



LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

SPRING 2019

COMPOST PILE



Maarten van der Giessen to be Guest Speaker at 2019 Luncheon and Annual Meeting

By Glenda Balliviero

Enthusiastic can hardly describe Maarten van der Giessen as a Horticulturist. His education at Memphis State University and at the University of South Alabama from 1979 to 1984 prepared him in many ways for his future, but his experience as Assistant Manager at Cottage Hill Nursery in Irvington, Alabama from 1986 to 1990 gave him additional knowledge which became useful later. He and his father, Peter, launched Van Der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Alabama in 1990 and he was the Manager and Vice President for over 25 years. In March of 2015 he became the president of the nursery, where he continues to enjoy and foster his love for plants. The nursery is a wholesale nursery growing liners (starter plants) and containers (1-7 gallon) for growers and garden centers.

Volunteering in various areas of horticulture makes his life more fulfilling. He served as president of the Mobile Botanical Gardens from 2011 to 2012 and then again from 2016 to 2017. He enjoyed working with others in promoting this beautiful garden. He was president of the South Alabama Nursery Association in 2007. Later, in 2013, he became President of the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association which gave him opportunities to work with other professionals in his field. In 2015 he was president of the International Plant Propagators Southern Region. Volunteering in all these areas made it possible for him to meet and work with other horticulturists, sharing his knowledge as well as learning from others in various fields. Maarten has long been active in the Azalea Society of America and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2010.

Recently Maarten wrote an article for the *Lagniappe*, a weekly newspaper in Mobile, titled, "The Beginning of Mobile's Nursery Industry." In it he stated, "Time is an unknown line, but history is the intricate web woven in and out of that line." He emphasized that the nursery industry in Mobile County embodies this fact. Maarten has played an important role in the development of the industry.

Maarten and his wife Colleen are both avid gardeners and we look forward to meeting him and hope he brings Colleen to our event. Gardening definitely can be a family affair!



President's Message

The ground hog just gave us great news that Spring is just around the corner. I'm sure all of us want to believe this prediction. On March 23, just a few days after Spring officially begins, we will be having our annual meeting which is sure to bring delight to all. Whether it's the joy of visiting with your gardening friends while waiting in line for the doors to open, the excitement of receiving your box of release plants like children on Christmas morning or the fun of out bidding a friend for a special plant, it's definitely a day of enjoyment for all. Then we will gather at the big event held at the Petroleum Club, with Maarten van der Giessen entertaining us with gardening highlights following a delicious lunch. The title of his talk will be **"Swimming in a Sea of New Introductions."**

Be sure to bring your Compost Pile as your membership ID and don't forget to complete the Reporting Form if you received 2018 Plants. Remember, we are a research society and this form is your ticket to receive a box of 2019 Plants.

I, too, am ready for Spring which is often referred to as new life. I'll be having my 3rd surgery in the last 7 months in a few days and sure hope that I will be recuperated and able to enjoy life again on this special day.

Norman
LSHR President

LUNCHEON - March 23, 2019

LOCATION: PETROLEUM CLUB OF LAFAYETTE

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

BALLROOM, downstairs next to stairs

MENU

Salad

Tossed Greens with Choice of Dressing

Entrée

Sliced Brisket with Gravy
Shrimp Primavera and Capellini Pasta

Vegetables

Corn Macque Choux
Peas and Artichokes

Starches

Cornbread Dressing
Rice Pilaf

Desserts

Bread Pudding with Hard Sauce
Chocolate Cake

Tea, Coffee, and Dinner Rolls with Butter

CASH BAR

Spring 2019 luncheon reservations
due FRIDAY, March 15.

Luncheon cost \$25 per person and includes tax and tip. Please send reservations with name of member and guest. Sorry, luncheon cannot be reserved the day of meeting. Mail check:

LSHR, PO Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505

Any questions, contact JoAnn Pugh,
joannpugh@hotmail.com cell 337-247-5526

Schedule of Events on March 23, 2019

8:00 am – 10:00 am	Drop off of 2018 Plant Release Evaluations Registration and Distribution of 2019 Plant Releases
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Silent Auction (Please bring items)
9:00 am	Plant Auction (Please bring rare and unusual plants)
11:00 am	Opening of Petroleum Club Open Bar
12:00 noon	Luncheon Buffet / Guest Speaker
After Presentation	General Meeting

From the Treasurer's Desk . . .

KEEP THIS ISSUE!

This **COMPOST PILE** issue is your ticket to get your plant releases on March 23!

Our records will indicate which members received releases in 2018 and we will be expecting your evaluation sheet from these plants. New members and members that did not receive plant releases in 2018 will need to also bring this issue to receive a box of new releases. This current issue confirms your membership and helps to keep the line flowing as you are issued a box number. Your Compost Pile will be returned to you.

Please view the schedule of events, luncheon menu and mailing information. Guests are also welcome at the luncheon. The cost is \$25 per person. The new releases, plant auction, program, great food and many plant loving friends will make for a great day. I'm sure we will all have itching green thumbs now that spring has arrived! Anxious to see all on MARCH 23!

