



Louisiana Nursery and Landscape News

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2000

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen

Louisiana Nursery and Landscape News is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen as a member service. The opinions and statements expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of LAN, its staff, Board of Directors, or its editors. Likewise, advertisements do not constitute an endorsement of the featured products or services. ●

Newsletter Highlights

LAN Officers, Board and Committees	
Awareness Day Promotes Agriculture	pg 2
In Memoriam	
The News	
Congratulations!	
On The Web	
Welcome! New Members	pg 3
SW Louisiana Garden Festival	pg 4
Azalea Society of America 2000 Convention	pg 5
Educational Activities in 2000	pg 6
Board of Directors Minutes - September '99	
Jonquil Jubilee	pg 7
Fire Ant Quarantine Funding	
This Week in Louisiana Agriculture	pg 8
Board of Directors Minutes - December '99	
Dodson Group Ad	pg 9
Perennial Plants of the Year	
Minimum Wage	
New Mulch Standards	pg 10
Angelionias Continue Popularity Increase	
Mark Mayberry Coming in May	pg 11
New "Month-by-Month" Gardening Guide	
Bracy's Nursery Ad	pg 12
Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Workshops	pg 13
CNP Review and Exam Application	pg 14
2000 Membership Application	pg 15
Florida Pine Straw Ad	pg 16

Newsletter Plans...

Welcome to the first LAN newsletter for 2000. We will be having a newsletter available on a quarterly schedule in 2000. This a change from the six newsletters published in both 1998 and 1999. The LAN board of directors is also desiring to increase circulation of a "green industry" magazine, our newsletter (now called "Louisiana Nursery and Landscape News"), or similar item to all industry members in the state. With this in mind, our newsletter will be distributed to all 450 LAN members in addition to over 600 wholesale nurseries and 1400 licensed landscape contractors in the state starting with the next issue. You will also see a slightly higher increase in copy quality and an increased page length with slightly more advertisements and increased research and extension information from the LSU Agricultural Center.

We hope you find these new changes useful. In the long run these changes will result in increased information exchange for Louisiana's "green industry" professionals and increased publicity and awareness for LAN activities.

You are receiving this newsletter right about the time for our 2nd annual Gulf States Horticultural Expo. This has already turned out to be a great event for LAN and also our sister associations in Alabama and Mississippi. We hope you are taking advantage of this great opportunity. The opportunity to be an active participant (whether attendee or exhibitor) in *The Show For The Gulf South!*

LAN has several upcoming educational opportunities. Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Workshops are scheduled for February 8 in Calhoun (for our north Louisiana audiences) and February 16 in Baton Rouge. See details elsewhere in this newsletter. Also watch for more information on Mark Mayberry's "Heart and Soul Service" program on May 3 in Baton Rouge. ✪



"... I not only give your audience innovative action steps that will increase the productivity and profitability in their organizations - I inspire them to go back to their workplace and actually implement my dynamic strategies!"

Mark Mayberry,
Article - page 11

Allen Owings
Executive Secretary



2000 LAN Officers, Board & Committees

OFFICERS

President

Wanda Chase, Imahara's Landscape, 225/ 767-2250

Past President

Rick Webb, Louisiana Growers, 504/ 748-5850

1st Vice-President

Randy Bracy, Bracy's Nursery, 504/ 748-4716

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David Lowery, Windmill Nurseries, 504/ 796-9655

Executive Secretary

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Mike Hoogland, Hoogland's Nursery & Landscape, 318/ 746-8655

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Frances Thorne, Thorne's Plant Farm, 318/ 462-2914

Associate Director

Andy Zimlich, Lerio Corporation, 800/ 457-8113

Director/ Research & Education

Dan Gill, LSU Agricultural Center, 504/ 482-1107

Administrative Assistant

Laura Crnko, 225/ 667-4744

COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Chris Bollich, Ed Bush, Dan Gill, Allen Owings, Wanda Chase

Executive Committee

Randy Bracy, Wanda Chase, Gerald Foret, David Lowery, Allen Owings

Finance Committee

Randy Bracy, Wanda Chase, Allen Owings

Louisiana Farm Bureau Nurserymen's Committee

Dan Devenport, Robby Barry

Membership Committee

Chris Bollich, Laura Crnko, David Lowery

Research Priority Committee

Robby Barry, Dan Devenport, Mike Levy, Pat Newman, Pat Steltz

'Awareness Day' Offers Teachers Hand-on Experience with Agriculture

Educators from the New Orleans area got their hands full of useful information at the 3rd Annual Agricultural Awareness Day Educators Conference, Saturday (Nov. 13), at Grace King High School in Metairie.

"Some of your students don't know where their food or clothing comes from and that is where you come in," said Harvey Reed III, president of the Greater New Orleans Agricultural Coalition and owner of Reed's Agricultural Service in New Orleans, while stressing it still is important for today's young people to have an understanding of agriculture.

Reed also promised teachers the information shared with them during the conference would be helpful when they get back to their classes and face agricultural questions from their students.

LSU Agricultural Center Chancellor Bill Richardson told of his wife being a teacher and said he sympathized with the educators on hand for the event. "I know it may be hard for some to believe, but there are some kids out there who actually think that milk comes from a carton," Richardson said.

He challenged teachers to go back to their classes with the information and let the kids know that only 2 percent of the total population are producing food and fiber for the remaining 98 percent of us. "That's how important the American farmer is to us," Richardson said. Congressman David Vitter also was on hand to update the group on key agricultural issues in Congress.

