



LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

SPRING 2018

COMPOST PILE



2018 LSHR ANNUAL MEETING

PLANT RELEASE DAY and the LSHR ANNUAL MEETING will be here before we know it and so will be spring. Thank goodness for spring. I know everyone will be glad to be done with winter. Last fall, the weather man said we will have a mild dry winter! Boy, boy, they got it completely wrong. The 15-degree low has taken a major toll on many plants including our releases.

Last year was a challenge for the 2017 releases with rains most of the year and then a drought late summer. So your reports will be very valuable.

Covered in this issue of the Compost Pile are notes on the LSHR meeting, a scholarship recipient, our guest speaker Paul Soniat, an article on what to do after the arctic blast and most importantly, the plant release report form, which will be needed to pick up this year's releases.

Paul M. Soniat to be Guest Speaker at 2018 Luncheon and Annual Meeting - March 17th

We are very pleased to have Paul M. Soniat, the founding director of the New Orleans Botanical Garden and Celebration in the Oaks, City Park as our guest speaker at our luncheon on March 17th. He will give a power point presentation on the History of the New Orleans Botanical Garden. We are very proud to make it known that Paul obtained his B.S. in Horticulture at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette in 1975 so we are especially excited.



(Photo courtesy G. Balliviero)

His responsibilities vary greatly from establishing volunteer and education programs, preparing and managing the financial aspects of the Garden and Celebration in the Oaks, strengthening the plant collections, creating a master plan for addressing the physical and education needs of the Garden to working with the New Orleans Botanical Garden Foundation to raise the necessary funds to implement the Master Plan. He also works with the Celebration in the Oaks chairmen and volunteer committee.

His major accomplishments include: He began the renovation of the New Orleans Botanical Garden from an original staff of 2 people and annual revenue of less than \$10,000 in 1982 to a staff of 21 and an annual revenue of over 1.5 million dollars in 2001. He Created Celebration in the Oaks in 1987 which now attracts 400,000 visitors annually during the holidays.

Speaker (continues on Page 2)

President's Message

Wow! What a WINTER this has been! I'm sure we all now know what that 4th season is that we seldom experience. Our plants have been having some unhappy experiences, too. Just think if you are that beautiful palm tree that loves the warm sun and only a bit of cold from time to time during winter. Then not once but 3 times recently, it experiences snow laden fronds which turn the beautiful green to burnt brown and yellow. It has learned that maybe it needs a different home but its owners just can't give in.

At my house, plants have been sharing the living room, the closed-in porch, half of the garage and my workshop for several occasions. Not to mention a large greenhouse that unfortunately dropped to freezing when the electricity was out for about 3 hours. Tropical trees are wrapped in frost cloth and mulched with bales of hay, pine needles cover perennials and sheets and cloths cover window boxes. When Glenda came in after seeing her greenhouse for the first time since the last freeze, she was in tears. She and so many true gardeners like her, love their plants and go above and beyond to protect. Many say "don't worry you can buy more;" however, that just isn't in their philosophy. For these folks, it is about caring for

and protecting. After all, they are their babies.

It's time to check on our Release plants from spring. Did you plant any in the ground? If so, did you mulch? How are they now looking since all the arctic temps came our way? If in pots, were they moved to a warm area or covered for protection? I'm sure our release reports that must be turned in at our March gathering will be very interesting. Please, please just don't write down Dead. Let us know what you tried for protection, is any new growth showing – remember it is less than 2 months off and who knows maybe we'll receive spring temperatures early. Remember we are a Research Society and the information you pass along could be of great help to others. Also, remember in order to receive the 2018 box of release plants you must turn in your report on the 2017 plants which is included in newsletter.

Maybe our guest speaker, Paul Soniat, who renovated the New Orleans Botanical Gardens after Katrina, will have some pointers for us. One thing is definite – we feel honored to have him.

Norman
LSHR President

SPEAKER - continued from Page 1

Along with Gen. Trimble, he coordinated the fundraising, design and construction of the Pavilion of the Two Sisters, Garden Study Center, and the Lath House, a new Hands-on Horticultural Lab which opened in 1998. He is presently continuing to develop the plan for future direction and improvements of the New Orleans Botanical Garden.

