



LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

SPRING 2017

COMPOST PILE



2017 LSHR ANNUAL MEETING

Once again, it is that time of year. PLANT RELEASE DAY!

Of course, the focus is the LSHR's annual meeting and auction which funds LSHR's support of plant research and scholarships. Another key part of the day comes from us members as we turn in our reports on the 2016 plant releases. Last year was challenge for the releases, so your reports will be very valuable.

Covered in this issue of the Compost Pile are notes on a couple LSHR scholarships recipients, our guest speaker Buddy Lee, annual meeting notes and a report from Allen Owings on Crape Myrtle research.

We have an extra special treat this year! Dr. Ellis Fletcher has compiled a book on all the plant releases from the beginning to 2016. This LSHR supported book will be available for pick up along with the 2017 plant releases.

Our 2017 Spring Guest Speaker:

'The Ever Changing Face of Horticulture'

Robert "Buddy" Lee will be the guest speaker at our luncheon on March 18, 2017. He will present an overview of how horticulture and gardening has changed over the past few decades. Propagation to finished project plus consumer demands and technology has pushed the envelope on how nurserymen produce plants and retail garden centers sell them. Traditional plant cultivars, the once main stay in gardening, now struggle for relevance with the onslaught of the new plant craves. He will present a light hearted look at where we have been and the direction we are going in horticulture.



(Photo courtesy G. Balliviero)

Buddy, a home grown Louisiana boy from a farming family in Folsom, is one of the most respected plant breeders and horticulturists in North America. He began working in the nursery business at the age of 15 and credits his many first employers for his success. Those include Price and Susie Magee at Folsom Nursery, Howard Schilling and H.D. Loyd and Semmes AL Nursery growers Bill and Tom Dodd. He really 'became serious' in the early 1980's when he met John Thornton of Franklinton, who mainly breeds heat tolerant rhododendrons and mountain laurels. Margie Jenkins and Dr. Thornton he claims 'fed his disease'. Buddy's greatest accomplishment was his development of Encore Azalea, the world's best-selling re-blooming azalea. His first variety was Autumn Rouge

(Speaker, continues on Page 2)

President's Message

We have experienced some cold winter weather bringing in the New Year. We dipped down to 22 degrees 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 guest speaker, Buddy Lee is from Independence, Louisiana. He and his wife Dixie are owners of Transcend Nursery and Arboretum. He is well known as the hybridizer that has produced the popular Encore Azaleas. They have extended the bloom season and color spectrum for so many gardens. He has also done work with other large leaf Rhododendron, breeding in heat and disease tolerance for the deep south. He does not limit his work to just Rhododendron species, he has done extensive work with Vitex and many native shrubs. This will surely be an interesting topic to encourage some of our members to do a little hybridizing of their own. Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting March 18, 2017, auction at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center followed by business meeting at the Petroleum Club in the Oil Center. Festival des Fleurs will be at Blackham Coliseum on Saturday April 1st, so don't be a fool and miss out. We need to 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.

Until then Happy Gardening

Albert Durio

LSHR President



Autumn Rouge

(Photo courtesy of encoreazaleas.com)

SPEAKER - continued from page 1



Autumn Ivory

(Photo courtesy of encoreazaleas.com)

which was his favorite variety. With his newer additions Autumn Sunburst is at the top of the list. He also works with loropetalums, vitex, hardy hibiscus, crape myrtles, Indian hawthorn, cyrilla, cliftonia, callicarpa, hollies and many more. With 30 years of experience in nursery management, breeding, propagation and new plant development, Buddy is now Director of Plant Innovations for Plant Development Services, the introducers of Encore Azalea, the Southern Living Plant Collection and the new Sunset Western Garden Collection. Buddy is very involved in sharing his knowledge and his plants. He is past president of the Azalea Society of America, Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association and the Southern Region of International Plant Propagators Society. We certainly look forward to Buddy sharing his knowledge with us.

by Glenda Balliviero

Buddy recommends the following tips on planting and caring for Encore Azaleas:

1. They like acidic, well-drained soil. If necessary, amend the soil or plant in a raised bed, and use acidic mulch.
2. Azaleas have very shallow roots, so plant the root ball slightly above the surface of the ground.
3. Lee recommends spreading a two to three inch layer of mulch around the plant and likes pine straw because it does not wash away as easily as pine bark.

