

# THE COMPOST PILE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH  
FEBRUARY 2021

## GARDEN WRITER NORMAN WINTER TO HIGHLIGHT LSHR ANNUAL MEETING

Nationally known garden writer Norman Winter will highlight the LSHR annual meeting March 20. The popular plant release and plant auction will also be held, with some modifications for the Covid-haunted times we live in.

As is done in any public space these days, LSHR members should wear Covid masks and practice social distancing during the annual meeting. Seating arrangements at the auction and at the luncheon will reflect health regulations of the day.

Those regulations could soften as the Covid vaccine becomes more widely distributed and as the weather warms. On the other hand, the coronavirus could mutate further and entail even greater restrictions on public gatherings.

Should conditions worsen, the LSHR board has discussed the possibility of a drive-through



Norman Winter

plant release and a tent or an outdoors setting for the plant auction. But the current plan calls for an in-person plant release whereby members assemble in a socially distanced line at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. They

should bring their 2020 plant release evaluations and receive their 2021 plants. This year the evaluation form will be a fillable PDF, emailed to members.

The plant auction will take place at the INHC at a site that conforms to Covid health restrictions in force at the meeting day. Should any substantial changes affect these plans, LSHR will email the membership.

The annual luncheon will again

be held in Lafayette's Petroleum Club, which will conform to state guidelines about social distancing.

This year's speaker, Norman Winter, is a nationally known horticulturist whose books and gardening columns have been widely circulated. LSHR members should consider inviting guests to the special presentation.

Winter's luncheon topic is "Birds, Bees & Butterflies." Below he offers a preview of his talk.

### GOING THROUGH THE CHANGE: HOW GARDENING FOR BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES CHANGES THE ECOSYSTEM, BRINGING UNTOLD JOY

by Norman Winter, 'The Garden Guy,' Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

I'll never forget 2011. That's the year I went through **The Change**. In hindsight, I wish I could have gone through it sooner, probably like some of you. That's the year I became Director of the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas.

This 100-acre property on the lower Rio Grande, right across from Mexico, started a life-changing experience. We were arranging native plants in gardens, providing everything to not only attract, but sustain, the life of butterflies.

Well over 200 species have

*continues on p. 2*

## MARCH 20 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

**Ira Nelson Horticulture Center  
2206 Johnston St., Lafayette**

**8-10 a.m.** Bring your 2020 plant release evaluation sheet to the plant pickup area.

The evaluation is required to receive this year's plant releases. (New members who did not receive last year's plants need not worry about the evaluation sheet.)

**9 a.m.** Plant auction. Depending on the weather and Covid policy, the auction may be outdoors or in a tent to allow for social distancing.

**Petroleum Club of Lafayette,  
111 Heymann Blvd.**

**11 a.m.** Bar open.

Noon Luncheon buffet. The luncheon costs \$25 per person. Send payment and reservations with the name of member and guests. Mail to arrive by March 10: LSHR, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505

Guest speaker Norman Winter, "Birds, Bees & Butterflies." General meeting follows.

been identified right there, which is quite an accomplishment when you consider in the whole state of Louisiana, 153 species have been documented. Among the nature lessons I learned was that when you start providing for butterflies, your whole localized ecosystem seems to change.

As we planted natives for the butterflies, birds showed up to eat the butterflies and other bugs. Other species of birds showed up to eat the seeds from the butterfly-forage plants. Hummingbirds showed up to frequent many of the flowers, while also carrying on pollination.

Rabbits showed up to eat their portion of the plants we grew for butterflies, providing a little weed patrol too. Then creatures that eat birds and rabbits showed up, and life really got exciting.

Once you start growing for butterflies, bees and birds, you will have created your own National Geographic spectacle. It will be hard for you to go indoors and do your regular chores, pay the bills and cook the meals. When hungry family members ask, "What's going on?" just say you are going through **The Change**.



#### FALLING IN LOVE WITH NATIVE PLANTS IS A NORMAL PART OF **THE CHANGE**

The one thing you'll love about **The Change** is the freedom. It's OK to grow a *Conoclinium* (native blue mistflower, which some gardeners find too aggressive) and not be ashamed. Two of three species native to the United States were at the National Butterfly Center and were among the top three plants for attracting the greatest number of species of butterflies.

