Bayou Bee Bulletin Number 1 – January 2015

We hope those who attended the 53rd annual LBA Conference this last December enjoyed themselves and came away more knowledge and information than they had before coming to Alexandria. We had 129 attendees and numerous quality speakers. The weather was great, the facilities were outstanding and about the facilities and the fellowship was great.

We had five vendors, lots of baked honey goods, shirts and hats for sale, a honey judging contest and lots of information disseminated. It’s at these annual events that we meet vendors face-to-face, the Baton Rouge Bee Lab personnel and other bee keepers and scientists from out of state that normally one would never come in contact with.

In this newsletter we will be presenting:

- LBA Conference highlights
- Results of the BBB survey
- Letter regarding Agritourism
- Letter regarding the Second Annual Central LA Garden Exposition
- Basic Beekeeping Schools Program sponsored by LSUA Ag. Dept.
- LA Agriculture and Forestry Apiary Permit Registration and contact information for Allen Fabre, the state apiarist
- Internet sites you might find useful
- Dr. Jeff Harris’ document on HopGuard II for varroa mite control, presented in December 2014’s Mississippi Bee Club’s newsletter
- Renew your LBA membership
- Commercial Business Advertisements
- Listing of the LBA Board of Directors
- Listing of LA Honey Bee Clubs and their presidents’ contact listing
LBA Annual Conference Highlights:
4-H “Honey Bee” Essay Contest Winners
1st place  Emily Teusch - Claiborne Parish
2nd place  James Sanders – LaSalle Parish
3rd place  Sarah Hammond – Bossier Parish

Honey Contest Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Light Honey</th>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Andy Griggs - Caddo</td>
<td>Mary Brasseaux - Brenda Brown – E. Baton Rouge</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tam Corbett - Concordia</td>
<td>Margaret Prell - St. Tammany</td>
<td>Jeff Burg – Tangipahoa</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jerry Burg - Tangipahoa</td>
<td>Timmie Melancon</td>
<td>Derrick Devereux - Ouachita</td>
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</table>
Live Auction Results
This year’s auction generated $4802.00 – much of which came from bidders who won a bid, then donated it back to the auction to be resold! This happened at least twice and generated $2,000.00! Many thanks are warranted for these people’s generosity.

Bayou Bee Bulletin Survey Results
I was able via email and hard copies to get some input regarding what you, the LBA membership wanted to see in the Bayou Bee Bulletin (BBB) (I posted the survey through Mail Chimp in November and at the conference). Out of a total “average” membership count of 349 for 2014, I received seven (7) responses - including one email. Mail Chimp’s statistical review of the number of Openings and Downloads and the number of members sent to at each mailing proved enlightening as well.

Survey Questions & Responses:
1) In 2014 did you receive the BBB’s (Six – if you had joined by January) - Six responded Yes
2) Did you download the BBB after receiving it and did you read it? - Six responded Yes
3) If you did download and read the BBB did you find the subject matter useful and worth reading? - Six responded Yes
4) Did you find the electronic version, downloadable through Mail Chimp to be user-friendly and effective? - Six responded Yes
5) In what way could the BBB be improved? - Five responded: Too long; too much information. One did not respond
6) If we were to edit the BBB, what would you like to see changed? Please list in order of editing priority (first to last):
   - Three replied with comments:
     - Cut back – too long
     - “Give information on bee news but in a short form with links for us to use if want more information.”
     - “Present articles about LA – by LA Clubs/members.”
     - “Present a monthly gadget used by LBA members to help in beekeeping.”
     - “No copywriter Randy Oliver articles.” – i.e., if we can find it elsewhere then don’t show it here, or if you do, just reference it and skip the full-article.
     - “Fewer editor comments about articles printed.”
7) Any additional comments/concerns?
   - Three replied with comments:
     - “Move section of list of beekeepers who are willing to assist new beekeepers who have beekeeping questions. Area they are located.”
     - “Maybe editor should consider “editorial column”. Ask clubs to contribute monthly article (one per month). Have “For Sale Page” for LBA members – free limit items.”
     - “Why not do a story (highlight) on the 12 Beekeeping Clubs that are associates of the LBA? You could spotlight 2 clubs each issue.”
     - One respondent wished me to edit their advertisement.
Survey Results through Mail Chimp’s Mailings of Six Newsletters & Conference Notice

