



COMPOST PILE

# Noted Garden Designer To Be Speaker At Annual LSHR Meeting



Paul Faulkner Callaway, ASLA, widely known as “Chip,” will speak on Inspiring Spaces at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research March 15, at the Petroleum Club. This nationally-renown landscape architect from Greensboro, North Carolina, is *Continued on page 4*

## LSHR Board Announces Plans for Annual Meeting

With saucer magnolia, Taiwan cherry and red swamp maple in bud or early bloom, the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Ornamental Research is announcing arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Society to be held March 15, 2008, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center in Lafayette.

Previously scheduled for March 22, 2008, at the Live Oak Gardens Conference Center on Jefferson Island, the date and site were changed due to conflicts with Easter holidays.

Events for the 2008 meeting, including Registration, Distribution of Plant Releases, Plant Auction and Silent Auction, will be held at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston Street. A Hospitality Hour, Luncheon and General Meeting will be held at the nearby Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 8 - 10 a.m. Registration, Distribution of Plant Releases  
Coffee, juice and doughnuts
- 8:30 - 10 a.m. Silent Auction
- 9 a.m. Plant Auction
- 11 a.m. Open Bar at Petroleum Club
- 12:00 noon Buffet Luncheon  
Speaker – Chip Callaway, ASLA  
“Inspiring Spaces”  
General Meeting

### LUNCHEON MENU

- Tossed Green Salad with Choice w/ Dressing*
- Grilled Boneless Chicken with Natural Gravy*
- Seafood Alfredo*
- Roasted Loin of Pork with Glazed Apples*
- Peas and Artichokes*
- Steamed Broccoli*
- Candied Sweet Potatoes*
- Cornbread Dressing*
- Fruit Cobbler*
- Black Bottom Pie (The Specialty of The Petroleum Club)*
- Tea*
- Coffee*
- Dinner Rolls with Butter*



# From the President's Desk



## Current Membership Card Required At Registration

President Leonard Lasseigne announced at the Fall Board Meeting that 2008 membership cards will be required for all members registering for the Annual Meeting March 15. Dues for 2008 must be paid by February 28 to avoid suspension of membership. For information, contact Ruthie LaVaque at (337) 332-2665

## Members Are Urged To Return Completed Plant Release Reports

Members will be asked, at Registration, to turn in completed Plant Release reports that were mailed in the summer newsletter. Blank report forms will be available by request prior to or at the meeting. For a blank form, please contact Ann Justice at 337-233-5733 (ajjustice@bellsouth.net).

## Luncheon Reservations Must Be Received No Later Than Wednesday, March 12

Cost of the Luncheon will be \$21.00 per person, which includes tax and tip. Guests are welcome. Reservations (to include names of members and guests) must be received no later than Wednesday, March 12, since LSHR must give a final count to the Petroleum Club. New reservations will not be accepted at the Annual Meeting. Make checks payable to LSHR; no cash by mail, please. Please mail reservations to Ruthie LaVaque, 512 Clause Drive, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517.

## Members Encouraged To Improve Quality Of Plants Offered At Auction

President Lasseigne has encouraged members who solicit plant donation for the Plant Auction to emphasize the need for unique and unusual plants, well-established in containers. Bedding plants will be auctioned by the flat in order to stay within time limits.

## 2009 Annual Meeting Tentatively Scheduled At Live Oak Gardens

The 2009 Annual Meeting has been tentatively scheduled to be held at the Live Oak Gardens

Conference Center on Jefferson Island. Plans for that meeting will be announced in a later newsletter.

## Gardening-Related Items Needed For Silent Auction

Members are asked to donate, in advance of, or on the morning of the sale, gardening-related items such as tools, pots and books, to be bid on during the Silent Auction. Items can be next-to-new, or discards which another gardener might find useful. Please contact Ann at the above address to make arrangements for donating.

## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF LSHR

Leonard Lasseigne, president  
Margo Racca, first vice-president  
Albert Durio, second vice-president  
Nancy Anne Rowe, recording secretary  
Ruth LaVaque, treasurer

Directors at Large  
Lorraine Broussard 2005-2006, 2006-2007,  
2007-2008  
Rob Barry 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009  
Cherry Fisher May 2007-2008, 2008-2009,  
2009-2010

Past Presidents with Current Membership  
Richard (Dick) Calhoun  
Mary (Mrs. Arthur) Courville  
Belle (Mrs. Kenneth) Durio  
Dalton Durio  
Barbara (Mrs. Ira) Nelson  
James (Jim) Racca