(Speaker, continues on Page 4)

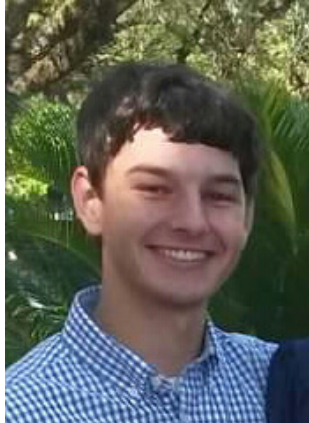
Proud of Our LSHR Scholarship Recipients

Each year we present two scholarships to students (if the applicants meet our specific guidelines) who are studying in the Horticulture field. One is given to an undergraduate student and the other to a graduate student.

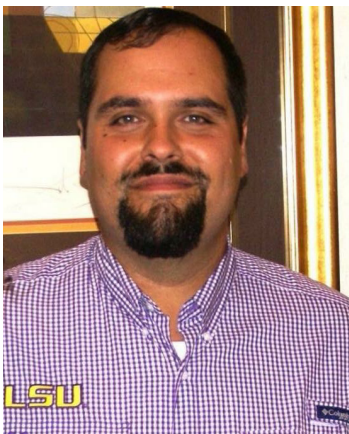
The 2016-2017 Scholarship recipients were Russ Sonnier, undergraduate and Mark Wilson, graduate student. They will both be at our Luncheon and share a few moments of their education experiences and their goals in life.

Russ Sonnier is an undergraduate student, in his final year at LSU and is presently taking 16 hours this semester. He has been working the last 2 years for Dr. Labonte, the campus sweet potato breeder, with his research on campus as well as doing some landscape cleanup around the agronomy building.

Right out of college, his goal is to either work in the nursery industry in the Forrest Hill area or join a reputable landscape business in Lake Charles. His goal is to ultimately own his own landscape business.



(Photo courtesy of N. Balliviero)



(Photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)

Mark Wilson is a graduate student at LSU and has always had a passion for science. After beginning college he found that he also liked the education side of horticulture and his love of both began to grow. Mark has been a teacher's assistant for Horticulture Lab twice and Propagation lecture once. This work reinforced his love of helping people by answering questions and sharing knowledge.

Mark likes to go the extra mile to make sure someone understands the why behind the answers and not just the answer. Upon completion of his Masters, his plans are to go into either agriculture education or extension work thus bringing these traits with him.

by Glenda Balliviero

LSHR web site: www.lshr.org



Save the Date

Saturday

April 1, 2017

Blackham Coliseum
2330 Johnston Street
Lafayette, Louisiana

Contact Billy Welsh for more information
337-482-5339 or welsh@louisiana.edu

Annual Meeting Committee Assignments:

Registration: JoAnn Pugh, Linda Bourg, Glenda Balliviero, Roxanna Champagne and Diana Nolan

Hospitality: Norman Balliviero and Dr. Ellis Fletcher

Auction Acquisitions: Mary Courville and Norman & Glenda Balliviero

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

Auction Floor Monitors – Dr. Dennis Wollard and Dr. Jim Racca

Auction Paper Plates – Dr. Ellis Fletcher

Silent Auctions: Dr. Jean Kreamer and Rebecca Moss

Sales Clerks: Margo Racca and Rob Barry

Plant Releases and Speaker's needs: Billy Welsh

Speaker (continued from page 4)

4. During the first year, don't let the plant dry out. After purchasing, give roots a good soaking in water before planting. Water deeply about twice a week to encourage deep rooting.

5. Pruning is best done right after they finish blooming in the spring.

6. Fertilize right after spring pruning (but not in the fall) making sure the soil is moist. "I've become a fan of slow release (fertilizer)," Lee said. "My favorite is Florikan for azaleas."

Buddy's recommendations by Susan Hart at <http://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20100819/from-the-garden---dazzling-azaleas-give-an-encore-performance>

LSHR OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Allen Owings 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017
Dee Piazza 2015-16, 2016-2017, 2017-2018
Glenda Balliviero 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019

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 Kreamer	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' Welsh	Release - Coordinator

From the treasurer's desk

Our annual meeting is coming fast, also new plant releases, great plant auction and wonderful luncheon with outstanding speaker at Lafayette Petroleum Club. It will be a super fun day.

