

The Kernel



FOR MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Upcoming Events

Georgia Pecan Growers Annual Fall Field Day

Byron, Ga
September 6, 2018
GPGA (229) 382-2187

Louisiana Pecan Growers Fall Field Day

Alexandria, LA
September 14, 2018
For details, contact
Stephen Norman at
lapecans1926@gmail.com
or 318-448-3139

Southeastern Pecan Growers Annual Conf

Sandestin, FL
Feb 22-23, 2019
www.sepga.com

TriState ArkLaMiss Pecanference

New Roads, LA
June 20-21, 2019
For details, contact
Stephen Norman at
lapecans1926@gmail.com
or 318-448-3139

Texas Pecan Growers Annual Conference

San Marcos, TX
July 14-17, 2019
Contact TPGA at 979-
846-3285 or
pecans@tpga.org

Quick Links

[LPGA website](#)

July 2018

2018 TriState Pecanference:

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TriState Pecanference Report

[Click here for photos!](#)

Just about everyone who attended the 2018 TriState Pecanference will tell you that it was one of the best ever. The hospitality shown us

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by the Mississippi people cannot be surpassed! The conference center was very attractive, the food was great, and the program was topnotch. We started out with breakfast and registration at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center on the campus of Hinds County Community College. It is a beautiful facility on a golf course amid rolling hills. And even the hungriest farmer was satisfied by the big breakfast provided!

Orchard tour

We then rolled out to Pecan Hill Farms, about ten minutes away, where MPGA president Max Draughn greeted us for the orchard tour at his place. The weather threatened rain but only drizzled a bit on us, and so we had a nice breeze that was relatively cool. Some of us boarded flatbed trailers for the interesting tour. Pecan Hill Farms is composed of parts of two old plantations. The original orchards were planted in the 1870's, and many of those trees are still producing. Also, about 6,000 newer trees have been planted. Some orchards are low-input, others are irrigated and sprayed, and others are somewhere in-between. This variety made for a stimulating discussion on an assortment of topics. We also saw chestnut orchards and the popular Pecan Hill U-Pick blueberries. Some growers rode over to see Max's nursery as well.

Lunch was a special treat of Mississippi catfish fried to perfection by Jay Pickle of Tri Delta Pecans of Greenville, MS. The rain held off and we dined in the shade of a big pavilion and a rental tent. We give a big thanks to Max and his wife Susan for all of the logistics of putting up with us!

Exhibitor Hall

Back at the conference center, fifteen exhibitors were waiting for us with plenty of iced tea, water, coffee, and popcorn. We renewed old friendships and made some new ones as we visited the booths. After that we broke into our respective state groups and had business meetings and board meetings. The big news for the Louisiana folks is that Dr. Graham has been hired by the Nobel Foundation of Oklahoma. We hate to lose him, but understand what a good opportunity this is for him and for Nobel Foundation. We finished these meetings just in

time for the Exhibitors' Reception, where we filled up on pork loin sandwiches, chicken tenders, and BBQ meatballs. A Hospitality Suite was generously furnished by Tri Delta Pecans, and many enjoyed a toddy there.

Presentations

Friday morning we met again at the big breakfast buffet before settling into a full day of excellent presentations. Our moderator was Dr. Rebecca Melanson, who as Program Chairman had done all the planning for the Friday Session.

First, Louis Wasson of MSU gave us an aerial view of what "drones", or unmanned aerial systems, can do for the pecan grower. A little later during the morning break he demonstrated one of his drones to interested growers.

Then Bill Hamrick of MSU showed us how to trap feral pigs, hopefully reducing the damage to orchards and irrigation systems. Below is a link to some good wild pig information produced by MSU, including exactly how to build a variety of traps. He recommends the "corral trap" with a drop-style door, though other types can be used as well.

[Click here for the MSU Wild Pig Info site!](#)

Ms. Caroline Lainio, VP of Weber Shandwick public relations firm, told us about the rollout of The American Pecan. She explained some of the thinking behind the process of getting the message out to the public about pecans. She was followed by Mike Adams, Chairman of the American Pecan Council, who introduced their new Executive Director Alex Ott. Both spoke on the goals of the council and reminded us that, like planting a new orchard, patience is required before we see results.

Kevin Ivey, President of the US Pecan Growers Council, gave us an update on their activities regarding global marketing.