Directors of Research  
Dennis Wollard, director  
Kenneth (Ken) Durio, associate director

Honorary Board Members or Other  
Aline Arceneaux (past treasurer)  
Ellis Fletcher (membership chairman)  
Ann Justice (current editor, Compost Pile)  
Rebecca Moss (past editor, Compost Pile)  
William (Billy) Welsh (release propagator/coordinator)

# What Plants Make It To the Annual Plant Release Boxes? (And Why We Need Your Evaluations)

It is up to the members of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research to evaluate each and every plant released annually by the organization. This is especially important because each member has a different growing environment in which to evaluate the releases. When the evaluation forms are filled out in detail, condensed and published in the Compost Pile, everyone benefits. For example, one person may be growing a release as an outdoor plant and from reading the reports in the Compost Pile finds out it that it makes an excellent indoor plant. So, it is very important for members to complete the plant questionnaire.

What plants are included in the annual LSHR Plant Release? To make it brief, the plants which are released are normally unique, distinct, different and desirable which normally means they are limited in availability.

Where do Plant Releases come from? Some members may think spontaneous combustion; however, that is not the fact. Plant Releases come from a variety of sources and lots of hard work. LSHR members may make suggestions of what to release. It is great to have suggestions; however, in many cases the ability to obtain the plant (stock), or 175 (good plants), may be next to impossible.

So, if you have made a suggestion in the past and don't find it as a release, there was a problem. It is always best if a source of plants can be furnished as well. Other possible reasons for not releasing a particular plant include: lack of availability or lack of availability at a reasonable price; propagation is difficult in a reasonable or timely fashion, or the committee thought the plant might not appeal to the greatest number of members.

The committee consists of members Dalton Durio, Ellis Fletcher, Billy Welsh, and Dennis Wollard who are (just as many other members) constantly looking for potential plant releases. The committee considers availability, desirable horticultural traits, as well as the potential of the plant to become invasive. I might say that this has happened, as some have become rather wild after being released.

Plant releases normally are propagated by the staff at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center (INHC)

or may be purchased from various nurseries. Of the "easily" propagated plants, one or two plants may be purchased as stock plants from which 175 are propagated to release. Remember, to obtain 175 good plants for placement in boxes, some 200 or so may be needed from which to select. Every reasonable effort is made to have the Plant Release boxes filled with beautiful, uniform plants.

Keep in mind, if the propagation time takes two or three years, then the plant may be readily available on the market before LSHR can release it. In some cases the committee decides to pull a potential plant from the release because it is too common. In rare cases, the plant is so easy to propagate that, in just one year, the plant is available readily from other sources; therefore it is pulled as a release.

Another consideration of the committee is that annually, or over a period of years, a balance of plants should be released. The committee realizes that not everyone has a greenhouse and that the members like a range of plant types. The committee considers a range of plants from woody to herbaceous, flowering to non-flowering, bulbs to non-bulb plants, etc.

The releases should be desirable to the members and be available to the members before the plant is found in the various discount and chain stores. However, a former release may have such a come-back that it is desirable to re-release it. An example is one of my personal favorites, the red passion flower. I always enjoy seeing the beautiful scarlet-red flowers nestled among the green foliage.

As LSHR members, you now may understand what goes into the selection of the plants in the Plant Release boxes, and why we depend on your further evaluation. It is very important to complete the plant questionnaire and return it when requested. We all love plants and want to learn more about plants. Why not share the wealth of plant knowledge?

By Dr. Dennis Wollard,  
LSHR Director of Research



## From the Compost Pile Editor's Desk



As this *Compost Pile* goes to press, 20 persons have accepted invitations to become new members of LSHR. We extend a hearty welcome to Mary Begue, Dianne Frost, Linda Griffin, Paulette Henry, Margie Jenkins, Janet C. Lasseigne, Betty Lowry, Hope Marks, Bud and Rusty McSparrin, Martha Morales, Christine Balfa Powell, Jodie Russo, Robert J. Souvestre, Linda Taylor, Hazel Theriot, Jim Veazey, Martha Applegate Walker, Ann Watkins, and Charlene Zeringue.

We look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

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## Two Acadiana Horticulturists Receive Awards



Dr. Ellis Fletcher and Dr. Robert Barry Jr., both retired UL professors, were presented plaques and lifetime memberships in the Louisiana State Horticulture Society when the organization held its annual meeting at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, January 8, 2008.

The LSHS is made up of professionals representing academia and industry as well as other horticulture enthusiasts from across Louisiana. Members enjoyed horticulture-related presentations, taking a nursery tour, and participating in a plant auction during their stay in Acadiana.

