



Louisiana Mayhaw Association Newsletter April 2019

President

Andy Thompson

Vice-President

Evelyn Davis

Treasurer

Arnold Baham

Secretary

Johnny Smith

Board of Directors:

Region 1

Lee Wise

Region 2

Reynold Minsky

Region 3

Skip Lavespere

Region 4

James Eaves

Region 5

Don Lord

Region 6 (TX)

George Bieber

Region 7 (AR)

Open

Region 8 (MS)

Willis Thames

Region 9 (AOS)

John Trawick

***Please send newsletter
contributions to:
LAmayhawassocia-
tion@gmail.com***

There was a great turnout for our 24th Annual Mayhaw Conference in Alexandria, LA held on Saturday, March 30, 2019. We heard from Dr. Charles Graham about fire blight control, Dr. John Pyzner on controlling orchard pest, and Stacy Blomquist on orchard pollination. We also heard from Scott Myers speak on growing Mayhaw seedling through cell culture. Mayhaw pruning discussion was lead by Billy Craft and Johnny Smith. There was a grafting demonstration done by Johnny Smith and Lee Wise. This day was full of insight and knowledge that will be

helpful in taking care of our Mayhaw trees.

The cooking contest winners were; Evelyn Davis for her Mayhaw Jelly, Mayhaw Cheesecake, and Mayhaw Syrup, Debbie Smith for her Mayhaw Tea beverage, and James Eaves for his Mayhaw dessert. Thanks to all who entered the cooking contest.

The new president, Andy Thompson, was elected along with other new officers and board members.

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Charles Graham for receiving the T.O. Warren Pioneer Award, also to Arnold Baham for receiving the LMA service award and the T.O. Warren Pioneer Award.





The Words of Andy....



About a lustrum ago, my wife and I walked into our first Louisiana Mayhaw Association meeting. We didn't know anyone. We walked in blind to the people and industry of the Mayhaw. And what did we find? Open arms, science, passion, history, struggle and a future.

As I looked over the audience Saturday, I saw some new faces that seemed to have that same look Phyllis and I had when we first walked through those doors - into an unknown world. What you will find is that a path has been made for you, one where people have painstakingly, and literally, trudged out into the woods to pull seedlings from the ground. They brought them home and spent years testing, and after trial and error, have found and selected most of the Mayhaw varieties that we have today. Billy Craft, Spec Sherrill, Dr. Charles Graham, Bill Moore, James Eaves, Don Lord, Arnold Baham, Johnny Smith, are all names I have come to revere and respect for helping me get to where I am now. But, there were others that came before, those that I never got to work with who furthered the knowledge of the Mayhaw; Bobby Talbert, Bill Jackson, Elmer Langston and many others of whom I'm not even aware.

Although these Mayhaw stalwarts did much of the research for us, the future is not set. More research should be done, but there are other tasks to complete in the Undiscovered Country (Shakespeare says that is what the future is). We need more trees in the ground. We need more orchards. We need more people willing to commit more ground, more work, and more time, to an Undiscovered Country, an unknown future. It is a future where we can prosper in money and personal satisfaction.

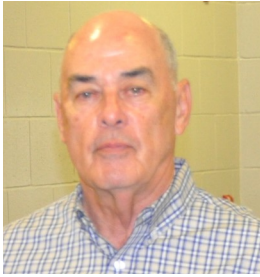
I thank you for your confidence and I hope to make you proud of your decision to elevate me to the leadership of the association. But, I can't do it alone. I'll need your help, your thoughts, your ideas, your work, your patience, your cooperation, and most of all I'll need your prayers.

Assuming things will go well, I'll see you at the Undiscovered Country!



**Correction does much,
but encouragement does
more.**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



“As I See It...” by Dr. Arnold Baham

Looking back, forward and just looking, this is my vision of the Louisiana Mayhaw Association (LMA) at the beginning of Spring 2019.

The LMA has a rich history covering the 24 years since 1995 when a group of mayhaw enthusiasts and leaders got together to form the association. Since that original meeting much progress has been made. Development of new cultivars, a website, a published book on raising mayhaws, and recommendations on spraying, fertilizing and much more from these and subsequent leaders (with some input from LSU researchers) have occurred. Currently, interest continues in growing mayhaws from having a few trees in the backyard to developing large orchards with hundreds of trees. Working to meet the ongoing needs of all the membership will continue to be a focal point of the LMA.

Some areas of continued development include: maintaining product quality, spraying management, harvesting and market development, member communication, new cultivar development, and increasing membership across the Southern States.

As the elected Officers and Board are giving of their time to lead the organization, it is sometimes challenging to address all the needs quickly. In recent years no work has been possible from our state researchers because of budgetary constraints. Currently the LMA will be pursuing a grant to carry out spraying trials in conjunction with an LSU Horticulturist. Success of this project will aid in establishing a recommended spraying protocol for rust, fire blight, etc.