JoAnn Pugh,
Treasurer, Bean Counter!
joannpugh@hotmail.com
cell 337-247-5526

Welcome New Members!

Cherlyn Hebert	Lafayette
Cindy Jordan	Lafayette
Andre Odinet	Lafayette
Karen Terrell	Lafayette
Susan and Ed Wilhelm	Abbeville
Karen Hoyt	Abbeville
Cecilia Hoyt	Carenrco
Elaine Bayus	Houma
Barbara Babin	Thibodaux
Connie Byrne	Youngsville
Patsy Hebert	Youngsville



Save the Date

Saturday

April 13, 2019

Blackham Coliseum
2330 Johnston Street
Lafayette, Louisiana

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

www.festivaldesfleurs.org

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Billy Welsh	2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20
Scott Reed	2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21

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FINAL REPORT – EVALUATION OF FLORIDA (TROPICAL) PLANTS

Allen Owings, Emeritus Professor (Horticulture), LSU AgCenter
225.603.8096 • aowings64@gmail.com

Background

Preliminary landscape observations of several tropical and sub-tropical plant genera, species, cultivars typically grown and used in Florida were observed in demonstration plantings at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. Our warmer winters (with the exception of 2010 and 2014) are creating opportunities for perennial growth of these plants, especially in the I-10/12 corridor and more southern areas of the state. Studies to observe, take data, monitor consumer and commercial potential and determine perennial potential were conducted in 2014-2017. Plants were evaluated in the sun garden, shade garden, Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden and the Piney Woods Garden at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA.

List of Some Evaluated Plants (with common and scientific names)

Cuphea schumanii	Parrots Beak
*Gamelina shilippensis	Hiptage 'Cambodiana'
Hiptage sp.	
Petrea albiflora	Queens Wreath
Petrea volubilis	Indian Mallow
Abutilon chitendenii	Golden Sweet Flag
Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'	Red Velvet
*Aerva sanguinolenta	Chinese Perfume Tree
Aglaia odorata	
Asclepias perennis	Hammock Groundsel
Baccharis dioica	Snow Bush Pink
*Brynia disticha Rosea-Picta	Lady of the Night
*Brunfelsia x 'Isola'	Red Powder Puff
*Calliandra haematocephala	Cerra Cipapao Apple
Clusia lannceolata	Tropical Lilac
*Cornutia grandifolia	Oxblood Ginger
*Costus erythrophyllus	Varnishleaf (purple)
Dodonea viscosa	Bahama Firebush
*Hamelia cuprea	Firebush (Native)
*Hamelia nodosa patens	Grand Duke/Maid of Orleans
*Jasmine sambac	
Jatropha hastata 'Watermelon'	Wild Sage
Lantana involucrata	Liriope 'Isabella'
Liriope muscari 'LIRF'	Dwarf Yellow
*Mussaenda glabra	
Mussaenda 'Marmalade'	Pink Cat Whiskers
*Orthosiphon labiatus	Cascade
Phyllanthus myrtifolius	Blue Crossandra
*Pseuderathemum graciflorum	Shooting Star
*Pseuderathemum laxiflorum	
*Radermachera 'Kunming'	
*Rondeletia leucophylla	Panama Rose
*Tibouchina urvilleana 'Variegata'	Dwarf Variegated Tibouchina



Gamelina shilippensis

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- *Sanchezia speciosa
 - Strobilanthes gossypinus
 - Tabernaemontana divarcata
 - Synsepalum dulcificum
 - Ipomoea indica var.acuminata
 - Passiflora edulis
 - *Pseudogynoxys chenopodioidnes
 - Solanum wendlandii
 - Acacia choriophyllum
 - Acacia farnesiana
 - *Barleria lupulina
 - Bauhinia blakeana
 - Bauhinia galpinii
 - *Bucida molineti
 - Delonix regia
 - *Calliandra sp.
 - *Calliandra surinamensis
 - *Jatropha gossypifolia
 - *Jatropha hastata
 - *Jatropha integerrima compacta
 - Tabernaemontana divarcata
 - *Tabernaemontana divarcata
 - Tabernaemontana pandacaqui
- Cape Jasmine
 - Miracle Fruit
 - Possum Purple
 - Mexican Flame Vine
 - Costa Rican Nightshade
 - Cinncord
 - Sweet Acacia
 - Hophead Barleria
 - Hong Kong Orchid
 - Red Orchid
 - Spiny Black Olive
 - Royal Poinciana
 - Freund's White
 - Bellyache Bush
 - Watermelon Jatropha
 - Dwarf Jatropha, Red 'Flore Pleno'
 - Pinwheel Jasmine
 - Banana Bush



Radermachera 'Kunming'

The above plants with asterisks were considered "top performers."