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<td>5 (10/1/14)</td>
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<td>Conference Notification (10/8/14)</td>
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<td>6 (11/12/14)</td>
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My input and what I can do to address the survey respondents:
A reoccurring theme was to reduce/cut-back on the size of the newsletter. Barring the President’s letter, advertisements and listing of board members and clubs (~ 7-8 pages), I can do that. I can present one article (~ 1 page) – starting with this newsletter.
Printing and use of articles provided by the membership, i.e. create an editorial section, is a good idea and I am open to input from the members. Please submit your thoughts and articles and I will post them!
It was asked to present a monthly gadget used/created by LBA members. That is another great idea and I will do so, provided you the membership send me the plans, pictures or something I can insert into the BBB. Several members of the CENLA Bee Club have come forth with their ideas for a better bee hive, better preservative, better “something” that beekeepers can use. With their permission I will take photos and send them along. The rest of you do likewise and I will post them!
A request from one member to discuss and post Randy Oliver’s discussion on bee genetics/hybridization was countered by another’s comment not to post it – after I had already done so. Well, I can’t please everyone so those who speak first and loudest will be addressed.
I think there was a request that I create a listing of beekeepers in the various areas of the state/clubs that would be willing/able to assist other beekeepers and create a forum for questions and answers section in the newsletter. That is a great idea I will do that. Send me your questions that I will post with a name and contact address. Other members can then send me their answers and I will post them. Something like “Dear Abbey”; maybe we can call it, “Dear Bee”.
Posting a “For Sale” page is a good idea. I know I’ve got some stuff to move. I’ll initiate that idea as well. It has been suggested that the name be called, “LBA’s Beelist” (like Craigslist). Posting an article “highlighting a club in the state is a wonderful idea. To do that I will need to do some communicating with some club members and that will take some time. Here is where you people can help me. First off, tell me who the president is for the Acadiana Club is. It will be the presidents I will go to first for information. I asked for that individual’s name and contact information at the convention but no one volunteered the information. I edited the advertisement asked for with this letter.
Agritourism – Honeybees to be added to the list of farm animals for agritourism activities.

From Randy Fair of the LBA Board of Directors: “Honeybees will be added to the list of farm animals for agritourism activities. The Louisiana Revised Statute 2795.1 spells out the requirements to qualify for liability exemption. Happy tourism. Be sure and share with your fellow beekeepers that are interested in showing off their bee operation.”

From Keith Hawkins, at the LSU Ag Center: “Another aspect of Louisiana Department Agriculture and Forestry’s work is the support of agritourism. Beekeeping now has protections for educational tours of bee yards.

From the editor: Over the last year the LA Dept. Agri. has been revising their legal standards for agricultural products in the state - marketing, selling, taxes, etc. The LBA has been actively involved in making sure that honey bee products (honey; bees wax, etc.) are listed as agricultural products and beekeeping is identified as a agricultural farming activity. The lady's letter is recognition of our efforts.

The following letter was received by Randy Fair of the LBA Board of Directors:
January 22, 2015

Randy Fair
“The Bee Bumbler”
611 Evans Loop
Mansfield, La. 71052
randv@beebumbler.com

Dear Mr. Fair:

This letter is to inform you that the Commissioner has approved your request to add beekeeping to the list of agritourism activities in accordance with LAC 7:XI.V.101-105. In accordance with LAC 7:XLV.103(C), an updated list of approved agritourism activities, including beekeeping, will be published in the Potpourri section of the February issue of the Louisiana Register, which will be released on February 20, 2015.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Carrie Castille, PhD
Second Annual Central LA Garden Expo (April 10-11, 2015)

This is a letter I’d received back in October 2014. Please respond directly to Sara if interested.

Sara Rogers Shields
LSU AgCenter 180 East Main Street,
First Floor Courthouse Annex
New Roads, LA 70760-3500

Dear Friend,

We are excited to announce our second annual Central Louisiana Garden Expo to be held on April 10-11, 2015 at the Evacuation Shelter located on Hwy. 71 on the south side of LSUA campus. The Garden Expo hours are 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Doors will open to the public at 9:00 a.m. each day. The Expo is sponsored, in part, by the LSU AgCenter.