In the year 2020, we will mark 25 years of activity for the Louisiana Mayhaw Association. Looking forward, the interest of the membership and its needs will provide the Association much to do. I would foresee a growing market with the increase of commercial orchard numbers as well as larger number of trees per orchard. Bulk mayhaw berry production will continue to grow as these larger orchards come on line. Alternative uses of mayhaws will need to be explored as well. Can we expect as much change, development and excitement in the next 25 years as we have seen in the last 24 plus years? With that in mind, there is much to do and a lot to be excited about!

Thank you for
your hard work
and **dedication!**



Thank you!



**This article was
written by
Johnny Smith**

Attract Predator?

At 58 years of age, I've seen and done a few things. Some, we will not discuss. Mayhaws should be a safe subject, so let's go there. In all things good, there are parasites or varmints ready to attack. We know the usual varmints which try to sneak up on our mayhaws. There are the plum curculios, pear borers, aphids, fire blight, rust and so on. We use various methods and treatments to fight back. However, what about the winged and four-footed varieties? Rabbits and squirrels can be merely a nuisance or a serious problem. Rabbits may eat berries which have fallen on netting/tarps, which would be discarded anyway. Squirrels, on the other hand, may enter trees and eat fruit before it has the chance to ripen. Large, bare sections can be made by one greedy squirrel. Many berries must be shredded to get to the nourishing seeds contained within. Birds of various kinds will peck and destroy the fruit to get to the seeds.

You can declare war on nature, staging running battles which will, for the most part, get you out of breath and create some comical scenes if videoed, but do little to stop the varmints. Or, you can set the stage for nature to take care of itself. For birds, you may just put out an owl decoy. For rabbits and squirrels, strong-arm tactics may be in order.

Being a trapper in a previous time, I became familiar with foxes, coyotes and bobcats. They each have their own territories which they patrol on a regular schedule looking for prey species (rabbits, squirrels and birds). If you do not have vulnerable pets roaming free, you may consider inviting a predator to dinner. That's right. Put out a calling card and members of one or more of these species will show up. Why would you want them on your place? Because they will dispatch and eat rabbits, squirrels and birds.

First of all, they are not going to massacre all of the fuzzy little bunnies. They will catch one or two and make their presence known. This is all you need to keep the fruit destroyers honest. One good red fox in the area will keep the bushy tails in the larger trees and the bunnies in the briar patch. Prey animals feel especially vulnerable in the open when a predator is known to be in the area.

How do you attract predators? Dig a 6 inch diameter hole about 12 inches deep at a 60 degree angle near a fence line or beside a travel way at each corner of your orchard. In trapping, this is effective when you put the hole in front of a backing, such as embankment, bush, etc. It's not really necessary here. Place a chicken leg quarter in the bottom of the hole and plug it up with a ball of dead, dried grass. This will prevent scavenging birds from viewing it from the air. Scratch all of the ground up in front of the hole in a V pattern with the point of the V toward the hole. This gives the appearance of an animal digging the hole and burying something. Optional and to make it more effective, you can spray a clump of grass, or small bush trunk with fox urine. This can come from trapper supply houses, or even in the hunting section of many stores. You can re-bait the hole every couple of weeks and look for the tracks of your new pest control agents.

Everything has a purpose. Sometimes we just have to find a partner with common goals.



Board of Directors:

Region 1

Lee Wise

Region 2

Reynold Minsky

Region 3

Skip Lavespere

Region 4

James Eaves

Region 5

Don Lord

Region 6 (TX)

George Bieber

Region 7 (AR)

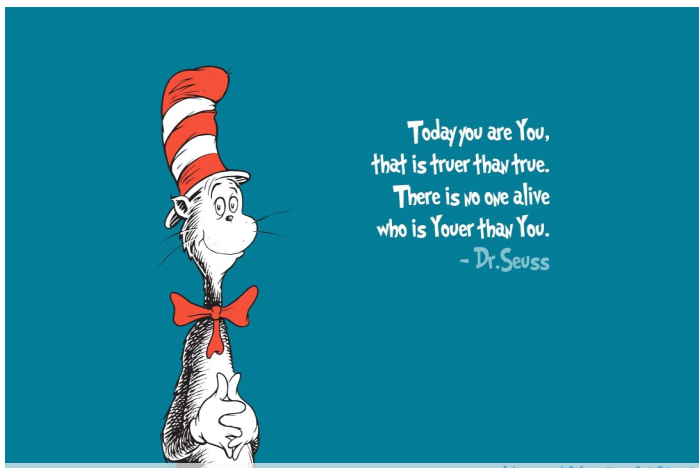
Open

Region 8 (MS)

Willis Thames

Region 9 (AOS)

John Trawick



Send a couple of pictures of you harvesting this year, and I will try to get them in the next edition.

If you are not on the group email list and would like to be added, send an email to LAmayhawassociation@gmail.com to let me know.

Don't forget about our website mayhaw.org