A reservation for luncheon deadline is FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017. Look for menu and information in this issue, hoping to COUNT you in to attend luncheon. Members need to use THIS ISSUE OF COMPOST PILE with mailing label as proof of membership. Your Compost Pile will be returned to you so hold on to this issue, has lot of information on date, time and great articles. Remember, no ID CARDS were issued. Guests are always welcomed to luncheon, \$25 each, so please send their name so name tags can be printed. Luncheon name tags will be distributed at plant release, so look for that table.

The annual meeting is always a great way to start our spring cycle and seeing great plant loving folks. Counting to see you there!

JoAnn Pugh, Treasurer and bean counter joannpugh@hotmail.com

Spring 2017 luncheon reservations due Friday, March 10, 2017. The luncheon, 3/18/17, will cost \$25 per person and includes tax and tip. Please send reservations with name of members and guests by Friday, March 10, 2017. Sorry, but luncheon cannot be reserved the day of the meeting, need head count a week before, thanks.

Make checks payable to LSHR and mail to:
LSHR
P. O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505.

Questions, contact JoAnn Pugh,
joannpugh@hotmail.com cell 337-247-552

PLANT RELEASE REPORT FORM

(Please cut out following sheet and complete for day of LSHR meeting. If not able to attend the meeting and pick up new releases, please mail in. This helps with the society's research.)

ATTENTION MEMBERS!! THIS FORM IS 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.

LSHR Plant Release Report Form 2016

You must complete and present, not mailed, this form to receive your 2017 Plant Release box.

Plant	Location (circle one)	Insects/Diseases	Living (yes/no)	Rating (circle one)	Comments
1. <i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> 'Little Richard'	1 = am sun			1 = poor	
	2 = pm sun			2 = good	
	3 = full sun			3 = excellent	
	4 = part shade				
	5 = full shade				
	1 2 3 4 5				1 2 3
2. <i>Abelmoschus manihot</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
3. <i>Aerva sanguinolenta</i>	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
4. <i>Begonia</i> sp. 'Barbara Rogers'	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
5. <i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Black Magic'	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
6. <i>Cliffonia monophylla</i> 'Chipolo Pink'	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	

Plant		Location (circle one)	Insects/Diseases	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	
7. Gardenia jasminoides 'Variegata'		1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
8. Illicium parviflorum 'Florida Sunshine'		1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
9. Pentapetes phoenicea		1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
10. Rondeletia leucophylla		1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3	
* Please use the comments column to note additional information, e.g. fragrant, showy, colorful, froze etc.						

Schedule of Events on March 18, 2017

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Registration and distribution of 2017 plant releases and Book of Releases. Drop off of 2016 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: Buddy Lee
After presentation	General Meeting

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Ellis Fletcher, Chairman

The LSHR welcomes the following new members:

CATHY ANDREW
ALLEN BACQUE
KRISTI BARKER
CINDY HAMILTON
LORNA HANES
TRICIA HUNT
TINA JUMONVILLE
PAM LANGLEY
LORY LANUSSE
LOUANN MCCLELLAND-LONG
SCOTT REED
JEANIE RICHARD
TOBEY SMITH
KEVIN TAYLOR
KAREN WILLINGHAM

NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS/ PERSONS FOR AN AWARD

New members nominations and candidates for the Horticultural Medallion Award are due before November 1, 2017. Nominations should be sent to the membership committee chair, Dr. Ellis Fletcher at 329 Orangewood Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503-5225 or via email at uslfletch@lusfiber.net or LSHR@lusfiber.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 11/01/2017 for the current year. Reasons for nomination not a requirement. Nominations for the Horticultural Medallion Award, also, should be post marked by 11/01/2017. The nominations should include a letter of recommendation and reason/accomplishments for the award. And it should be signed by the nominating member.

LSHR supported research:

EVALUATIONS & OBSERVATIONS: NEW LAGERSTROEMIA VARIETIES

Allen Owings and Jason Staggs
Professor (Horticulture) and Instructor (Horticulture)
LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station
985.543.4125; E-mail aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu and jstagg@agcenter.lsu.edu

A landscape trial including most of the recently introduced crape myrtle cultivars has been initiated and expanded since 2013 at the LSU Ag Center Hammond Research Station, Hammond, La. These collections include the Early Bird, Enduring Summer, Delta, Barnyard Favorites, Magic, Miss, Princess and Ebony (aka Black Diamond) series. There is also a new group from Mississippi State University that includes 5 cultivars and new cultivars from Arkansas (Freedom, Cindy and Kitty's Purple from Stan Brown in Clarksville). Other new series not yet in our trials are Play It Again (Carl Whitcomb/Lacebark), Bellini (Conard Pyle), Infinitini (Proven Winners/Spring Meadow Nursery), Barista (Walter Gardens) and Emerald Empire (J Berry Nursery).

