



COMPOST PILE

## LSHR Members Celebrate Another Anniversary

Just as spring brought blooming trees and fragrant flowers, LSHR members gathered at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center March 22, 2014 for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, complete with traditional auctions, business meeting, speaker and luncheon.

Most arrived early at the Horticulture Center, visiting as they stood in line to pick up anticipated boxes of plant releases, moving on to coffee and refreshments and reserving seats in the auction room. Subsequently they bid excitedly in the live plants auction as well as the silent auction, both popular and profitable fund-raisers for the society.

These events were followed at the Lafayette Petroleum Club by a hospitality hour, buffet luncheon and a presentation by the featured speaker, LSU professor of Horticulture, Dr. Allen Owings. Dr. Owings reviewed his research project on hardy hibiscuses, which had been partially funded by LSHR.

President Albert Durio presided over the business meeting at which officers were introduced and business was conducted briefly. Treasurer JoAnn Pugh reported that \$4,872 was raised by the plant and silent auctions. It was announced that to date, \$2,590 has been donated to the LSHR Scholarship Fund in memory of former president Leonard Lassiegne.

*Anniversary, continued on page 6*



(Photo by Peter Piazza)

## Report on Plants Released in 2013

by Glenda Balliviero Photographs by Norman Balliviero

Is it really spring or is it still winter? That was the question many of us kept asking ourselves this year. We began to think winter would never end and so did the plants. Droughts and extreme heat in the summer and several unusual lengthy freezes bringing sleet, ice and snow in winter made for an unusual year. The weather was a challenge not only for the plants but caused uncertainty for the members in reporting. This ultimately made it hard to decipher the reports. After many hours of reading and reviewing the provided information, the results are:

The top over-all plant was the Thin-leaved Liriope with a rating of 5.7 and the runner-up was the Byzantine Gladiolus rated 5.3.

A complete explanation of each of the releases follows:

### 1. *Aglaia odorata* MELIACEAE (Chinese Perfume Plant) 4.1

This tropical evergreen shrub was planted in the ground by most members despite references to it in the plant information sheet as an excellent interior or container plant. One third reported that it was a victim of the winter, while others said it was too fragile, destroyed by animals or died during the summer drought. A few said it was healthy and



*Thin-leaved Liriope*



*Plant Report, continued on page 3*

# From the President's Desk



Cold winter, followed by a wet spring, could lead to hot summer. I choose to believe not! We were always taught to think positive, perceive the glass as half full if you will. Being thankful for what we have is a better alternative to festering on what we do not! It seemed as though everything flowered much better this spring. Perhaps it was the culmination of satisfied dormancy and the ample watering sent from Heaven. This year my garden smiles from ear to ear.

Our website committee has been meeting to work on the basic layout of the site, gathering and inputting the items that we want to include and touching up on the appearance. Norman Balliviero has really taken this by the horns and has done a wonderful job. Billy Welsh and Susan Richard are also assisting on this committee. Nineteen up-loadable Compost Piles issues have been put on the site, thanks to efforts of Norman and editor Ann Justice. The address will be announced when the project is complete.

Our research projects have been funded and Dr. Allen Owings has implemented the plantings and is gathering statistics weekly on them. The evaluation of tropical and subtropical plants for the landscape project is progressing nicely with many potential candidates to choose from. For accurate results from the David Austin English Rose trials, it will take a couple of years to evaluate the data. Replicated plantings are being implemented to give the best average of the data. In order to measure the resistant qualities of each clone, fungicides and insecticides will not be used. Everyone should like carefree roses to add to their garden pallet!

All of my releases are thriving with the ample rainfall and cool weather we have had thus far. My portulaca has been blooming away as well as my pentas. The copper plant has a nice fine texture. That is one small rose from Dr. Carlos Smith! Make sure to start monitoring your plantings so we can give accurate reports this spring.