Vitter provided updates on major agricultural bills currently in Congress and said one of the most urgent issues facing Louisiana agriculture is protecting what's left of our dairy industry. "In 1970, Louisiana had more than 12,000 dairy farmers, but today there are only 540," Vitter said. "We are now losing about one a week - and that's a real tragedy."

During the conference, teachers got hands-on experience with the mobile Farm Barn that had sheep, goats and a pig, so the teachers could get close to animals and get a real feel for agriculture. The Farm Barn travels throughout the Jefferson and Orleans parish area offering schoolchildren the same hands-on experience.

In past years, the Ag Awareness Day event has been held at Booker T. Washington in New Orleans. But Ag Coalition members say that "the plan is to increase the event to twice a year, hopefully expanding to the point of involving all of the surrounding parishes."

The Agricultural Awareness Day Conference is a joint effort of the Jefferson Parish School System, New Orleans Public Schools, the LSU Agricultural Center's Cooperative Extension Service and the Greater New Orleans Agricultural Coalition. *



In Memoriam

Rene Arthur Gaudet, president of J and M Industries in Ponchatoula passed away on December 31, 1999. The Louisiana "green industry" expresses out condolences to the Gaudet family.

George B. Bush of Bush's Best Compost in LaMarque, TX died in an automobile accident on September 25, 1999. The Louisiana "green industry" expresses out sympathy to the Bush family.

The News

The **Baton Rouge Landscape Association (BRLA)** held its annual Christmas gala at Boudreaux's in Baton Rouge on December 13th. Charles Fryling presented a slide show of flora and fauna of the Atchafalaya Basin. Officers installed for 2000 were: President - Emily Stitch, President-Elect - Jimmy Culpepper, Treasurer - Emily Creed, Secretary - Steve Robertson, Newsletter Editor - Craig Rhodes, Board Members - Scott Ricca, Claude Kuttruff, and Angelo Distefano.

The **Southeast Louisiana Nurserymen's Association** held their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 13 at the home of Margie Jenkins.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner for the **Southwest Louisiana Nurserymen's Association** was held at the Calcasieu Agricultural Center office in Lake Charles on November 17th. Host was Robert Turley.

The Louisiana chapter of the **Azalea Society of America** held a Christmas dinner at the home of Roy and Dale Constantin at the Hammond Research Station in Hammond on December 14th.

Congratulations !

Jim Berry, Flowerwood Nurseries and Plant Development Services, Inc. of Loxley, AL and **Buddy Martin**, Martin's Nursery, Semmes, AL were elected fellows of the International Plant Propagator' Society - Southern Region during their annual meeting held in Mobile during October.

Allen Owings, extension horticulture specialist with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and **Dale Pollet**, extension entomology specialist with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, received programming excellence awards during the annual LSU Ag Center conference recently held in Baton Rouge.

Robert Strange, Robert Strange Nursery, Forest Hill, was recently recognized as one of the National Republican

Congressional Committee's 1999 Businessmen of the Year. This award is annually given to top business leaders in the country who have been instrumental in support of the NRCC's national objectives.

On The Web

Louisiana Association of Nurserymen
www.lan.org

Bracy's Nursery
www.bracys.com

Louisiana Growers
www.lagrowers.com

All-America Selections
www.all-americanselections.org

Windmill Nurseries
www.windmillnurseries.com

Welcome! New Members

Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
Jimmy Bellelo
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Landscape Specialty, Inc.
Randy Loud
Gretna, LA

Louisiana State University - Student
John Young
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Technical College - Student
Glenda Adams & Susan Farris
St. Gabriel, LA

Premier Horticulture
Doug Temple
Point, TX

Seal Nursery & Landscape
Billy Seal
Franklinton, LA

The District Gardens
Lawrence Tanner
Lake Charles, LA

Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival 2000

Lake Charles, Louisiana

SouthWest Louisiana's New Garden Show

March 25th & 26th

Saturday 9 to 5 – Sunday 11 to 4

**Burton Coliseum Outdoor Arena
7100 Gulf Hwy.**

BOOTHS WILL INCLUDE:

*All kinds of garden plants and more plants... garden
statuary... books... garden furniture... garden
equipment... much, much more !!*

Door Prizes !!

GARDEN TALKS with select speakers.

ADMISSION \$1.00...proceeds benefit the Calcasieu Parish 4-H Youth
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Gardener Magazine

ASA 2000 CONVENTION -

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

[Ed. Note Quoted material about garden tour destinations is taken from the Charleston, South Carolina, Area Official Visitors Guide.]

The annual meeting and convention of the Azalea Society of America, to be held in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 22-24, 2000, is going to be an adventurous and exciting series of events. According to the official visitors' guide for the Charleston area, "Charleston is America's most beautifully preserved architectural and historic treasure, with a rich, 300-year heritage. Since its founding in 1670, Charleston has played an important and often pivotal role in the course of America." The people in Charleston have been very helpful and friendly with the planning of this convention, and are elated that the Azalea Society of America has chosen their area for this national convention.

Speakers: A wonderful array of knowledgeable speakers has been assembled for the evening lectures/slide presentations. These are informative speakers, and the time and energy that they put into each of their presentations will not only be a labor of love, but also a gift to the membership of themselves and their expertise about azaleas. Many thanks to the speakers. They are:

Wednesday night: 1) Kathy Woolsey, Horticulturist at Cypress Gardens, "Azaleas in the Charleston Area." 2) Donald H. Voss, Vienna, Virginia, "How Azaleas Came to Our Gardens." 3) Hank Bruno, Trails Manager at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia, "Azalea Diversity - Back to the Future."