Several other cultivars are also included in the evaluation. We also have plants of Bayou View which is the Lagerstroemia fauriei national champion single-trunk crape myrtle tree located at Akin's Nursery in Shreveport. This plant dates to the 1950s/1960s and has been sold the past 4-5 years at the SFA Gardens Plant Sale in Nacogdoches, TX. We are also evaluating several lavender-flowered crape myrtle cultivars (New Lavender and First Lavender) from John Davy at Panhandle Growers, Pace, Florida.

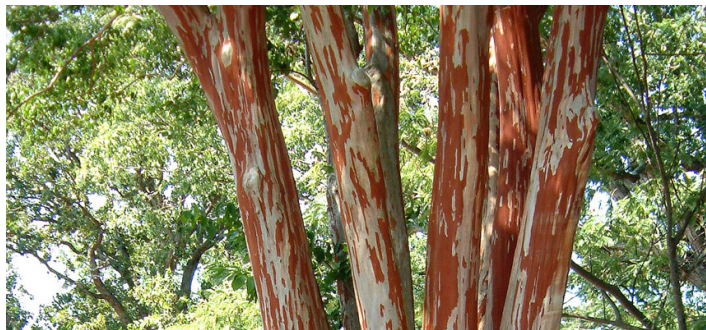


Photo of a Lagerstroemia fauriei trunk. (courtesy of web site: http://members.tripod.com/hatch_1/ntt.ht13.html)

The Early Bird series, introduced by Plant Development Services, Inc., has been on the market the longest and is part of the Southern Living Plant

(Crapes, continues on Page 8)

Crapes (continued from page 7)

Collection. These are dwarf growing plants maturing at 4 feet. Early Bird Lavender (soft lavender) is promoted as a very heavy earlier bloomer. Other cultivars include Early Bird Purple and Early Bird White.

Observations: Very early bloomers. Repeat bloom well in late summer. Leaf spot susceptibility, Early Bird White is largest grower in the collection (5 feet). Early Bird Lavender seems to be the consumer favorite.



Photo of Lavender Early Bird Crape Myrtle (courtesy of web site: <http://www.gardenality.com/ImageViewer>)

For several years, the burgundy-foliaged Delta Jazz (semi-dwarf, brilliant pink) was the only variety in the Delta series from Plant Development Services, Inc. and has been a stand-alone cultivar (originally named Chocolate Mocha). This cultivar is included in the Southern Living Plant Collection. Five year old plants of Delta Jazz are 8 feet tall in most locations. Plants are classified as semi-dwarf growers, which normally indicate heights ranging from 8-12 feet. New for 2014 are four new color additions – Delta Breeze (light lavender), Delta Eclipse (brilliant purple), Delta Moonlight (white) and Delta Flame (dark red). New for 2016 are Delta Fusion (dark pink) and Delta Fuchsia (fuchsia).

Observations: Burgundy foliage colored maintained spring through fall. Larger flowers than other series/varieties with burgundy or black foliage. Some powdery mildew observed some years in cool, overcast spring seasons. Bloom begins early to mid-June. Little to no leaf spot observed.

The new black foliaged **Ebony** crape myrtles developed by Cecil Pounders at the USDA-ARS in Poplarville, MS are available to all growers. They are also sold under the **Black Diamond** name by J. Berry Nursery, Grand Saline, TX. The Black Diamond name

is exclusive to J. Berry Nursery. These plants supposedly mature at 8-10 feet and retain foliage color spring through fall.

<u>Ebony Variety Name</u>	<u>Black Diamond Variety Name</u>
Ebony and Ivory (white)	Pure White
Ebony Flame (dark red)	Best Red
Ebony Embers (deep red)	Red Hot
Ebony Fire (dark red)	Crimson Red
Ebony Glow (lt. pink to white)	Blush

New additions to the Black Diamond series are Shell Pink (coral pink), Mystic Magenta (magenta pink) and Purely Purple (vibrant purple).

