**SERA-27 IEG (Nursery Crop and Landscape Systems) Annual Meeting – Hammond, LA**

**Dates: June 18th and 19th, Tuesday and Wednesday,**

**Hotel Suggestion:** Holiday Inn in downtown Hammond **Address:**1819 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond, LA 70403

**Locations:** Downtown New Orleans (June 18th), Hammond Research Station (June 19th)

**Tuesday, June 18th – Urban Landscaping and Green Infrastructure Tour - New Orleans**

For the first day of the meeting, we will be touring around New Orleans to observe a unique mix of horticulture applications in an urban environment. Several stops will be included.

1. We will be touring facilities belonging to the Audubon Nature Institute (<https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/>). These facilities will include a combination of their zoo, nature center, and perhaps a little time in their aquarium. They have a team of zoological horticulturalists and general horticulturalists on their staff. I have organized the opportunity for us to each give a brief 10-15 minute presentation of our respective areas to their horticultural staff.
2. We will be touring the New Orleans City Park Botanical Gardens, one of the most renowned urban parks in the country.
3. I have spoken to some of my green infrastructure contractors in New Orleans. Time permitting, we may be able to visit some of their projects and get a detailed view of green infrastructure features.
4. Intermittently throughout the day, we will have the opportunity to walk around and observe and discuss various elements of urban landscaping. Hopefully this can serve to identify some areas of interest to research.

**Wednesday, June 19th – Business Meeting and Master Gardener Education - Hammond**

For the second day of the meeting, we will be at the Hammond Research Station. On this day, we will have our business meeting in the morning. Following the business meeting, we will take a tour around the station to check out the gardens and some of the research projects in progress.

In the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to give brief presentations on consumer related horticultural insights – this would be a great opportunity to talk about plant programs, trials, and favorite varieties for your respective states. Anything that is educational and entertaining for a home-gardener type audience.