The purpose of the Expo is to let the garden public know where to obtain gardening products, services, and accessories; where garden clubs are located in the central part of the state, to educate the public on gardening issues, and to provide a place for sales that make available quality garden plants, products and accessories to the public. Educational garden programs will be offered throughout the two day period.

Exhibitors/vendors are encouraged to participate by selling plants and merchandise. All licenses, fees and taxes are the responsibility of the vendors. We also encourage exhibitors/vendors to provide educational materials, demonstrations at their booths, and raffle plants or merchandise. Two chairs and one table are available per vendor, if requested. Extra tables for your booth will be available at a cost of $5.00 per table. Exhibitors are responsible for their skirting, backdrops, electrical cords if needed (not all booths have electricity), loading and unloading. Please see the registration form for details and agreement of understanding.

Non-profit and Educational Exhibitors who are not selling: Garden clubs, plant societies, and government agencies will be charged $25.00 for a 10’ x 10’ booth space (no electricity) on a first come - first serve basis.

There will be lunches available on Friday for exhibitors/vendors wearing name badges. Exhibitors/vendors may set up their booths on Thursday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Vendors are asked that they remain in place until the end of the Expo. Vending booths must remain set up during both days. Setup and breakdown times are listed in the registration form.

If you are interested in taking part in this wonderful event, please fill out the enclosed registration form and return with payment no later than April 1, 2015. Booths are offered on a first come, first serve basis.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sara Rogers Shields
Assistant Horticulture Agent – Pointe Coupee &
Area Horticulture Coordinator – Central Region
LSU AgCenter

Festival Contact: Sara Rogers Shields
Garden Festival Coordinator
LSU AgCenter
180 East Main Street,
First Floor Courthouse Annex
New Roads, LA 70760-3500
Office Phone: 225-638-5533
E-Mail: srshields@agcenter.lsu.edu

Please submit your registration and payment to the following address:
Central Louisiana Garden Expo
LSU AgCenter
8208 Tom Bowman Drive
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Phone: 318-427-4424 / Fax: 318-473-6503
Make checks payable to:
Central Louisiana Garden Expo

Basic Beekeeping Schools
The LSU Agriculture Center is sponsoring and providing materials for the development and presentation of beginning bee keeping classes throughout the state. If you are interested in putting on one of these classes or wish become a student then please check out the links below:

Keith Hawkins
PO Box 609
DeRidder, LA 70634
khawkins@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 337-463-7006
Cell: 318-264-2448

LSU Agcenter has its “Beginning with Bees” in .pdf format at
http://masterbeek.businesscatalyst.com/
http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/consumers/horticulture-programs/apiary-programs/
www.slideshare.net
LA State Apiarist – Contact Information and How To Register Your Bees

Going back into some of my previous years notes I came across a letter from Allen Fabre, our state’s apiarist, dated July 14, 2008. The subject of the letter was, Online Registration of Honey Bees. He gave a detailed path to follow to download the registration permit. The website has changed. As of this letter, here is one route to acquire the permit:

1) Go to the LDAF website:  [http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/)
2) On the left side of the screen, select Programs
3) Select Horticulture Programs
4) Select Apiary Programs
5) Select Apiary Permit Application (bee Registration)
6) You will be provided the registration form.
7) Download it; fill it in; mail it to: LDAF; Horticulture & Quarantine Programs; P.O. Box 91081; Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9081

A second path is type into the search box on the left side of the screen: Apiary Permit Application.

Here is Allen’s contact information:
Allen Fabre
Administrative Coordinator, Apiary & Nursery Programs
Louisiana Department of Agriculture a& Forestry
Office of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
P.O. Box 91081
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3596
E-mail: allen_f@ldaf.state.la.us
Alternate E-mail: horticulture@ldaf.sstate.la.us
Phone: 225-952-8054; 225-952-8100
FAX: 225-925-3760

Internet Sources you may find useful

**The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry – The Market Bulletin:**

“The Market Bulletin is published by the Market Development Division under the authority of a Legislative Act of June 6, 1900 for the purpose of disseminating market information.