Our Annual Meeting has been set for March 21, 2015. Dr. David Creech of the Steven F. Austin arboretum has confirmed as speaker. The arboretum is a beautiful setting with vast plantings of many plants. The trails in this piney hill country are the perfect setting for many native azaleas and dogwoods. Introduced plants such as Japanese maples and hydrangeas enhance the whole visual experience. This is one talk you will not want to miss.

Until then, Happy Gardening!

Albert

## THE ANNUAL MEETING DATE HAS BEEN SET

Please note on your calendars that the next Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 in the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center and the Petroleum Club.

## NOMINATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS AND HORTICULTURE MEDALLION AWARD

You are reminded that nominations for these positions must be turned in before November 1. Find detailed directions elsewhere in this newsletter.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you have not turned in your email address, please do as soon as possible, via [LSHR@cox.net](mailto:LSHR@cox.net). Recently we had a situation where a document had to be mailed to members. This was simple and cost-free to send to those with email addresses. We understand that not everyone has email, but would like to hear from those who do.

## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF LSHR

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

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Glenda Balliviero 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14  
Dr. Donald Ayo 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15  
Peter Piazza 2013-2016

## PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Mary Courville                      Dr. Jim Racca  
Belle Durio                              Margo Racca  
Dalton Durio

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS OR OTHER

Aline Arceneaux (Past Treasurer)  
Dr. Jean Creamer (Nominations Chairman)  
Dr. Ellis Fletcher (Membership Chairman)  
Ann Justice (Current Editor *Compost Pile*)  
Rebecca Moss (Past Editor *Compost Pile*)  
William (Billy) Welsh (Release Propagator/Coordinator)



(Photo by Peter Piazza)

Annual Meeting Registration



## Plant Report, *continued from page 1*

doing well. Only a very few reported that it bloomed; however, those that did said that they liked the tiny yellow lemon colored berry-like flowers. Only a couple reported a fragrance. The largest plant reported was 4 feet in height. Insect/Disease Problems: One reported white spots on leaves and treated with an unspecified poison.

### 2. *Antigonon leptopus* 'Album' POLYGONACEAE (White Rose of Montana) 4.3

The delightful lacy white flowers produced on the fast-growing deciduous vine was by far the highlight of this plant. Despite the plant information sheet provided with the release plants indicating that it was cold-sensitive but would quickly return from the ground in spring, many felt they had completely lost it. Others said they felt it was asleep or dormant. A few felt that it was too invasive and another considered it to be exotic. One reported that the vine got to be 12 feet tall. Insect/Disease Problems: None



White Rose of Montana

### 3. *Aristea ecklonii* IRIDACEAE (Blue Stars) 3.6

The loose panicles of 1" bright blue star shaped flowers were loved by many; however, about one third reported that they had no blooms or that it didn't flourish. Large numbers of members said it was lost by either the drought or cold; however, some said it was just beginning to peek out of the ground in March despite it being an evergreen. Several actually liked the clump forming iris-like foliage. Actually, this specimen was given a '0' rating from approximately one-third of the reports. Insect/Disease Problems: None



'Lil' Star Caladium

### 4. *Caladium* 'Lil Star' ARACEAE ('Lil' Star Caladium) 4.4

The petite white heart-shaped leaves with contrasting light- green veins of this selection of *Caladium humboldtii* 'Marcel' was the favorite of many. It received 12 ratings of 10 on a rating scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is the highest. One considered it the "cutest plant ever," another "adorable" and many said it was "an excellent plant." It was used in various ways. Most kept it in a pot while only a few planted it in the ground. Other uses were in a dish garden, a fairy garden and a terrarium. One person hoped for a bloom. Even though it does not require a dormancy period, it did go

dormant for several, probably due to inadequate temperature or light, but was beginning to re-emerge when the reports were made. Insect/Disease Problems: A couple had Stem Rot that was probably due to being over-watered.

