



COMPOST PILE

Fletcher Receives Horticultural Medallion Award

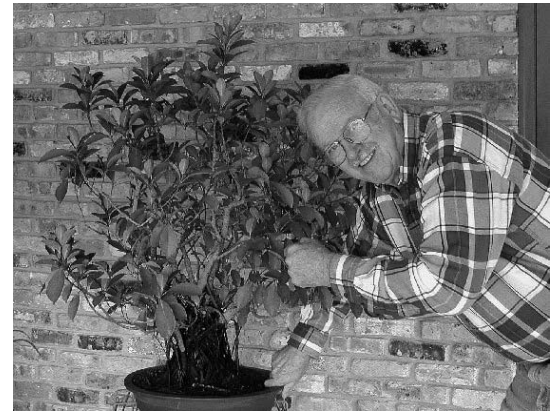
The Horticultural Medallion is the highest honor offered by LSHR. Many of us have never seen this award presented, as it is awarded only upon special occasions. It is awarded to an individual for his or her long-time contributions to horticulture.

Dr. John K. Saichuk, LSU AgCenter’s rice specialist in Crowley, made the presentation of the 2007 Horticultural Medallion Award to Dr. William Ellis Fletcher at Live Oak Gardens, March 17, 2007. The following is taken from his remarks on that occasion.

“Members of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research and guests. I feel somewhat out of place standing before you today. I am an agronomist at a horticulture meeting, but I was invited to speak to you about something that is very important to me.

“This is about a guy called Bubba . . . who, upon graduation from high school, hitched a ride to a place called SLI and wasn’t sure in what field he would major. With the aid of scholarships and student employment, he worked his way through college, earning a degree in horticulture. During all of this time his father realized he was in Agriculture, but was never told his major. He suspected his father, a sawmill worker and part-time farmer, would not take kindly to knowing his son was specializing in work involving ornamental plants.

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FYI: How The “Compost Pile” Got Its Name

Many years back, when the newsletter was young, Ruth Sheller was the editor. Ruth, for years, had taught introductory chemistry laboratory at SLI and USL (now UL Lafayette). Being a frugal individual, she didn’t discard much of anything that could be recycled or reused. She was a recycler before recycling was cool. She believed in composting most everything for use in her garden/flower beds.

So on one of the newsletters she typed for distribution to the members, all of the “news” was typed on back of chemistry notes, practice problems for the class and

things like that. When it was sent to the printer (or Xerox person) for duplication and mail out to the Society, both sides of the paper were duplicated. The notices came back just like they were sent—news on one side and chemistry-related stuff on the other. They were sent out to the members this way.

Someone at the next board meeting suggested they be used in the garden or flower bed to “smother” weeds, like compost. And that’s how our newsletter got the name of “Compost Pile.”

From member reports



From the President's Desk



President Leonard Lasseigne announced that reservations have been made to hold the 2008 Annual Spring Meeting on March 22, at the Live Oak Gardens Conference Center on Jefferson Island. The speaker will be Chip Calloway, a nationally renowned garden designer.

Members are asked to suggest or donate starts and cuttings to be propagated for distribution at the 2008 meeting.

Nominations for membership in the Society and nominations for the Horticulture Medallion Award are to be sent to Dr. Ellis Fletcher, 341 Orangewood Drive, Lafayette 70503. Names of prospective members, along with correct mailing address, must be submitted by October 30, 2007. Names of nominees for the Horticulture Medallion Award, along with a letter of nomination and list of qualifications or accomplishments, must be submitted by October 30, 2007, as well.

Officers proposed by the Nominations Committee and elected to serve

Leonard Lasseigne, president
Margo Racca, first vice-president
Albert Durio, second vice-president
Nancy Anne Rowe, recording secretary
Ruth LaVaque, treasurer

Directors at Large

Lorraine Broussard 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008
Rob Barry 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009
Cherry Fisher May 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010

Past Presidents with Current Membership

Richard (Dick) Calhoun
Mary (Mrs. Arthur) Courville
Belle (Mrs. Kenneth) Durio
Dalton Durio
Barbara (Mrs. Ira) Nelson
James (Jim) Racca

Directors of Research

Dennis Wollard, director
Kenneth (Ken) Durio, associate director

Honorary Board Members or Other

Aline Arceneaux (past treasurer)
Ellis Fletcher (membership chairman)
Ann Justice (current editor, Compost Pile)
Ruth Sheller (past editor, Compost Pile)
William (Billy) Welsh (release propagator/coordinator)

FLETCHER AWARD

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"He went on to Iowa State University serving as a graduate assistant, research associate, instructor and assistant professor. Earning his advanced degrees at Iowa State, he moved on to the University of Florida, and worked his way back, in 1966, to his alma mater which was then USL. I came there in 1968 as a student. I was warned not to take any of his classes, as meaningful as they were, because he had flunked his own brother. Fact or not, it took some time to break into the A's. I liked his class a lot, enjoyed it and worked extremely hard. I got to know him in a student-teacher relationship and later on as a colleague.