His activities and honors go on and on; however, his being responsible for the renovation of the entire garden and buildings following Hurricane Katrina certainly is one of the greatest. Part of his responsibility as Director of the Garden is to speak to citizen groups regarding the improvement of the Garden and the resurgence of City Park. Not only is he a great director of this garden, but he is a wonderful musician and song writer, having produced 3 CD's.

by Glenda Balliviero

In Memorial

Becky Moss's father, Howard "Tally" Fournet
(December)

Gail Wakefield's husband, Gene Wakefield
(October)



Abelmoschus moschatus_ssp

A 2017 plant release

LSHR Scholarship Recipient Kirsten Basco

We are proud to announce that Kirsten Basco was the recipient of an LSHR Scholarship in 2017. These scholarships are awarded to one Under graduate and one Graduate student in the field of Horticulture each year. The various universities in Louisiana provide to our society the names of students who they feel are worthy of receiving a scholarship along with pertinent information such as their Major and GPA. The LSHR Board then reviews and votes on those they feel are qualified to receive the scholarships which are comprised of \$1000 each in the fall and spring semesters. Kirsten is presently attending Louisiana Tech in Ruston majoring in Agriculture Business with a minor in Plant Science.

Kirsten not only attends college but also works at the college greenhouse on campus. At Tech they are on quarters and she will graduate the Summer Quarter thus completing college within 3 years which is quite an accomplishment. She plans to work in the horticulture field upon completion of college but has not yet obtained a position.

The Fall quarter she took Natural Resource Economics, Entomology and Landscape Design and Contracting in reference to her major. She is presently taking Pesticides, Management of Soil and Water



(Photo courtesy of N. Balliviero)

Quality and Agriculture Finance in her field and in the spring she will take Farm Management, Agriculture Policy and Turf Management. Of course, she takes other courses in addition to her major to have a minimum of 12 hours each quarter.

Scholarship (continues on page 5)



Save the Date

April 14, 2018

Saturday
8am-4pm

Blackham Coliseum
2330 Johnston Street
Lafayette, LA 70503

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

www.festivaldesfleurs.org

Annual Meeting Committee Assignments:

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

Hospitality: Billy Welsh and Dr. Ellis Fletcher

Auction Acquisitions: Sarah Schoeffler and Peter Piazza

Auctioneers: Dr. Allen Owings, Albert Durio and Jason Stagg

Auction Floor Monitors: Peter Piazza

Auction Paper Plates: Dr. Ellis Fletcher

Silent Auctions: Dr. Jean Creamer and Rebecca Moss

Sales Clerks: Margo Racca and Rob Barry

Plant Releases and Speaker's needs: Billy Welsh



Cephalotaxus harringtonia Duke Gardens

A 2017 plant release

PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Mary Courville	Dr. Jim Racca
Belle Durio	Margo Racca
Dalton Durio	Albert Durio
Dr. Dennis Wollard	

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)

LSHR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Norman Balliviero	President
Sara Schoeffler	First Vice-President
Robert Barry	Second Vice-President
Roxanna Champagne	Recording Secretary
JoAnn Pugh	Treasurer

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Dee Piazza	2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18
Glenda Balliviero	2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19
Billy Welsh	2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20

PLANT RELEASE REPORT FORM

(Please use the enclosed insert 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.

From the Treasurer's Desk . . .

Bean counter is still at work! I am counting on seeing you on March 17th.

I know everyone will be anxious to see all our new releases "our new babies," the outstanding plant auction, silent auction, annual meeting, luncheon and old friends.

Please hold on to this issue of COMPOST PILE, as has dates, times, all the information and also your PASS as proof of membership to get a box of releases. Remember, no membership cards are issued, bring this issue. Your Compost Pile will be marked with your box number and returned to you. Really helps to keep the flow of distribution so you can check out silent auction, plant live auction and visit with friends. Guests are always welcomed to luncheon, \$25 each, what a great deal, great meal and great program. Please send their name so name tags can be printed, deadline is Monday, March 12. Luncheon name tags will be distrusted at the plant release.

