



COMPOST PILE

LSHR Board Reveals Plans for Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research has announced arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Society to be held March 20, 2010, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston St., in Lafayette.

Events for the meeting, including Registration, Distribution of Plant Releases, Silent Auction and Live Plant Auction will be held at the Horticulture Center. The Hospitality Hour, Luncheon, Speaker's Presentation and General Meeting will be held at the nearby Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd.

Cost of the luncheon is \$25.00 per person, which includes tax and tip. Reservations (please include names of those attending and payment) must be received no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2010 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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration Distribution of Plant Releases Silent Auction Coffee, Juice and Donuts
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Live Plant Auction
11:00 – 12 noon	Open Bar at Petroleum Club
12:00 noon	Buffet Luncheon Chris Wiesinger, Speaker, <i>Collecting, Propagating, and Sharing Old Bulbs!</i> General Meeting

Noted Bulb Collector to Speak at Annual Meeting

Collecting, Propagating, and Sharing Old Bulbs! will be Chris Wiesinger's topic when he speaks before members of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research, March 20, at the Petroleum Club. Chris is the owner of the Southern Bulb Company, a flower bulb farm in East Texas that offers perennial flower bulbs for warm climates. Since the *New York Times* published the story of his life as a bulb collector in 2006, he is now known nationally as "The Bulb Hunter" and spends much time traveling furiously across the South to speak to gardening groups.

Chris started his horticulture career unofficially when given his own garden of cannas and vegetables in his Houston home where he spent his early years. When his family moved to California, he took up gardening again, eventually making money through mowing lawns and deadheading roses for numerous Bakersfield gardens. In high school he was awarded a "campus beautification award" that was developed to honor him for the garden he created with roses, bulbs, and other annuals at the entrance to the school grounds.



After one year studying horticulture at Bakersfield College, he transferred to Texas A&M, where he studied horticulture for 4 more years. His emphasis in Floriculture led him to the study of vegetative annuals under the direction of Dr. Terri Starman. With her guidance, he presented an award-winning paper at a regional horticulture competition on the use of growth hormones and their effects on regulating the sizes and shapes of popular annual plant materials. Upon graduation, he was awarded the

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From the President's Desk



Welcome to a new decade and the opportunity to make this year your best one yet. As the LSHR continues with its projects and updates to our By-laws we want each of you to be involved. We ask for your input and suggestions. Since we are an organization involved in research, it is important for you to let us know which of your releases did well and how you cared for them.

We have a fantastic Spring Meeting planned with a great speaker on March 20. Please don't just show up to pick up your releases. Stay and visit with all our members, participate in the plant auction and then attend the luncheon and listen to Chris Wiesinger. He is a Bulb Collector extraordinaire. You will enjoy hearing about his adventures.

Looking forward to seeing you in March, Margo

ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND LOCATION ANNOUNCED

The 2010 Annual Meeting of LSHR has been scheduled for March 20, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center in Lafayette.

Cost of the luncheon will be \$25.00 per person, which includes tax and tip. Reservations (please include names of those attending and payment) must be received no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2010 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 LSHR, P.O. Box 1473, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND COMPLETED PLANT RELEASE REPORTS

Members will be asked, at registration, to show a current membership card and to turn in completed Plant Release reports that were mailed in the Fall/Winter *Compost Pile*. 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 or ajjustice@bellsouth.net. Information can be typed directly into the electronic forms.

ANNUAL MEETING DUTIES ASSIGNED

The following persons have been named to duty assignments for the 2010 Annual Spring Meeting:

Registration, Aline Arceneaux, Edna Wheeler and Ruthie LaVaque;

Plant releases, Billy Welsh and Dr. Dennis Wollard;

Speaker's needs, Billy Welsh

Auction plant acquisitions, Dr. Wollard, Rebecca Moss, Mary Courville and Norman Baliviero

Plant auctioneers, Dalton Durio, Albert Durio, Todd Lasseigne and Heidi Sheesley;

Auction clerks, Margo Racca and Rob Barry;

Floor monitors, Dr. Wollard, Leonard Lasseigne and Norman Balliviero;

Silent auction, Nancy Rowe, Ann Justice

Coffee, doughnuts and orange juice, Dr. Ellis Fletcher and Ann Justice.