"He has been recognized by, and has been the recipient of numerous achievement awards, by USL, now ULL, as well as professional horticultural organizations. Most center on his excellence in the classroom or his contributions to furthering the interest of horticulture. I consider him one of my best friends and as an outstanding mentor to me as a student. I hope that you will join me in applauding Dr. Ellis Fletcher who is receiving the LSHR Medallion of Achievement for 2007."

A few of Dr. Fletcher's many awards are the USL's Distinguished Professor Award and the Outstanding Teacher Award, as the first individual to earn both awards. He also received the Outstanding Alumni award from his College.

He served as coach of USL's Horticultural Products Judging Team and Nursery Plant Material Recognition Team. This team won 16 championships out of 18 contests in Horticultural Products Judging and won every Nursery Plant Material Recognition contest held. He was recipient of State Farmer degree from Future Farmers of America and Person of the Year Citation from the Louisiana Federated Garden Club.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Fletcher served as instructor or speaker for landscape and design schools, judging symposiums, horticultural organizations, nursery conventions, plant societies, garden clubs and civic groups. Now retired, he enjoys plant photography as a hobby, and continues to serve the community as an advisor and speaker for horticulture groups.

Jefferson Island Meeting Site Enjoyed By All

It was an idyllic day. The sun was bright, the temperature cool, the sky blue, the lake shimmered and peacocks strolled the beautiful gardens when LSHR held its 51st Annual Spring Meeting at Live Oak Gardens on Jefferson Island Saturday, March 17, 2007.

With only a few glitches to mark this major change of location, members of the Society held a profitable auction, picked up plant release boxes and enjoyed a wonderful program. This was followed by an exceptionally tasty lunch and the business meeting, at the close of which our own Dr. William Ellis Fletcher was awarded the prestigious LSHR Medallion of Achievement.

Many compliments were extended to President Leonard Lasseigne for his leadership in arranging the Jefferson Island meeting, and thanks were

expressed to Michael Richard, owner and director of Live Oak Gardens, for use of the fine Conference Center and for opening the gardens to members.

Program

To open the meeting, Todd Lasseigne introduced guest speaker, Ted Stevens of Nurseries Caroliniana, Inc. North Augusta, S.C., who presented a most interesting Power Point presentation on "Exciting New and Unusual Plants for Southern Gardens."

Thanks to workers

President Lasseigne expressed thanks to all who helped to make the day a success, especially to Aline Arceneaux, Margo Racca and Ruth LaVaque who handled registration, to plant release chairpersons and auctioneers, Mary Courville and Dalton Durio, to Margo Racca and Rob Barry, auction clerks, and to Rebecca Moss, Nancy Ann Rowe and Ann Justice, silent auction chairpersons. In addition, he recognized Dr. Ellis Fletcher, Dr. Dennis Wollard and Billy Welsh for their roles in transporting and setting up the plant releases.

Receipts from the 2007 Plant and Silent Auctions

Receipts from the plant and silent auctions totaled \$5,897.00. Lasseigne extended his appreciation to all who helped to make the auctions so successful, especially to those who donated plants and garden items.

Presentation of the Horticulture Medallion

Just prior to the close of the meeting, Dr. John K. Saichuk, LSU AgCenter rice specialist in Crowley, was introduced as presenter of the Horticulture Medallion Award to be awarded to a Society member named "Bubba". Please see this account elsewhere in this issue.

From the Treasurer's Desk



Hello, my name is Ruthie LaVaque. The Board of Directors recently appointed me to fill the office of treasurer for LSHR to replace Miss Aline Arceneaux who has stepped down from that office. It will be a challenge to live up to the great job that she did for this organization. I am looking forward to meeting each of you at the next annual meeting.

This is also a reminder of the terms of payment for membership dues.

From the By-Laws of LSHR:

Section 5. Annual dues shall be payable in advance on January first of each year.

Section 6. Dues remaining unpaid for more than two months after notice has been given, will result in removal of the membership from the publication mailing list and suspension from the Society. A former member may be reinstated upon written request and payment of the dues for the delinquent year and the current year's dues.