Let us all have fun at annual meeting. Counting to see you there.

Yes, we will all have horror stories of plants lost during freeze, but looking forward to new plants to touch our hearts!

*JoAnn Pugh,
Treasurer and Bean Counter
joannpugh@hotmail.com*



Scholarship *(continued from page 3)*



(Photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)

Kirsten had been very active in high school science and actually was a winner in the Louisiana State Science Fair 2 times.

She was honored by the Louisiana State Horticulture Society in 2013 and 2014 for her projects in Horticulture with a First Place and an Honorary Mention. We are proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her meeting our members at the Conference on March 17. If you have the opportunity it would be nice for you to introduce yourself and make her feel welcome. Congratulations Kirsten as a student receiving a scholarship from our society.

by Glenda Balliviero

Schedule of Events on March 17, 2018

8 am - 10 am	Drop off of 2017 plant release evaluations Registration and distribution of 2018 plant releases
8:30 am - 10 am	Silent Auction
9:00 am	Plant Auction
11:00 am	Opening of Petroleum Club Open Bar
12:00 noon	Luncheon Buffet / Guest Speaker: Paul Soniat
After presentation	General Meeting

LSHR website: www.lshr.org

LUNCHEON - March 17, 2018

LOCATION: PETROLEUM CLUB OF LAFAYETTE

111 Heymann Blvd, 337-232-2582
(located in Oil Center, corner St Mary Blvd,
Pinhook Road, and Heymann Blvd)

MENU

Salad

Tossed Greens with Choice of Dressing

Entrée

Sliced Brisket with Gravy
Fried Fillet of Catfish

Vegetables

Corn Macque Choux
Vegetable Medley

Starches

Cornbread Ddressing
Parsley Potatoes

Desserts

Bread Pudding with Hard Sauce
Chocolate Cake

Tea, Coffee, and Dinner Rolls with Butter

CASH BAR

Spring 2018 Luncheon Reservations
due MONDAY, March 12.

Luncheon is March 17th. Cost is \$25 per person and includes tax and tip. Please send reservations with name of member and guest by March 12th. Sorry, luncheon cannot be reserved on the day of meeting. Mail check to:

LSHR, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505

Any questions, contact JoAnn Pugh,
joannpugh@hotmail.com



Trahelospermum asiaticum 'HOSNS'

Snow-N-Summer Asiatic Jasmine

A 2017 plant release

With permission from Randy Lemmon:

GARDENLINE WITH RANDY LEMMON

Freeze-recovery Rules 2018

by Randy Lemmon

Prompted by the prolonged cold that ushered in 2018, here are my long-standing rules for dealing with landscapes in the aftermath of a freeze. As you read them, please note that we will not touch fruit trees . . . especially citrus . . . until at least late February.

1. If it's crispy and brown, cut it back to green wood. Hibiscus, lantana, hamelia and other perennials are great examples. Or, you can just leave crispy and brown freeze-damaged plants alone until you feel certain no more freezing weather is ahead. If you do cut back damaged plants to green wood, promise that you will super-protect them if we get surprised by another forecast freeze. There are two reasons: **a.** The fresh cut will act like a straw, pulling freezing temperatures directly into the plant. And that can totally kill a perennial that otherwise could handle such weather. **b.** If you cut back, and temperate weather prompts new growth, the new parts will be highly susceptible to damage from any future freezing weather.



Freeze damaged Variegated Ginger
(Photo courtesy of Randy Lemon)

2. If you cut a brown and crispy plant to the ground and see no sign of green, but the root system seems to be firmly locked in, consider leaving it alone to see if it comes back. (Be sure to protect what's left during any future freeze.) If the root system moves around easily — like a car's stick-shift — it's dead. You can remove the whole thing.

3. If it's mushy, gushy or gooey, get rid of it! Cut it out, remove it - do whatever it takes to get the nasty stuff out of there. If you cut all the mushy, gushy, gooey parts away from tropicals like bananas or split-leaf philodendrons, you'll likely be left with just a tiny bit of green material near the ground. Protect it from future freezes that can kill root system. But you really need to get the mushy stuff out, because it could harbor fungal diseases that will be pulled into the plant.

