



LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

SPRING 2015

COMPOST PILE

LSHR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Yes, it time for our annual plant release and meeting at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. And as usual, it will be time to turn in your plant release reports for last years plant releases. But, the best part, besides the luncheon with Dr. Creech, is the Auction. There are many great plants and outdoor novelties to purchase, which is a key funding source for the LSHR and its support of horticultural research.

This year, the plant release form has been reformatted for more efficient data processing.

More details on the meeting and form follow in the Compost Pile. Also, congratulations are in order for Dr. Ellis Fletcher, an LSHR board member, who received the James Foret Award.

On another note, Mary Courville presented a history of the LSHR in conjunction with the INHC and Festival des Fleurs. Info on her report is included.



Dr Ellis Fletcher and Robert Lacroix, President of the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Ed Bush)

Schedule of Events:

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Registration and distribution of 2015 plant releases. (first come, first serve on releases)
	Drop off of 2014 plant release evaluations
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Silent Auction
9:00 a.m.	Plant Auction
11:00 a.m.	Opening of Petroleum Club Open Bar
12:00 noon	Luncheon Buffet
	Guest Speaker: Dr. David Creech
After presentation	General Meeting

Our 2015 Spring Guest Speaker:

“Plant Trials at SFA Gardens - Finding Relevance in A Hyper-competitive Industry”

by DR. DAVID CREECH

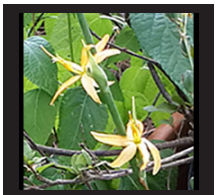
Since 1978, Dr. Dave Creech, Regent’s Professor and Professor Emeritus, has been at Stephen F. Austin State University, in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 1970, Dr. Creech received his BS in Horticulture from Texas A & M and then, in 1978, he received a Masters of Science in Horticulture from Colorado State University. He returned to Texas A & M University and, in 1978, was awarded a PHD.

Today, Dr. Creech is semi-retired and currently directs Stephen F. Austin Gardens, a 68-acre on campus horticultural resource. The SFA Gardens includes a 10-acre SFA Mast Arboretum, which is an on-campus resource that has enjoyed steady growth, development, utilization and visitation since its inception in 1985. Also, it includes the 8-acre “Ruby M” varieties of Japanese Maples, Camellias and Hydrangeas, plus numerous other special collections. A third part of the SFA Gardens is the 42-acre SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center, only the third garden affiliated with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas (co directed with Dr. James C. Kroll). Lastly, the SFA Garden includes the 8-acre Gayla Mize Garden, a new garden under development since 2011. Dr. Creech’s teaching responsibilities included a wide array of courses including fruit and vegetable production, greenhouse management, nursery management, landscape plant materials, plant propagation, computer-assisted design, and public garden management.



Photo of Echeandia chandleri

Dr. Creech, continues on Page 4



President's Message

We have experienced some cold winter weather bringing in the New Year. We dipped into the upper teens in Opelousas, after experiencing "spring like" temperatures in December! Many plants had started blooming and actually growing just prior to the low temperatures. Camellias rebounded quickly, along with Jonquils and Narcissus.

Our featured speaker, Dr. David Creech, is semi-retired and currently directs the Steven F. Austin Gardens, a 68-acre on campus horticultural resource. He has worked with many aspects of the horticultural field with concentrations on fruits and berries and landscape materials. He has also worked globally with others to find salt tolerant cypress to help with erosion control. He is a very interesting speaker and you will want to make sure to attend his presentation.

There are currently shortages of plant material in the horticultural field with sales through the roof. This causes one to sharpen his horticultural skills to achieve the best results in the shortest time frame. Thank goodness for good teachers as Dr. Fletcher and my Dad to give me the foundation and skills to accomplish this.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting March 21, 2015, auction at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center followed by business meeting at the Petroleum Club in the Oil Center. Our guest speaker will be Dr. David Creech of the Steven F. Austin Arboretum.

Start gathering up those items to donate to the silent auction and potting up those special items in your yard to share at our live auction.

Albert Durio

Dr. Ellis Fletcher Receives Award

Last week, Dr Ellis Fletcher received the 2015 James A Foret Award at The Gulf States Horticulture Expo in Mobile, AL.

It is the highest award given by Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association for contributing to the Horticulture Industry. Dr. Ellis Fletcher Bio:

He received his B.S. degree in Horticulture from Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now the ULL) and graduated with highest honors from the College of Agriculture with a major in Horticulture and a minor in Botany.



