



COMPOST PILE



**LSHR Board Announces Plans for Annual Meeting**

With the opening of spring blossoms, 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 16, 2013, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center in Lafayette.

Opening events for the 2013 meeting, which include registration, distribution of plant releases, plant auction and silent auction, will be held at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston Street. Moving to the nearby Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd., guests will enjoy a hospitality hour and buffet luncheon followed by a presentation from featured speaker, Dr. Todd Lasseigne. A business meeting will conclude the events.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- 8-10 a.m. Registration, distribution of plant releases, coffee, juice, doughnuts
- 8:30-10 a.m. Silent auction
- 9 a.m. Plant auction
- 11 a.m. Open bar at the Petroleum Club
- 12 noon Buffet luncheon, Speaker, Business meeting at the Petroleum Club

**LUNCHEON MENU**

- Tossed Greens with Choice of Dressing
- Southern Fried Chicken
- Shrimp Primavera & Capellini Pasta
- Roasted Pork Loin with Glazed Apples
- Green Beans
- Corn Macque Choux
- Corn Bread Dressing
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Fruit Cobbler
- Bread Pudding with Hard Sauce
- Tea and Coffee

**Using Public Gardens To Build Vibrant Communities**

Dr. F. Todd Lasseigne, otherwise known to many LSHR members as the Leonard Lasseignes family's illustrious son, will be the featured speaker at the Society's 2013 Annual Meeting March 16. A national leader in the area of public horticulture, he will share with members the importance of creating and building vibrant communities through beautiful, relevant and modern public gardens.

In describing his topic, Todd points out that to ever greater degrees, communities across the country have realized that attracting and retaining young, talented professionals is dependent on several factors: desirable, well-paying jobs, robust community structure (schools to roads to parks ,etc.) and vibrant, compelling "quality-of-life" social infrastructure.

"Those communities that are investing in and developing their cultural institutions (such as botanical gardens, museums, zoos, etc.) are being rewarded through retention and growth of their "creative class" citizenry, leading to stronger, more resilient, diversified economies and the continual recruitment and attraction of businesses and talented professionals.

"Botanical gardens (or "public gardens" as

the more general term) in these communities are succeeding and thriving as vital elements of the social fabric, while also building awareness of their missions to educate, conserve and showcase the world of plants to ever-broadening audiences. It's hard work to build a new cultural institution, but many communities are doing this -- on large and small scales -- every day."

Although his work has prevented him from being at home in Acadiana as much as he would like, Todd has been actively involved in the LSHR's annual meetings and is no stranger to most members.

Currently he serves as the CEO of Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden, a position he has held since April 2011. There, he is charged with bringing forth the vision of the four founders and the board of directors



*(Continued on page 5)*

# From the President's Desk



As I am writing my last message as the LSHR President, I am reminded of an old cheerleader cheer. It goes like this: "Spring has sprung, Fall has fell, Winter is here and it is cold as usual. " Surprised you didn't I?

The weather in our area has been wetter and colder and more dreary than I can remember in a long time. The Lake Charles American Press stated that in 2012 we totaled 72 inches of rain. I believe we must have made up for the drought from the two previous years.

Although we needed the moisture to catch up, it would be okay with me if we had a few sunny, warmer days for a little while. This would probably make our plants happier, too.

Hopefully you have kept tabs on your 2012 releases. Remember to **bring your Plant Release Form with you to the Annual Meeting** so that you can receive your 2013 releases. The Board decided at our Fall Meeting that the reports have to be turned in at the time you register. When they are mailed or emailed in advance, the Treasurer has no way of knowing who has sent them in early. Thus, if you have it with you when you arrive, you will receive a new box of plants.

You're saying, "Oh, I filled it out but I forgot it at home," but this is not the same as having it with you to turn in. If you don't have it with you.....oh well, you know the answer.....no new releases to coddle. Please don't make us send you away crying. We are serious about this!

You are hereby reminded that the **Louisiana Society for Horticulture Research** is just that, a group of people who do research on plants. Therefore, if no written report is done, that must mean, no research was done. Just saying. We are looking forward to seeing you on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Meeting. We will be electing the new officers for 2013-2015. Please come out and vote for the next Board.