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE SELECTIVE IN CHOOSING PLANTS TO DONATE TO THE AUCTION

According to Dr. Wollard, the most enjoyable portion of the Annual Meeting is the Fun, Exciting, Free-For-All Live Plant Auction held from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. He advises that, although this event is exciting, it is not fattening, immoral or illegal. As in the past, members are asked to bring selected live plants to be auctioned. He stresses that the auctioneers need new, distinct and different

plants, not those that are widely available elsewhere. Donations from individual members should be those things that are hard to find, potted in clean pots, properly identified

GARDENING-RELATED ITEMS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION

Members are asked to donate gardening-related items for the Silent Auction, such as tools, pots, vases and books. Items can be next-to-new or vintage discards that another gardener might find useful. Pick up for heavy items can be arranged by calling Nancy Rowe (989-8251) or Ann Justice (233-5733). The Silent Auction will be open from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. Winners will be announced at that time and will be able to check out those items separately from the later Plant Auction checkout.

AMENDMENTS WILL BE VOTED ON IF APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Members are urged to read the three amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws which will be voted on during the General Meeting, if those amendments are approved at an earlier meeting by the Board of Directors. The text of the proposed amendments can be read elsewhere in this issue of the *Compost Pile*.

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS NEEDED FOR NEW DATABASE

If we do not presently have your e-mail address on file, you will find your name listed elsewhere in this issue with a request that you submit that information.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF LSHR

Margo Racca, President

Albert Durio, First vice-president

Rob Barry, Second vice-president

Nancy Anne Rowe, Recording secretary

Ruth LaVaque, Treasurer

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Norman Balliviero 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011

Jeanie Kreamer 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012

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

Leonard Lasseigne

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*)

Ruth Sheller (Past editor, *Compost Pile*)

William (Billy) Welsh (Release propagator/coordinator)

Noted Bulb Collector

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top honors as the outstanding Floriculture Graduate.

For a senior level horticulture class, it was required that a business plan be written on the structure and execution of a potential wholesale or retail nursery business. Chris took his love of bulbs and wrote a plan that fulfilled the need for bulbs that act as perennials in warmer climates. After a two-month internship with Hines Nursery in Houston, Chris began the project he had dreamed of.

Many of these bulbs are heirlooms and classics that once existed, but have long been forgotten in the market. The idea of preservation soon took hold, and these bulbs have now been "re-propagated" and re-introduced into the market. In 2006 he was honored as a "Top 50 Tastemaker" by House and Garden Magazine and featured in a two-page July New York Times article as "The Bulb Hunter."

Nutrient and Sediment Losses from Surface Runoff during Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) Establishment on a Levee Embankment by Robert Burwell

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) constructs levees from layers of compacted clay soils for flood protection against adjacent water bodies. Although clays offer excellent structural integrity by limiting water infiltration, clay levees with extreme gradients are prone to nutrient and sediment loading of surrounding water bodies during surface runoff events.

The period most susceptible to surface runoff and nutrient and sediment transport is post-levee construction. Because mature vegetation has been shown to greatly reduce surface runoff occurrence and severity, fertilizers are applied at seeding and used to accelerate vegetation establishment. Insufficient grass coverage/protection of the levee surface from surface runoff at fertilizer application results in applied nutrients being transported offsite during precipitation events.

Fertilizer applications to newly constructed levee embankments may have adverse environmental impacts. Nutrient loading from fertilizer applications have been shown to impact human and aquatic organisms that rely on affected water resources. With the construction of at least 50 miles of new levees along Lake Ponchartrain, the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico each year in the New Orleans Levee District, the adverse environment impact from fertilization for vegetative establishment on levees is of great concern.