Rob Barry, Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner, Dr. Fletcher

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Ed Bush) Dr. Fletcher - continues on page 3

LSHR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Albert Durio Sr.	President
Robert 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. Donal Ayo	2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15
Peter Piazza	2013-16

PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

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

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Aline Arceneaux	(Past Treasurer)
Dr. Jean Kramer	(Nominations Chairman)
Dr. Ellis Fletcher	(Membership Chairman)
Kevin Kimball	(Current Editor - Compost Pile)
Ann Justice	(Past Editor - Compost Pile)
Rebecca Moss	(Past Editor - Compost Pile)
William 'Billy' Welch	(Release Propagator/Coordinator)

Spring 2015 luncheon reservations due March 12, 2015. The luncheon will cost \$25 per person and includes tax and tip. Please send reservations with name of members and guests by March 12, 2015. Sorry, but luncheon cannot be reserved the day of the meeting. Make checks payable to LSHR and mail to JoAnn Pugh care of LSHR. P. O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505.

LUNCHEON MENU:

Salad

Toss greens with choice of dressing

Entrée

Fried fillet of catfish

Sliced Brisket with gravy

Vegetables

Corn Macque choux

Vegetable medley

Starches

Parsley potatoes

Rice pilaf

Desserts

Fruit pie

Bread pudding with hard sauce

CASH BAR



Dr. Ellis Fletcher, wife Patsy; his students Danny Lafleur, Rob Barry, Albert Durio, Gerald Foret and Lisa Loop, AMK Landscape Co.

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Ed Bush)

Dr. Fletcher - continued from page 2

From Iowa State University in Ames, IA, he earned a Master of Science degree in Horticulture with a minor in Plant Breeding. His Doctor of Philosophy Degree was earned with a split major involving Ornamental Horticulture and Plant Anatomy.

In the former USL College of Agriculture, Dr. Fletcher was named a Distinguished Professor and received the Outstanding Teacher Award, the first individual at the university to receive both honors. He was recognized as Louisiana Horticulturist Of The Year (Louisiana Garden Club Federation), Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Applied Life Sciences (ULL), Horticultural Medallion for Outstanding Contributions to Louisiana Horticulture (LSHR), the Career Contributions to Louisiana Horticulture Award (Louisiana State Horticulture Society).

Dr. Fletcher earned the Outstanding Service Award from All-America Rose Trials, All-America Annual Trials and from The Society for Louisiana Iris. Of his numerous accomplishments and awards, none were more highly treasured than the performance and success of his students (as their coach, the Intercollegiate Landscape and Greenhouse Plant Identification Team and the Horticultural Products Judging Team won 40 of 41 possible places including 26 of 27 championships). He proudly points out that some of the students he had the privilege of working with are now successful individuals in the nursery/agricultural/ landscape fields to educators from elementary education up to a Dean of Agriculture.

He was a member, officer and served on the Board of Directors for numerous horticultural organizations. Dr. Fletcher was a featured or guest speaker at professional, garden club and service organizations in fourteen different states. He served as the Show Chairman for the Southwest Louisiana Camellia Society, Society of Louisiana Iris and Acadian Orchid Society.



Dr. Ellis Fletcher and a former student judging team (photo - ULL Library Archives)

Ornamental Horticulture was both Dr. Fletcher's lifelong profession and hobby. A Louisiana iris (*Iris 'Professor Ellis'*, by Mertzweiller) and an orchid (*Cattleya lueddemanniana 'Ellis Fletcher'*, by Dupuy) were named in his honor. Dr Fletcher happily invested over forty years of his life as an educator. Prior to his retirement, and with the increasing interest in wetlands, Dr. Fletcher spent time working with the Department of the Interior in wetland delineation and mitigation. Now, he is involved in numerous community activities and out-reaches focusing mainly on the underprivileged and grief-stricken. He is interested in all things concerning nature and is an accomplished amateur photographer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Ellis Fletcher, Chairman

The LSHR welcomes the following new members (grouped by cities):

Abbeville:	Daspit, Lauren
Alexandria:	Bennett, Mary Belle Marshall
Baton Rouge:	Collins, Dr. Carolyn Stagg, Jason
Bourg:	Murphy, Jeffie
Collinston:	Erwin, Beth
Houma:	Breaux, Karen Rhodes, Kayla Thibodeaux, Cindy
Iota:	Lacomb, Jennifer
Lafayette:	Beyt, Linda Dauterive, Paula Garzotto, Pauline Merchant, Noorjahan Pilut, Christophe and Gabrielle
New Iberia:	Musemeche, Linda
Scott:	Regan, Jenna
Springfield:	Hebert, Gina
Thibodaux:	Gautreaux, Brenda
Youngsville:	Cochran, Rodlyn Johnson, Diane

NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS/ PERSONS FOR AN AWARD

New members nominations and candidates for the Horticultural Medallion Award are due before November 1, 2015.