*Margo Racca*  
*President*

## THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES FOR POSITIONS AS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2012-2015 WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

President: Albert Durio  
First Vice-President: Rob Barry  
Second Vice-President: Norman Balliviero  
Secretary: Roxanna Champagne  
Treasurer: JoAnn Pugh  
Director at Large: Peter Piazza (2013-2016)

## THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE FILLING UNEXPIRED TERMS AS DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

Glenda Balliviero (2011-2014)  
Dr. Donald Ayo (2012-20115)

## Please complete your Plant Release Report and bring it, along with your membership card, when you register for the Annual Meeting

At registration, all members will be asked to show a membership card and all returning members are expected to turn in a completed, signed Plant Release Report. Members failing to turn in reports will not be eligible to receive new releases. A blank Plant Release Report form is included in this issue of the Compost Pile. New members are not expected to turn in reports.

Blank report forms will NOT be available at registration; however, blank report forms will be mailed by request prior to the meeting by contacting Ann Justice, 202 Briargate Circle, Lafayette, LA 70503. Electronic forms will be e-mailed, if requested, from [ajjustice@bellsouth.net](mailto:ajjustice@bellsouth.net). The electronic form permits the member to type in the information, and turn in a copy at registration.

## LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 13

Cost of the luncheon is \$25.00 per person, which includes tax and tip. Reservations, including payment and names of members and guests attending, must be received no later than March 13, 2013 in order to provide a final count for the Petroleum Club. New reservations will not be accepted on the day of the meeting. Please make checks payable to LSHR. Please do not send cash.

## ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS WHO NEED HELP

Members who need help with registration or with loading plant release boxes are asked to call Rob Barry at 337-277-9822. If those members will call in advance, Rob will meet them on arrival and provide what assistance is necessary.

## GARDENING-RELATED ITEMS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION

Members are asked to donate items such as gardening tools, pots, books, seeds, cuttings to the Silent Auction held between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Items can be next-to-new or discards which other gardeners might find useful, Please deliver items Friday evening (March 15th) or before 8 a.m. March 16th. Contact Rebecca Moss, 337-232- 2541 for information.

## ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES FOR ANNUAL MEETING

**Registration** – JoAnn Pugh and committee

**Hospitality** – Dr. Ellis Fletcher and Ann Justice

**Auction Plant Acquisition** – Norman Balliviero, Dr. Dennis Wollard and Mary Courville

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Auctioneers** – Heidi Sheesley, Albert Durio and Dr. Todd Lasseigne

**Auction Floor Monitors** - Jim Racca, Leonard Lasseigne, Dr. Dennis Wollard

**Silent Auction** – Rebecca Moss and Dr. Jean Kreamer

**Sales Clerks** – Margo Racco and Rob Barry

**Plant Releases** – Billy Welsh

### **LSHR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS PURSUING DEGREES IN AREAS OF PLANT SCIENCE**

While the best things may be free, or so that very old song goes...., LSHR does have two scholarships available to undergraduates and graduates of Louisiana colleges and universities, enrolled full time pursuing degrees in horticulture, biology related to plant science, and similar areas of study. Students must be in good standing and with two recommendations, completion of the application form, meeting appropriate guidelines, may apply by Feb. 1, 2013. Amounts of these scholarships range from \$1,000 per year for an undergraduate student; \$3000-\$5000 to a graduate student. The spirit of these scholarships is to promote and support study in horticultural fields, especially ornamental horticulture.

Jacob Delahoussaye, a senior undergraduate who graduated in December, and William Afton, a graduate student, received scholarships for the 2012 Fall Semester. William's Scholarship Award will be granted for the 2013 Spring Semester. Contact Dr. Jean T. Kreamer, [jtk@louisiana.edu](mailto:jtk@louisiana.edu) for further details.

### **LSHF FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT AVAILABLE**

LSHR is launching its first faculty grant cycle for the year 2013 for applied research on ornamental horticulture. The guidelines for funding focus on application of work which may be independent of other projects or may be used in conjunction with other research projects. The Society hopes to have the awarded project summary and possible photographs available for a subsequent COMPOST PILE newsletter. The scope of the grant guidelines are broad to allow for creative work suitable for sharing with our LSHR membership. One may make inquiries for further information and guidelines to Dr. Jean T. Kreamer, [jtk@louisiana.edu](mailto:jtk@louisiana.edu).