Our Louisiana native species known botanically as *Conoclinium coelestinum* is just as beautiful in bloom and times perfectly with our peak butterfly season. Dare I

pose the question, *Under this new-found freedom, is it OK to grow plants native to Texas?* I believe so, as the *Conoclinium greggii*, (Gregg's mistflower) blooms almost all summer when grown in Georgia, bringing in loads of butterflies.

My years at the Columbus Botanical Garden and the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden were similar in that they revealed that rarely used native plants could be both beautiful and ever-so-sustaining with regard to pollinators. Plants like the clustered mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*), common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), spotted bee balm (*Monnarda punctata*), wrinkleleaf goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*) and rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) were just a sampling of those that have proven to be nothing short of amazing.

We were also stunned that the blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) not only brings in several species of butterflies, but hummingbirds too. This is a case of being so busy you don't take the time to see what is happening around you.

Then there is the case for the lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) or tick seed. Who wants a tick? For years I've planted this in well-prepared organic rich beds

and it was more than disappointing. But at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens Rain Garden, where it received no love other than a minimal effort to keep out competing weeds, it became a dazzling perennial.

#### FREEDOM TO GROW NATIVES, IMPORTS AND HYBRIDS TOO

At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens there were two plants that you simply had to visit every day during the growing season, as it was like a safari. The first was the sweet almond bush verbena (*Aloysia virgata*). This native to Argentina is cold hardy to zone 7

but its nature, even in Savannah, was to die almost to the ground and still grow to 12 feet by the end of the season. It would start sending up its fragrant blooms in early summer and continue until the first freeze.

We saw more species of butterflies on this plant than any others in the garden. Large butterflies, small ones, and those I consider \$5 butterflies, or worth the price of admission. This plant also attracted bees, wasps and moths. Its fragrance would keep you spellbound all the while, giving a wonderful olfactory experience. *continues on p. 3*



**Norman Winter** has published four books on Southern gardening, the latest being *Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden* (University Press of Mississippi).

He is a national garden columnist with Tribune News Service; his articles are read coast to coast and frequently in Canada. In Georgia he is regularly featured in the *Savannah Morning News*, *Columbus Ledger Enquirer* and *Augusta Chronicle*. Winter's articles are seen in each issue of *Livelt* magazine and in *North Texas Farm and Ranch*.

The other plant that made you want to pull up a chair was the golden lace patrinia (*Patrinia scabiosifolia*). This native to Korea is cold hardy from zones 4-9 and will reach 4 to 6 feet in height. It is more than mesmerizing to watch the non-stop pollinators going to its yellow flowers for months.

It partners well with other cottage garden perennials like Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), mystic spires salvia (*Salvia longispicata* x *S. farinacea*) and Amistad salvia (*Salvia guaranitica* hybrid). Other salvias would top our list of imports too, bog sage (*Salvia uliginosa*), Black and Bloom (*Salvia guaranitica* hybrid), and Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*).

Other imports and hybrids that are must-have plants are the hummingbird mint or Agastache hybrids like Blue Fortune (*Agastache foeniculum* x *A. rugosa*), and Black Adder (*Agastache foeniculum* x *A. rugosa*). Two plants that we found to be endearing to both hummingbirds and zebra longwing butterflies were all selections of firebush (*Hamelia patens*) and Ingram's Red Spicy Jatropa (*Jatropha integerrima*).

**LIFE ON THE EDGE**

At the National Butterfly Cen-



ter, our 100 acres were previously rich and valuable farm land.

Down the one side of property was an irrigation canal lined with hackberry trees, a few mulberries and some oaks I think puny by Georgia standards. We called this the Hackberry Trail. What I came to realize was that it was the lifeblood of The Center.

Some butterflies seem to thrive along edge habitats, and this was a prime example. Butterflies will go back and forth from trees to nearby flowers. The shady respite offers a place of rest and protection during weather extremes.

The forest is also monumentally

important in that many of our favorite butterflies, like the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Zebra Swallowtail, Question Mark, Morning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple and Emperor all have various trees as larval host plants.

Go down any tree-lined rural road in Louisiana and from summer through early fall and you will see swallowtails, sulphurs and other butterflies going back and forth from trees to Joe Pye, ironweeds, goldenrods and milkweeds.

