



COMPOST PILE



## LSHR 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 22, 2014 at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center and the Petroleum Club, both in Lafayette.

Events for the 2014 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 business meeting will take place at the nearby Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd.

The cost of the meal will be \$25 per person, which includes tax and tip. Mail reservations, including names of those who will attend the meal, to JoAnn Pugh, LSHR, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505. Reservations, with checks made payable to LSHR, must be received at this address no later than Monday, March 17, 2014 in order to accommodate the deadline set by the Petroleum Club. New reservations will not be taken the day of the event, so please mail reservations early.



(Photo by Peter Piazza)

Night lighting creates a dramatic scene

- Luncheon Menu:**
- Fried Fillet of Catfish
  - Herb Roasted Chicken
  - Sliced Brisket with Gravy
  - Steamed Broccoli
  - Corn Macque Choux
  - Rice Pilaf
  - Cornbread Dressing
  - Blackbottom Pie
  - Bread Pudding with Hard Sauce
  - Buttered Dinner Rolls
  - Tea and Coffee

Schedule of Events:

- 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Registration, Distribution of Plant Releases  
Coffee, juice and doughnuts
- 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Silent Auction
- 9 a.m. Plant Auction
- 11 a.m. Open Bar at the Petroleum Club
- 12:00 noon Buffet Luncheon
- Speaker: Dr. Allen Owings: “Hardy Hibiscus Trial Observations and More  
New Plant Evaluations at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station.”
- General Meeting

## Allen Owings to Preview Hibiscus Cultivars and New Landscape Plants

The Hammond Research Station’s director Dr. Allen Owings will provide an overview of some 40 cultivars of perennial hardy hibiscus and will show many new landscape plants being evaluated in the LSU AgCenter trial gardens when he speaks before members of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research March 22 at the Petroleum Club. The hardy hibiscus research project is a landscape horticulture project funded by LSHR in 2013.

The gardens at the station include a Sun Garden, a Shade Garden, the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden, the Hody Wilson Camellia Garden, the new Piney Woods Garden and more.

Dr. Owings, an Honorary Member of LSHR, is a horticulture professor with the LSU AgCenter Research Station in Hammond, Louisiana. He received his B.S. degree in plant science from Southeastern Louisiana University and graduate degrees in horticulture from LSU and Mississippi State University.



Allen Owings

*Allen Owings, continued on page 6*

## From the President's Desk



Well, we all experienced the frigid winter blast dipping into the teens for most of us. This was a good test for a lot of our plant trials for cold hardiness. An extra application of mulch seemed to protect most of my marginal perennials. I had recently planted a citrus grove but I may have lost all but the more cold-hardy Satsuma and Kumquats that Dad always said were more cold tolerant.

I'm happy to report that my mother is at home now after a long stay in the hospital, having celebrated her 85th birthday there. Dalton has moved his family in to help with her needs, but she is still full of spunk! She has come a long way since September when we almost lost her. Thanks for all of your prayers and comforting words through our family's time of need.

Our annual meeting is just around the corner on March 22, so make sure to mark your calendars and if you received plant releases last year, fill out your reports! We would not want you to miss out on exciting new releases or the informative speaker, Dr. Allen Owings. Collect any of your slightly used plant-related articles for the silent auction and favorite plants for the live auction. Please label the plants or you will be asked to describe them to us during the auction, which may delay our luncheon. If you do not feel like bringing items for the auction, no matter, just bring lots of cash! We need buyers also. If you are timid and don't spend it all, our cashiers will gladly accept the rest as donations.

Please read the following announcements.

*Albert Durio*  
*President*

### ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS DUE MARCH 17, 2014

The cost of the luncheon will be \$25 person which includes tax and tip. Reservations, including names of members and guests, must be received no later than March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. New reservations will NOT be accepted the day of the event. Please make checks payable to LSHR and mail to JoAnn Pugh, LSHR, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505.

### PLEASE PROVIDE 1) PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP AND 2) PLANT RELEASE REPORT

Members are reminded that no membership cards have been issued for 2014. As proof of paid membership, each member will be asked show his or her mailing label printed on this issue of the Compost Pile newsletter. *SAVE YOUR NEWSLETTER AND PRESENT IT AT REGISTRATION.*

Each member who received 2013 Plant Releases will turn in a written report on those releases in order to receive the new 2014 releases. Members who did not receive plant releases last year, including new members, are not expected to turn in reports. They will be eligible to receive the current 2014 plant

*President's Message, continued on page 6*

## Ken Durio, an Icon Whose Legacy Continues

By Albert Durio

Dad was known throughout the world as a plant collector and hybridizer.