### 5. *Drimiopsis maculate* LILIACEAE (Little White Soldiers) 4.2

The unique pattern of bright green leaves with wavy margins and covered with dark green spots was a highlight of this bulbous clumping perennial. The care-free fleshy leaves made the plant interesting year-round since they were not killed by the cold temperatures. One indicated that a plant actually survived being dug up by an armadillo. The impressive blooms consisting of a tight cluster of small, white buds opening to pale green flowers was an added attraction. One responder called it a "conversation plant." Others called it "unique," "very sweet," "colorful" and "the most impressive of all this year's releases." Insect/Disease Problems: Root Rot reported by several probably due to being overwatered.



Little White Soldiers



Byzantine Gladiolus

### 6. *Gladiolus byzantinus* IRIDACEAE (Byzantine Gladiolus) 5.3

This hardy old garden treasure was a favorite of many. The beautiful magenta flowers were a nice surprise after dormancy and its bright color was considered a show stopper. Many thought it was dead while in reality it was dormant. Several indicated they are looking forward to the corms multiplying so that they can have a beautiful stand of them. Insects/Disease Problems: None

### 7. *Lorentia hybrid* 'Avant-Garde White' CAMPANULACEAE (White Laurentia) 4.0

The bright white star-shaped flowers were very impressive to many. The airy delicate foliage was also a plus in rating this plant. Many of the reports mentioned that it is a constant

*Plant Report, continued on page 4*

## Plant Report, *continued from page 3*

bloomer with plenty of flowers from spring till fall. Many also considered it a fast grower. One member said the rabbits loved it so much it was completely eaten. Another used in a mixed container which gave an added touch to the display. Insects/Disease Problems: None

### 8. *Liriope minor* LILIACEAE (Thin-Leaved Liriope) 5.7

This evergreen perennial liriope was the plant that made the biggest impression on the most members. It received the highest over-all score, 12 ratings of 10, which says a lot. The very narrow fine-textured leaves were classified as delicate and attractive. Most felt it could be used for a ground cover or border. Some considered it different but not exceptional while one indicated it looked like a weed and needed to be composted. Pluses were that it multiplied, was carefree, green and healthy all year since it was not affected by the cold, drought or heat and considered a survivor. Another said no one or anything can kill it. Insects/Disease Problems: None

### 9. *Senna bicapsularis* FABACEAE (Whorley's Butter Cream) 4.9

The lovely shaped soft yellow flowers of this tree-like shrub were very impressive to many. The flowers blooming in fall were considered gorgeous. The great blooms were very prolific on this fast-growing plant but the stems were floppy. A few felt that it needed to be pruned often. In March many felt as if they had lost it due to the harsh cold as it didn't appear to have life. Some indicated they had lost it to the drought and heat of summer. One member reported that the shrub was 5' tall. Another felt that this release was not new or different because they are seen all over the area. Insects/Disease Problems: None

### 10. *Thunbergia grandiflora* 'Variegata' ACANTHACEAE (Variegated Blue Sky Vine) 4.4

The impressive and attractive foliage of this vigorous tropical perennial climber made a great impression on many. Several said they loved it. The variegation of the leaves was stunning. Even though it was a fast grower, some felt it had more vine than leaves. One vine was reported to have grown to 15'. One person indicated that she had put it on a trellis in a pot thus being able to move into the greenhouse in winter since it was classified as a tropical perennial climber. That person indicated that it did beautifully due to protection from the cold temperatures and had grown tremendously. Only a few reported a few blooms and some remarked on the "very pretty blue trumpet shaped flowers." Almost half of the members said they had lost the plant during winter and one stated that "outdoors was no motel for a Louisiana harsh winter." Insects/Disease Problems: None



Variegated Blue Sky Vine

## GENERAL COMMENTS

**Fertilization:** Most of the members used the same fertilizers on all of their plants. Osmocote or other slow release fertilizers and liquids such as Miracle Gro were equally used. Some members did not use any fertilizer whatsoever, while some used compost or cow manure. Floriukan, Super Thrive, bulb food, Grower's Specialty and Bio Boost were also used. It was not possible to determine which of the fertilizers produced the greatest results.