The first bulletin was published in 1906 (View the [March 30, 1918 edition](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/) of the Louisiana Market Bulletin). The Market Bulletin enables thousands of people, using classified advertising, to buy and sell all types of farm, home and garden related items.
The Market Bulletin assists in marketing Louisiana products and services not normally available through commercial channels and also disseminates news and information to the agricultural community. Circulation is 13,000 biweekly and a one-year subscription is available for $10.

As a public service to state residents, Market Bulletin advertisements are free subject to existing regulations. Out-of-state residents may list Want Ads only. Ads may not exceed 25 words. The name, address and telephone number as well as the price of the item must be included with each advertisement.’’ There is more to be found at the following two web sites (P.S. Check out the December 25, 2014’s issue for three advertisements for the sale or wanted of beekeeping equipment).

http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/about/market-bulletin/
http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/multimedia/

**HopGuard® II for Varroa Control** by Dr. Jeff Harris

HopGuard® is a miticide derived from beta acids that are extracted from the hop plant *Humulus lupulus*. There are also alpha acids extracted from the plant, but the beta acids have the highest activity against the mites. The product is made by BetaTec Hop Products. It has been approved for Section 18 use in many states, including Mississippi. The original formulation was not liked by many people because of the mess and sticky nature of the material when handled by the beekeeper. HopGuard® II is an improved version in which the sticky brown residue on the strips is greatly reduced, and it is more appealing than the original material. I have read the research conducted on this material in Arizona, Canada and now in Europe. The Europeans are seeking approval of the material to help them have a greater arsenal for use against the mites. They currently use formic, oxalic and lactic acids as legal miticides in various countries. HopGuard® II has the advantage of low bee mortality, high mite mortality and low residues in beeswax and honey over some of the synthetic neurotoxins that have been used to control mites. HopGuard® II has a >90% efficacy in killing mites in broodless clusters of bees (late fall or winter treatment). It appears that most of the mortality of mites occurs within the initial 24-30 hours of inserting the material into the hive. The efficacy for killing mites becomes less when brood is present, but this is true for many chemicals. About 65-80% of the mites will be within capped brood cells when the queen is actively laying, and these mites are shielded from exposure to the miticides. There are detectable residues of the beta acids within 14 days of the initial use of HopGuard® II, but there are no detectable residues of the material within 3 months of treatment. This is certainly much more desirable than the 5-year half-life for miticides like Apistan® and CheckMite®. These chemicals can stay in beeswax for more than a decade! Beekeepers who use HopGuard® II should report any negative issues with the material to the Mississippi Department of Ag & Commerce. This is one of the requirements for Section 18 registration, and it is the only way that problems associated with the material can be addressed by the manufacturer. I have not used the material myself, but I plan to use it when necessary next year. I am trying to shift from using the synthetic neurotoxins to compounds that have less residue time in hives, and I recommend that all beekeepers do the same. Along this same line of thought, formic acid in the form of Mite-Away Quick Strips (MAQS™) is another useful miticide that has low residue in beeswax. MAQS™ can also be used during a honey flow, while most other miticides cannot be used during honey production. The major problem with
MAQS™ is that it can only be used in the temperature range of 50-92°F. This can make it difficult to use during late spring or early summer in Mississippi. It can be most effectively used in the autumn, and perhaps during broodless periods during the winter. Finally, it appears that the EPA will approve oxalic acid dehydrate for use as a miticide in bee colonies in the upcoming spring 2015. The material is most likely going to be used as a direct dribble (active ingredient in a syrup that is sprayed or poured over the bee cluster) onto the bees. As with the other miticides, it is likely to be most effective during broodless periods.

Please read and follow all directions on the labels for all of these miticides. These organic acids can have significant health effects on bees if used improperly. However, the prescribed methods of treatment should provide adequate mite control with little or no bee mortality. Additionally, the low residues of these materials in combs should help avoid the build-up of chemical contaminants in your beeswax.

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR LBA MEMBERSHIP!**

LBA memberships have almost doubled over the last two years. The LBA is excited about this growth and sincerely appreciates your membership support. If you have not completed and submitted your membership renewal for 2014, please use the membership application at the end of this newsletter and send your renewal to our treasurer as soon as possible. The January issue of our newsletter was your last issue if you allowed your membership to expire. Please don’t delay any longer and renew your LBA membership today.