The purpose of this research is to 1) determine the establishment duration necessary for bermudagrass to effectively reduce sediment erosion and nutrient runoff losses on levee embankments and 2) determine if nutrient losses in runoff water from levee embankments can be reduced through the application of slow release fertilizers while still achieving a reduction in the duration of grass establishment required to achieve sufficient erosion and runoff resistance. The results of the research will be used to develop best management plans to reduce nutrient and sediment loading during vegetative establishment of levee embankments.

Editor's note: Robert Burwell, a graduate student in the Plant, Environmental & Soils Department at LSU, is the winner of the Post-graduate Level Scholarship awarded by LSHR for 2009. This article is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the award.

Information Needed For LHSR Member Database

In order to complete an E-Mail Database of LSHR members, the following members are asked to send an e-mail message to LSHR@cox.net providing a personal e-mail address to be included in the database.

Abell, Ed & Elaine	Ford, Claudia Z.	Mabus, Lorraine	Ritter, Marianna
Alford, Jerry	Foster, Donna	Maier, Jeff	Rogers, Jude
Allen, Suzan	Fremin, Philip & Tina	Manuel, Lois	Roy, Deanna P.
Bankston, Dr. & Mrs. Cecil M.	French, Dr. Carolyn	Mayronne, John	Russo, Jodie
Bannerman, Bonnie	Frost, Dianne	Mazilly, Ronald	Russo, Belinda
Barry, Dr. Robert	Garber, M & M Gene	McClure, Gloria	Ryan, Jo Ann
Bolin, Winnie	Gautreaux, Bryan	Meaux, Ricky	Sarver, Pat
Breaux, Anne	Goudeau, Louwellyn	Meredith, Paul & Mary	Schiffbauer, M & M John
Bright, M & M Phelan	Griffin, Nona	Morales, Martha	Shanks, Josephine M.
Brinegar, Joan	Griffin, Linda	Mouton, Mrs. Edward P.	Sonnier, Cathy
Brocato, Kathryn	Guidry, Sepha	Nehrbass, Janet H.	Stelly, Damon
Broussard, Pam	Habetz, Josette	O'Quin, Jr., M & M Robert	Swafford, M & M Terry
Campbell, M & M Kenneth	Hart, Davanna	O'Rourke Jr., Dr Ed N	Sweeney, Jane
Carlisi, Jackie	Heard, Dr. & Mrs. John G.	Parker, Jim & Jenny	Tate, David
Cazayoux, Faye	Henry, Paulette	Pecnik, Jim & Diane	Taylor, Linda
Comeaux, Catherine S.	Hollier, Aaron & Maxine	Perron, Michelle	Theriot, June
Conery, Deborah	Howell, Daisye	Perry, Hope	Thompson, Bruce
Culpepper, Jim	Howland, Clyde	Philippi, Eleanor	Tuma, Dr. June
Daigle, Caroline W.	Hunt Institute	Pommier, Carla	Usner, Peg
Daigle, Carmen B.	Istre, Pat	Poupart, Edmonde & Monique	Vigil, Eddie & Dee
Deegan, Patricia	Janssen, J. Hank	Powell, Christine Balfa	Wade, Kathleen
Deegan, James Edward	Jaster, Earlyn	Prejean, Melanie	Walker, Candy
Delhomme, Joann	Keller, Jr, H. J.	Quirk, Barbara	Walker, Martha Applegate
Devalcourt, Jeane	Kelly, Melissa	Raby, Chris & Annette	Wallace, Jean Marie
Domas, Sidney & Wanda	Kempf, Doty	Rees, Dr. Albert C.	Wallace, Jan
Earle, Paula	Landrum, Carolyn	Rehn, Dr. Terry & Jill	Weaver Jr, M & M Robert H.
Edwards, Elizabeth	Langlinais, Kent	Richard, Lonnie & Susan	
Faulk, Joyce	Latiolais, Lola	Ritter, Teena	

From the Treasurer's Desk



Dear Members,

As this goes to press, 81% of our members have paid their dues – if you are among them, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! We really appreciate it 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. Dues unpaid on February 28th will result in suspension of membership.

