



COMPOST PILE

## Board Announces 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 17, 2012.

Events for the 2012 meeting, including Registration, Distribution of Plant Releases, Plant Auction and Silent Auction, will be held at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston St. A Hospitality Hour, Luncheon and General Meeting will be held at the nearby Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd.

Cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person which includes tax and tip. Reservations,

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*Prunus campanulata*  
(Photo by Ellis Fletcher)

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Registration, distribution of plant releases, coffee, juice and doughnuts
- 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Silent Auction
- 9 a.m. Plant Auction
- 11 a.m. Open Bar at Petroleum Club
- 12 noon Buffet Luncheon
- Speaker –  
Dr. Robert E. Lyons
- Business Meeting

### LUNCHEON MENU

- Tossed greens with choice of dressing
- Dinner rolls with butter
- Stuffed boneless chicken
- Roasted loin of pork with glazed apples
- Fried fillet of catfish
- Honey glazed carrots
- Peas and artichokes
- Parsley potatoes
- Cornbread dressing
- Fruit cobbler
- Bread pudding with hard sauce
- Tea and coffee



## Noted Educator, Photographer, Writer to Speak at Annual Meeting

Our scheduled speaker, Dr. Robert E. Lyons, can most often be found on the 1,050 acre grounds and in the

laboratories of Longwood Gardens at the University of Delaware overseeing his ten graduate students, each working towards an M.S. degree in Public Horticulture. Students are learning how public gardens are run on a daily basis, how they showcase their collections and how they serve as educational tools teaching annually

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# From the President's Desk



Again, we are anticipating the Annual Spring Meeting of the LSHR with high hopes for a great time. Our speaker this year is Dr. Robert E. Lyons, Professor of Landscape Horticulture and Director, Longwood Graduate Program, University of Delaware/Longwood Gardens.

We hope that your dues were paid on time and that you are looking forward to receiving your box of plant releases. We will have the Live Plant Auction, as usual, at 9 a.m. after registration, and the Silent Auction will take place in the library at the same time, but beginning at 8 a.m. There is always standing room only for the plant auction, so if you need to have a chair, come early and claim your seat. The doors open at 8:00 a.m. for registration.

The positions of Treasurer and of two Directors are up for election. The Nominating Committee will propose three candidates to be voted on at the Luncheon. The nominee for Treasurer is Jo Ann Pugh. Present Director, Dr. Oswald Brown, has resigned for health reasons, and Director Dr. Jeanie Kreamer is rotating off after this meeting. The nominees for Directors are Dr. Donald Ayo and Harold Huffman. I feel quite certain that you will concur with the Nominating Committee that these nominees are capable and will do a great job in keeping LSHR moving forward.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 17th and wear your green because it is also St. Patrick's Day. Hope to see you there.

*Margo Racca*  
*President*

## **ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING TO MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Members who need help with registration or with loading plant release boxes are asked to call Rob Barry at 337-277-9822. Please call in advance so that Rob can meet those member on arrival and provide what assistance is necessary.

## **PLEASE COMPLETE PLANT RELEASE REPORT FORM AND BRING MEMBERSHIP CARD**

At registration, all members will be asked to

show a membership card. Continuing members will be asked to turn in completed Plant Release Report forms. Plant release reports are not required of new members. If needed, blank report forms will be available by mail by request prior to the meeting by contacting Ann Justice, 202 Briargate Circle, Lafayette, LA 70503. Electronic forms can be e-mailed to you if requested from [ajjustice@bellsouth.net](mailto:ajjustice@bellsouth.net). The electronic forms permit the member to type in the information, and turn in a copy at the Annual Meeting.

## **ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

1. **Registration** – Ruth LaVaque, Aline Arceneaux, Edna Wheeler, Glenda Balliviero
2. **Hospitality - doughnuts, coffee and orange juice** – Ann Justice and Ellis Fletcher
3. **Auction Plant Acquisition** – Rob Barry, Billy Welsh, Norman Balliviero, Dennis Wollard and Albert Durio
4. **Auctioneers** – Heidi Sheesley and Albert Durio
5. **Auction Floor Monitors** – Jim Racca, Leonard Lasseigne, Dennis Wollard
6. **Silent Auction** – Rebecca Moss and Jeanie Kreamer
7. **Sales Clerks** – Margo Racca and Rob Barry
8. **Plant Releases** – Billy Welsh

## **GARDENING-RELATED ITEMS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION**

Members are asked to donate items to the Silent Auction held between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Popular are gardening tools, pots and books. Items can be next-to-new or discards which another gardener might find useful, Please deliver items Friday evening (March 16th) or before 8 a.m. March 17th. Contact Rebecca Moss, 337-232-2541 for information.

## **OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF LSHR**

Margo Racca, President  
Albert Durio, Sr., First Vice-President  
Rob Barry, Second Vice-President  
Roxanna Champagne, Recording Secretary  
Ruth LaVaque, Treasurer

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thousands of school-age children, as well as adults.