4. If a palm frond (those of queen palms are good examples) is drooping over, cut it out or back. If a palm frond is standing up, leave it alone. After the January 2010 freeze, we had to wait months before we knew if some palms were coming back. The only true way to determine if a palm is dead is to examine the inside of the crown, where new growth emerges. But most of us don't have the tree company equipment or ladders tall enough to do such visual observations. A racquetball buddy who was worried about his queen palms sent me a picture saying he thought they looked fine to him. I told him that I didn't want to rain on his parade, but he might not know the full extent of some palm damage for another 30-45 days.

5. On palms small enough to get to the fronds (a dwarf pygmy date palm is a good example), pull on those in the interior to see if they stay attached. If they easily slide out, the plant is dead. If they hold tight, the plant may still be alive, but you will have to wait and see.



Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Goshiki'
Variegated False Holly

A 2017 plant release

Freeze-recovery Rules *(continued from page 6)*

And if you removed some fronds/leaves, but you think the palm may still be alive, remember to protect the open slots during any future freeze. Otherwise, dangerous cold will be drawn into the plant through those open areas.

6. If you feel confident that we'll get no more hard freezes through mid-February, it's time to scalp the yard. Essentially, you'll try to vacuum up any dead grass so live roots are open to the air, sunshine, water and fertilizer. This year, we have the first true need to scalp lawns since February 2011. That was the last time we had a freeze that actually impacted typical lawns here. And, as you might suspect, another hard freeze could actually kill a scalped St. Augustine lawn. So, don't do it until at least Feb. 15, unless you are really confident there's no more chance for a hard freeze.

7. If you think your St. Augustine lawn has a lot of thatch built up, don't mechanically de-thatch - scalp instead. There are products - essentially anything containing humus or humates - that will help break down the thatch.

Check out my article on the need to scalp that also includes details on de-thatching and the many myths surrounding that issue.

Please share this information with friends and neighbors, and encourage them to tune in GardenLine each weekend in 2018 to learn more about recovering from extreme weather and succeeding with all types of gardening along the Gulf Coast. And get hooked up with GardenLine on Facebook, too. We post timely information there on a regular basis.

You can follow Randy Lemmon on the radio Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6 to 10 a.m. on KTRH 740am or www.ktrh.com and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GardenLineWithRandyLemmon/> and his web site: www.randylemmon.com

https://ktrh.iheart.com/featured/gardenline-with-randy-lemmon/content/2018-01-09-freeze-recovery-rules-2018/?j=1220637&l=7985_HTML&mid=1071480



Buxus microphylla 'Peergold'
Golden Dream Boxwood
A 2017 plant release



Viburnum luzonicum
Snow Joey Viburnum
A 2017 plant release

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Ellis Fletcher, Chairman

The LSHR welcomes the following new members:

Dr. Kenny Arceneaux	Covington, LA
Raymonda Guidroz	Houma, LA
Ellen Garacci	New Iberia, LA
Sandra Domingue	Lafayette
Marcy Ann Nix	Lafayette
Gerard Thomas	Lafayette

Cassia 'Worley's Butter Cream' is a Great Favorite.

Cassia 'Worley's Butter Cream' - (*Senna bicapsularis*)
family: Caesalpinaceae

Cassias in general are truly beautiful assets to the fall landscape and most are a bright golden yellow; however, the Worley's Butter Cream makes a very special effect with its very soft yellow color. Butter cream is truly a great name for this plant. This shrub in my landscape is planted in full sun. It has many stems coming up from the ground which makes it very bushy and has reached a height of about 7' tall each fall. The soft yellow flowers speak for themselves of their beauty. It does freeze back to the ground each winter and then returns during late spring or early summer.

This past fall I'd posted photos of this beautiful plant on Facebook in Louisiana Plants. I had so many wonderful comments on it and I've even shared lots of cuttings with nursery friends. I'm sure so many more gardeners will now be able to enjoy. For the first time, I've gathered seeds recently and will share with a few friends.



by Glenda Balliviero

(photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)