Observations: Variable flowering year to year. Black Diamond White and Black Diamond Blush less vigorous growers than the red flowering varieties. Newer varieties are better bloomers. Black Diamond Mystic Magenta and Black Diamond Purely Purple have larger blooms and improved landscape performance. Blackish to very dark burgundy foliage present spring through fall. Little to no leaf spot observed. Some powdery mildew observed in springtime.



Photo of Pink Black Diamond Crape Myrtle (courtesy of web site: <http://www.blackdiamondblooms.com/gallery>)

Red Rooster (brilliant red), Purple Cow (deep purple) and Pink Pig (soft pale pink) are being sold as "mid-sized" growers and are promoted collectively as the "Barnyard Favorites" in the Gardener's Confidence Collection. According to Gardener's Confidence, Red Rooster is a plant to "crow about", you can "squeal with delight" over Pink Pig, and Purple Cow can be used to create an "udderly majestic garden".

Observations: Cold damage observed early in trials on Purple Cow and Pink Pig. Red Rooster has very good red flower color and has better early growth rate than Dynamite. Leaf spot problematic on all three varieties. Undecided on mature height. Red Rooster is the best

variety in the collection.

The Magic series from Plant Introductions that are now part of the First Editions program by Bailey Nurseries includes Coral Magic (salmon pink), Purple Magic (dark purple), Plum Magic (fuchsia pink), Moonlight Magic (white) and Midnight Magic (dark pink). Coral Magic and Purple Magic have reddish new foliage in the spring. Plum Magic has plum purple foliage in the spring. Midnight Magic has purple maroon foliage that persists from spring to fall and Moonlight Magic has dark maroon foliage persists from spring to fall. These are semi-dwarf plants (6-10 feet tall at maturity for Coral, Purple, and Plum, while Midnight matures at 4-6 feet and Moonlight matures at 8-12 feet) that were developed by Mike Dirr in Georgia at Plant Introductions, Inc. New additions to this group are Ruffled Red Magic (glowing red), Red Magic (red), and Twilight Magic (plum purple to burgundy foliage, pink flowers).

Observations: Some of the Magic series has blackish foliage that is retained spring through fall while some varieties have burgundy foliage that is retained into late summer. Others just have burgundy foliage in the spring months. Cold damage observed on young plants of Plum Magic, Purple Magic and Coral Magic early in trials. Midnight Magic and Moonlight Magic are taller growers in the series. Leaf spot variable variety to variety with varieties having mostly green foliage later in season being more susceptible. Twilight Magic has unique flower color. Need more growth habit and flowering uniformity in this series.

The Princess (aka Little Princess) series is a new dwarf group developed by Dow Whiting at Garden Adventures Nursery in Missouri and is being marketed as part of the Garden Debut program by Greenleaf Nursery. This series includes Holly Ann (cherry red), Kylie (magenta pink), Zoey (cherry red with cotton candy pink), Jaden (lavender) and Lyla (rose pink). Height varies from 2-6 feet on these cultivars.

Observations: Favorite is Princess Lyla. Variable height variety to variety. Some leaf spot susceptibility. Princess Jaden is most dwarf and may be too slow of a grower. Zoey has unique “peppermint” (bicolor) flower characteristic.

Ball Ornamentals released the Enduring Summer collection of crape myrtles. Varieties are Enduring Summer Red, Enduring Summer Fuchsia, Enduring Summer Pink, Enduring Summer White and Enduring Summer Lavender. These plants were also developed by Mike Dirr. These are reported to have re-blooming characteristics. The Enduring Summer cultivars have an upright habit and mature height is 6-8 feet with a

4-foot spread. These are now marketed by Conard-Pyle Company.

Observations: Enduring Summer Red is best of the series. Cold damage on other varieties in the series in LSU AgCenter trials. Enduring Summer Red very similar in phenotype to Red Rooster. Some leaf spot disease.

The new Miss series of *L. indica* from Cecil Pounders’ breeding work at USDA-ARS Poplarville, MS includes Miss Gail (20 feet, upright vase shape, purple violet flowers), Miss Frances (16-18 feet, round spreading, red) and Miss Sandra (18-20 feet, upright spreading purple violet).