Thursday night: 1) Jeff Beasley, co-owner of Transplant Nursery, Lavonia, Georgia, "Natives Azaleas." 2) Fred and Jean Minch, Puyallup, Washington, "Azalea Hybridizing." 3) Maarten van der Giessen, Van der Giessen Nursery, Semmes, Alabama, "Azalea Diversity."

Friday night banquet: Barbara Stump, Editor of THE AZALEAN and graduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, "Building a New Public Garden: the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden from the Ground Up."

Tours: When planning places to tour in the Charleston area, there was one major obstacle: too many interesting places to tour, and not enough time. With only two days of scheduled tours for the convention, tough choices had to be made. Convention attendees should try to schedule a couple of days before or after the convention so they can visit more of this fascinating area.

On March 23, 2000, bright and early, the buses will leave for the first day of scheduled tours. The first stop will be Magnolia Plantation. Again, from the Visitors' Guide, "This 17th century estate, acquired by the Drayton family (whose heirs still own it) features the year-round bloom of America's oldest garden (c. 1680), boasting one of the largest collections of azaleas and camellias in the country. Highlights include the pre-Revolutionary War plantation house with museum-quality early American antiques, biblical gardens, antebellum cabin, nature trail, wildlife observation tower, gift shop, gallery of a nature and wildlife artist, snack shop, canoe and bike rentals, and more. Bird walks Saturday a.m. According to Fred C. Galle's Azaleas, the first Southern Indian type azaleas to be grown outdoors in the southern U.S. were planted by Rev. John

G. Drayton at Magnolia Gardens.

Next on the tour will be Middleton Place: "A carefully preserved 18th century plantation and a national historic landmark, Middleton Place encompasses America's oldest landscaped gardens. Rare camellias, azaleas, magnolias and ancient live oaks accent a landscape design that remains magnificent all year. The plantation stable yards are complete with animals, and craftspeople demonstrating the tasks vital to plantation life." Lunch will be served at Middleton Place Restaurant.

To conclude Wednesday's tour, if time permits, a bus tour of Charleston's Historic District has been scheduled. Commentary by a licensed guide will include 300 years of tradition and history along with Charleston's role in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Sites on the tour includes mansions on the Battery, Rainbow Row, and St. Michael's Church (c. 1761), along with many gardens.

Friday morning we will begin our second day of tours in the Monck's Corner, South Carolina, area. Our first stop will be the azalea and camellia gardens at the Mepkin Abbey. "Mepkin, located on the highest bluff on the Cooper River, was originally the home of Henry Laurens, the great South Carolina statesman who spent much of his life experimenting with exotic botanical specimens." Presently, the garden at Mepkin Abbey, under the direction of Jim Martin, is being developed into a botanical garden.

The next stop will be Carolina Nurseries, Inc., the largest nursery in South Carolina. This nursery is privately owned and operated by a small employee group. The nursery totals 700 acres with approximately 280 acres presently in containerized nursery stock production. During peak seasons, employment usually exceeds 400 people. Lunch will be served, and J. Guy of Carolina Nurseries will speak on the azalea hybrids grown at the nursery. After lunch we will be on our way to Cypress Gardens. "Here you can stroll along four miles of walking trails that wind through the area's cypress swamp...Relax in a unique and exciting butterfly house which features a vast array of native butterflies and the plants they thrive upon...Or explore an aquarium that offers an up-close look at the amphibians, reptiles, and fish indigenous to the cypress swamp. For many visitors, Cypress Gardens proves to be their favorite experience, because it allows one to interact with the area's beauty!"

We will end this day of tours with a garden bus tour of Historic Summerville, Charleston's Victorian village. Our guides will board the motor coaches as we arrive in the town, just beyond the Ashley River plantations.

Our convention headquarters is located at the Holiday Inn Convention Center/Airport, 6099 Fain Street - Airport I-26 & West Aviation Avenue, North Charleston, SC. Complimentary 24-hour shuttle to and from the airport is provided. To make room reservations, please call 1-843-744-1621. Room reservation (\$75.00 plus tax) must be made no later than February 22, 2000 to assure room availability. Registration to the convention may be limited; early registration is highly recommended.

For additional information or comments, please contact either Jerry Ladner at 1-228-832-0236 or Robert Lee at rdlee@I-55.com.. Hope to see you in Charleston next spring!

◆



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN 2000

- January 27** Gulf States Horticulture Expo Educational Seminars
Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, AL
- February 8** Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Workshop
Calhoun Research Station, Calhoun, LA
- February 16** Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Workshop
Burden Research Plantation, Baton Rouge, LA
- March 2 - 3** Certified Nursery Professional Manual Review & Exam
Burden Research Plantation, Baton Rouge, LA
- May 3** Retail Workshop - "Heart and Soul Service"
Location TBA, Baton Rouge, LA
- June 6 - 8** Mid-South Greenhouse Growers Workshop
Ramada Inn - Southwest Conference Center, Jackson, MS
- July 6 - 7** Certified Nursery Professional Manual Review & Exam
Barnwell Center, Shreveport, LA
- September 7 - 8** Certified Nursery Professional Manual Review & Exam
Botanical Garden Study Room, New Orleans, LA
- September TBA** 6th Annual Louisiana Plant Materials Conference
Location TBA, Baton Rouge, LA
- October TBA** Ornamental Pest Management Workshop
Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA

Produced in association with Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service



MINUTES
Louisiana Association of Nurserymen
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 1999
Baton Rouge, LA

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am. The meeting was held at Ralph and Kacoo's on Bluebonnet Drive in Baton Rouge. Attendees were Allen Owings, Dan Devenport, Frances Thorne, Mike Hoogland, David Lowery, Randy Bracy, Laura Crnko, Dan Gill, Andy Zimlich, Pat Newman, Rick Webb, and Wanda Chase. Guests present were Howard Thorne, Ed Bush (LSU) and Jeff Kuehny (LSU). Board members absent were Robbie Dupont, Robby Barry, and Chris Bollich.