As I mentioned, some of the butterflies are wanting oozing sap

from the trees, and the shade that trees provided was essential to the success of our feeding stations with banana brew.

**CATERPILLAR CONFIRMATION OR COMPLETION OF THE CHANGE**

During almost every seminar I give, there is a stopping point when I ask the audience by a show of hands if they are caterpillar-friendly. I am delighted to say I sense a real change within the gardening public. The caterpillar, once perhaps considered the enemy of the garden, has now become the recognized reward, and woe to the lizard or bird that picks one off.

I remember one day in Savannah, I was taking a couple of VIPs on a tour of the gardens and we found ourselves lingering at

**"THE CATERPILLAR, ONCE PERHAPS CONSIDERED THE ENEMY OF THE GARDEN, HAS NOW BECOME THE RECOGNIZED REWARD, AND WOE TO THE LIZARD OR BIRD THAT PICKS ONE OFF."**

a Christmas bush senna (*Senna bicapsularis*). We weren't photographing the beautiful yellow blossoms but instead the Cloudless Sulphur caterpillar. These are among the most striking in the world of butterflies.

My wake-up call, however, to the importance of caterpillars came when I received a phone call from a lady who was virtually in tears. She had Monarch caterpillars, but all of her milkweed had been devoured. She asked almost hysterically if she could bring them to us, as we had so many milkweeds. At least I thought we had many. She showed up with a box containing 100 caterpillars. I slowly walked through the garden. A little milkweed plant got one caterpillar while larger plants got two or three. It took no time before we had little to no leaves as well!

Several of our staff got their confirmation of **The Change** a little by surprise. Outside of the

Andrews Visitor and Education Center, we had two glazed containers with Meyer Lemon trees.

You've got to realize a couple of things that make this caterpillar-friendly test a little more of a challenge.

We got our start as a USDA Plant Introduction Station in *continues on p. 4*

1919. All over the garden are trees, shrubs, and bamboo that Frank Meyer, the hero of plant exploration, found and brought back to the country. He discovered the aforementioned lemon that's named in his honor.

Letting caterpillars eat on our Meyer lemon trees was just one test of being caterpillar friendly. The second test was the trees' location. These two lemons are right at the entrance where every single visitor enters the garden. What would they think to see missing leaves and caterpillars, which would no doubt just be worms to many of them?

Our test began beautifully, as a giant swallowtail made her visit to the lemons. She would lay an egg or two then drop-down to get nectar from some red pentas. Then she would return for a little more egg laying. We saw the eggs, the resulting caterpillars, and in what seemed like such a short amount of time, the chrysalis.

Every day we would look. Then the call came over the radio: Norman, you better get over here. As you can guess, it was Happy Birthday! The most beautiful giant swallowtail had emerged!

All the staff and a few visitors stood around in awe as we experienced nature at one of its finest moments. I couldn't help but think we too had just passed the caterpillar test. We had gone through **The Change.**

## LUNCHEON MENU March 20, 2021

PETROLEUM CLUB OF LAFAYETTE

111 Heymann Blvd.

(corner of East St. Mary Blvd. and Pinhook Road;  
use Heymann Blvd. parking lot entrance)  
Main Ballroom (Covid-distanced seating)

### Salad

Tossed greens with choice of dressing

### Entrées

Sliced brisket with gravy  
Fried fillet of catfish

### Vegetables

Corn macque choux  
Green beans

### Starches

Cornbread dressing  
Rice pilaf

### Desserts

Chocolate cake  
Bread pudding

Tea, coffee, water and dinner rolls with butter; cash bar.

Spring 2021 luncheon reservations are due March 12.

The luncheon costs \$25 per person and includes tax and tip.

Please send check and reservations to arrive by March 12,  
with the name of member and guests. Sorry, the luncheon  
cannot be reserved the day of meeting.

Mail check to: LSHR, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505

Any questions, contact JoAnn Pugh,  
[joannpugh@hotmail.com](mailto:joannpugh@hotmail.com) cell 337-247-5526



## ROBERT BARRY JR., 89, DIES IN JANUARY

Dr. Joseph Robert Barry, Jr., LSHR Medallion Award winner and father of incoming LSHR President Rob Barry, died Jan. 4 at his residence in Sunset.

