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# Region III News

TEXAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

## January Meeting

### DATE:

Thursday,  
January 16, 2014

### LOCATION:

Ewing Tyler  
2010 Shiloh Rd.  
Tyler, TX 75703

### TIME:

6-7:30 p.m.

This is a **FREE** event so stop by and bring a friend.

Dinner will be served. There will also be prizes given away!

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS**

## Nursery, Landscape & Garden Center Updates

BY ALLEN OWINGS, LSU AGCENTER

### Ornamental Plant of the Week for December 9, 2013 – Chinese Pistache

The Chinese pistache (*Pistachio chinensis*) is a medium-sized ornamental shade tree known for spectacular orange, red and crimson fall foliage colors. The tree will reach 30-35 feet tall and 25 feet



wide at maturity. Young plants take a while to develop a nice branch structure. Few if any disease and insect problems are an issue with Chinese pistachio. It's a great under-used tree with landscape potential.



### Ornamental Plant of the Week for December 16, 2013 – Pine Trees

Pines are one of the many great native tree species that we have in Louisiana. Pines, along with bald cypress, southern magnolias and oaks, are the native trees most of us readily think of. In Louisiana we have several species of pine trees that are native. These include loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*).

The best pine tree for landscape use in Louisiana is the spruce pine. It has a slow-to-moderate growth rate and matures at a size that works in medium- to large-size landscape settings. Spruce pines are much more adapted to adverse or varying soil moisture and pH conditions when compared with other pine species. Spruce pines can tolerate neutral to slightly alkaline soils and can also grow better in more poorly drained soils that have some clay – although their growth certainly will be slower than if they were planted in more ideal silty, acid soil. Virginia pines are also slightly more tolerant of adverse growing conditions.

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# Chairman's Column



## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GREETINGS TO ALL

Well, if you blinked you missed 2013 because as fast as it arrived, it is gone!

It's strange as we grow older, how time seems to pass by so quickly. Maybe it's our lifestyle that keeps it moving so fast. Even as I prepare this letter, my mind is running on my next project. It's as if it's never ending or we have become programmed to just keep hurrying along.

As 2013 closes and is gone, someday we too will only be a memory of the past. Our lives down here are really only for a short time when you think about it. Even if you are blessed to live to be as they say "A Ripe Old Age".

When a tree is planted it starts its growing years off by getting prepared for life's journey. It starts getting a good hold on life by sending its roots deep into the ground to withstand what life will throw at it as it weathers the storms of life. Its branches spread as roots go deeper and wider to make it even stronger. The life it lives is rewarding as it grows, and many are touched by its beauty, and blessings are received over its many years of life. Homes are built next to it; pictures are taken around it, picnics on a summer afternoon under it. The list goes on.

### A New Year's Prayer

Another year is dawning  
With the chance to start anew.  
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord,  
In all I say and do.

Not so caught up in selfish gain  
That I would fail to see  
The things in life that mean the most  
Cost not a fancy fee.

The warm, kind word that I can give,  
The outstretched hand to help,  
The prayers I pray for those in need—  
More precious these than wealth.

I know not what may lie ahead  
Of laughter or of tears;  
I only need to know each day  
That You are walking near.

I'm thankful for this brand new year  
As now I humbly pray,  
My hand secure in Yours, dear Lord,  
Each step along the way.

—written by Kay Hoffman

But one day, it takes on a different look. Maybe its leaves start to brown or a limb falls off. Maybe it falls over, leaving memories of a once strong and beautiful fixture taken for granted. Then it's gone.

As December 2013 comes to an end, I was reminded how things are only for a season. As the Ice Storm that arrived on the morning of December 6th, it left many changes on the landscape in our community. Trees were greatly damaged and many destroyed completely.

Even the ones that had prepared by spreading great roots, were consumed and perished by the great weight life had put on its branches in the form of ice.

December 20th I received a call to inform me a dear friend and employee for over 29 years, starting as one of the first company employees, had passed away. You see it, this plan of life. It is GOD's plan that we are here for a season. Live it well and be happy. Try to do the same for the ones you love and are close to.

Take time this year and slow down to enjoy what you are blessed with. Because someday, we too shall be swept away from this place we call Life. ❖

HAPPY NEW YEARS!

Tim Michael  
Chairman, Region III

# TNLA Region III Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2014  
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us at Ewing Tyler for the TNLA Region III meeting. Ewing's **Tim Little** will discuss the advantages of drip irrigation in all areas of the Green Industry. Come learn something new, refresh your knowledge and network with others in the industry.

This is a **FREE** event and you don't even have to be a member to attend. So stop by and bring a friend.

Dinner will be served. There will also be prizes given away!