Dan Devenport moved, Dan Gill seconded, that the minutes of the May 5, 1999 board meeting in Baton Rouge be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Randy Bracy presented a financial report for the second quarter of 1999. Ending balance for June 30, 1999 was \$213,126. This compared to an ending balance (1st quarter) on March 31, 1999 of \$165,523. Income in second quarter was \$56,830 with expenses of \$9,227 for net second quarter profit of \$47,603. Motion was moved and seconded to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Income for 1999 through August 31, 1999 is \$83,537 with expenses of \$33,662 (net profit of \$49,875).

A discussion was held in regard to revision of the LAN "manual". Allen Owings reported that December 1999 is a goal to complete corrections/additions/revisions. It was suggested that we communicate with Craig Roussel and Mark LeBlanc at LDAF to be sure to include their suggestions. Allen Owings will be the responsible party on this matter if revisions are not completed by the requested date.

Brief reports were given from the TAN/MISSLARK and SNA Trade Shows. New name for TAN/MISSLARK will be The Nursery/Landscape Expo- LAN continues as participating partner.

Rick Webb gave a brief update on GSHE board activities, booth availability/expansion options, etc.

Mike Hoogland moved, Randy Bracy seconded, that LAN endorse the Dodson Group for workers compensation insurance (see May board minutes). We will finalize agreement on October 8th unless a board member raises "a red flag" prior to that time.

Randy Bracy, David Lowery and Mike Hoogland provided a report from the Future Projects (Budget Expenditure) Committee (file on copy at LAN office). Programs recommended include extension associate (\$15,000), research (\$5,000 in addition to \$10,000 already budgeted), scholarship (\$2,000 in addition to \$3,000 already budgeted), Horticulture Research Institute (\$1,000), trade show socials (\$3,000), educational publication semi-annually for retailers, growers, landscapers (\$5,000),

upgrade web site (\$3,000), "Plants for Louisiana" publication (\$4,500), legislative gifts (\$500), video tapes for retailers (\$2,500), membership meeting with LPMC (\$1,500), and promotional banners for retailers (\$1,000). All of these were approved by majority or unanimously vote except for the following:

- ◆ \$1,000 for 4' x 6' banners for retailers was approved on a motion, second, and voice vote. Pat Newman moved, Wanda Chase seconded, a motion to reconsider. Motion to reconsider passed by required majority to approve. Wanda Chase moved, Dan Gill seconded, a motion to table this proposal until December 1999 board meeting. Motion to table passed.
- ◆ Video tape for retailers - This idea should be funded with grant monies if available.

Dan Gill moved, Wanda Chase seconded, that LAN be a corporate sponsor (\$500) for Hilltop Arboretum's "Leave a Legacy - 2000 Trees in 2000" campaign. Motion passed.

Randy Bracy mentioned that we need "green industry" representation in the LSU Agricultural Center's Leadership Development Class. Deadline to apply is October.

Dan Devenport provided a LFBF Nurserymen Committee update.

Allen Owings mentioned the upcoming nursery research open house at the LSU Hill Farm.

Rick Webb appointed France Thorne, Allen Owings, and Randy Bracy (chair) to the nomination and awards committee. Rick Webb also appointed Mike Hoogland, Dan Devenport, and Dan Gill to the scholarship selection committee.

Board agreed by consensus to allow Laura Crnko \$500 for computer program upgrade and \$100 for any educational fees to improve newsletter quality.

The next board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 1999. Motion to adjourn at 2:40pm. Passed unanimously. ✨



Jonquil Jubilee

Sister's Bulb Farm
Gibsland, LA

March 4 - 5, 2000
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information contact:
Cella Jones - (318) 843-9244

FIRE ANT QUARANTINE FUNDING:



Nursery Industry Needs to Adopt Strategy to Restore Funding

The "imported fire ant" line item in the USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) budget for FY2000 has been drastically cut. This cut means an immediate shortfall in federal funds that go to assist infested states in conducting regulatory activities. It also threatens the future of the federal quarantine itself. The nursery industry in the Southeast and South needs to build consensus on a response.

For many years, the federal domestic imported fire ant quarantine has established uniform rules for movement of nursery stock and other regulated articles from infested areas to uninfested areas. For nurserymen, the quarantine has meant a consistent set of rules for treating and certifying stock. It has also brought compliance and recordkeeping burdens. Still, the industry has historically supported one consistent set of rules rather than a patchwork quilt of different -- even conflicting -- state regulations.

APHIS funding for all domestic programs has declined dramatically. Over the last ten years, the fire ant budget declined from \$3 million \$1 million. The nursery industry has actively and successfully lobbied to maintain a base of \$1 million for about five years. For FY2000, despite our efforts, the budget was cut to just \$100,000. About half of that money is committed to a research project in New Mexico. The cuts will directly affect state departments of agriculture by eliminating federal funds used for survey and regulatory enforcement. Unless funding is restored, pressure will increase to rescind the federal quarantine.



What would happen if the federal quarantine were rescinded? 1. Many uninfested states in the East, Midwest and West would impose their own quarantines. History with pests like Japanese beetle shows that many states will implement different, and tougher, requirements than we have currently. Imagine having to jump through ten different hoops in ten states! Also, the cost of funding quarantine activities may shift to the nursery industry, through user fees or other mechanisms.