Nominations should be sent to the membership committee chair, Dr. Ellis Fletcher at 341 Orangewood Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503-5225 or via email at uslfletch@cox.net or LSHR@cox.net. Even though nominations are voted on at the fall board meeting, they can be sent any time, but need to be post marked by 11/01/2015 for the current year.

Reasons for nomination not a requirement.

Nominations for the Horticultural Medallion Award, also, should be post marked by 11/01/2015. The nominations should include a letter of recommendation and reason/accomplishments for the award. And it should be signed by the nominating member.

Dr. Creech, continued from page 1

His research effort has focused on blueberry germ-plasm, (a collection of genetic resource material, such as seeds or plants), for evaluation and horticultural studies, alternative crop/alternative technology work, crop nutrition studies, new plant introductions for the ornamental horticulture industry, endangered plant rescue, research and reintroduction, and finding sustainable solutions to environmental concerns.

Dr. Creech has authored several scholarly and trade articles and lectures. As an outreach of his position, Dr. Creech has accumulated a long list of international consultancies since 1981 including Pakistan, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Israel and China. His latest work in China focuses on the Taxodium (bald cypress), studies, nursery production and blueberry potential.

Dr. Creech was President, 1991-1992, of the Native Plant Society of Texas, a large state wide organization dedicated to the conservation, selection and use of the native plants of Texas. Also, he has served as President of the Southern Region American Society of Horticulture Science, 2012-2013.

It could be said that "Let's keep planting" is his motto since he signs all his correspondences with this quote.

Annual Meeting Committee Assignments:

Registration: JoAnn Pugh, Glenda Balliviero, Edna Wheeler, Linda Bourg, Roxanna Champagne

Hospitality: Dr. Ellis Fletcher and Billy Welsh

Auction Acquisitions: Mary Courville, Norman Balliviero, Dr. Dennis Wollard

Auctioneers: Albert Durio Sr., Heidi Sheesley, Allen Owings

Floor Monitors: Peter Piazza and Dr. Jim Racca

Silent Auctions: Peter Piazza

Sales Clerks: Margo Racca and Rob Barry

Plant Releases and Speakers' needs: Billy Welsh

SILENT AUCTION REQUESTS

We request items, especially garden related, for the silent auction held from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. on March 21, 2015. Vintage or new objects of desire are welcomed for this integral part of the day. Please deliver to the Ira Nelson Hort. Center by 8 a.m. the day of the LSHR meeting. If needed, please contact Rebecca Moss or Dr. Jean Kreamer for help with pick ups and deliveries. (mossr@usgs.gov or jtk@louisiana.edu)

Thanks for all your contributions

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE

If needed, help will be provided for registering, pick up of releases, drop offs, and loading of items purchased during the auctions.

Please contact Rob Barry at 337.277.9822 in advance of arrival to schedule assistance.



Save the Date

Saturday & Sunday

March 28-29, 2015

Blackham Coliseum

2330 Johnston Street

Lafayette, Louisiana

Contact Colette Anzalone for more information
337-288-0283 or colettea@bellsouth.net

PLANT RELEASE REPORT FORM

(Please cut out following sheet and complete for day of LSHR meeting. Mail if not able to drop off)

ATTENTION MEMBERS!! THIS FORM IS A NEW FORMAT FOR EXPEDITED COMPILATION OF INFORMATION and PLANT RELEASE REPORTS ON LAST YEAR'S RELEASES. IT MUST BE TURNED IN TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THIS YEAR'S RELEASES!

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.

LSHR Plant Release Report Form						
Please fill out form to help LSHR collect data about the 2014 Plant Releases						
Plant	Location (circle one)	Insects/Diseases ?	Still Living? (yes/no)	Rating (circle one)	Comments *	
	1 = am sun 2 = pm sun 3 = full sun 4 = part shade 5 = full shade			1 = Poor 2 = Good 3 = Excellent	* Please use comment column to note additional information, e.g. fragrant, showy, colorful, froze etc.	
1 <i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		
2 <i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		
3 <i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		
4 <i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		
5 <i>Echeandia chandleri</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		
6 <i>Indigofera amblyantha</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		
7 <i>Lorapetalum chinense</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3		