Reading through the reports of all the members is very interesting as well as surprising as to how very different we are in judging plants. One person said that it would be wise to make a map of the yard and mark where the plant releases are placed since they often are lost later. Ants, squirrels, dogs and rabbits plus lawnmowers destroyed many plants. Many gave away plants, some since they already had the specimen or did not have available space in their garden. The reports indicated that the abnormal winter temperatures and the summer heat plus drought were by far the greatest causes of losing plants this year. Several did say that they hoped the plants were just asleep and would be delighted if they came to life.

Actually, I was quite surprised to learn how many of our members have greenhouses of some sort. Of course, these would be the ones who were most successful in overwintering many of the so-called tropical or not hardy plants. I cannot stress enough the importance of reading the information on the Plant Release Sheets that accompany the specimens. Utilizing it would perhaps enable you to save and thus be able to enjoy more of the plants.

*Happy Gardening!*



# FYI: New Varieties of Crape Myrtle Are Available in Abundance

From LSU AgCenter Ornamental E-News and Trial Garden Notes - Early June  
By Dr. Allen Owings, Professor of Horticulture, Hammond Research Center

Developers have introduced new varieties of crape myrtles over the past few years with an emphasis on smaller growth habits, dark foliage colors, earlier bloom and more. In Louisiana, crape myrtles are one of the most widely planted trees and are the main tree for flowering in landscapes from late spring until early fall.

The LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station has begun a landscape trial that includes most of the recently introduced crape myrtle varieties. These collections include the Early Bird, Razzle Dazzle, Enduring Summer, Delta, Barnyard, Magic and Ebony, also known as the Black Diamond series in addition to several other varieties.

The Early Bird series has been on the market the longest and was bred by John Davy at Panhandle Growers in Florida. They were released by Plant Development Services Inc. as part of the Southern Living Plant Collection. These are dwarf-growing plants maturing at 4 feet tall. Early Bird Lavender (soft lavender) is promoted as a very heavy earlier bloomer and is the earliest-flowering crape myrtle in LSU AgCenter trials. Other varieties include Early Bird Purple and Early Bird White.



Delta Breeze

For several years, the burgundy-foliaged Delta Jazz – semi-dwarf, brilliant pink – from Plant Development Services Inc. has been on the market. This variety is part of the Southern Living Plant Collection series of Delta crape myrtles. Five-year-old plants of Delta Jazz are 8 feet tall in most locations. Plants are classified as semi-dwarf, which generally indicates heights ranging from 8 to 12 feet. New for 2014 are four color additions – Delta Breeze (light lavender), Delta Eclipse (brilliant purple), Delta Moonlight (white) and Delta Flame (dark red).



Delta Jazz

The new dark burgundy-foliaged Ebony series from Cecil Pounders at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service are also being sold under the Black Diamond name by J. Berry Nursery. These plants mature at 8 feet tall and retain leaf color spring through fall. These plants have slightly darker foliage than the Delta varieties. Flower colors include three shades of red, white and blush.

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. Red Rooster is “something to crow about,” Pink Pig is “something to squeal with delight” and Purple Cow can be used to create an “udderly majestic garden.” These plants are very leaf spot susceptible in LSU AgCenter trials.

The Gardener’s Confidence Collection also includes the Razzle Dazzle crape myrtles. These have been around for eight years or so now with true dwarf habits at 4 feet tall. Varieties are Berry Dazzle (fuchsia), Cherry Dazzle (cherry red), Dazzle Me Pink (pink), Diamond Dazzle (pure white), Strawberry Dazzle (neon rose) and Sweetheart Dazzle (pink).



Red Rooster

*Crape Myrtle, continued on page 6*

## Crape Myrtle, *continued from page 5*

Cherry Dazzle has been a longtime exceptional performer in LSU AgCenter landscape trials. If you want a small grower, this is the one to select.

The Magic series from Plant Introductions, 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). Most of these have reddish, plum or burgundy spring leaves, and some of these varieties retain this color through summer and into fall. Mature height is 8-12 feet.

The Princess series is a new dwarf group developed by Dow Whiting at Garden Adventures Nursery in Missouri. It 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).