2. The Imported Fire Ant Station research program headed by Homer Collins may stop conducting fire ant research. This lab is working on the "next generation" of chemicals and control strategies. Support for that work would disappear with the quarantine. How should the industry respond? First, we need to ensure consensus on industry support for the federal quarantine. Assuming broad industry support for maintaining the quarantine, we need to take action early in 2000. First, USDA-APHIS plans to hold several

Remember to watch
your Louisiana
ag information source,

THIS WEEK IN LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE.

Broadcast on these local stations:

Baton Rouge	WAFB-TV9	Sat. 5 a.m.
Lafayette	KATC-TV3	Sun. 6 a.m.
Alexandria	KALB-TV5	Sun. 5:30 a.m.
Monroe	KNOE-TV8	Sat. 5:30 a.m.
Natchitoches	KNTS-TV17	Sat. 7 a.m.



public hearings on the quarantine. Most of these will be in southern states. We need to mobilize industry and state regulatory program speakers to deliver the message at those hearings.

Secondly, we need to work with Congress, and especially members of the agriculture appropriations subcommittees, to let them know the importance of the fire ant line item in APHIS budget. This work must be completed during January, February, and March. It will take a concerted effort with everyone's help to restore and maintain this important program.*

Prepared by Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Director of Government Relations, American Nursery & Landscape Association





MINUTES
Louisiana Association of Nurserymen
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 1999
Lafayette, LA

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 am. The meeting was held at Prejean's Restaurant in Lafayette/Carencro. Attendees were Allen Owings, Rick Webb, David Lowery, Frances Thorne, Gerald Foret, Andy Zimlich, Randy Bracy, Robby Barry, Mike Hoogland, Dan Gill, and Laura Crnko. Guests present were Howard Thorne and Ed Bush (LSU). Board members absent were Wanda Chase, Robbie Dupont, Chris Bollich, Pat Newman, and Dan Devenport.

David Lowery moved, Frances Thorne seconded, that the minutes of the September 8, 1999 board meeting in Baton Rouge be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Webb gave a report and lead discussion pertaining to the Gulf States Horticultural Expo. Booths will number 600. Need volunteers from LAN to work trade show move-in. Education will once again be held on Thursday. The Thursday night social traditionally held at Russo's will be held at the Exporium with the same sponsorships as previously. Adam's Mark Hotel still will not have hot water. Rick Webb reported that March/April 2000 will be the timetable for reviewing our GSHE agreement with MNA and ANA.

Mike Hoogland moved, David Lowery seconded that LAN budget \$1500 - 2000 for our social in Mobile. Social will be held Friday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Rick's Presidential Suite at the Adam's Mark. Friday morning at 7:30 am is the proposed schedule for LAN's annual membership meeting (David Lowery moved, Mike Hoogland seconded).

Research funding/budgeting was discussed. Allen Owings stated that LAN budgeted \$10,000 for research funding support in 1999 and only \$1,500 was expended. Board agreed that these funds (\$8,500) would be allocated in 2000 in addition to our plans to budget \$15,000 for research support in 2000. Rick Webb will discuss research priority committee responsibilities with Pat Newman. Board requested annual reports from LSU Ag Center on ornamental projects. Ed Bush stated that these are available in several forms and Allen Owings agreed to attempt

better dissemination of research results to the LAN board and industry. Randy Bracy moved, Dan Gill seconded, that LAN adopt the grant request form developed by Allen Owings in awarding future funding (see meeting packet - copy on file in LAN office).

David Lowery will lead efforts to work on newsletter enhancement in 2000.

Rick Webb, Randy Bracy and Gary Marmillion were named to a committee to expand LAN website efforts.

Dan Gill, Allen Owings, David Lowery, and Mike Hoogland will head effort of "Plants for Louisiana Landscape" publication. We need to pursue sponsorship/advertisement, pre-publication sales, and make critical review of plant material list to include.

In old business, Rick Webb requested that everyone come up with ideas for "video tape for retailers" that we have suggested developing.

Randy Bracy moved, Dan Gill seconded, to make banners for retailers promoting CNP's. Budget up to \$1,000 for initial expenditure. Wait on association name change. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial report was presented by Randy Bracy. End of third quarter showed current balance of \$216,416. Year-to-date income (through 3rd quarter) is \$88,149 with expenses of \$36,965 for total net income of \$51,184. Mike Hoogland moved, Frances Thorne seconded, that the financial report be approved as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Randy Bracy gave a report for the nominating committee. Wanda Chase - President, Randy Bracy - Vice President, David Lowery - Treasurer. Board Members (expiring in 2002) - Frances Thorne, Mike Hoogland, Chris Bollich, Andy Zimlich, and Tom Fennell (replacing Dupont). Board members (expiring in 2001 - replace Lowery) - Murphy Johnson. Nominating committee report passed unanimously on motion by Andy Zimlich and seconded by Dan Gill.

Rick Webb discussed information from Louisiana Public Broadcasting. Corporate membership is \$1,200/year and provides "general support announcements." These are about 96

continued on next page....

DODSON GROUP*

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FIRE ANT QUARANTINE FUNDING:



Nursery Industry Needs to Adopt Strategy to Restore Funding

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APHIS funding for all domestic programs has declined dramatically. Over the last ten years, the fire ant budget declined from \$3 million \$1 million. The nursery industry has actively and successfully lobbied to maintain a base of \$1 million for about five years. For FY2000, despite our efforts, the budget was cut to just \$100,000. About half of that money is committed to a research project in New Mexico. The cuts will directly affect state departments of agriculture by eliminating federal funds used for survey and regulatory enforcement. Unless funding is restored, pressure will increase to rescind the federal quarantine.