## NOTED GARDEN DESIGNER

*Continued from page 1*

owner of Callaway and Associates, which specializes in garden restoration and landscape design. Chip has written extensively for national gardening publications, and has been the featured speaker at numerous prestigious gardening symposiums.

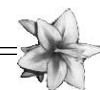
Callaway & Associates was founded in 1980 when Chip graduated from the College of Architecture at N.C. State University with a master's degree in Landscape Architecture. Over the past 25 years he and his design staff have designed nearly 1000 gardens ranging in size from large estates to small patios. During his career, Chip has completed commissions from Nantucket and Long Island to Palm Beach and England, with the majority of the projects coming from the Carolinas and Virginia.

### Chip's Garden

Chip gardens on the grounds of his two, turn-of-the-century bungalows in Historic Fisher Park near downtown Greensboro. He uses one house as his residence and the other as his office. As a happy circumstance, when he bought the houses, Chip was unaware that one of them was a childhood home of one of his mentors, legendary botanist William Lanier Hunt, after whom the botanical garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is named.

Chip designed the gardens behind the houses as a collection of plants and garden elements he remembered from the gardens of his youth. The garden is overflowing with old fashioned favorites like roses, hydrangeas, camellias, gardenias and viburnums. Perennials and favored annual complete the scheme. In addition to being an oasis of calm in a busy city, the garden also serves as a test garden for new plants. Chip is very proud to be a partner in Piedmont Carolina Nursery. Many new plant introductions prove their merit in his ever-changing urban landscape.

*Information courtesy of  
Chip Callaway & Associates 2006*



# Improve Paperwhites With A Nip of Booze

Reprinted from the *Acadiana Gardening Column of The Daily Advertiser* – 1/12/08

My friend Betsy Palmer recently alerted me to an article about paperwhites (*Narcissus tazetta*) that appeared on the Internet site Gardening About.com. The article is in reference to horticulturists in the Flowerbulb Research Program at Cornell University, who are experimenting with the use of alcohol to keep paperwhites from falling over.

Paperwhites are popular indoor plants for winter. Unlike other narcissus, paperwhites don't require a chilling period, so forcing them is as easy as putting the bulbs on pebbles in a bowl of water and waiting. In anywhere from 2-4 weeks, the fragrant flowers usually bloom.

A problem with paperwhites, as with many bulbs planted in pots, is that they grow quite tall and all of their weight is at the top. Researchers have come up with an unusual solution: alcohol.

When paperwhite bulbs are grown in a dilute solution of alcohol, the plants reach a height of  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  their normally expected growth, but the flowers remain normal size and last just as long.

Here's the procedure. Set the bulbs on gravel, as usual, filling the bowl with plain water to just below the base of the bulbs (This also works for bulbs planted in soil). Place near a window or other source of natural light. Once the roots begin growing and the green shoot on top reaches 1-2 inches, pour off the existing water and replace with a solution of 4 – 6 % alcohol. Continue to add the alcohol solution as needed to maintain a constant level of liquid.

To make the alcohol watering solution, you



can use any hard liquor (vodka, tequila, whiskey...) or rubbing alcohol. Don't use wine or beer (too much sugar). Check the bottle for the percentage alcohol, divide the percentage by 5 and then subtract 1. For example: 40% divided by 5 = 8; 8 minus 1 = 7...7 parts of water to 1 part alcohol.

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**I STILL NEED SOME LITTLE SOMETHING FOR HERE. ANY SUGGESTIONS?**



Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research  
c/o Ruth LaVaque, Treasurer  
512 Clause Drive  
Breaux Bridge, LA 70517

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## From the Treasurer's Desk



Dear Members,

As this goes to press, 86% of our members are current on their dues – if you are among them, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! We really appreciate when our members pay their dues on time.

If you have not sent your dues in yet, now is the time to take care of that.

This year's membership cards have been mailed to all members whose dues have been received. If you have not received your 2008 membership card, please contact me at (337) 332-2665, by e-mail at Ruthiesgarden@cox.net or at the return address of the Compost Pile.

As always, plant distributions will be made only to members who present their own current membership card.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

Ruth LaVaque, Treasurer

## Reminder . . . Upcoming Events

### February 16, 2008

*Tres Jolie*, A Floral Design Seminar  
fund-raiser for the Lafayette Garden  
Club.

### February 28, 2008

Last day to pay LSHR 2008 dues

### March 15, 2008

LSHR Annual Spring Meeting

### April 5-6, 2008

Festival de Fleurs