In addition to the above, some additional genera were studied – this include more commonly grown genera like Durantas and Acalyphas. Perennial potential of many of these tropicals in marginally hardy areas is determined by the microclimate of the landscape. Performance from the north shore (Florida Parishes) to Houma, Lake Charles, New Orleans and Lafayette are highly variable for some. The chances of some of these to over-winter successfully in Alexandria, Monroe, Ruston and Shreveport are limited. Protection provided in landscape beds, potting in containers for moving indoors or into protected areas in freezing weather and greenhouse storage/growing for December and January may be needed.

Duranta Varieties

Dewdrops is a common name for durantas, which also are called sky flowers.

One dwarf variety is Cuban Gold. It is low-growing, reaching only 16-20 inches tall in the landscape by fall. Cuban Gold is very similar to, if not the same plant, as Gold Mound. We found a variegated foliage form of Cuban Gold (Gold Mound) at Lue Gardens in Florida that they call Tiger Eye.

The variety Gold Edge produces few if any seed pods or flowers and grows to a height of 5 feet each year. There is also a solid gold sport of Gold Edge now available from several growers under different names (Solid Gold, Monster Gold). We found a similar sport in Hammond but have not pursued distribution or naming.

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Other duranta varieties available include Sapphire Showers, Lemon Drop, Variegated, White, Purple and Silver Lining. Newer ones recently located and trialed with success include Green and Gold (green and gold variegation), Snow Flurry (white and green variegation) and Little Geisha Girl (green and yellowish green variegation). Maintaining the variegation in foliage of all these is difficult with the exception of Variegated, Silver Lining and Gold Edge. Tissue culture could result in some stabilization of plant phenology.

Acalypha (Copper Plant, Copperleaf Plant) Varieties

Copper plant evaluations have included these varieties (*asterick indicates top ten performer):

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| *Brazen | *Lava Flow |
| Ceylon | *Loco |
| Chinelle Plant (<u>Acalypha hispida</u>) | *Louisiana Red |
| Dwarf | Macrophylla |
| Fairy Dust | Marginata |
| Fire Dragon Showtime | *Marginata Bronze |
| Haleakala | Marginata Green |
| Heterophylla | *Musiaca |
| *Hoffmanii | *Raggady Ann |
| *Inferno | Tahiti |
| Jungle Dragon | Tequila Sunrise |
| Java White | Tiki Jungle Cloak |
| *Kapioloni Bronze | Tiki Peach Twirl |



Tibouchina urvilleana 'Variegata'

Turk's Cap Varieties

While not really a tropical and not specifically trialed, collected in this study, turk's caps have been collected and evaluated at the Hammond Research Station for a number of years. Most gardeners and industry horticulturist do not know the wide range of varieties available. These include:

Giant Red, Giant White, Giant Pink, Pink, White, Red, Red Hot (aka Red Spreader), Variegated, Big Momma, Sweet Lips, White Lightning and Missy Puryear. Sweet Lips and Missy Puryear are the newest selections.

Pam Puryear and Big Mamma are the main varieties in the nursery trade.

Tropical Plant additions to "Plants with Potential"

A few of these species, plants have been included in the LSU AgCenter Plants with Potential Program coordinator by instructor Jason Stagg at the LSU AgCenter. These are:

- ✓ Variegated Ganges primrose (variegated bellflower, Chinese violet)
- ✓ White Flowering Selection of Buttercup Turnera
- ✓ Orange Peel Cestrum
- ✓ Red Velvet Plant
- ✓ Kapioloni Bronze Acalypha Copper Plant

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- ✓ Masaica Acalypha Copper Plant
- ✓ Light Blue Dwarf Porterweed (from Key West, FL via Texas A&M University)
- ✓ Florida Dwarf Rose Purslane (via Arbor Gate Nursery, Tomball, TX)

Appreciation

Sincere thanks to Gina Hebert, former Research Associate (Horticulture) for work on this project in addition to Dr. Yan Chen, Professor (Horticulture) and Jason Stagg, Instructor (Horticulture). All housed at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station. We also greatly thank the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research for supporting this plant evaluation report.



Mussaenda
'Marmalade'

Cornutia
grandifolia



LSHR website: www.lshr.org

A Favorite Plant Release

Green Wave Fern --*Microsorium scolopendrium* 'Green Wave'
POLYPODIACEAE

When I hear the term Green Wave, I immediately think of Tulane Green Wave; however, this dark green fern with frilly and unusually shaped fronds gives this plant a chance to make its name well known, too. Also known as the Twister Fern, it is probably one of the most exciting new ferns to enter the foliage market in years. Its heavy rhizomal growth helps support this polypodium as it spreads its curly and sturdy fronds horizontally and covers the container. My very full pot of beautiful wavering fronds sits on my enclosed porch where it receives shade and only a bit of sun. I water regularly but am sure not to let water remain in the saucer. Its unmatched appearance for a fern has certainly made it my favorite fern. My goal is to propagate a pot of it to give to a cousin who he, his wife and daughter are Green Wave Graduates.

by Glenda Balliviero