What would happen if the federal quarantine were rescinded? 1. Many uninfested states in the East, Midwest and West would impose their own quarantines. History with pests like Japanese beetle shows that many states will implement different, and tougher, requirements than we have currently. Imagine having to jump through ten different hoops in ten states! Also, the cost of funding quarantine activities may shift to the nursery industry, through user fees or other mechanisms.

2. The Imported Fire Ant Station research program headed by Homer Collins may stop conducting fire ant research. This lab is working on the "next generation" of chemicals and control strategies. Support for that work would disappear with the quarantine. How should the industry respond? First, we need to ensure consensus on industry support for the federal quarantine. Assuming broad industry support for maintaining the quarantine, we need to take action early in 2000. First, USDA-APHIS plans to hold several

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THIS WEEK IN LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE.

Broadcast on these local stations:

Baton Rouge	WAFB-TV9	Sat. 5 a.m.
Lafayette	KATC-TV3	Sun. 6 a.m.
Alexandria	KALB-TV5	Sun. 5:30 a.m.
Monroe	KNOE-TV8	Sat. 5:30 a.m.
Natchitoches	KNTS-TV17	Sat. 7 a.m.



public hearings on the quarantine. Most of these will be in southern states. We need to mobilize industry and state regulatory program speakers to deliver the message at those hearings.

Secondly, we need to work with Congress, and especially members of the agriculture appropriations subcommittees, to let them know the importance of the fire ant line item in APHIS budget. This work must be completed during January, February, and March. It will take a concerted effort with everyone's help to restore and maintain this important program. *

Prepared by Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Director of Government Relations, American Nursery & Landscape Association





MINUTES

Louisiana Association of Nurserymen
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 1999
Lafayette, LA

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 am. The meeting was held at Prejean's Restaurant in Lafayette/Carencro. Attendees were Allen Owings, Rick Webb, David Lowery, Frances Thorne, Gerald Foret, Andy Zimlich, Randy Bracy, Robby Barry, Mike Hoogland, Dan Gill, and Laura Crnko. Guests present were Howard Thorne and Ed Bush (LSU). Board members absent were Wanda Chase, Robbie Dupont, Chris Bollich, Pat Newman, and Dan Devenport.

David Lowery moved, Frances Thorne seconded, that the minutes of the September 8, 1999 board meeting in Baton Rouge be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Webb gave a report and lead discussion pertaining to the Gulf States Horticultural Expo. Booths will number 600. Need volunteers from LAN to work trade show move-in. Education will once again be held on Thursday. The Thursday night social traditionally held at Russo's will be held at the Exporium with the same sponsorships as previously. Adam's Mark Hotel still will not have hot water. Rick Webb reported that March/April 2000 will be the timetable for reviewing our GSHE agreement with MNA and ANA.

Mike Hoogland moved, David Lowery seconded that LAN budget \$1500 - 2000 for our social in Mobile. Social will be held Friday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Rick's Presidential Suite at the Adam's Mark. Friday morning at 7:30 am is the proposed schedule for LAN's annual membership meeting (David Lowery moved, Mike Hoogland seconded).

Research funding/budgeting was discussed. Allen Owings stated that LAN budgeted \$10,000 for research funding support in 1999 and only \$1,500 was expended. Board agreed that these funds (\$8,500) would be allocated in 2000 in addition to our plans to budget \$15,000 for research support in 2000. Rick Webb will discuss research priority committee responsibilities with Pat Newman. Board requested annual reports from LSU Ag Center on ornamental projects. Ed Bush stated that these are available in several forms and Allen Owings agreed to attempt

better dissemination of research results to the LAN board and industry. Randy Bracy moved, Dan Gill seconded, that LAN adopt the grant request form developed by Allen Owings in awarding future funding (see meeting packet - copy on file in LAN office).

David Lowery will lead efforts to work on newsletter enhancement in 2000.

Rick Webb, Randy Bracy and Gary Marmillion were named to a committee to expand LAN website efforts.

Dan Gill, Allen Owings, David Lowery, and Mike Hoogland will head effort of "Plants for Louisiana Landscape" publication. We need to pursue sponsorship/advertisement, pre-publication sales, and make critical review of plant material list to include.

In old business, Rick Webb requested that everyone come up with ideas for "video tape for retailers" that we have suggested developing.

Randy Bracy moved, Dan Gill seconded, to make banners for retailers promoting CNP's. Budget up to \$1,000 for initial expenditure. Wait on association name change. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial report was presented by Randy Bracy. End of third quarter showed current balance of \$216,416. Year-to-date income (through 3rd quarter) is \$88,149 with expenses of \$36,965 for total net income of \$51,184. Mike Hoogland moved, Frances Thorne seconded, that the financial report be approved as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Randy Bracy gave a report for the nominating committee. Wanda Chase - President, Randy Bracy - Vice President, David Lowery - Treasurer. Board Members (expiring in 2002) - Frances Thorne, Mike Hoogland, Chris Bollich, Andy Zimlich, and Tom Fennell (replacing Dupont). Board members (expiring in 2001 - replace Lowery) - Murphy Johnson. Nominating committee report passed unanimously on motion by Andy Zimlich and seconded by Dan Gill.

Rick Webb discussed information from Louisiana Public Broadcasting. Corporate membership is \$1,200/year and provides "general support announcements." These are about 96

continued on next page....