He was one of those rare individuals who excelled in both branches of horticulture, teaching and researching vegetable crops while founding and running a commercial ornamental nursery.

After earning his Ph.D. in horticulture at Texas A & M, "Bob" Barry was a researcher at the LSU Sweet Potato Research Station in Chase, La. In 1969 he joined the faculty at UL Lafayette, where he taught a popular course in home vegetable gardening. "Dad had to limit how many

times students could take the course." Rob Barry remembers. "One student came in high heels; they used them to dibbles the holes for the plant plugs."

In 1985, Dr. Barry founded Barry's Wholesale Nursery in Grand Coteau, where he was assisted by Rob and several family members.

As Professor of Horticulture at UL, Bob Barry received the distinguished professor award, which recognizes excellence in both teaching and research.

"Having numerous office mates, in my many years at SLI, USL and UL, the ones I shared with Bob hold the most memories,"

*continues on p. 8*

# NORMAN AND GLENDA: A LIFELONG PLANT-LOVING TEAM

Norman Balliviero will complete his term as LSHR president at the coming annual meeting. And while it will be Norman's hand on the gavel March 20, the hand of Glenda will be not far away, metaphorically speaking.

Indeed the two have virtually been LSHR co-presidents. But this partnership in plants has been true throughout their lives.

Both Norman and Glenda are from what we in Louisiana call "down the bayou," but their bayou, the Mississippi River, drains half the United States.

Both Norman's and Glenda's grandparents had large orange orchards in lower Plaquemines Parish. "It was there that I first had an interest in plants," Norman remembers. "After we married I got interested in flowers, especially roses, and made my first rose garden in Boothville. We had over 50 rose bushes in our yard in addition to many annuals.

"After losing two homes to hurricanes, we moved to Belle Chasse and there we began a small garden of both annuals and perennials. I must say Glenda's love of gardening also had a great effect on my love of plants."



Glenda recalls: "My father not only had orange orchards, but also many type of veggies between the trees. My father's favorite quote was 'The soil in Plaquemines Parish is so rich you can grow silver dollars.'

"I picked up on my love of

plants from a very dear aunt who had three sons. I was the daughter she didn't have. I spent lots of time at her home and garden. It wasn't till we married and had two youngsters that I got to plant my first garden. I can still remember hauling soil to build flower

beds in the dark of night."

After they moved to Belle Chasse, Glenda taught school and attended college, while Norman continued his career in the oil industry.

He started that career in 1963 as a roustabout for California Oil

Co. He worked on offshore oil rigs near the mouth of the Mississippi, eventually getting promoted to pumper/gauger and tank battery operator.

Then in 1970 Norman became an engineering assistant and later chemical and process foreman. His employer, Chevron, asked him to teach a class in gas measurement and gas dehydration. That led to a promotion to teaching at the Chevron training center in Harahan. But when Chevron moved this center to Lafayette, the Ballivieros moved there in 1989.

"When Norman was transferred to Lafayette, leaving home, family and my job was devastating," Glenda remembers. However, in Lafayette they joined an active community of gardeners. They enrolled in the Master Gardener program, indicating they wanted to attend as a team.

"We met so many wonderful horticulturists, and gathered lots of information to apply in our garden," Norman says.

Glenda was asked to develop a Children's Garden, because she loved children and teaching,

*continues on p. 6*

and also enjoyed gardening. This Children's Garden is located at the Lafayette Master Gardeners Demo Gardens near the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center.

"Glenda applied her knowledge in so many areas of education related to gardening," Norman says. "I became her partner and took the children through the gardens in a fun manner while she applied the educational part in groups."

The Ballivieros took more than 10,000 children through the gardens, sharing their knowledge so as to spread their love of gardening to young people.

Through this effort the Ballivieros won the Master Gardener International Excellence in Children's Gardening award. A replica of the plaque appears at the entrance to the Children's Garden.

Through garden networking in Lafayette, the Ballivieros met Aline Arceneaux, who got them involved both in the Lafayette Garden Club and LSHR.

"We became dear friends and eventually Aline brought up becoming a member of LSHR because I enjoyed growing unusual plants," Glenda says.

The Lafayette Garden Club gave the Ballivieros its Garden of

the Month award. Then Norman met Dr. Ellis Fletcher, and they discovered a mutual interest in flower photography. Ellis invited Norman to join the LSHR board, and he proceeded through various offices to the presidency.