When he graduated from LSU in landscape architecture and horticulture in 1950, he was eager to put his skills to work. He initially planted his 56 acre wholesale nursery with native trees because he knew they would be well adapted to Louisiana's harsh conditions. The trees were grown to perfection. The only problem was that the public was not ready to consume these in the numbers he grew. Leaving strategically placed plant materials for their landscape value and wind currents, he bulldozed the rest. He then set his goals on selecting better clones that were an improvement on what was available. He quickly learned he also could make improvements by hybridization.

He helped in the development of the Louisiana Nursery Association in 1954, as well as serving on the board in those infant years. He also served on several other boards and was involved in promoting many plant societies. He was president

*Ken Durio, continued on page 7*



**Ken Durio**

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

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

### **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Glenda Balliviero 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14  
Dr. Donald Ayo 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15  
Peter Piazza 2013-2016

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

Mary Courville  
Belle Durio  
Dalton Durio  
Dr. Jim Racca  
Margo 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)

### **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). We understand that not everyone has email, but would like to hear from those who do.

# From the Treasurer's Desk



Out with 2013 and in with 2014! Seems the older I get, the faster it goes! I am looking forward to many great things this spring after our cold spell and hoping for an early spring to enjoy the plants that survived. I am sure that the Christmas and New Year's holidays were busy for many as membership renewals are still coming in in January.

A new system of clipping or copying the renewal stub from the Fall/Winter Compost Pile was overlooked by many members. Yes, it takes times to pick up a new system! Since we do not want to delete members who overlooked the change, there is a grace period (just this one time!) allowing members to pay dues by February 15, 2014 to receive new releases at the March 22, 2014 annual meeting. Those members whose dues are outstanding will note on their mailing label, "not paid."

**REMEMBER, no ID cards were mailed this year,** members were asked to use this issue of the Compost Pile with mailing label as a proof of paid membership making them eligible to pick up new releases. If I am in error, please contact me, joannpugh@hotmail.com 337-247-5526.

The membership continues to grow and we appreciate the support of our great members. Let us all enjoy 2014. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

*JoAnn Pugh*  
*Treasurer*

joannpugh@hotmail.com

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## Nominating New Members or Persons for an Award

Nominations for new members and candidates for the Horticultural Medallion Award are due PRIOR TO November 1, 2014.

Nominations must be sent to membership committee chair, Dr. Ellis Fletcher, 341 Orangewood Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503 or USLFletch@cox.net or 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 this award.



(Photo by Peter Piazza)

*High school students from Franklinton, Louisiana tour the INHC greenhouses before taking the state FHA agronomy test.*

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## Scholarship Fund Established in Memory of Leonard Lasseigne

At a meeting of the Board of Directors November 17, 2013 the Scholarship Committee recommended that donations in memory of former LSHR president Leonard Lasseigne be placed in a fund to be named the Leonard Lasseigne Scholarship Fund. The fund will award a scholarship for a graduate or an undergraduate student pursuing studies in the field of horticulture and will follow the guidelines previously established for awarding scholarships, with recipients to be selected by the committee. The Board approved the recommendation of the committee. The Board also approved a motion that LSHR match funds donated in memory of Leonard.

Donations to the Leonard Lasseigne Fund can be sent to JoAnn Pugh, LSHR, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505.

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## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

LSHR welcomes the following persons who have been accepted for membership in the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research in 2013:

**Lafayette:** Loraine Allain, Jean Bonneau, Lisa Boudreaux, Nancy Cech, Heather Fugler, Debbie Grissom, Joy Hargrave, Eleanor Henry, Lydia Keeton, Kevin Kimball, Dean E. Kopfler, Becky Latiolais, Angelle Marsh, Michael Maher, Julie Anna Ousse, Cynthia Risinger, Barbara Rivera, Sandra Scheuermann, Sondra Stokes, Heather Warner-Finley

**Youngsville:** Mary Ann Armbruster, Denise Files

**Baton Rouge:** Mary Tauzin, Judy Amedee

**New Iberia:** Ray Bourgeois

**Opelousas:** Alayna Durio

**Sunset:** Christy Adams

**Houma:** Linda Brashier

**Houston, TX:** Bill Wyatt

# Plant Release Report Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Form for reporting on Plant Releases issued Spring 2013

Please note: In an effort to select plant releases that members will enjoy most, the Plant Release committee would be 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 2013 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. *Aglaia odorata* MELIACEAE (Chinese Perfume Plant)

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

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

2. *Antigonon leptopus 'Album'* POLYGONACEAE (White Rose of Montana)

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

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

3. *Aristea ecklonii* IRIDACEAE (Blue Stars)

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

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

4. *Caladium 'Lil Star'* ARACEAE ('Lil' Star Caladium)

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

Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

5. *Drimiopsis maculata* LILIACEAE (Little White Soldiers)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_  
Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_  
Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