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... continued from previous page
 fifteen second spots run during Saturday morning lineup (gardening program/home improvement oriented). This will cover Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, Shreveport, and Alexandria markets - does not include New Orleans (Dan Gill will check on New Orleans market). Randy Bracy moved, Dan Gill seconded, that we approve a LAN corporate membership for 2000. Approved unanimously. Rick Webb presented a request from Louisiana Urban Forestry Council to sponsor activities at upcoming annual conference. Dan Gill moved, Mike Hoogland seconded, to fund \$300 for sponsorship of afternoon break time. Motion passed unanimously.

Allen Owings reported that a golf tourney could be held by LAN. Board requested finalization of budget details for the next board meeting.

Board agreed to meet in Baton Rouge on February 9, 2000.

Being no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. *



Association

Perennial Plants of the Year

- 1990 - Phlox stolonifera
- 1991 - 'Palace Purples' Heuchera
- 1992 - 'Moonbeam' Coreopsis
- 1993 - 'Sunny Border Blue' Veronica
- 1994 - 'Sprite' Astilbe
- 1995 - Perovskia atriplicifolia (Russian Sage)
- 1996 - 'Husker Red'
- 1997 - 'May Night' Salvia
- 1998 - 'Magnus' Echinacea
- 1999 - 'Goldsturm' Rudbeckia
- 2000 - 'Butterfly Blue' Scabiosa

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Minimum Wage

The Senate and the House Ways and Means Committee have voted in favor of proposal that would raise the minimum wage over a period of three years.

The Senate bill, which was approved by a mostly party line 54-44 margin, includes \$75 million in tax cuts over to years. This proposal was voted on as an amendment to a bankruptcy reform measure that has not been acted upon yet by the Senate. Notable provisions in the Senate bill include favorable pension reform.

The minimum wage hike passed by the House Ways and Means Committee and reported out to congress on November 11 amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. It calls for an increase the Federal minimum wage, currently \$5.15/hour, to \$5.48/hour beginning on April 1, 2000. The bill calls for further increases to \$5.81/hour in 2001 and \$6.15/hour in 2002. The bill also includes a package of pension provisions that would increase annual caps among numerous tax cuts and other provisions.*

Peter Gerstenberger is director of business management, safety & education for the National Arborist Association.

New Mulch Standards

The National Bark and Soil Producers Association (NBSPA) has announced its consolidation and revision of industry standards for horticultural mulches, consumer potting soils, commercial growing media and related products.

The revised document was drafted by the association's Standards Committee in preparation for a major launch of an industry-wide voluntary product certification program scheduled for the latter portion of 2000. The consolidated document incorporates both industry standards and state regulatory guidelines.

As part of its standards-making process, the NBSPA invites public comment on the consolidated standards document

... NBSPA invites public comment on the consolidated standards document prior to submitting a final version for adoption ...

prior to submitting a final version for adoption by its membership in February 2000. A copy of the document may be found on the association's Web site at www.nbspa.org. Any party interested in submitting comments should address them by e-mail to execdir@nbspa.org or in writing to NBSPA, 10210 Leatherleaf Ct., Manassas, VA 20111-4245.*

Angelonias

Continue To Rate High As New Plants

The 30-inch tall, spiky blue flowers of the angelonia continue to be the most impressive of recent plant introductions. In a world where round flowers seem to dominate, the texture from the plant is a joy to behold. The Florida Plant of the Year in 1998 was a variety called Hilo Princess, and it performs well here too!

They have been readily available this year. One thing that surprises me is that the price on angelonias is really a good value. Plant in well-drained, well-prepared beds rich in organic matter. Choose a site in full sun for best flowering. It is hard to believe that a plant in the snapdragon family relishes our summer heat and humidity. Hybridizers, if you are reading this article, please bring us more plants like this one. Once established in the bed, it seems to have remarkable drought tolerance. This is particularly true in organic-rich beds where a layer of mulch has been added. Pay attention though. If we should go through a really prolonged dry spell, supplemental irrigation would be needed. Please do not stick this wonderful plant in tight, cement-like soil. Light, monthly applications of a 2-1-2-ratio fertilizer, such as a 10-5-10 with minor nutrients, are all that is needed to keep this plant blooming. The bloom period is really long, and when it does want to cycle, it responds well to trimming back with a pair of pruning shears.

Angelonias will be treated as an annual most years in USDA hardiness zones 7-8 but can be perennial in zone 9. However, they have come back the past two years at the Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station in Crystal Springs, MS. They really came back vigorously this year. The poorer the drainage, the less likely they will return.

There are white varieties and pink ones that look awesome planted in front of tall purple coneflowers. One of the most vigorous angelonias is called Tiger Princess and has flowers that are a bluish-purple with a white stripe. This variety was made to be planted with Shasta daisies or white zinnias. Plant gurus who like to propagate by cuttings will be overjoyed to know that the angelonia roots with ease. Simply stick a 6-inch cutting in moist potting soil, and you are just about guaranteed success.

Angelonias are not even close to having reached market potential. I had the opportunity to tour the California trials and one of the most exciting groups of plants that will be coming out shortly is called Angelmist. Ball Flora Plant will distribute Angelmist angelonias, and they will be bringing us new colors in deep plum, richer pinks and purples and a better white. These have also been virus indexed or in other words virus free.