Welcome to our new members: Hal & Chris Butts, Aline Creed, Wanda Ellis, Betty Falgout, Alice Hammer, Barbara Laudun, Brad Mayfield, Marlon Mitchell, Diana Nolan, Jeanne Panepinto, Annette Pressler, Jeanie Richard, Cranston 'Doc' & Matilde Smith and Diana Wells.

This year's membership cards have been mailed to members whose dues have been received. If you have not received your 2010 membership card, please contact me 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

2010 ANNUAL MEETING PC LUNCHEON MENU

**Tossed Green Salad
with choice of Dressing**

**Fried Fillet of Catfish
Stuffed Boneless Chicken**

Roasted Loin of Pork with Glazed Apples

**Green Beans
Honey Glazed Carrots**

**Rice Pilaf
Lyonnaise Potatoes**

Dinner Rolls with Butter

**Fruit Cobbler
Bread Pudding with Hard Sauce**

Tea and Coffee

Please mail reservations to LSHR, P.O. Box 1473, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517. Luncheon reservations and payment for all members of your party must be received no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

Proposed Amendments to be Approved by the Board of Directors, then Voted on by Members

The Board of Directors will review the proposed amendments at an earlier meeting. If approved, they will be voted on and may be adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at the LSHR Annual Meeting March 20, 2010.

1. According to Article I, Section 6, of our BY-LAWS:

A former member may be reinstated upon written request and payment of the dues for the delinquent year and the current year's dues.

The proposed amendment, if adopted would now read:

A suspended member may attain membership after being nominated by a member in good standing and following both the approval of the Board of Directors and a positive response to an official invitation to join the Society

2. According to Article III - Duties of Officers, Section 4 of our BY-LAWS:

The Secretary shall keep the records of the proceedings of the Society and of the Board of Directors. He shall be responsible for the membership records of the Society and for issuing notices of all meetings.

The proposed amendment, if adopted, would now read:

The Secretary shall keep the records of the proceedings of the Society and of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for issuing notices of all meetings.

3. According to Article III – Duties of Officers, Section 5 of our BY-LAWS:

The Treasurer shall receive, keep safe, and account for, all money and securities of the Society, keeping same in a special account in the name of the Society. He shall disburse money at the direction of the President or Board of Directors.

The proposed amendment, if adopted, would now read:

The Treasurer shall receive, keep safe, and account for, all money and securities of the Society, keeping same in a special account in the name of the Society. The Treasurer shall disburse money at the direction of the President or Board of Directors and be responsible for the membership records of the Society.

FYI: Tiny Water Garden Brings Big Delight

Building a Simple Pond in a Container

In my small garden, I recycle space frequently in order to grow seasonal plants. So why not a container pond to display summer water plants?

My townhouse entry garden is rectangular in shape—approximately 25 feet long and 8 feet wide. A four-foot wide brick path winds from wrought-iron gate to sheltered front door. Near the entry gate, hedged by a semi-circular planting of clipped dwarf yaupons and Lilies of the Nile, lies an ideal spot for a water garden—a real, honest-to-goodness, in-ground water garden, tiny though it might be.

That spot, a circular area with a diameter of perhaps five feet, already serves a multitude of landscaping purposes. It holds a lighted outdoor Christmas tree in December, a blooming potted *Magnolia soulangiana* in February, and in November, pansies or russet chrysanthemums in an antiqued urn. Extending this arrangement to include an in-ground water garden was a challenge, though not an insurmountable one.

Fortunately, the soil had been amended with organic matter to the point that it was not difficult to work. Other than digging a hole deep enough to hold the 27-inch diameter, 15-inch deep, round, rigid plastic container, it was simply a matter of bringing in mulch to camouflage the visible part of the pot, and wet sphagnum moss to mold over its rim. A water plant or two completed the picture.

Now that the job is complete, an exotic water hyacinth (*Eichhornia*

crassipes) rises from the pool in summer, opening every morning with two to three spikes of iridescent, lavender-blue flowers rising from lush green foliage that floats on the water's surface. A perennial blue salvia and two mahogany and gold rudbeckias bloom nearby.