Observations: Need to be considered. Nice growers. Common green foliage. Intermediate habit. Miss Frances has outstanding red flowers (comparable red flowers to Freedom variety from Stan Brown in Arkansas; better red than Dynamite). Only minor leaf spot occurs in average/above average rainfall years.

The new crape myrtle group from Mississippi State University’s Coastal Research and Extension Center (unnamed series) released by Patricia Knight and Wayne McLaurin include Neshoba, Pascagoula, Sequoyah, Shumaka and Tishomingo. These have been on trial with several MS growers over the past 5 years. These have not yet been generally-distributed to the industry.

Observations: Have not been in trials very long. Need more time for observations. Neshoba blooms well into the fall months and may be best of the series.

Data collected during our evaluations include flowering dates, durations, and quantities, fungal (*Cercospora*) and bacterial (*Xanthomonas*) leaf spot susceptibility ratings, and height measurements. We are also observing for “rabbit tracks”, retention of burgundy/black foliage characteristics and other things. This evaluation will continue through 2019-2020.

More research data to come in a future Compost Pile.

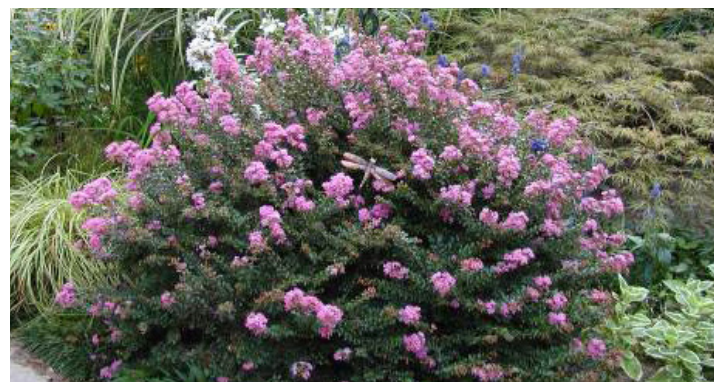


Photo of Pink Little Princess Crape Myrtle (courtesy of web site: <http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>)

Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research
127 Acadian Drive
Lafayette, LA 70503-3210

LSHR RENEWAL FORM

LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH
DUE ASAP
MEMBERSHIP DUE NOTICE
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

____ ACTIVE \$15 ____ Sustaining Donor \$100 and up

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Please mail this form and payment to:
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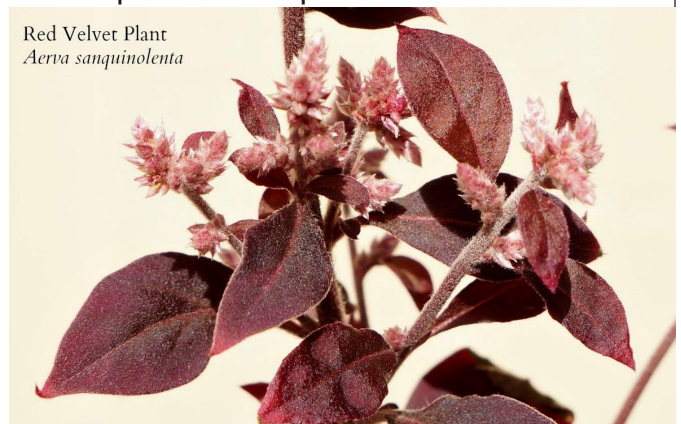
In Memorial _____

LSHR Member: Suzan Allen

A Favorite Release – Red Velvet Plant - *Aerva sanguinolenta* family: Amaranthaceae

Unusual tropical foliage plant ideal for bed edgings and mixed containers. Aromatic, richly-colored burgundy leaves. Produces small Alternanthera-like flowers during short day seasons. Grows 18" x 14". Plant in full to partial sun. Easily propagated by cuttings. Can be perennial in warmer areas of Zone 9. Annual plant in zones 8B north unless winter protection is provided. The LSU AgCenter provided this plant to the LSHR for its 2016 plant release. We have been growing this plant in the trial gardens in Hammond since 2014. In addition, it is a 2016 LSU AgCenter Plant with potential.

Allen D. Owings
Professor and Research Coordinator
LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Highway
Hammond, LA 70403



Red Velvet Plant
Aerva sanguinolenta

(photo courtesy of LSHR member Kelly Texada)