Section 7. Plant distribution shall be made only to those who present their own current membership card.

Dues must be paid before February 28th.



2007 Plant Release Report Form

Please use this form to help LSHR know more about the 2007 Plant Releases. Please use the Comments and Notes line for any other information that you noted (Ex. Fragrance).

Example: *Lagerstroemia indica* – (Crape Myrtle)

Transplanted (location/light) – Ex: Flower bed – full sun or 6 “ pot – shade

Fertilization – Ex: Miracle Gro monthly

Current size and health – Ex: 24” – very healthy

Insect or disease problems – Ex: none

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) – Ex: 8

Comments and notes – Ex: fragrance

1. *Acorus gramineus* ‘Ogon’ ACORACEAE (Yellow Variegated Dwarf Sweet Flag)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

2. *Bambusa oldhamii* POACEAE (Oldham Timber)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

3. *Euphorbia heterophylla* ‘Yokoi’s White’ EUPHORBIACEAE (White Mexican Poinsettia)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

2007 Plant Release Report Form (continued)

4. *Hibiscus acetosella* 'Maple Sugar' MALVACEAE (Maple Sugar Hibiscus)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

5. *Hibiscus tiliaceus* 'Tricolor' MALVACEAE (Tricolor Sea Hibiscus)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

6. *Hippeastrum x* 'San Antonio Rose' AMARYLLIDACEAE (San Antonio Rose Amaryllis)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

7. *Ipomoea quamoclit* 'Alba' CONVULVULACEAE (White Cypress Vine)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

2007 Plant Release Report Form (continued)

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes

8. *Ruellia macrantha* 'Christmas Pride' ACANTHACEAE (Christmas Pride Ruellia)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes

9. *Tradescantia fluminensis* 'Aurea' COMMELINACEAE (Chartreuse Wandering Jew)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes

10. *Tradescantia pallida* 'Kartuz Giant' COMMELINACEAE (Giant Purple Heart Wandering Jew)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes

Reports On Plants Released In 2006

Members were asked to rate the thirteen 2006 plant releases using a scale of 1 – 10 with “10” being the best – defined as a plant that you might purchase for yourself. Ratings were averaged to find individual plant scores and comments were noted. Twenty-eight members turned in reports. As usual, there was the normal variation in the plant score that can be attributed to differences in growing conditions and personal preferences. Based on the ratings, *Caladium humboldtii*, was the favorite, and *Passiflora foetida* and *Verbena* ‘Bicolor Pink’ tied for a close second.

The ratings and some of the comments are listed below:

***Akebia quinata* (Five Leaf Akebia); Members evaluating: 20; Perfect scores: 1; Average score: 6.1**
Comments: “Great evergreen vine, healthy with beautiful foliage.” “It bloomed last summer and the flowers were gorgeous.” “No insect problems.” “Survived the winter.” “Very aggressive.” “Mine arrived with scale disease and didn’t return from dormancy.” “The flowers were insignificant.” “Never bloomed.” “Departed unnoticed.”

***Aristolochia fimbriata* (White Veined Hardy Dutchman’s Pipe); Members evaluating: 24; Perfect scores: 2; Average score: 6.0; Comments:** “Beautiful foliage and yellow blooms all summer.” “I loved this plant, would like to try it in a hanging basket.” “I think that this grows better as a groundcover than a vine.” “I cut it back twice and it continues to spread.” “Attracts Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars.” “It came back the following spring.” “Lost it, too much sun.” “Lost it, suspect the armadillo got it.”

***Caladium humboldtii* (Miniature Caladium); Members evaluating: 20; Perfect scores: 4; Average score: 7.6; Comments:** “The white foliage veined in green is very attractive.” “The white variegated leaves make the plant very showy at night.” “Cute but not much impact.” Several members reported that it either never came up or melted away in fall or didn’t return in spring.

***Callicarpa dichotoma* (Chinese Beautyberry); Members evaluating: 15; Perfect score: 1; Average score: 6.5; Comments:** “This is a beautiful healthy plant that flowered all summer, then made berries.” “Nice plant for a perennial bed.” “Flowered well in strong morning sun.” “Good vigor, forage food planted in semi-shade.” “No insects.” “In shade bed, died back over winter but putting on leaf buds.” “Critters killed it.” “Froze back and didn’t return.” “Dormant but seems to be alive.” “Slow grower.” Several members reported that they didn’t plant it.

