

LOUISIANA MAYHAW NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 1

December 2004

Notes from the President

As we near the new year, I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

When I look back over the year, I'm reminded of the good fortune this Association has experienced.

1. Shaker head research has shown important progress.
2. The Royal Majesty cultivar continues to show impressive characteristics as research continues.
3. This fall Billy Craft provided dwarf mayhaw seedlings grafted to Royal Majesty for research in 5 districts.
4. The demand for mayhaw products continues to grow.
5. The Association website was launched this summer.
6. The Association awarded the First Annual T.O. Warren Pioneer Award.

Unfortunately the 2004 mayhaw season was a disappointment for many growers in north Louisiana.

The Board of Directors is very grateful for the continuing support you members provide.

I look forward to seeing you all at Camp Grant-Walker next April.

Leroy Cole
417 Boothville Road
Marion, La. 71260
aleroycole.aol.com

TENTH ANNUAL MAYHAW CONFERENCE and FIELD DAY CAMP GRANT-WALKER POLLOCK, LOUISIANA SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

Cabins are available at Camp Grant - Walker
Weekdays and Saturdays (Reservations Required)
\$5.00 per night per person /RV Hookups on 2 cabins
Contact Jane Jones - 4-H Camp Director
2944 Hwy. 8, Pollock, La. 71467



Texas Ag personnel at Vidor, Texas Field Day
(see page 8)

Up Coming Events

Deep South Fruit And Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show
Mobile, Alabama _ December 8,9 and 10, 2004

For more information contact Bill Evans at 602-892-3731 or wbe@ra.msstate.edu

Visit the Louisiana Mayhaw Association Website at:
www.mayhaw.org

La. Mayhaw Association Summer Board Meeting

The Louisiana Mayhaw Association's summer Board Meeting, July 29, was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Murvin Mott at their home in Pollock.

Mr. Billy Craft of Woodworth issued an update on his dwarf mayhaw research and will have 160 "Red Majesty" grafted seedlings available for distribution to the 5 Board Member Districts at the October meeting in Woodworth. The Association has provided partial funding to Mr. Craft for his research.

Mr. Elmer Langston showed the group a copy of an article in the Southern Fruit Fellowship Quarterly about Mr. T.O. Warren being honored by the La. Mayhaw Association.

Mr. Langston reported on his shaker head harvester research. He may substitute a smaller, lighter shaker head and he suggested a used "Bobcat" may be helpful. He learned that the jaws of the shaker head must be greased to prevent bark slippage damage late in the spring. Heavy watering before harvest contributed to the problem. He recommends 42" clearance from the ground to the first limbs and 25 feet between trees as ideal for mechanical harvest.

The group learned that two of the Associations Technical Advisors would be unable to continue to serve. Dr. Charles Graham is to be transferred to Shreveport from the Calhoun Exp. Station and Mr. Bobby Talbert was discontinuing his mayhaw operation in Vidor, Texas. Mr. Talbert said he plans to visit mayhaw orchards in the South and continue research on mayhaw production. Both men have been invaluable contributors to the Associations effort and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Murvin Mott, Board Member from Region 3, tendered a motion requiring a 50 cent surcharge on each sale of a plant grafted with "Red majesty". The program would expire in August of 2009.

Mr. Charlie Hutchins of Grant Fruit Processing in Pollock reported on the 2004 harvest season. A lot of berries were damaged by plum curculio in the spring causing a shortage of berries in North and Central Louisiana. He listed the requests for mayhaw juice from several southern jelly producers and reported one firm could use in excess of 100,000 pounds of mayhaws annually. The demand for mayhaws clearly exceeds availability. According to Mr. Hutchins the price paid for orchard quality mayhaws could rise from \$1.25 per lb to \$1.50 by 2006 if the demand continues to grow.

Dr. John Pyzner, a Specialist at the Calhoun Research Station, reported he is compiling information to create a mayhaw propagation brochure for the LSU Ag Center. He asked for suggested rankings of the mayhaw cultivars currently favored by growers. The following were mentioned as possibly the top ranked varieties. _____

Red Majesty (w23) Gem X Texas Star, Maxine, GG, Royal Star and Georgia Giant.