### **BOARD MEMBERS HAVE MET WITH OFFICIALS REGARDING FUTURE OF HORTICULTURE CENTER**

Representatives from the Board have had separate meetings with City-Parish President Joey Durel and ULL President T. Joe Savoie concerning the future of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. No formal agreements have been made. The Board will be apprised of any future developments.

### **EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED**

If you have not turned in your email address, please do as soon as possible, via [LSHR@cox.net](mailto:LSHR@cox.net). Recently we had a situation where a document had to be mailed to members. This was simple and cost-free to send to those with email addresses. We understand that not everyone has email, but would like to

hear from those who do.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES FOR THE HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ARE DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2013 LSHR MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FOR TWO POSITIONS:**

- 1) New members, persons you hope will become members
- 2) Candidates for the Horticultural Medallion Award, the highest award offered by LSHR, awarded on occasion to an individual for his or her long-time contributions to horticulture.

Nominations must be sent to membership committee chair, Dr. Ellis Fletcher, 341 Orangewood Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503 or [USLFletch@cox.net](mailto:USLFletch@cox.net) or [LSHR@cox.net](mailto:LSHR@cox.net). Nominations will be accepted any time, however they will be voted on by the Board of Directors at the Fall Board Meeting and must be postmarked prior to November 1. Nomination of an individual for membership is acceptable by e-mail since the date of electronic mailing is indicated. Reasons for nomination are not required.

Nomination of an individual for the Horticultural Medallion Award requires a post-marked envelope along with the letter of recommendation and a handwritten signature. It is mandatory to include reasons justifying the nomination of an individual for the Horticultural Medallion Award.

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

Margo Racco, President  
Albert Durio, Sr., First Vice-President  
Rob Barry, Second Vice-President  
Roxanna Champagne, Recording Secretary  
JoAnn Pugh, Treasurer

### **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Harold Huffman (filling the unexpired term of Dr. Oswald Brown) 2012-13  
Glenda Balliviero 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14  
Dr. Donald Ayo 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15

### **PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

Richard (Dick) Calhoun  
Mary Courville  
Belle Durio  
Dalton Durio  
Leonard Lasseigne  
Dr. Jim Racca

### **HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS OR OTHER**

Aline Arceneaux (Past Treasurer)  
Dr. Jean Kreamer (Nominations Chairman)  
Dr. Ellis Fletcher (Membership Chairman)  
Ann Justice (Current Editor, Compost Pile)  
Rebecca Moss (Past Editor, Compost Pile)  
William (Billy) Welsh, (Release Propagator/Coordinator)

# Highlights of the Easy Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research Project

By Allen Owings, Professor - Horticulture, LSU AgCenter

Gardeners who have shied away from growing roses because of the fungicides and care needed to grow them well can take heart in a recently completed research program that took place at the Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport, La.

The “Easy Tea” Hybrid Tea Research Project was initiated to identify hybrid tea cultivars that will flourish under minimum care conditions. This project was started in February 2009 and the last data from this four-year study were taken in October 2012. The research project is a joint effort of the American Rose Society and the LSU AgCenter with some financial support provided by the ARS Research Endowment Trust.

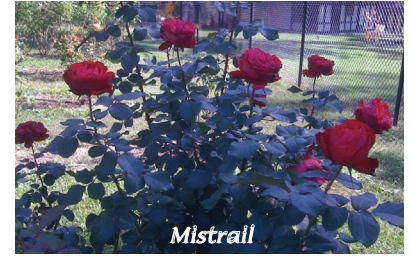
Based on the highly successful Earth-Kind rose program initiated and managed through the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Project, as its name implies, focused on hybrid tea cultivars rather than the shrubs and old garden roses primarily included in the Earth-Kind research. As with the Earth-Kind Program, the Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Research has identified already existing rose cultivars that can meet the project criteria to be designated earth-friendly.

Several years ago, Dallas resident and ARS member Claude Graves, who chairs the project, stated that “The American Rose Society is seeking to encourage citizens to enjoy growing our national floral emblem, the rose, by developing a testing program that will identify hybrid tea rose cultivars that require a minimum of care – including minimal application of chemicals that are considered by many to pose potential harm to the earth’s ecology. The function of the Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research Program is to evaluate 30 carefully selected cultivars of hybrid tea roses to identify those with the highest level of natural disease resistance. Results of this Shreveport-based testing will be published nationally and worldwide to provide rose growers with the names of the most environmentally responsible hybrid tea roses.” Rose cultivars to include were determined based on a national survey of consulting rosarians around the country.