Because there was already a wall fountain in the area contributing the muffled tinkling sound of running water, there was little need to install a pump. A daily splash with the garden hose would keep the water fresh and free from mosquito larvae and other uninvited guests. Soon birds and butterflies were stopping to investigate the quiet little pond, the silence broken only by the droning of industrious bees, and the occasional splash of a tiny tree frog.

Since this space is recycled every autumn to display an urn holding fall flowers, the transition begins as temperatures cool. Mulch and moss are raked back, faded water plants are chopped and added to the compost pile. Pond water, a rich soup of living organisms, is bailed out or siphoned off into the garden.

Because my empty plastic container is entirely below ground, it is simpler to keep it there over winter, topped with a flat, sturdy plywood cover cut slightly larger to form a lid. On top of this, a thin layer of mulch makes an attractive base for above-ground additions such as the urn, the Christmas tree and, in spring, the potted magnolia. The transition takes about two hours.

by Ann Justice



Look What My Yellow Wandering Jew Has Done

In the Spring of 2007, I planted the LSHR release *Tradescantia fluminensis* 'Aurea', otherwise known as Yellow Wandering Jew, in my front yard. It grew so well that I took some cuttings and transferred them to my back yard behind my fish pond to cover the ground in a bed planted with aucuba.

In June 2008, while walking behind the pond, I noticed some white leaves amongst the Yellow Wandering Jew. My heart started to race, and I had hot flashes when I realized it was a mutation or sport from the otherwise lime green foliage to a green and white leaf.

I carefully took a cutting some three or four inches below the mutated area and placed it in an appropriate rooting mix. The cutting rooted and grew very well. I now have a container of the variegated plant.

This is a new cultivar just as 'Aurea' is a cultivar of *Tradescantia fluminensis*. This new plant needs a name, possibly 'Split Decision' or 'Lemon-Lime', or I have considered 'Liz-Dub' in honor of my parents.

The down side of this mutation is that it is not stable. Most new



shoots are the light green in color, and some are albino, while a few, very few, are the pretty new white and green combination.

Be a keen observer of your environment, you may not know what you might be missing.

by Dr. Dennis Wollard

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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One of My Favorite LSHR Plant Releases

My Favorite LSHR Release – Chalice Vine

By Glenda Balliviero

Years back we visited a garden in San Diego and I saw this plant in full bloom along a fence. I was in awe with the beauty of the flowers, but through the years, I'd forgotten about them. When one of my 2001 releases bloomed, I was truly surprised. The forgotten beauty was now in my garden and has become my favorite release.

This beauty is the Chalice Vine, whose botanical name is *Solandra maxima*. It is from Jamaica and is an evergreen shrubby vine with woody branches that meander to about 6 feet.

The upright bloom is a huge 8" to 9" flower which, first makes its debut in a light yellowish-white color which through several days, darkens to bright gold. The flower tapers at the base, has purple veins within and the opening actually turns back with a frilly type edging.

I have had mine in a large pot throughout the years. Its home from spring through fall is in a partly shaded area of my garden leaning against a wooden picket fence. It isn't until late fall that



large buds form at the ends of the shiny leaf clusters. These slowly unfold and are truly a sight to behold. The flowers actually have the appearance of a golden chalice, thus its common name. In winter, my pot with the large dangling vines is gently moved into my greenhouse where it can enjoy warmth and sunlight as they are quite tender being a zone 10 plant.

This fall the Friends of the Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge visited my gardens and it was one of the highlights for the gardeners. When I retired from teaching, my plants became all my students. This particular student is one of those that need a little special attention and, yes, it is well worth it when it brightly performs on its blooming test.

I have had several large seed pods form throughout the years but they always seem to disappear, perhaps to some hungry animal. This fall I was able to retrieve one; however, none of the seeds have yet to germinate. I guess I'll have to resort to taking some cuttings because I certainly want to continue to have this beautiful performing student in my fall gardening class.