6. *Gladiolus byzantinus* IRIDACEAE (Byzantine Gladiolus)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_  
Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_  
Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

7. *Lorentia hybrida 'Avant-Garde White'* CAMPANULACEAE (White Laurentia)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_  
Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_  
Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

8. *Liriope minor* LILIACEAE (Thin-Leaved Liriope)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_  
Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_  
Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

9. *Senna bicapsularis* FABACEAE ('Whorley's Butter Cream')

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_  
Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_  
Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

10. *Thunbergia grandiflora 'Variegata'* ACANTHACEAE (Variegated Blue Sky Vine)

Transplanted (location/light) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fertilization \_\_\_\_\_  
Current size and health \_\_\_\_\_  
Insect or disease problems \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments and notes \_\_\_\_\_

## Allen Owings, *continued from page 1*

He is currently coordinator of statewide LSU AgCenter extension efforts in commercial ornamental horticulture. He served as executive secretary of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association from 1993-2006 and is currently director of research and education for the association. He has received extension programming excellence awards for the LSU AgCenter and was named outstanding young extension horticulturist in 1998 by the American Society for Horticultural Science. He has an Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Dr. Owings is a Louisiana licensed landscape horticulturist and enjoys gardening, LSU sports, and golf.



*Allen Owings, inspecting perilla beds.*



*(Photo by Peter Piazza)*

*Billy Welsh, INHC plant manager, keeps up with daily watering.*

*In memory of . . .*

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research express their sympathy to the family in the loss of their loved one:

**Jan O'Neal**  
**Helen Garrett**  
**Kenneth Durio**  
**Jean Hernandez**  
**Major David C. Henry, USAF (ret.)**  
**Dr. Richard (Dick) Calhoun**

## President's Message, *continued from page 2*

releases.

The reporting form is included in this issue. Blank forms will not be available the day of the meeting, but can be requested prior to the meeting from Ann Justice at [ajjustice@bellsouth.net](mailto:ajjustice@bellsouth.net). Information can be typed electronically onto the form and printed.

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

Members are asked to collect new or vintage items to donate for the silent auction held concurrently with the plant auction. Popular items are gardening tools, supplies, containers and books which another gardener might find useful. Items can be delivered to the INHC Center at 8 a.m. the day of the meeting. For help in transporting bulky items, contact Rebecca Moss ([mossr@usgs.gov](mailto:mossr@usgs.gov)) or Peter Piazza ([pcpiazza@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcpiazza@bellsouth.net)) prior to the meeting.

### **ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS**

Members who need help registering or with loading plant release boxes are asked to call Rob Barry at 337-277-9822 in advance of the meeting. Rob will meet them on arrival and provide what assistance is necessary.

### **COMPOST PILE GAINS NEW STAFF MEMBER**

Joining Aline Arceneaux and Ann Justice on the Compost Pile staff is Peter Piazza, professional photographer, who has graciously agreed to provide photographs, both planned as well as random, for our newsletter. Peter serves on the LSHR's Board as one of the Directors at Large. He is well-known in Acadiana, having been for many years the head photographer at The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette's daily newspaper.

### **RESEARCH CONTINUES ON LSHR HISTORY**

PURSuing BEAUTY: A History of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research (Parts I and II) is a brief history being prepared by Aline Arceneaux to commemorate the Society's 60th Anniversary. Part I was published in the 2013 Fall/Winter issue of the Compost Pile. Part II will be published in a later issue.

### **Annual Meeting Committee Assignments**

**Registration:** JoAnn Pugh, Edna Wheeler, Glenda Balliviero, Roxanna Champagne, Linda Bourg and Dee Nolan

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

**Auction Acquisitions:** Norman Balliviero and Mary Courville

**Auctioneers:** Dr. Allen Owings, Heidi Sheesley and Albert Durio

**Floor Monitors:** Jim Racca, Peter Piazza and Dr. Donald Ayo

**Silent Auction:** Dr. Jean Kreamer, Rebecca Moss and Peter Piazza

**Sales Clerks:** Margo Racca and Rob Barry

**Plant Releases and Speakers' Needs:** Billy Welsh

## New-Look Festival des Fleurs Returns to Blackham April 12-13, 2014

(From press releases)

Traditionally, the Festival has been part celebration of spring's arrival, part fundraiser for UL Lafayette's Nelson Horticulture Center and part educational outreach and resource for the enhancement of horticulture in Acadiana. The event returns to Blackham Coliseum April 12-13, 2014 with some exciting organizational changes.

Now in its 23rd year, an expanded partnership with Lafayette Master Gardeners has Ira Nelson Center organizers anticipating this year's 23rd annual event.

"This new alliance has re-invigorated Festival efforts," said Billy Welsh of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. "Our combined efforts promise an even bigger and better festival."