Reflecting on that presidency, Norman lists as his chief memories: "Getting to meet so many wonderful horticulturists and gardeners at the annual meetings. We have become close friends to many of them. Having such a wonderful board to enjoy working with, but also giving me the support and assistance I needed."

Norman also credits Glenda's assistance: "Gardening means the world to her and I have always supported her. She immediately



**Norman and Glenda with their 2011 Life Member plaque from the Louisiana State Horticulture Society.**

pitched in to assist me with my LSHR duties." Indeed Glenda compiles the data for the annual LSHR review of the previous year's plant releases.

So what's Glenda's favorite plant? "It's really hard for me to say I have favorites, but I can say there are very few that I dislike. I can very truthfully say I am a Plant Addict. Gardening is the greatest hobby in the world."

Norman, on the other hand, names several favorites, the tops being gloriosa lilies. "We actually got to see floats covered with gloriosa lilies at the Liesse Flower Parade in The Netherlands," Norman says. He adds, "Roses are special; however, I like Casalspinias, Clematis, Dahlias, and Orchids also."

In April 1996 Norman retired from Chevron and he and Glenda built their dream home in Lafayette on four acres, landscaping two of them. They continued to win recognition for their gardening activism, including the LSHR Medallion Award and the 2011 Life Member plaque from the Louisiana State Horticulture Society. Their gardens were featured in *Louisiana Gardener* and *Country Woman* magazines. They also contributed community service through garden therapy classes at

Evangeline Oaks Nursing Home.

In 2017 the Ballivieros moved back to Belle Chasse. "Norman's health was an issue and we needed to be close to family," Glenda says. "We still have our beautiful Cajun home in Lafayette. When we built it, it was our dream and never did we think we would move from there."

Norman and Glenda have kept their Lafayette house, but hope to sell it this spring, Norman says, "Plaquemines Parish was and still is our home. The school system is in the top of the state and there is virtually no crime. Fishing, hunting and the outdoor life are tops. I enjoy nothing better than going to my son's camp to fish."

Their son, Michael, helps Norman and Glenda with their greenhouse structure and maintenance, and their daughter, Tammy, shares their love of gardening. However, the Ballivieros make special mention of a future master gardener: great-grandson Wyatt Poyadou, whom they call their "Happy Pill."

"Wyatt is getting a great introduction to the world of plants from Glenda, his Nana," Norman says. "Watering the plants is his love. He shows Glenda which plants are thirsty and gives her a helping hand with watering. He



**Wyatt Poyadou**

loves smelling the flowers plus watching caterpillars and butterflies in the garden."

Back in Plaquemines Parish, the Ballivieros continue to be plagued by hurricanes. In 2020, Hurricane Zeta destroyed a greenhouse they had built. So they rebuilt.

They will continue their service to LSHR even after Norman's presidency ends. Glenda will remain on the board of directors till 2023, while Norman as past president will also be a board member.

Norman, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, says of the future: "Life changes on the spur of the moment. We have been very blessed to have each other and assist each other whenever needed."

# Claytonia virginica, Spring Beauty

story and photos by Dr. Ellis Fletcher

The Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*, was an LSHR plant release in 1990. Presently classified as members of the family Montiaceae, Spring Beauty was formerly included in the family Portulacaceae.

These herbaceous perennials are commonly defined as spring-blooming, ephemeral, woodland plants. To some, this means individual flowers persist for a single day as do flowers of *Herbertia lahue*, a 1991 LSHR plant release. To others, ephemeral means the entire plant terminates growth after being active for a basically short period of time. Such is the case for Spring Beauty.

For about 8-10 days following their appearance, individual flowers open and remain open only during daylight hours. Flowers close and buds droop downward during cloudy weather and at night, but most will open again and become erect with sunny days. Flowering may be extended for some time when soil and air temperature is fairly cool. However, with hot sunny weather,



AN LSHR  
FAVORITE RELEASE

flowering and plant activity stops. Plants, following completion of flowering and limited vegetative growth, go dormant only to resume growth during late winter or very early spring the following year. Above-ground parts simply “disappear” leaving no evidence of their existence.