Norman Winter, Extension Horticulturist (Mississippi State University)

FEATURED SPEAKER: LAN Program in May



Mark Mayberry

Mark Mayberry is an international speaker, seminar leader, and writer. Mark coaches companies, helping them create entrepreneurial Teams throughout their organizations. In addition, he is an experienced facilitator, helping companies to develop, expedite and review their strategic plans. Mark is an active member of the National Speakers Association. Mark developed his entrepreneurial skills during his fourteen years in the apparel industry. He was Vice President of Apparel Distributors from 1976 through 1980, and Vice President of C & K Sportswear from 1981 through 1983, taking this latter company to \$3 million in annual sales in just two years.

In 1983, Mark formed Fashion Connection, a national wholesaler of women's apparel which also operated six retail stores in the southeast. In his role as President, he took Fashion Connection from zero to \$7 million in annual sales in less than five years. Mark is currently president of The Mayberry group, which he founded in 1990.

In his book, "In the Company of Entrepreneurs," Mark expounds his revolutionary concept for building an entrepreneurial organization, the result of his many years of hands-on experience in business.

Mark's entrepreneurial attitude towards business shows in his series of powerful, innovative keynote presentations and seminar - and in his work as a consultant. Mark's philosophy is refreshingly straightforward: "I make learning fun! I not only give your audience innovative action steps that will increase the productivity and profitability in their organizations - I inspire them to go back to their workplace and actually implement my dynamic strategies!"

Mark Mayberry will be the key note speaker at a LAN sponsored program on May 3th in Baton Rouge. Watch your mail for more information coming soon!

New Month-By-Month Gardening Guide Essential Tool For Louisiana Gardeners

Franklin, Tenn.-- Louisiana is a unique state. With its mild climate and year round growing season, Louisiana can be a gardener's paradise or it can baffle the gardener who is used to four distinct seasons. The new book Month-by-Month Gardening in Louisiana by Dan Gill is an essential tool for every Louisiana gardener, with specific information on how and when to care for all your plants.

Month-by-Month Gardening in Louisiana is packed with information arranged in a practical, easy-to-use calendar format. For each of the book's 11 plant categories, there are 12 monthly calendars with specific information on how to care for those plants that month. For instance if gardeners only want information on monthly rose care, they would only have to look at the rose chapter. The rose specific calendar contains no information on other plants to search through, so gardeners can find answers fast and get back out in the garden.

In addition to the 132 calendars, this book includes a wealth of other horticultural information. Louisiana soils range from light sands to loams to heavy clays. Month-by-Month Gardening in Louisiana gives extensive information on how to test and then amend the soil to grow particular plants. The book also provides information on landscape design, fertilization, pruning and winter protection for tropical plants.

Important topics covered include:

- Louisiana's climate, with details on the two hardiness zones, average first freeze dates and annual rainfall amounts.
- Louisiana's seasons - when spring, summer, fall and winter really come and how long they last in Louisiana.
- Soil conditions and how to test your soil

- Planning your landscape
- Planting tips
- Fertilization techniques
- Pruning tips
- How to provide winter protection to tropical plants
- 11 plant categories including: Annuals; Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes, and Tubers; Herbs and Vegetables; Houseplants; Lawns; Perennials; Roses; Shrubs; Trees; Vines and Ground Covers; and Water and Bog Plants
- Calendars - a total of 132

Month-by-Month Gardening in Louisiana is Gill's second gardening book with publisher Cool Springs Press. His first collaboration with Cool Springs Press, Louisiana Gardener's Guide, co-authored with Joe White, contains information on 170 plants that are indigenous to and grow best in Louisiana climates. "The Louisiana Gardener's Guide is primarily a plant selection resource while Month-by-Month Gardening in Louisiana is the monthly how-to-care-for-it tool. They complement each other wonderfully," says Gill.

Gill, is well known in Louisiana through his weekly radio call-in program, the "Garden Show" on WSMB in New Orleans, his gardening segment on the Channel 4 Morning News in New Orleans and his weekly gardening column, "The Weekend Gardener," which appears in the *Times Picayune*. Gill received his undergraduate degree and Master of Science in Horticulture from Louisiana State University.

Published by Cool Springs Press, Month-by-Month Gardening in Louisiana (320-pages, \$18.95) is now available in bookstores and garden centers across the state, and on the Internet at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Based in Franklin, Tenn., Cool Springs Press publishes gardening books, cookbooks, and other regional titles.*

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The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and Louisiana Association of Nurserymen are sponsoring Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Workshops at the Calhoun Research Station in Calhoun on Tuesday, February 8th and Burden Research Plantation in Baton Rouge on Wednesday, February 16th. Programs each day are from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$25/person. Catered lunch provided. For more information contact Allen Owings (phone 225/ 388-2222, fax 225/ 388-1068, e-mail aowings@agctr.lsu.edu).

Calhoun Research Station - Feb. 8th

Topics: Top Crape Myrtles for Louisiana
Optimizing Pesticide Performance
Irrigation Design Considerations
Horticultural Applications of Lime and Sulfur
Landscape Performance of Herbaceous Ornamental Cultivars
Top Performing Ornamental Plants for the Mid-South

Burden Research Plantation - Feb. 16th

Topics: Landscape Disease Control Update
Encore Azaleas
Insurance Considerations for Landscape Contractors
Landscaping - What's the Economic Value
Top 10 Landscape Weeds and Control
My Favorite Landscape Plants by Dan Gill
Landscape Performance of Herbaceous Ornamental Cultivars

REGISTRATION FORM

Check program/date attending:

___ February 8th @ Calhoun Research Station

___ February 16th @ Burden Research Plantation

Please type or print clearly

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TOTAL \$ _____



Enclose check or money order for registration fee (\$25/person) payable to:

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