***Chamaedorea microspadix* (Hardy Bamboo Palm); Members evaluating: 18; Perfect scores: 4; Average score: 6.8; Comments:** “Unusual and decorative.” “Nice texture and tropical look.” “Was wonderful in a large pot in the house.” “Easy to propagate.” “Some leaf burn in winter but survived.” “It froze back but returned.” “Grew best in shade with some afternoon sun.” “Needs some fertilizer to improve foliage color.” “Found it tricky to adjust watering and exposure to sun.”

***Citrullus lanatus* ‘Moon and Stars’ (Moon and Stars Melon); Members evaluating: 10; Perfect scores: 2; Average score: 5.6; Comments:** “Made 2 very tasty melons and saved seeds to plant this year.” “The melon was delicious.” “Made 1 small melon.” “Oops, forgot to plant the seeds.” “Doing great until I accidentally killed it with herbicide.” “Summer heat killed it.” “Didn’t germinate.” “Space too limited to plant it.”

***Hibiscus coccineus alba* ‘Lone Star’ (White Texas Star); Members evaluating: 22; Perfect scores: 5; Average score: 6.7; Comments:** “Grew to 4 feet during summer and had large blooms; appears to be coming back.” “Beautiful.” “Loved the blooms.” “Gorgeous white flowers.” “I grew it in full sun; it made seeds; I cut it back in fall and it is sprouting.” “Spindly but a good bloomer.” “This wasn’t a good year for either the red or the white cultivar.” “Mine came with scale and mealy bug.” “Did not bloom.” Several members reported that their plants died.

***Passiflora foetida* (Love-In-A-Mist); Members evaluating: 21; Perfect scores: 5; Average score: 7.5; Comments:** “Fantastic flowers, died back but returned this year.” “Bloomed profusely all summer with small passion flowers; planted in filtered sun, returned this year.” “Planted it in full sun on the north side. The flowers were beautiful and the seed pods unique.” “Attracted many butterflies, made showy red fruit.” “Was not showy but odd and interesting.” “Reseeds everywhere.” “Didn’t make many flowers or seeds.” Plants died for various reasons.

***Pavonia lasiopetala* (Rock Rose); Members evaluating: 21; Perfect scores: 3; Average score: 7.0; Comments:** “4 feet tall, stayed green through winter.” “Froze, hasn’t come back.” “This plant is dead. It was very small and came with mealy bugs.” “It grew well in full sun, though not a prolific bloomer.” “Grew in full sun, fertilized with fish emulsion. It is healthy, beautiful and requires little maintenance.” “Did well in pot in semi-shade.” “Very fast growing.” “Long season of bloom.” “Reseeded.” “Much more well-mannered than the white kind.” Several died before being transplanted.

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***Pentapetes phoenicea* (Scarlet Mallow); Members evaluating: 22; Perfect scores: 4; Average score: 6.5; Comments:** "Grew to 5 feet. Flowers are interesting and unique; people drawn to it." "I love this plant; it acts like a perennial. Flowers dry nicely." "Plant didn't thrive." "Very pretty flower." "Bloomed all summer." "Very lovely and healthy." A large number of members reported that the plant died before or very soon after transplanting.

***Sophora secundiflora* (Texas Mountain Laurel); Members evaluating: 13; Perfect scores: 0; Average score: 5.0; Comments:** "Healthy but slow growing." "Not a good plant for South Louisiana; grows better in Texas." "Some insect problems." "15 inches tall and looking good." Many members commented on slow rate of growth. Several lost it for unknown reasons.

***Verbena 'Bicolor Pink'*; Members evaluating: 16; Perfect scores: 4; Average score: 7.5; Comments:** "Did very well in hanging basket under a tree." "Full sun, healthy, no problems." "Grows well as a ground cover, covering 3 square feet. Stayed green all winter, lovely

blooms." "Butterflies love it." "Healthy, lovely variegated flowers." "Was a late bloomer the first year, but is already blooming this year; spreads as a ground cover to almost 7 feet. Easy to root." "This was my favorite. It grew in full sun, spread, never froze back and continues to bloom now." "Cuttings from hanging basket plant are doing well in beds." Quite a few members reported that it died before being transplanted.

***Zephyranthes 'Tenexico Apricot'* (Apricot Rain Lily); Members evaluating: 18; Perfect scores: 2; Average score 5.0; Comments:** "Small but alive." "Healthy but hasn't bloomed." "Growing in mostly shade; sprouting." "Hasn't grown much." "Made leaves but never flowered." "I have it potted in partial shade where it blooms and looks very pretty." "Last summer it bloomed and multiplied." "Bloomed a few times." As with other plants, some died before or soon after being transplanted. There were several comments regarding the color of the bloom, more pink than apricot.