Some of the criteria for the research included:

- 1) Initial bed construction
- 2) Once annual fertilization with a slow-release fertilizer in late February.
- 3) Four applications of Fertilome Systemic Fungicide with Propiconazole annually in late February, April, June and September.
- 4) Pruning in February and late August as recommended for hybrid tea roses to remove dead wood and to shape and control size
- 5) Irrigation applied only when absolutely necessary.
- 6) Compost, mulch applications midway through the study.

- 7) Blackspot susceptibility ratings and visual quality ratings taken four times annually – peak spring bloom, early June, prior to late summer pruning and peak bloom fall.



Following is a list of the 10 rose varieties that was published two years ago (half way through the study) that at that point were showing the most promise of possibly being named an Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose. (These roses are listed in alphabetical order and not in any order of relative performance):

Frederic Mistral, Mister Lincoln, Pope John Paul II, Rio Samba, Shreveport, Tahitian Sunset, The McCartney Rose, Tiffany, Tropicana, Traviata

Since this list was published, Pink Traviata and Sunset Celebration have performed well. Please keep in mind that this list is not the list of winning cultivars. Final data on this important study will be available in March 2013, and the winning rose cultivars will be announced as soon as possible!

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## Meet Our New National Rose Trials

*Acadiana’s Dr. Allen Owings will serve as manager/curator of Burden Center Trial Garden*

For past several decades the All American Rose Selection trials has been our national rose trial. The AARS brand was proudly displayed on tags and in catalogues next to the roses who earned the right to receive it.

But, like so many things over the past few years the economy took its toll and as of last year they ceased to exist.

This left us without a true national trial that tested the same roses in gardens all over the United States. With AARS gone we were without a national rose trial for the first time since the 1930s.

Fortunately some forward looking folks decided to do something about it.

On June 1, 2012 a symposium was held as the opening event for the 2012 Great Rosarians of the World™ Lecture Series - East Coast (GROW™) in New York City. The goal of the symposium was to explore new ways the American Rose Society (ARS) and the rose industry could

*(Continued on page 5)*

## ***NATIONAL ROSE TRIALS (Continued from page 4)***

work together. Everyone realized as the rose industry prospers so does the ARS and vice-versa.

The discussions honed in on the idea of forming a program to take the place of the AARS Trials.

Meet the American Garden Rose Selections™ (AGRS™)

The result was the idea to create a trial they would recognize roses that were easy to care for, disease resistant and suitable for different regions of the country. Roses can be entered in all the trial gardens but if a rose is outstanding in say the Southeast, that will be noted as being a great rose for that region. That takes the pressure off a rose having to succeed in very climate in our vast country. If a rose did well in all regions so much the better! The rules and protocols are based on the German ADR Trials.

As of now the following gardens have been established as test gardens. There should be more to come.

Portland International Test Garden, Portland, OR, Harry Landers, Curator/Manager

Edisto Memorial Garden, Orangeburg, SC, Jay Hiers, Curator/Manager

San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, San Jose, CA, Beverly Hopper, Curator/Manager

Trail Rose Garden, Farmers' Branch, TX, Pam Smith, Curator/Manager

LSU Burden Center Garden, Baton Rouge, LA, Allen Owings, Curator/Manager

Master Gardeners' Rose Garden, Kennewick, WA, Joyce MacDonald, Curator/Manager

Stanley Park of Westfield Garden, Westfield, MA, Paul Kuczynski, Curator/Manager

Columbus Park of Roses, Columbus, OH, Joe Sulak, Curator/Manager

Chicago Botanical Garden, Glencoe, IL, Kris Jarantoski, Curator/Manager

Reiman Gardens, Ames, IA, Sarah Rummery, Curator/Manager

The Arboretum, State Botanical of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Marcia Ferris, Curator/Manager

The Members of the Founding Committee/Board of Directors are: Clayton Beaty, Steve Hutton, Pat Shanley, Mike Shoup, Pam Smith, Gene Waering, Jeff Wyckoff

The Members of the Advisory Committee are: Dr. David Byrne, Tyler Francis, Jay Hiers, Clair Martin, Dr. Allen Owings, Dr. Malcolm Manners, Jeffery Ware, Paul Zimmerman.