### UL Lafayette's Ira Nelson Horticulture Center Quietly Fosters Research, Community

The quiet solace of Ira Nelson Horticulture Center's greenhouses and grounds has long provided a distinct contrast with the raucous athletic goings-on of its Blackham Coliseum neighbors. But don't let the quiet fool you.

As an active center of education, research, demonstration and community service, the Center and its greenhouses on Johnston Street are also notably home to one of the most extensive active plant collections in the southern United States. Lush tropical foliage and flowering plants from around the world populate the over 17,000 square feet of greenhouses. Meanwhile, the Center's outdoor grounds serve as a living laboratory where many species of native and introduced trees and shrubs may be observed and studied, along with numerous display, demonstration and flower beds.

Operated under ULL's Lafayette School of Geosciences, the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center is an instructional laboratory utilized by the university's students and faculty. The Center encourages and fosters a hands-on approach to teaching, centered around laboratory exercises, student projects and research. It has served a prominent role at UL Lafayette since 1960. Classrooms, laboratories, offices, workshop, herbarium, greenhouse and shade houses are housed and utilized at the Center.

As a community resource, the Center provides a home to several local gardening groups, including the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association, a community service organization which maintains demonstration gardens on the grounds and holds classes and meetings in its classrooms.

All proceeds from Festival des Fleurs de Louisiane are dedicated to the Ira Nelson Center and Lafayette Master Gardeners. Among improvements funded by the Festival in past years are greenhouse benches, new greenhouse exhaust fans and glass repair. Future funding priorities feature continued greenhouse renovations, which are sorely needed due to their age of 60 years.

"Festival-sourced funding is absolutely essential to Ira Nelson's continued viability as a university and community resource," said Billy Welsh. "As our only source of outside funding, the Festival enables us to continue to maintain the Center in a manner which brings value to the university and community."

Festival des Fleurs de Louisiane will hold its 23rd Annual Garden Show and Sale at Blackham Coliseum on April 12 and 13, 2014.



A partnership between UL Lafayette Ira Nelson Horticulture Center and the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association

## 23rd Annual Garden Show and Sale

Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, 2014  
Blackham Coliseum  
Lafayette, Louisiana

### Ken Durio, *continued from page 2*

of The Magnolia Society, vice president of the Regional Hemerocallis Society, and research chairman of the Louisiana Society for Horticulture Research, just to name a few of the positions that he held. He was also the proud recipient of the Ira Nelson Award.

Fast-forward 20 years and 10 children later, Dad had made a name for himself in the plant world. He had developed and named several plant selections, and he continued eagerly to improve on his prior selections. Another 20 years and he was averaging around 10,000 hand-pollinated crosses per year! This all materialized into over 5,000 varieties of plants that were offered in his mail order business. Display gardens, universities, botanical gardens and arboreta in both the United States and abroad sought out and received material from his collection.

Being brought up in the nursery business, it was natural for his sons and daughters to understand plant growth and good soil preparation. What we had not realized was that the lessons in growing plants were the perfect parallel in nurturing our future lives. Dad taught us everything there was to know about the nursery business and we were eager to learn. Our devoted father, being a man of few words with deep emotional feelings and a kind gentle heart, taught us what it takes to have flourishing livelihoods.

The whole time he was a devoted spouse to our mother, and they together taught us the essential values of life. Most important of these was the honor and love Dad showed toward our mother. While some would view him as a Horticulturist, Fisherman or Hunter, what he truly was to us was a loving Father who taught us all of these things along the way. As one of my friends told me, we have lost a true plantsman. He went on to add that Dad had more plant knowledge in his left pinky nail than most of us today that are in the field of horticulture. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy continues with all he has added.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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A Favorite Plant Release

### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar now. Our next Annual Meeting will be held March 22, 2014, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center and the Petroleum Club.

## Another of My Favorite LSHR Releases

By Dr. Dennis Wollard

In a past issue of the Compost Pile, I wrote about one my favorite releases, *Caladium humboldtii*. My other favorite LSHR release is *Rhodophiala bifida* or Oxblood Lily. This plant may be considered to be THE low- to no-maintenance plant. I have maintained the plant in a one-gallon container with a highly organic soil with good drainage. This year when normally weeding the containers I found this pot and had forgotten what was in the pot. The LSHR number had washed off the label so I knew it was dead or had had a bulb in the container.

After weeding and giving a good watering it presented me with a stalk of bright red flowers. So my culture is neglect. Upon review of the general literature Oxblood Lilies like full sun to light shade and well-drained soil. Fall flowering is encouraged by heavy fall rains. Bulbs may be dug from fall to spring without influencing normal flowering. This bulb cannot be matched when it comes to the durability of the bulb and flower show.



*Rhodophiala bifida* or Oxblood Lily