Please RSVP to Sandy at **903.509.8803** by Tuesday, January 14 to reserve your spot.

**Hope to see you there!**



**Ewing Tyler**  
2010 Shiloh Rd. | Tyler, TX 75703  
P: 903.509.1144 | F: 903.509.1717  
[www.ewing1.com](http://www.ewing1.com)



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# Nursery, Landscape & Garden Center Updates

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Pine trees vary greatly in size. Consideration needs to be given in this regard when planting in landscape settings. Shortleaf, Virginia and spruce pines are the smallest of the pines discussed here article. They reach average heights of 25-50 feet with an average spread of 20-30 feet. The Virginia and spruce pines would be best suited to planting. Shortleaf pine would perform better in north Louisiana than in south Louisiana. Loblolly, slash and longleaf pines are more upright-growing and get to be considerably larger than the other species. The longleaf pine stays in a "grass-like" growing stage for several years before upright growth commences.

Pines trees are limited in availability at garden centers but have become more available again in recent years. You can normally locate the spruce and loblolly species. Seedlings are available every year (normally December-March) from the tree seedling sales office at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Although container-grown plants can be placed in the landscape during spring and summer, it is probably best to plant them in fall and winter for best success.

Give some pine trees a chance in your landscape if room allows. They are great for perimeter landscaping efforts, and the soil conditions required for most pines match those of common ornamental shrubs such as gardenias, hydrangeas, camellias, sasanquas and azaleas.



**Necrotic ringspot on azalea leaves**

## Landscape News Articles (from Allen Owings and Rick Bogren)

- **Frost and Freezes in the Landscape – November 29**  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2013/december/headline\\_news/Many-plants-need-winter-frost-freeze-protection-.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2013/december/headline_news/Many-plants-need-winter-frost-freeze-protection-.htm)
- **Amaryllis for the Holidays and the Landscape – December 6**  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2013/december/headline\\_news/Holiday-amaryllis-makes-great-landscape-plant-too-.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2013/december/headline_news/Holiday-amaryllis-makes-great-landscape-plant-too-.htm)

## Unknown Plant Virus Causing a Ringspot Disease in Azalea (from Rodrigo Valverde)

In Louisiana, azaleas are popular ornamental plants in residential and commercial landscapes. Indica azaleas, also called Southern Indian azaleas (*Rhododendron indicum*), are the most common cultivars grown throughout the state. Several insect pests and diseases affect azaleas. Petal blight, caused by a fungus, is a major problem not only in Louisiana but throughout the United States. In contrast, diseases caused by viruses have not been a major problem in azaleas.

During the late fall and early spring of 2011 and 2012, a disease consisting of foliar ringspots was observed on azaleas in several locations throughout Louisiana. The symptoms were prominent on the second-year leaves, especially during the flowering period. The ringspots varied in color and size, depending on the azalea cultivar and time of year. They began as faint discolorations and chlorotic spots that later developed into necrotic ringspots. In general, new leaves (current year growth) did not show symptoms.

The disease was very common in azaleas in old plantings, particularly those in plantation homes, but less common on new plantings. Ringspot symptoms in plants are often an indication of viral infection. Many species of plant viruses can cause foliar ringspots on plants. To determine the identity of the virus causing the foliar ringspots, procedures commonly used for plant virus identification were followed. Surveys for ringspot-affected azaleas were

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conducted in various locations, including the United States National Arboretum.

Identifying the virus causing the ringspot on azalea has been challenging. The main problem is the nature of the host plant, azalea. Azalea contains many organic compounds that interfere with virus isolation and detection. Several methods for virus purification using infected azalea tissues failed to yield virus particles. However, we were able to transmit the ringspot-causing virus by grafting infected scions onto healthy plants. Furthermore, we were able to detect viral RNA in leaves with ringspots but not in leaves from healthy plants.

In spite of these efforts, the exact identity of the virus causing the ringspots on azalea is still not known. The virus symptoms and viral RNA are similar to those caused by a newly described blueberry virus called blueberry necrotic ring blotch virus; therefore, it is possible that the azalea virus may be related to the blueberry virus. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that most plant viruses tend to infect related plant species, and both azaleas and blueberries belong to the same plant family, the Ericaceae.

During 2011, visual surveys of plants at several local retail nursery operations were conducted. Ringspots were found in azaleas in only one nursery. Plants in one-gallon pots of the cultivar George Lindley Tabor showed disease symptoms. The fact that all the plants of this cultivar at the nursery were infected suggests that they were propagated from an infected mother plant. Surveys were also conducted in gardens of plantation houses, and most of the plants showing symptoms were indica azaleas between 50 and 75 years old.