It was suggested that excessive pruning and fertilization may cause fire blight.

Mr. Spec Sherrill brought a variety of jellies for the group to sample in a "Blind Survey" to determine preference for taste, texture and color.

- A. Georgia Giant _ Juice as it came from steamer _ Brix 5%
- B. Georgia Giant 50%, Royal 25% and Marlene 25%
- C. Red Majesty _ Juice as it came from steamer _ Brix 505%
- D. Red Majesty 50% and Maxine 50%
- E. Maxine _ Juice as it came from steamer _ Brix 3.9%

Participants in the "blind" comparison were asked to grade each jar (labeled with letters only) for texture, flavor and color on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the best. The results are as follows:

	Best	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Color	C	D	B	E	A
Flavor	C	E	D	B	A
Texture	C	D	E	B	A

A wonderful variety of home cooked vegetables and desserts were prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Mott for the group.



Some of those attending the July 29th Board meeting are pictured above in the front of the Mott Home.

Front row-left to right: Cole and Colton
2nd row Paul McLaughlin, Murvin Mott, James Eaves, Rev. Bubba Hoggatt,
Dr. John Pyzner and Charlie Hutchins
Back row: Don Lord, Spec Sherrill, Leroy Cole and Paul Scott

Louisiana Mayhaw Association Loses A Friend

The Louisiana Mayhaw Association has lost a loyal friend. Joseph "R.J." Saia passed away August 25, 2004 in Baton Rouge at the age of 67. R.J. and his lovely wife Jeanelle were longtime members of the Association and seldom missed the Annual Conference.

He was a former Marine and was retired from Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No 198 in Baton Rouge. R.J. was very active in many organizations serving on the Louisiana Republican Central Committee (he ran once for the La. Senate and once for the House of Representatives), Past President of the Louisiana Vegetable Growers Association, Charter member of the Red Stick Farmers Market, Vice President of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Produce Advisory Committee, member of the L.S.U. Ag Center Southeast Region Advisory Committee and was a Certified Master Gardener.

R.J.'s mayhaw orchards on his beloved farm (Rosarios Paradise and Specialty Farm) really came into impressive production this past spring. He discovered he had several heavy producers, his favorite being "The R.J." as he called it. In the attached photo taken last spring, R.J. is with Don Lord standing in front of his favorite tree which produced over 65 pounds of berries.

R.J. and Miss Jeanelle had four sons, four daughters, many grandchildren and one great granddaughter.



William A. (Bill) Rawls of Hattiesburg, MS passed away September 13, 2004. Bill And Mr. T.O. Warren were very good friends and were always willing to help others by sharing their knowledge of mayhaws.

Please remember Bill's wife Jackie in your prayers.

La. Mayhaw Association Fall Board Meeting

The Louisiana Mayhaw Association Board Meeting was held at the Fellowship Hall of the Woodworth First Baptist Church hosted by Billy Craft.

Mary Gallent and John McLure sent emails before the meeting to let the Board know they could not attend.

The meeting was called to order at 9:25AM by President Leroy Cole. Prayer by Billy Craft.

Minutes of July 29, 2004 were read and approved. The Financial Report was read and approved.

Billy Craft reported on his mayhaw cultivar research. He stated "Dr. Charlie Graham has conducted rootstock research utilizing Columbia Haw". Kansas Haw is a semi-dwarf "upland" type plant that struggles in wet areas. Dwarf haw, *Crataegus Uniflora* is also being evaluated and has potential. The Royal Majesty seedlings being distributed after the meeting today are grafted to Columbia Haw which does well on sites with neutral or higher pH. *Crataegus Uniflora* is a dwarf haw from Caddo Parish. Mr. Craft began utilizing it for interstem and rootstock 8 years ago but, primarily as an interstem for dwarfing. Eight year old interstem grafted trees average about 7 ft. tall. A slow grower, 2 trees grafted 6 years ago are only four feet high. Experiments so far, show the seed germination rate to be low. Acid treatment will be used next spring to evaluate its impact. He believes grafted dwarf haws will afford higher production per acre. Dwarfs come into production earlier and will be easier to access when trimming, spraying and harvesting. He suggested planting them 12 to 15 feet apart.

