A Note from the Editor:

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We had our annual conference in Alexandria, elected new officers and board members, harvesting, kids and grand-kids getting out of school, and if you are one of the lucky ones, going on vacations. If you did not get a chance to attend our annual conference, please try to attend next year. We had tremendous speakers, Irrigation-Mart had a table to connect with growers, and we had harvesting equipment demonstrations. There is much to learn for new growers, as well as the most experienced of our membership.

We need to take a moment and thank our past-president, Nelda Hutchins, for all she has done for our association. Nelda always made it her ambition to keep us on track and make sure we did not lose sight of what we needed to do most. Through her leadership we garnered new members and injected new and fresh ideas for the association to work on now, and in the future.

Now we turn the page and start a new administration with Dr. Arnold Baham as President. Dr. Baham has hit the ground running with a full agenda set for our next board meeting in August. Take a look at his editorial on the following page. Dr. Baham calls his newsletter comments “AS I SEE IT”.

Andy Thompson
Editor, Publisher and Mayhaw Lover

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

1 Corinthians 3:7-9
Mayhaw Notes on the Effects of a Mild Winter

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I have been a Mayhaw lover and grower of this fine fruit for the past 30 years. As I look back on my early Mayhaw Exploration I remember several high points.

In 1987 I was a member of the Louisiana Native Plant society. My yard became a showplace as we landscaped a two acre country yard with plants native to our state.

On one trip with the society in an old yellow retired school bus we had the pleasure of touring the Caroline Dorman Gardens in Saline, Louisiana. There I saw my first Mayhaw tree in full fruit and my priorities changed dramatically.

I managed to learn of two Mayhaw men, J.S. Akin in Sibley, Louisiana, and T.O Warren in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Both men were fairly far from my south Louisiana home, but I ended up making several trips to visit each of them, and my Mayhaw education began. Later I joined the new Louisiana Mayhaw Association when it was founded.

Since those days I have had at least some Mayhaw trees in my home yard and at one time had 174 on my son’s property and 15 at my home yard down the street.

In 1994 I started a Mayhaw web page on my very first computer. Since that time I have communicated with a lot of people, some of them the highly experienced members of The Louisiana Mayhaw Association, and others people who are searching for their first Mayhaw tree.

The floods of 2005 caused some flooding on my former property and prompted two older people with some health issues to relocate to our present home in a country subdivision on a little half acre lot. I left behind an eighteen year old fruit tree orchard totaling 70 fruit trees which included many mature Mayhaw trees. The new owner told me how happy he was to have the orchard, and within three weeks had removed and burned every fruit tree on the property.

Now I have a tiny yard with only four Mayhaw trees and 21 other fruit trees. But I am as much a lover of Mayhaw as I have ever been, and perhaps more so.

I, and most everyone else, initially thought that the Mayhaw was a true no spray tree and about as perfect a fruit tree
as we could ever grow. Since then we know that this cousin of the apple tree will need some spraying and that there is a lot of labor involved in the harvest. But the Mayhaw tree is still very worthy of being grown in a commercial orchard and the home orchard. The Louisiana Mayhaw Association has some very dedicated people who will make the Mayhaw a very large industry.

With only four Mayhaw trees, I really notice when the crop is not what I expected. I always assumed that there would be variations in crop harvest due to overcropping in the previous year, and weather conditions such as low rainfall during the growing season.

But I have now noticed another situation that I had never ever expected, and that is low winter chilling hours. I have two pear trees in my small yard that are eleven years since I planted them and each has been grafted to five varieties. Naturally local varieties that I located and found to be worthy of growing, are now on those two trees.

Three years ago I noticed a trend that I had never seen before. When the pear crop was small, the Mayhaw crop was small. Then I noticed that one variety, Leona Pear, would always have at least a small crop of pears while the other four varieties would not even bloom.

Then I noticed that it seems that Mayhaw trees do the same thing. On a poor crop year for the pear trees, Maxine Mayhaw will hardly fruit at all. Meanwhile, Red Champ and my old favorite Classey will have more fruit, but not as good as the years when the five pear varieties are loaded. Mayhaw is affected by chill factor.

I must say that perhaps I am one of the most southern Mayhaw growers, with most everyone being further north than I am, and therefore colder than my area. As I look back on the past few years and post a few pictures to my Mayhaw Web Page, I notice that some Mayhaw varieties need less cold weather than others.

With only three varieties to compare here in the yard I now know that on a 400 chill hour year, Maxine, Red Champ and Classey will produce heavy crops. In a year like 2016/2017, with 147 chill hours, I will have no fruit on Maxine, a medium crop on Red Champ and a good crop on Classey.

My long time Mayhaw friend, 30 miles due east of me, has a good crop on all the native seedlings and the older named cultivars, Gem and Classey, but no crop at all on his three year old Red Champ and Maxine trees.

In my opinion, Mayhaw trees need at last a little cold weather in order to fruit reliably.
**BOARD BITES**

- There have been requests to expand the number of at-large board members outside the state of Louisiana.

- The board will consider standardizing marketable volumes; such as, berry dimensions, weights, quality, sugar content (brix), etc.

- The next board meeting will be held on August 5, 2017 at Booker-Fowler Fish Hatchery.

- Consider developing recommended standards for grafted trees and scion wood.

- Increasing participation in the Cooking Contest.

- Continue to monitor and share harvesting technologies.

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**TIP(s) OF THE QUARTER**

Quince rust and fire-blight can be treated best by spraying during the blooming periods.

Spray for insects at sundown, when the bees have gone in for the night.

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**LOUISIANA MAYHAW ASSOCIATION TRADING BLOCK**

**WHERE MAYHAW GROWERS COME TO BUY AND SELL**

**WANTED**

“Mayhaw Berries”
Providence Foods, LLC
409 Charles D. Jones Blvd.
Lake Providence, LA 71254
(318) 559-4546

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**FOR SALE**

“Mayhaw Seedlings”
Books Mayhaw Farm
Hwy 129
Monterrey, LA 71354
(870) 355-1584

“Mayhaw Trees”
Nelda L. Williams Hutchins
Winnfield, LA
(318) 827-5810
"I didn’t ask and they didn’t say!!!!"