Strawberry Swirl Hibiscus

One of Dr. Allen Owings Research Hardy Hibiscus
(photo courtesy of Dr. Allen Owings)

From the treasurer's desk

I am anxiously counting the days to see our next batch of new releases, "new babies", bet many members too! Also, it is nice to see so many members at annual meeting and plant auction, just a wonderful day! I am always amazed with so many outstanding plants at the auction. Remember the new system, no ID cards are issued, members are asked to use this issue of Compost Pile with your address label as proof of paid membership to pick new releases. Your Compost Pile will be returned to you and this is much easier than you trying to find the lost ID card as in the past! Again, NO ID CARDS. So hold on to this Compost Pile, also has lots of information on date, time, and great articles. Guest are always welcomed at luncheon, \$25 each, please send their name also so name-tags can be printed. Luncheon name-tags will be distributed at plant release. Send your reservations early too!

Hope to see all March 21,

JoAnn Pugh, Treasurer,
joannpugh@hotmail.com



Pink Elephant Hibiscus

One of Dr. Allen Owings Research Hardy Hibiscus
(photo courtesy of Dr. Allen Owings)

History of LSHR and Festival des Fleurs in Relation to Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

After much searching Mary Courville was able to gather information and make a very interesting presentation on the topics at the recent Louisiana State Horticulture Society Conference. The Hort Center was completed and dedicated on November 1, 1960 as the Ornamental Horticulture Center and renamed in honor of Professor Ira S. Nelson after his death in 1965. Through the years the center has been a classroom and greenhouse space for UL Horticulture student instruction and greenhouse space for various research projects. Numerous plant societies have met over the years and continue to have monthly meetings.



Mary Courville's Presentation
(photo courtesy of Glenda Balliviero)

(photo courtesy of Glenda Balliviero)

Plant related workshops, short courses, shows and displays are held there and bring a great deal of enjoyment to the community including senior citizens, 4 H members, school students and plant lovers. The facility maintains an ornamental plant herbarium, display gardens and an extensive plant collection. The Lafayette Master Gardener Program's partnership with the center was explained. The Statewide Wildflower Program along with the new Wildflower Seed Bank and INHC connections were also discussed.

In 1955 Mrs. U. B. Evans founded LSHR's Official Constitution and bylaws. Her plans included securing the partnership of the University and Professor Nelson to bring new varieties of plant material to the States. She secured funds for numerous trips that brought back over 2000 species of plants that we enjoy today. The INHC continues to be the home for the LSHR meetings and plant releases.

Festival des Fleurs history and support purpose were described. The attention is focused on maintaining horticulture on the campus of UL, thus the Festival continues to support the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center.

Throughout the years Norman and Glenda Balliviero had taken many photos of the various activities and Glenda was able to make a Powerpoint that went along with Mary's presentation.

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In Memorial _____

LSHR Members: Antoine 'Gene' and Earlene D. Garber of New Iberia

Special thanks to all who contributed to and helped with the Compost Pile:

Rob Barry, Dr. Ed Bush, Mary Courville, Albert Durio, Glenda & Norman Balliviero, Allen Ownings, Jo Ann Pugh, Billy Welsh and Ann Justice

IMPORTANT DATE FOR 2016

Mark or set your calendar for the Spring 2016 LSHR annual meeting set at the Ira Nelson Hort. Center:
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2016

A Favorite Release – Tahitian Hat Flower

By Glenda Balliviero, LSHR Board Member

The Tahitian Hat Flower (*Holmskioldia tettensis*), a plant that is home to South Africa, is one of my favorite LSHR Releases. It was released in 2005 and despite many freezes and droughts it has been truly a wonderful plant due to lots of tender loving care. At first I kept it in a small pot for a year before transplanting to a gallon container in which it remained for about another year. It was then planted in a 3 gal container before being put in a large decorative pot. It is now approximately 5' -6' feet tall and about 3' wide. It is not hardy so it is carried in and put in the greenhouse or on the porch each year.

The showy bi-colored flowers are a beautiful rosy-mauve pink with lavender blue. They are disk-shaped and somewhat resemble a hat thus the common name Tahitian Hat. This summer a visitor was admiring my plant and asked me the name of it. I was truly embarrassed because my marker could not be read and for the life of me I could not recall. That night at 2 a.m. it came to me and now I won't ever forget. It loves full sun to partial shade and likes to have moist not wet soil. If given these conditions it will bloom constantly from June till fall. The bees and butterflies love to have dinner on the flowers and it is a stunning addition to my pot garden beside the driveway.



(photo courtesy of Glenda Balliviero)