Please feel free to make additional copies of this Bulletin and provide them to others interested in beekeeping and our organization. Reading the information provided below by our membership chairman will help you join us in our recruiting efforts by participating in our “Member Get A Member Campaign.” Prizes are awarded to the top three recruiters annually! The new campaign begins November 1st, 2013 and ends October 31st, 2014.

There are many challenges facing beekeepers. Our organization provides a voice to Louisiana beekeepers and lets state government know that we are an important part of Louisiana’s agricultural industry. There is strength in numbers, so help us help you through your membership support!
The Louisiana Beekeepers Association would like to thank all of our sponsors for their business advertisements. We encourage our membership and visitors to our web site to consider the fine products and/or services they offer when selecting a vendor to fulfill their business and/or personal needs.

Over the past five years the number of our newsletter advertisers has steadily increased. In appreciation for their support the LBA has offered vendor booths to these advertisers at our annual State Convention free of charge. Vendor displays have also increased, providing our guests with a convenient venue for purchasing the beekeeping products they might need. These vendors in turn contribute door prizes and auction items to the LBA, making the event more enjoyable for our guests.

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SHASTINA MILLWORK

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www.apiarybeekeepersupplies.com

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www.apiarybeekeepersupplies.com

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Laying Queens Available Spring
2014
Call for pricing & shipping quote
Advertising is an important marketing tool for beekeepers and your beekeeping business is important to the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. Give us an opportunity to provide a portion of your advertising needs in 2014.

Remember, for only $25.00 annually you can advertise your company products in six issues of the Bayou Bee Bulletin. Your business ad will also be carried on our web site, labeekeepers.org.

Remit your advertising fee to LBA Treasurer, Mr. David Ferguson, P. O. Box 716, Brusly, LA 70719 and forward your company’s camera ready, 4 inch by 3 inch jpeg ad image to Mr. Tim Haley, LBA Newsletter Editor, at tamh212@suddenlink.net.
LOUISIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.
OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Joe Sanroma</td>
<td>1062 Hwy. 1176 Bunkie, LA 71322</td>
<td>318/346-2805 (O)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lajoehec@aol.com">lajoehec@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICE PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Jennifer Brown</td>
<td>P.O. Box 409 Ferriday, LA 71334 Ph. 601/493-3447</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashland6400@me.com">ashland6400@me.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Margaret Prell</td>
<td>104 Charwood Drive Pearl River, LA 70452 Ph. 985/863-3641 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martp@bellsouth.net">martp@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREASURER</td>
<td>David Ferguson</td>
<td>P.O. Box 716 Brusly, LA 70719 Ph. 225/726-1664 (C)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwferguson315@cox.net">dwferguson315@cox.net</a></td>
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LBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford Brantley</td>
<td>504 W. Harrison Street Jefferson, TX 75657-1016</td>
<td>903/665-8343 (H)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:randy@beebumber.com">randy@beebumber.com</a></td>
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<td>Wesley Card</td>
<td>3258 Koll Road Jennings, LA 70546 Ph. 978/210-1893 (C)</td>
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<td>Bud Evans</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:wwwhoagjr@charter.net">wwwhoagjr@charter.net</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rt@honeybeeremoval.com">rt@honeybeeremoval.com</a></td>
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### LOCAL BEEKEEPING CLUBS AND CURRENT PRESIDENTS/CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Email Addreses</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACADIANA</strong></td>
<td>Unknown – if someone from the club knows the president, please contact Tim Haley, editor – Bayou Bee Bulletin</td>
<td>Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASCENSION PARISH</strong></td>
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<td>St. Amant, LA 70774-3942</td>
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<td><strong>ARK-LA-TEX</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BAYOU</strong></td>
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<td>Jennings, LA 70546</td>
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<td><strong>CAPITAL AREA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CENLA</strong></td>
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<td>318/419-7270;</td>
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<td><strong>RIVER REGION OF LA</strong></td>
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<td>985/635-1440;</td>
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<td><strong>RUSTON-LINCOLN PARISH</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TANGI-TAMINGTON</strong></td>
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<td>Springfield, LA 70464</td>
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