Dr. Lyons is presently the Program Director for the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture and Professor of Landscape Horticulture at the University of Delaware in a unique program that trains graduate students to enter leadership positions at botanical gardens, arboreta, and other institutions within the field of public horticulture.

The title of his presentation is *Reconciling Ornamental Plant Choices for the Cultivated Landscape: Breeding Breakthroughs, Solid Garden Standards, and Plants with Untapped Potential*.

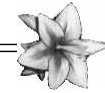
Lyons explains, "It's easy to get caught up in the flood of new plants headed for the marketplace. There always seem to be lots of new cultivars and species coming through the pipeline. However, the real challenge is to temper your immediate excitement, sift through the avalanche of recent introductions, and not lose sight of the reality that just because something isn't brand new, doesn't mean it has lost value for the garden. This talk will look at plants with great reputations for performance, new cultivar improvements that truly merit attention, and lesser known plants in the crosshairs for exploitation."

Lyons has taught courses in herbaceous plant materials, their diversity, and use in the landscape while on the faculty of Virginia Tech, North Carolina State University, and the University of Delaware. He co-founded and became the first Director of the Hahn Horticulture Gardens (a.k.a. Virginia Tech Horticulture Gardens) during his tenure from 1981 – 1998 at Virginia Tech. In 1999, he became Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State where he remained through 2004.

His numerous career awards include:

- Fellow in the American Society for Horticultural Science
- Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota
- Chadwick Teaching Award from the American Nursery and Landscape Association
- Outstanding Educator Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science
- Outstanding Research Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science
- Wine Award for outstanding undergraduate teaching at Virginia Tech and member in the Academy of Teaching Excellence

He has been a photographer for over 30 years and has published widely in homeowner, commercial, and educational publications (print and electronic), most notably *Horticopia* garden plant selection software; he has exhibited and lectured nationally about horticultural photography, and has received awards from the Garden Writers Association of America for both his photography and writings.




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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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**DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

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

2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

Glenda Balliviero 2011 – 2014

**PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

Richard (Dick) Calhoun

Mary Courville

Belle Durio

Dalton Durio

Leonard Lasseigne

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)

**LSHR MAIL AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research

PO Box 1473

Breaux Bridge, LA 70517-1473

LSHR@aol.com

# FYI: Splendid Sansevieria Has a Special Place in LSHR History

*In your plant release box, issued in 2011 (in the group of plants that you are reporting on today), was a splendid silver and green sansevieria that has a special significance for our members.*

*This plant, Sanseveria hyacinthoides ‘Siam Silver’, is quite similar to a new cultivar that has been named Sansevieria guineensis ‘Sarah Huffman’. It was named in honor of the late Sarah Huffman, LSHR member, and wife of Harold Huffman, who will be installed at the Annual Meeting as an LSHR Director.*

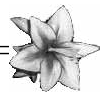
*What follows is a report from horticulturist, Alan Butler, Brookside Nursery, Lincolnshire, UK, representing the International Sansevieria Society, which made the identification and named the cultivar:*

“A couple of months ago I was contacted by Sarah and Harold Huffman, members of the International Sansevieria Society, with a request to identify a cultivar which they had obtained about eight years ago from a small nursery about 300 mile north of New Orleans. Apparently, there were only two plants which were in a pot tucked away under a bench and surrounded by weeds, but Sarah was able to buy them and has since grown them on and propagated them several times.

As you can see (from the pictures) the plant is quite distinctive and I am pleased to name it in honour of its discoverer. Leaf cuttings revert to the original green plant and show its origin to be *Sansevieria guineensis*.

The markings are not unlike *S. guineensis* ‘Manolin’ with numerous white or pale

green striations so dense as to obscure the original green coloration. *S. guineensis* ‘Sarah Huffman’ differs



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## MEETING

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which must include names of guests and payment of all luncheon fees, must be received no later than Wednesday, March 14, since LSHR must give a final count to the Petroleum Club in advance. New reservations will not be accepted at the event. Please make checks payable to LSHR; please do not send cash by mail.

Luncheon reservations, including names and payment for the meal, should be mailed to LSHR c/o Ruth LaVaque, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1473, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517.

in having much wider and longer leaves, 6 cm (2 in.) wide and up to 60 cm (2 ft.) tall. The markings also differ with a random occurrence of the normal coloration of pure white and plain dark green stripes among the normal coloration. This gives the plant a most attractive “painted” appearance.

As a cultivar of *S. guineensis* it is likely to be a little more cold sensitive than the (more common) trifasciata varieties, but the greater areas of green will make it easier to grow than ‘Manolin’. We will have not had much experience of growing it in England, but Sarah says it grows well for her.”