Mr. Craft thanked the Board for all their efforts to advance research and development. He urged everyone to never accept the status quo as good enough.

Leroy Cole requested each recipient of seedlings today receive a copy of the research report form and the Red Majesty Cultivar agreement before the next board meeting. Completed report forms to be forwarded to: Louisiana Mayhaw Association at P.O. Box 382, Jackson, La. 70748.

Spec Sherrill reviewed the "Blind Survey" conducted at the July 29th Board Meeting. Red Majesty proved to be first in the three categories of color, taste and texture. He stated Georgia Giant should probably be blended with other berries when making jelly.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of having the Annual Conference during the mayhaw harvest period. January 2005 is the deadline for notifying Dr. John Pyzner about speakers to contact for inclusion on the conference program. Future sites for the conference mentioned during discussions were Idlewild Exp. Station in Clinton and Calhoun Exp. Station near West Monroe.

Dr. Pyzner discussed the Louisiana Ag Center Mayhaw Propagation Brochure. Cultivar and fertilizer recommendations are needed.

The Board discussed the 2005 T.O. Warren Award. President Cole appointed a committee of 3 (Jerry Iverson, Don Lord and J.J. Warner) to provide a list of nominees for the award. February 1, 2005 shall be the deadline for forwarding nominees to the committee. Passed.

Mr. Spec Sherrill volunteered to host the next Board Meeting at the Calhoun Exp. Station. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05/pm.

Mr. Billy Craft asked Gods Blessing before lunch which was prepared by Mrs. Gerry Craft and Mrs. Upton. Everyone expressed their appreciation for the wonderful meal and pear pie.

After lunch the group relocated to Mr. Billy Crafts home where Mr. Spec Sherrill distributed the seedling as follows;

Area 1: Rev. Bubba Hoggatt(Oct.7)_15 / Jerry Iverson _7 / Weldon Fitch _5 / Paul McLaughlin _5

Area 2: Paul Scott _28 / Billy Joe Lyles _4

Area 3: Murvin Mott _24 / Dr. John Pyzner_4 / Charlie Hutchins _4

Area 4: John Eaves _32

Area 5: Arnold Baham _4 / Don Lord _14 / J.J. Warner _14

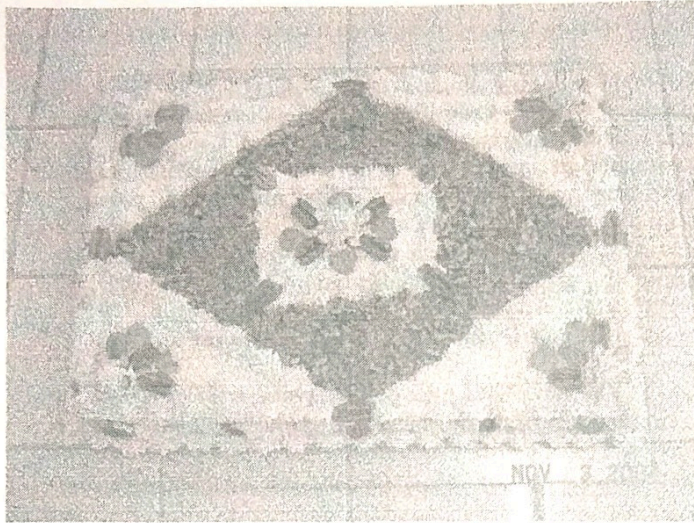
The distribution of the Red Majesty plants (160) grafted on Columbia haw represents the final "deliverable" for the grant money received by Billy Craft.



Those attending the Oct. 8th Board Meeting in Woodworth, La.