Entries are already being accepted for 2013 and that means we will have initial results in a few years as the trials progress. This new trial is very exciting for the world of roses and in particular garden roses. And the winner is - You and gardeners everywhere!

*By Dr. Paul Zimmerman,  
published in Fine Gardening Newsletter 12-10-12*

## ***USING PUBLIC GARDENS (Continued from page 1)***

through developing this public garden into a major world-class facility. The Garden site is located 8 miles north-northwest of downtown Tulsa and consists of 170 acres of land in the Cross Timbers bioregion of Oklahoma.

Prior to coming to Tulsa, Todd served from 2005 through early 2011 as executive director of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden (Kernersville, NC). Previously, he served as Assistant director of the JC Raulston Arboretum (Raleigh, NC). He is also a past recipient of the prestigious Garden Club of America / Martin McLaren Horticultural Scholarship, which allowed for a year of study-abroad experience in the U.K. He also has worked for the Citywide Arboretum of Aiken, South Carolina, and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia (Athens, GA).

Todd is a well-known plantsman, educator and lecturer, horticultural scientist, garden writer and plant photographer, and leader in the field of public horticulture. He has traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Western Europe, and Japan in search of new landscape plants and has participated on plant expeditions in China and the nation of Georgia. He has also visited numerous public and private gardens, nurseries, and plant collections throughout the U.S., U.K., Japan, and elsewhere. In total, he has visited more than 350 gardens.

He speaks frequently on topics of interest to gardeners, nursery and landscape professionals, and horticulturists. He has presented numerous lectures throughout the U.S. and has also delivered several lectures to audiences in Japan. He has published articles in professional magazines and society publications such as American Nurseryman, Nursery Management and Production/NMPro, Fine Gardening, Conifer Quarterly, Carolina Gardener, and the National Boxwood Trials. He has developed and databased a personal collection of more than 40,000 images of plants and gardens.

Todd served as the chair of the Plant Collections Professional Section for the American Public Gardens Association from 2008 to 2011. He is active in numerous plant societies and helped organize professional meetings for the Maple Society and the American Public Gardens Association.

He has been professionally recognized through several awards, particularly the American Society for Horticultural Science, Southern Region for Excellence in Doctoral Research (2004); and as an Outstanding Alumnus of the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2008).

*Have a Safe and Happy  
Mardi Gras!*

# Plant Release Report Form

Form for reporting on Plant Releases issued Spring 2012

Please note: In an effort to select plant releases that members will enjoy most, the Plant Release committee would be most grateful if you would list at the end of this report, names of plants that you would like to be included among future releases. Thank you.

Please use this form to help LSHR know more about the 2010 Plant Releases. Please use the Comments and Notes line for any other information that you noted (Ex. Fragrance).

Example: *Lagerstroemia indica* – (Crepe Myrtle)

Transplanted (location/light) – Ex: Flower bed – full sun or 6 “pot – shade

Fertilization – Ex: Miracle Gro monthly

Current size and health – Ex: 24” – very healthy

Insect or disease problems – Ex: none

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest – Ex: 8

Comments and notes – Ex: fragrance

1. *Begonia ‘Wings’* BEGONIACEAE (Wings Begonia)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Bletilla ochracea* ORCHIDACEAE (Yellow Ground Orchid)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Fragaria* ROSACEAE (Heirloom Strawberry)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Lysimachia ‘Purple Velvet’* PRIMULACEAE (Purple Lysimachia)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Malpighia glabra* MALPIGHIACEAE (Barbados Cherry)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

6. *Sarcococca hookeriana* BUXACEAE (Himalayan Sweet Box)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

7. *Solenostemon 'Smallwood Driveway'* LAMIACEAE (Smallwood Driveway Coleus)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

8. *Sophora tomentosa* FABACEAE (Yellow Necklacepod)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

9. *Verbena tenuisecta 'Alba'* VERBENACEAE (White Moss Verbena)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

10. *Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea'* VERBENACEAE (Purple Chaste Tree)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_

Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Inside This Issue

Board sets plans for Annual Meeting

Speaker: Using Public Gardens to Build  
Vibrant Communities

President's Message

Blank reporting form for 2012 Plant  
Releases

FYI: Meet our new National Rose Trials

FYI: Highlights of the Easy Tea Hybrid  
Rose Research Project

A Favorite Plant Release

In Memory

## A Favorite Plant Release: *Spigelia marilandica* (Indian Pink)

by Albert Durio, Sr.