Ball Ornamentals has the new Enduring Summer collection of crape myrtles. Varieties are Enduring Summer Red, Enduring Summer Fuchsia, Enduring Summer Pink, Enduring Summer White and Enduring Summer Lavender. The Enduring Summer varieties have an upright habit, and mature height is 5-6 feet with a 4 1/2-foot spread.

The AgCenter also has plants of Bayou View, which is the Lagerstreomia fauriei national champion single-trunk crape myrtle tree located at Akin's Nursery in Shreveport. We are also evaluating several lavender-flowered crape myrtles in cooperation with John Davy at Panhandle Growers in Florida.

As you can see, it is easy to be overwhelmed with new crape myrtles. The AgCenter evaluates these and other new landscape plants for their flowering potential and disease susceptibility in Louisiana. This helps landscape professionals, growers and retail garden centers make the best recommendations to home gardeners. Now is a great time to add new crape myrtles to your landscape.

You can see more about work being done in landscape horticulture by visiting the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station website. Also, like us on Facebook. You can find an abundance of landscape information for both home gardeners and industry professionals at both sites.

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## LSHR Anniversary, *continued from page 1*

The following persons were thanked for their services in making the meeting successful:

**Registration:** JoAnn Pugh, Edna Wheeler, Glenda Balliviero, Roxanna Champagne, Linda Bourg and Dee Nolan

**Hospitality:** Ann Justice and Dr. Ellis Fletcher  
**Auction Acquisitions:** Norman Balliviero and Mary Courville

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

**Floor Monitors:** Jim Racca, Peter Piazza and Dr. Donald Ayo

**Silent Auction:** Dr. Jean Kreamer, Rebecca Moss and Peter Piazza

**Sales Clerks:** Margo Racca and Rob Barry

**Plant Releases and Speaker's Needs:** Billy Welsh

President Durio expressed thanks to the following businesses and persons who donated items to the auctions: Sunset Herbs, TreeSearch Farms, Live Oak Gardens, Kent's Nursery, Dr. Dennis Wollard, Leonard Lasseigne, Margo Racca, Dr. Don Ayo, Barry's Nursery, Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, Aline Arceneaux, Lafayette Art Association, Ann Justice, Dr. Jean Kreamer, JoAnn Pugh and Suzanne Clarke.

*In memory of . . .*

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research express their sympathy to the family in the loss of their loved one:

**Eldred Griffin ("Griff") Blakewood IV, PhD**

### **Nominating New Members or Persons for An Award**

Nominations for new members and candidates for the Horticultural Medallion Award are due PRIOR TO November 1, 2014.

Nominations must be sent to membership committee chair, Dr. Ellis Fletcher, 341 Orangewood Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503 or USLFletch@cox.net or LSHR@cox.net. Nominations will be accepted any time; however, they will be voted on by the Board of Directors at the Fall Board Meeting and must be postmarked prior to November 1.

Nomination of an individual for membership is acceptable by e-mail since the date of electronic mailing is indicated. Reasons for nomination are not required.

Nomination of an individual for the Horticultural Medallion Award requires a post-marked envelope along with the letter of recommendation and a handwritten signature. It is mandatory to include reasons justifying the nomination of an individual for this award.

# Dr. Owings Awarded Two Grants

Evaluating selected Florida tropical plants and David Austin English roses for their potential in local landscaping are the subjects of research grants awarded to Dr. Allen Owings, Professor of Horticulture at LSU AgCenter–Hammond Research Station. Dr. Owings had submitted the two research grants to the LSHR Grant/Scholarship committee.

At a meeting of the Board March 21, 2014, Grant/Scholarship committee member Rebecca Moss reported on the applications and made a recommendation to have the board accept Dr. Owings as the recipient of both grants. The board agreed with the committee report and accepted the recommendation of the committee.

The grant will fund the LSU AgCenter-Hammond Research Station in implementing a grant titled “Landscape Evaluation of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Plants from Florida Having Louisiana Potential” and a grant titled “Landscape Evaluation of David Austin English Roses.”