Beauty Of Spring, Claytonia, Eastern Spring Beauty, Fairy

Spuds, Flowering Grass, Narrowleaf Spring Beauty and Virginia Spring Beauty are other common names for *Claytonia virginica*.

Spring Beauty is one of the first plants to announce the beginning of spring, as vegetative growth starts during the winter. Evidence of their presence is evident before

woody deciduous plants develop foliage or show signs of activity. By the first of the year, in central and south Louisiana, developing foliage and occasional flowers may be seen, which is later followed by the emergence of numerous, star-shaped, dainty flowers. When located at the edge of woodlands or open areas, such as lawns, they appear to be clumps of grass. Upon establishment in these areas they form numerous flowering clumps or may entirely carpet the lawn.

Leaves are somewhat fleshy, and basal leaves are strap-like and vary in size and width, becoming shorter and more narrow in full sun. Distinct, slightly fragrant,

five-petaled, white to pinkish flowers about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch across are borne on 4 to 8 inch, terminal, loose racemes bearing several flowers opening at different times. Lateral pinkish-red veins are evident in petals, giving them a striped appearance. These veins, combined with pink pollen-bearing anthers, result in flowers that appear to be pink when viewed at any distance.

Spring Beauty is a fairly short-lived perennial, especially in water retentive or heavy soil types, but may be replaced by volunteer plants. New plants develop from seed that are forcibly ejected from their enclosing capsules for up to 3 feet from established plants. Underground storage organs, resembling corms or tubers, continue to accumulate stored food reserves for growth the following spring as long as leaves are present. This partially explains the lack of success from transplanting flowering clumps from native colonies or from one location to another.

Although flower size is small, it is often said, “What Spring Beauties lack in size, they more than compensate for by their number. They perform best when left undisturbed by man.”



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LSHR plant people, send me your news!  
I welcome articles and photos about your favorite plants,  
growing techniques and plant lovers.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year we barely got our annual business meeting and other activities in before Covid-19 changed all of our lives. Gardening became one of the greatest hobbies since then, which entire families are now enjoying. Hopefully, all of you have enjoyed your release plants during these trying times. I feel they should have received lots of great care this year, and your report in reference to them should be very interesting.

A year later we are still living in a world of uncertainty. Same with my health. In fewer than three years I've had seven surgeries and another procedure is in the picture. I'm very blessed to have Glenda

as my partner in life. Not only does she care for me but also takes on many of my responsibilities with LSHR. This will be my last message to you as president. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you. Gardeners are very special people. I would like to thank my board for all the assistance they have given me during my four years in office. I thank and congratulate Rob Barry for offering to follow me in office. I felt very honored to serve you as president and wish each of you good health and Happy Gardening!

—Norman

*Robert Barry Jr., continued from on p. 4*

said Dr. Ellis Fletcher, LSHR board member. "I learned much from him, both horticulturally and professionally in interactions with students, faculty, and professionals. If ever was a consummate horticulturist, Bob Barry would be among them."

Bob Barry was also known for his ready sense of humor. In his gardening course he noted that lettuce was an essential component of Honeymoon Salad. When a student queried the recipe, Barry said, "Well, here it is: lettuce, cut up, without dressing."

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Let us all look forward to a brighter year as better times coming soon. With vaccines, mask requirements, staying safe distance, the number of Covid cases will be dropping.

At this year's plant release, like last year, you will be issued a printed 3x5 card with your name to present to registration. Your plant release box number will be marked on your card, which will give you access to your plants.

LSHR policy is to have a record of every box issued. Issuing the cards will be simple and fast.

The Petroleum Club is set up to accommodate our group easily within Covid guidelines, in its spacious ballroom. We should have plenty of room for our usual crowd, seating four members per table.

Members can invite guests. The luncheon costs \$25 a person; please send the names of guests, as name tags will be prepared. The Petroleum Club requires that we wear a Covid mask until seated. The buffet line will have staff serving your plate until you reach the end of the line. I have

been to several other functions at the Petroleum Club and all precautions were used.

Remember, the deadline for the March 20 luncheon is March 12 to accommodate the Petroleum Club deadline. Menu details can be found on page 4. With our outstanding speaker Norman Winter, what a great day for everyone!

The board is looking forward to seeing everyone. Keep gardening and stay safe!

—JoAnn Pugh