This wonderful native herbaceous perennial, released by LSHR in 2011, has showy red tubular flowers lined in yellow. I was introduced to it in the early 80's by a fellow plantsman in its native habitat of a woodland setting with filtered light. I was a bit skeptical; bloom was sparse because of the shaded conditions. Cuttings rooted very easily and were set out in containers. Over winter they melted away to nothing so were discarded to the compost pile by a nursery clean-up crew.

When spring arrived, much to my surprise, our



compost pile was aflame with wonderful red waves of tubular flowers! In full sun this plant was unbelievably prolific. We quickly realized this was going to be terrific bedding perennial that could easily be divided. It was necessary to place markers on the divisions so that the dormant plants would not be forgotten or discarded over winter, but from March thru May this plant is unbeatable!

With about 4 hours of sun, this beautiful 12-18" clumping perennial will lighten up any lightly shaded area of your yard. It has been in my beds over the past 30+ years and has never been a disappointment.

*In memory of . . .*

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research express their sympathy to families in the loss of their loved ones

*Dr. Edmund M. O'Rourke*

*Dr. Tim Calamari*



## **Afton Awarded Graduate Student Scholarship**

To Margo Racca,

I am writing to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Louisiana Society for Horticulture Research's Graduate Student Scholarship. I feel honored to represent the group. I will use the scholarship monies to help purchase textbooks, school fees and other items pertaining to my studies at the LSU Graduate School. I truly love this industry and it is amazing to see the society distinguish me from others. I will make y'all proud!

Thank you again,  
William Afton, Graduate Assistant  
*Louisiana State University, School of  
Plant Environmental and Soil Sciences*

## **FYI: Neat Trick for Germinating Seeds**

By Margo Racca

I have had excellent results getting seed to germinate by recycling the salad bowls from McDonald's. After washing the salad dressing out, I fill the bottom (black part) with Miracle Gro potting soil. I dampen it, sprinkle the seed on top, then put the lid on. I don't poke holes in the bottom for drainage because with the lid on there is no need to water further. I place it in a shady spot outside.

As the seed sprout and their heads hit the top of the clear plastic lid, I know it is time to put them into individual 2" or 3" pots. If left together too long in the shallow bottom their roots become intertwined and it is difficult to separate the plants without injuring the root system. I use a pencil to poke a hole in the potting soil of the individual pots then place the seeds carefully into the soil and pat down and water well.

I place the potted seedlings in a flat in a cool shady spot until they grow enough to place in a larger pot. Using clean salad bowls and pots I have not had any problems with disease causing the plants to damp off. I have used this method with several different types of seed whether annuals or perennials and it works every time.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Inside This Issue

Annual Meeting enjoyed by all  
Voodoo lilies appear somewhat menacing  
President's message  
Treasurer's message  
2011 Plant Release Report  
FYI: Hardiness Zone revision  
FYI: Neat trick for germinating seeds  
Nominations due before November  
In Memory  
Scholarship awarded  
A favorite plant release

## A Favorite LSHR Release – Texas Mountain Laurel

by Leonard Lasseigne, Past President of LSHR

My favorite release is *Sophora secundiflora* (*Calia secundiflora*), commonly called Texas Mountain Laurel. It was released by LSHR in 1974, 1993, and 2006. My plant was of the 1993 release, which was, by the way, seedlings grown by me from seeds collected on the Nicholls State University grounds. My plant has grown very slowly over the years, but now has attained a height of about 12 to 14 feet with several trunks.

Because of its growth habit, my plant is growing about four feet away from my back porch on a southwesterly exposure. Thus it helps shade a portion of the porch from the hot summer sun.

The plant is strikingly beautiful year round with the lush green compound leaves, but the greatest reward is the bluish-lavender clusters of flowers in late February to March. The grape or sweet-sour scent of the blooms engulfs my whole courtyard garden. The seed pods borne after pollination resemble over-sized peanuts with a fuzzy greyish-green color throughout the months of July and August. As the pods dry to a dark brown color, large orange-red seeds are revealed.

The visitors to our garden enjoy the color of the



*Sophora secundiflora*  
(Texas Mountain  
Laurel)

blooms, then again the colorful seed pods and seeds. The seeds can be harvested in late June and July and planted without scarification. My grandson collects them in the fall, pots them in a good potting mix and the following spring we get a few new plants.