## LSHR FUNDED RESEARCH – EVALUATIONS OF PLANTS FROM FLORIDA

Preliminary landscape observations of several tropical and sub-tropical plant genera, species and

cultivars typically grown and used in Florida have been observed at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, primarily in 2013. Our warmer winters (with the exception of 2010 and 2014) are creating opportunities for perennial growth of these plants, especially in the I-10/I-12 corridor and more southern areas of the state.

## LSHR FUNDED RESEARCH – DAVID AUSTIN ENGLISH ROSE EVALUATION

The LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station will evaluate the landscape performance (flowering, plant size, flowering cycles, Cercospora leaf spot susceptibility, blackspot susceptibility) of approximately 35 cultivars of David Austin English roses. The study will be replicated and will be conducted from 2014–2016 in the care and maintenance area at the station. The trial will be replicated. Plants will be exposed to typical rose cultural practices with the exception of disease and pest control. Fungicides and insecticides will not be used.

Those studied were planted early May 2014. While, LSHR has funded this study for one year, it will be a three-year study.

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## Miss Emily, My Kind of Gardener

### *A book review*

by Ann Justice

**At 85, she took an active role in planting and maintaining one of the most visited private gardens in the U.S.**

For years I have poured over pictures and articles about Miss Emily Whaley’s flower garden in Charleston, S.C. This prized garden, which measures only 30 feet by 110 feet, is behind its original wrought-iron gate, and runs along the side and behind her 18th century home.

Recently I reread the small book titled “Mrs. Whaley and Her Charleston Garden,” by Emily Whaley in conversation with William Baldwin (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, April 1997) \$16.95. I have read this delightful small book several times and I recommend it to Louisiana gardeners for summer reading or rereading. You will recognize every one of Miss Emily’s plants as they are our plants, too.

Although the gardening tips that Miss Emily passes on are invaluable, her opinionated and sometimes irreverent views of life are equally inspiring. For instance, she quotes from an unknown source her favorite gardening mantra: “Early to bed. Early to rise. Work like hell and fertilize.”

Interesting to women of the ’90s is her advice on financing gardens: “. . . one successful way is to choose carefully whom you marry. A good and generous man is needed, one who knows how to make money and enjoys sharing it, one who himself is not interested in the actual pursuit of gardening but likes to be proud of the premises.”

If local bookstores don't have it, they will surely order it for you.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Inside This Issue

Report on 2014 Annual Meeting

President's message

Report on 2013 plant releases

Miss Emily – A Book Review

Grants awarded

In sympathy

FYI: New Crape Myrtle studies

A favorite plant release

## My Favorite Plant Release

By Roxanna Champagne

I know that spring is here when my Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) begins to bloom. What a wonderful show of beautiful clusters of bluish-purple blossoms. When I was asked to write about my favorite LSHR release, I had to find a specimen that has actually survived, which is no mean feat, and one that thrived on neglect! This phlox was a 2010 release and it has not only persevered, but multiplied and bloomed every spring. After blooming it quietly disappears. Although it has multiplied, it is nowhere near invasive. It always surprises me with 6 to 8 inch stems atop which are its delicate blossoms.

I planted my phlox in a side garden where other perennials are located. It receives morning sunlight and afternoon shade. This phlox is neither fertilized nor watered on a regular basis. According to the LSHR Release Report it was collected from central Louisiana in 2006 and was found to bloom later than the commonly sold *P. divaricata* 'Opelousas'. The foliage is bright green in the spring and propagated by cuttings. There is a wonderful patch growing in the flower bed at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center.

As a side note, this plant received the overall top ranking the year after it was released and it tied with the lantana released that same year in receiving the greatest number of 10's. As reported in the Compost Pile, it was considered



Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

by many to be very healthy without a lot of fertilizer. Since it survived this past winter, it is very winter hardy. Some members reported blooms up to 24 inches in height. Mine have never reached that high, but they consistently shine every spring to my never-ending delight.