*LSHR members’ ratings of S. guineensis will be compiled and published in the summer issue of the Compost Pile.*

# Garden Therapy Renews the Heart, Mind, Body and Soul

by Glenda Balliviero

The Lafayette Garden Club's Garden Therapy program at Evangeline Oaks Guest House won the National Garden Club category and overall award for Garden Therapy last year. More than 2 years ago I took on the task of developing this program which has proven to bring happiness and joy to the residents of the home. Monthly meetings plus weekly visits not only entertain these folks but give them the opportunity to share their past gardening experiences, take part in planting and watching seeds and bulbs germinate to bring beauty to their rooms and the patio garden and enjoy programs on getting to experience flowers



through the senses of sight, smell, taste and touch.

It may not be a research project but it has certainly proven to change the spirits of many of the residents. The administrator has told me that it is amazing to see the change in some of the folks who are participating in the program. The social skills of many have developed and their delight in learning about plants is amazing. The satisfaction that I get from this program is perhaps as great as the joy it brings to them. They may not remember my name but I am delighted with being called Garden Lady.



## FYI: Some Interesting Ferns

You may think that you are unfamiliar with Resurrection Fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*), but you have probably seen it many times. This is an attractive small fern that grows on the corky barks of trees, especially live oaks. It is beautiful during the year when there are frequent rains, and the atmospheric conditions are very humid. When temperatures rise and the air becomes dryer, it plays dead, turns brown and curls up. When rains return, the fern turns green and lush.

This plant is sometimes known as Rose of Jericho, Resurrection Plant or Dinosaur Plant. It is sold mainly as a novelty houseplant that can be easily and repeatedly revived. I admire it on local trees during my neighborhood walks, and also when I watch it on the venerable oak trees in the

parking lot of the Lafayette Oil Center's Capitol One Bank. If you want to transplant some (check with Capital One first), lift it with the roots and tuck it in the soil at the base of oaks and other trees. Keep moist.

Another interesting fern sometime seen locally growing on patios is Australian tree fern.

*Sphaeropteris cooperi* or *Cyathea cooperi* can tolerate temperature to 27 degree F. and a few degrees lower when grown in protected areas such as a walled patio. The plant prefers bright light, partial shade and a daily drink of water.

Wet down the fronds and trunk on dry days in summer and autumn. In spring cover the base with a few inches of organic fertilizer, such as compost. When new fronds begin to emerge, prune off old ones.



**Australian tree fern**  
(*Sphaeropteris cooperi*)  
(Photo submitted)



**Resurrection fern**  
(*Polypodium polypodioides*)  
(Photo submitted)

## From the Treasurer's Desk



Dear Members,

As this goes to press, almost 85% of our members have paid their dues – if you are among them, we thank you! Membership cards have been mailed to members whose dues have been received. If you have not received your 2012 membership card, please contact me by e-mail at [Ruthiesgarden@cox.net](mailto:Ruthiesgarden@cox.net) or at the return address of the Compost Pile.

If you have not sent your dues in yet, now is the time to take care of that. Dues unpaid on February 28<sup>th</sup> will result in suspension of membership. Unlike previous years, a



HAVE

A

SAFE AND

HAPPY

MARDI GRAS

HOLIDAY!



suspended membership may no longer be reinstated just by sending a request for reinstatement and payment for dues.

Due to a change in the By-Laws, which was approved by the membership on March 20, 2010, “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.” Don’t be left out – mail your dues today!

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!

*Ruthie LaVaque*  
Treasurer

*In memory of . . .*

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research express their sympathy to the family of

**Jan “Hank” Hendrik Janssen**

who died at the age of 90, Friday, November 4, 2011, at his home in Lafayette. Graveside services were held at Fountain Memorial Cemetery in Lafayette on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 4 p.m. Father Keith Landry officiated.

Hank was a horticulturist and was the manager of the greenhouses at UL-Lafayette, formerly USL, for over 20 years. He was also the previous owner of the Three Sisters flower shop for 15 years and also worked at the Garden Center for Walmart. Hank was a friend to many LSHR members.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## A Favorite LSHR Release – Taylor's Perfection

By Dr. Ellis Fletcher

The very appropriately named camellia, Taylor's Perfection, is one of my favorite LSHR shrubs. This handsome evergreen shrub features leathery, dark green foliage that serves as the background for a profusion of exquisite light pink, large, semi-double blooms. Flowers develop over an extended period of time from mid- to late-season with new buds developing even before old flowers begin to fall; thus, permitting continuous bloom for weeks.

Petal arrangement is such that showy stamens, most conspicuous in the afternoon, attract both bees and butterflies. Although some consider the "nodding" flowers to be a drawback, I rather enjoy the "bell-like" effect. Whereas most spent flowers shatter, some do fall nearly intact. Flowers serve well as cut specimens.



*Camellia japonica*  
'Taylor's Perfection'  
(Photo by Ellis Fletcher)