldaf.state.la.us
- Nov 19** **NW LA Nursery Association Meeting**
American Rose Center, Shreveport, LA
Contact: Severn Doughty, Sr. (E) scd357@cmaaccess.com
- Dec 2** **LNLA Board Meeting**
Prejean's Restaurant, Lafayette, LA
Contact: Severn Doughty, Sr., (P) 318.872.4677,
(E) scd357@cmaaccess.com
- Dec 4** **Poinsettia Open House**
Burden Center, Baton Rouge, La.
Contact: Jeff Kuehny, (E) jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu
- Jan 13** **Louisiana State Horticulture Society Annual Conference**
Calcasieu Parish LSU AgCenter Office, Lake Charles, La.
Contact: Robert Turley at rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu
- Jan 21-23** **Gulf States Horticultural Expo**
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center, Mobile, AL
Contact: www.gshe.org
- Feb 10-12** **SNA Tradeshow & Research Conference**
Cobb Galleria, Atlanta, Ga.
Contact: www.sna.org
- Feb 18** **LIA Training and Annual Meeting**
Avoyelles Parish Office, 8592 Hwy #1, Mansura, LA
Contact: Severn Doughty, Sr., (P) 318.872.4677,
(E) scd357@cmaaccess.com
- Mar 11-12** **Certified Nursery & Landscape Prof. Review & Exam**
Burden Research Station, Baton Rouge, LA
Contact: Dan Gill, (P) 225.578.2413,
(E) dgill@agcenter.lsu.edu

(Continued from page 26)

whole pine tree (WPT) substrates for the propagation and production of containerized nursery stock. WPT chips are obtained from forestry thinning operations and processed into a particle size suitable for container production. The rapidly reducing supply of pine bark has led to increased interest in WPT substrates. Mr. Witcher is currently working with an area chipping operation interested in producing WPT substrates. Witcher's research at the USDA-ARS is focused on optimizing WPT substrates so they can be a suitable replacement for pine bark. Although the chemical properties of WPT substrates are similar to pine bark, proper nutrient and irrigation will vary depending on the particle size of the WPT substrate.

For more information on WPT substrates contact Anthony Witcher, (E) anthony.witcher@ars.usda.gov.

The Louisiana Nursery & Landscape News is the official publication of the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. Contact LNLA's Editors if you have green industry news, announcements, have questions or comments concerning it's content. Visit our website at www.lnla.org.
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Fig. 5 Vinca 'Grape Cooler', page 21

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