In 2012, about 50 azalea cultivars from the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden in the Louisiana State University AgCenter Hammond Research Station were examined for the azalea ringspot virus disease. Only southern indica azaleas, Mrs. G. G. Gerbing, Pride of Mobile, Formosa and George Lindley Taber showed the disease; all other examined azaleas at the research station appeared disease-free.

During the spring of 2012, a survey for the azalea ringspot virus was conducted on the azaleas of the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Many plants were carefully inspected for ringspots, but the disease was not observed in any of the examined plants.

The azalea ringspot virus appears to be restricted to a few but popular indica cultivars. Preliminary research suggests that the virus is not mechanically transmitted from infected to healthy azaleas. This is supported by the presence of healthy plants near infected ones. Most likely, the virus is transmitted and disseminated by using virus-infected plant materials during azalea propagation.

Plants with many foliar ringspots suffer significant defoliation. Although affected plants recovered from the disease, we do not know the long-term effect that this virus may have. Infections of old cultivars in plantation homes suggest that plants “can live” with the virus. Nevertheless, it is recommended that when propagating azaleas, particularly indica azaleas, only virus-free mother plants are selected. Moreover, when purchasing azaleas, examination of the foliage for ringspots is recommended, and only ringspot-free plants should be purchased.

Once the exact identity of the azalea ringspot virus is known, methods for detection will be developed, which will lead to the development of efficient control strategies.

### **LDAF Issues Quarantine for Citrus Industry (from Raj Singh and LDAF)**

The LDAF has issued Quarantine Zone for Citrus Industry (see below the press release) on November 22, 2013. The quarantined zone for citrus canker includes all of Orleans Parish, Jefferson Parish north of the parking entrance to Jean Lafitte Park, all of Belle Chasse and the Naval Air Station in Plaquemines Parish and all of the St. Rose area in St. Charles Parish. No citrus plants, plants parts, clippings or fruit may be moved out of this quarantined zone. In addition, federal restrictions require that tools, equipment and personnel performing any service work on properties where a citrus tree is present

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# Nursery, Landscape & Garden Center Updates

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must be disinfected with a bacteria-killing solution before leaving the property.

## LDAF Issues Quarantine for Citrus Industry

Baton Rouge, La. (November 22, 2013) – The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF)

established a quarantine effective November 24, 2013.

The quarantine restricts movement of citrus trees, citrus nursery stock and citrus plant parts except for fruit from parishes where plant diseases called citrus greening and citrus canker and the insect called Asian citrus psyllid have been confirmed.

- Quarantined areas for citrus greening include Orleans and Washington parishes.
- Quarantined areas for Asian citrus psyllid include the entire state of Louisiana for interstate movement of regulated materials, unless properly treated.
- Quarantined areas for citrus canker include all of Orleans Parish and portions of Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Charles parishes.

Citrus greening and citrus canker have not been found in Louisiana's citrus nursery stock production region, centered outside of the quarantined area in Plaquemines Parish south of Belle Chasse.

Citrus stock treated according to federal protocols for the possible presence of Asian citrus psyllid and found free of this insect can move freely from this area without restriction. For more information on the diseases, the insect or the restrictions, contact the LDAF Horticulture and Quarantine Programs office at (225) 952-8100 or go to [www.ldaf.state.la.us](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us). ❖

– Compiled by Allen Owings, Professor (Horticulture), Hammond Research Station, LSU AgCenter; Edited by Rick Bogren, Professor (Communications), LSU AgCenter, Phone 985-543-4125; E-mail [aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu); [www.lsuagcenter.com/hammond](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/hammond)

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AD SIZE:	Discounted	
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1/4 Page . . . . .	\$45 . . . . .	\$410
Business Card . . . . .	\$25 . . . . .	\$270

Region III Newsletter publishes monthly. Deadlines are the 25th of the month preceding publication date.

For advertising information contact Sandy Farnsworth, TCNP: 903-509-8803.

# 2014 Meeting Schedule

Date	Event	Sponsors/Speakers	Joint Meeting NTNGA
January 16th	Ewing Irrigation	Officer Nomination & Approval	
February	NTNGA Trade Show		
March	No Meeting		
April 17th	Board Meeting	Board Members Only	
May 22nd	Bruce Miller Nursery	Berger & Jemasco Inc.	
June	No Meeting		
July 17th	Trees USA	Everiss & Kinney Bonded	
August	TNLA Trade Show		
Sept. 18th	Star G Nursery	Helena	
Oct. 23rd	Board Meeting	Board Members Only	
Nov. 14	Thanksmas Party		
Dec. 15	No Meeting		

**Need Speakers and Sponsors – Anyone interested – Please contact Martin Farnsworth (903)521-1489**



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