Front Row_ Left to Right: Spec Sherrill, Charlie Hutchins, Dr. John Pyzner, Arnold Baham, Elmer Langston and Paul McLaughlin

Back Row: Don Lord, J.J. Warner, Paul Scott, Jerry Iverson, Billy Craft and Leroy Cole



Ms Mary Gallent organized a Mayhaw Exhibit for the Association at the State Fair in Shreveport again this year. Mrs. Mary Cash (wife of former Association President _ John Cash) baked a mayhaw cake as she has done for many years for Mary Gallent to share with booth patrons along with the newly revised Louisiana Mayhaw Association Brochure.

In 2003, the Louisiana Mayhaw Association Board of Directors created the T. O. Warren Pioneer Award to be given annually to those who have made significant contributions of time, talent and resources to the advancement of the mayhaw industry. The Board chose to name the award in honor of Mr. T. O. Warren because of his lifelong dedication to the mayhaw. He has been an icon and outstanding spokesman for our beloved mayhaw for decades. Always gracious when asked for help or for information, he will share his vast knowledge of the mayhaw with any and all who ask. The Award plaque will list the annual recipients who will be selected by the Board of Directors. Each year the honoree will receive a plaque of their own. The first honoree will be announced in 2005 at the Annual Louisiana Mayhaw Association Conference at Camp Grant-Walker in Pollock, Louisiana.

The photo was taken at the residence of Mr. Warren at his residence in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in the shade of a T. O. Warren Superberry in full fruit. Don Lord, Vice President of the Association, presented a plaque to Mr. Warren on behalf of the Board and Mr. Leroy Cole, President.



Vidor Seminar

The Texas Department of Agriculture's local agents in Orange County, conducted a series of seminars in the Vidor area on September 23rd, 2004.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Talbert hosted the late evening phase of the all day event at Talbert Farms. The Talberts recently designed and built (most of the work was done by them) a beautiful pavilion on their farm that has a top notch cooking facility, air conditioned seating area and a covered area for meetings and dining.

After dining on fried catfish and hush puppies with all the trimmings, there were several presentations about farm related topics. Bobby talked to the group about mayhaw propagation and fielded questions.

Unfortunately, the rains came just before the group was to tour Bobby's orchards (Hurricane Ivan made land fall that evening near Lake Charles). Yours truly braved the elements alone to see first hand the "Fabled Mayhaw Farm" that was created by Bobby and his family with great skill and dedication. A lot of innovative ideas were conceived and applied in this beautiful and well maintained orchard.

There was a few out of state folks in attendance including Marie and Jerry Iverson of Monroe and Paul McLaughlin who drove all the way from El Dorado, Arkansas.

Bobby discontinued his "you-pick-em" operation and now produces juice and sells berries wholesale.

Bobby has developed professional skills with digital photography and computer graphics. We hope to have some of his work with macro photography in future issues and on the Association website. Bobby discovered another world with his lens where the tiny pests and intricate blossom segments exist at a scale normally so small they go undetected by the human eye.

Bobby has devoted a lot of his time and talent over the last decade to fostering the mayhaw industry. He has always been willing to help when asked to present programs and conduct seminars on grafting, propagation and management of mayhaws. He has served the Association as a valued technical advisor for many years.

By Don Lord



Paul McLaughlin and Jerry Iverson



Marie Iverson and Bobby Talbert

Louisiana Mayhaw Association Board of Directors

President	Leroy Cole
Vice-President	Elmer Langston
Treasurer	"Spec" Sherrill
Secretary	Don Lord
Region 1	Paul Scott
Region 2	Rev. Bubba Hoggatt
Region 3	Murvin Mott
Region 4	John Eaves
Region 5	J.J. Warner
At Large	Charlie Hutchins

Technical Advisors

Mary Gallent
Dr. Alfred Trappey
Dr. John Pyzner
Dr. Charles E. Johnson

The La. Mayhaw Newsletter is published
by the La. Mayhaw Association
P.O. Box 382 Jackson, La. 70748
Don Lord _ Editor
mayhaw@bellsouth.net