We were then treated to Dr. Haijun Zhu, guest professor at MSU from Nanjing, China. He told us about pecan production in China. One interesting facet is that good agricultural land in China is carefully controlled so that it can be reserved for that type of use. So, for example, pecan production would not be allowed on good

row-crop land. As a result, there are many challenges regarding equipment and other issues.

Ms. Sally Arn, of Carter Pecan - Arnco, gave us insight into the pecan export business to China and elsewhere.

We took a little time off for a big lunch then went back hard at it! Dr. Charlie Graham moderated the afternoon session. Karuna Kharel and Cameron Cason, graduate students in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences at LSU, gave an excellent explanation of their work on "the kill step", reducing potential bacterial contamination in pecan processing. Their study went on to examine by-products, like pecan shells, as possible natural sources of preservatives in foods.

Dr. Blake Layton, extension entomologist at MSU, gave a "roundup" of pecan insect pests and what to do about them. By the way, he produces a weekly "Bug's Eye View" newsletter by email that I have been enjoying. It's not always about pecan insects, but it's always interesting.

[Click here to sign up for "Bug's Eye View"!](#)

Dr. Dennis Ring, LSU entomologist, told us about Prionus root borers and Walnut caterpillars, including methods for finding and eliminating them.

Winter chilling requirements for pecan trees was examined by Dr. Eric Stafne, MSU horticulturist. It involves a complexity of factors related to dormancy and budbreak.

Ms. Nicole Gueck, of AgriLogic Consulting, talked about pecan tree insurance. This is not crop insurance; it's insurance for when you have tree damage or tree loss. Contact them if you are interested; the cut-off time is in the spring.

Following a much-needed break, we heard about Bunch Disease from Dr. Rebecca Melanson of MSU. Bunch Disease is caused by a phytoplasma, is poorly-understood, and difficult to treat.

Dr. Charlie Graham, newly hired at Nobel Foundation, gave a potpourri of pecan problems

commonly encountered. He then stepped up in Ben's absence and gave the 2019 TriState Pecan Guesstimate, with a final total of 300 million pounds.

We offer a big thanks to all of the speakers who helped out this year!

TriState PowerPoints Online!

Thanks to the generosity of our speakers and some wrangling by Dr. Melanson, most of the topics covered at the conference are available as .pdf files on the lapga.com website.

Suggest a Topic!

We're always looking for topics that will help the most people. Please suggest a topic that has been on your mind, or a favorite speaker you would like to hear again.

[Click here to suggest a topic!](#)

"No Pecan Picking" Signs

LPGA has had printed yard-type signs with the organization logo and "No Pecan Picking" on one side. These are available for sale to members at cost: \$7/each, including the wire mount. Contact Stephen Norman, lapicans1926@gmail.com or 318-448-3139. I can ship to you for the cost of the postage and a box. Alternately, I can bring to a meeting for you to pick up and save on shipping.



Facebook Page for LPGA

We now have a presence on Facebook at www.facebook.com/louisianapecangrowers. If you use Facebook, go there and "Like" the page to "join". Then you will receive any updates we post there. We don't expect to use it to replace any of our existing communications, but hope that it might attract new members. Also, in the fall it is a good place to share pricing information quickly.

Advertising Space Available

For any questions about our LOW advertising rates, please contact Stephen Norman 318-448-3139 or pecans@rosaliepecans.com, or you can [Click here for ad rates and application!](#)

Membership Renewal

Membership in Louisiana Pecan Growers Association comes with several benefits. Members receive the quarterly newsletter by email free of charge, or by mail for an extra \$20. Members get a discounted subscription price for *Pecan South* and *The Pecan Grower* magazines, and discounted rates for conventions and workshops. An active member generally makes up in savings for the \$50 annual fee. Members can have one free classified ad in the newsletter and on the website, and discounted rates for other

advertising. As the website is improved, there eventually will be areas available only to members. Of course there is also the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping the organization maintain the goals of education and promotion of the pecan industry. Our dues are much less than those of sister organizations such as Texas and Georgia.

For any questions about your membership dues, please contact Stephen Norman 318-448-3139 or lapecans1926@gmail.com.

2017-2019 LPGA Officers (the Executive Committee)

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The Last Shuck

Caption Contest! Submit your caption to lapecans1926@gmail.com for a chance to win a Limited Edition TriState Pecan pocket knife!



[submit your entry for The Last Shuck to lapecans1926@gmail.com]

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