



# LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

Summer 2016

COMPOST PILE



## 2016 LSHR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Thanks to all for another successful spring plant release, auction and meeting. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and all but a few 'out of towners' made it in for their releases. It is a great selection of releases and the auction provided even more plant material to collect and enjoy.

Many thanks to all that contributed to the organizing of the event, the auction contributors and all the members that attended and snapped up some cool plants. Your continued support gives the opportunity to help with the likes of Dr. Allen Owings's research of David Austin Roses etc and student scholarships in the Horticultural academia. Of course, member research via plant releases gives a real world experience.

A big hand to Glenda Balliviero for compiling the release reports into a sweet ranking/notes

And a big thanks to our guest speaker Dr. Neil Odenwald. His presentation on the history of Louisiana gardens and plants inspired creativity in our own yards.



(Photos courtesy of P. Piazza)

## 2015 PLANT RELEASE REPORT

by Glenda Balliviero

The 2015 LSHR release plants had a warm winter but also lots of rain which were both pluses to a great degree. Another plus was more of the plants survived this year than in the past several years. It is always fun to predict the top plants when beginning my tally and then see how my predictions come out. All members rated their plants on a scale of 1 to 3, 3 being the highest.

Now for the results:

# 1 Pelargonium 'Mary Helen' GERANIACEAE (Mary Helen Geranium) with a 2.47 out of 3.0

#2 Salvia 'Silke's Dream' LAMIACEAE (Silke's Dream Salvia) with a 2.39 out of 3.0

#3 Acalypha wilkesiana 'Musaica' EUPHORBIACEAE (Musaica Copper Plant) with a 2.38 out of 3.0



## President's Message

We had a very mild Winter and lots of Spring Showers, now the heat of Summer is upon us! This has allowed my release plants a good start and now the ones that like the heat are flourishing. My Sunset Hibiscus is one of those that just loves the heat, it is really putting on a show with its large dissected foliage and huge yellow hibiscus like flowers. I will continue to monitor my releases so I can give accurate data for our annual reports. This is our duty as members to actively participate in our societies research and help with articles for the Compost Pile. Scholarships were also granted to two students, Russ Sonnier and Mark Wilson. Grants were also awarded to two research projects at LSU. We funded Dr. Allen's request for support for ornamental plant trials in the Piney Woods Gardens at the LSU Ag Center in Hammond. There will be evaluation of 600 species of mostly woody ornamentals, with a few non-woody companion plants included on the 5-6 acres. We will get an exclusive comprehensive newsletter showing evaluation and highlights of all plants in spring of 2017. We also funded Jason Stagg's request for support of research on olive tree production in Louisiana. Propagation from cuttings, herbicide and insecticide spray research along with varietal trials to see which ones will do best in our environment. Since this crop is a perennial and needs long term funding this will fund his research thru October 2018. Olive trees are also great "foodscaping" trees because of their showy gray or silver-green foliage providing unusual contrast in the landscape.

Continue to garden my friends, keep God in your lives and perhaps through kindness we can bring our country back to what it should be.

*Albert Durio*

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JoAnn Pugh	Treasurer

### Plant Release, continued from page 1

Below are the individual ratings for all 11 plants released in March of 2015. Both positive and negative remarks were reviewed and each member's rating was compiled together to come up with the overall ratings.

#### I. *Acalypha wilkesiana* 'Musaica' EUPHORBIACEAE (Musaica Copper Plant) ---2.38



This tropical shrub with large multi-colored leaves in shades of orange, bronze and green with red to orange markings was one of the favorites of the members. The beautiful variegated foliage colors were considered very different and showy. The continuous colored foliage throughout summer and fall was one of the highlights. Only a very few considered unattractive; however, never do 100 per cent think alike. Many were thrilled that it takes easily from cuttings thus making it possible to carry over. Only a very few had tiny insignificant flowers.

Insects/Disease: Mites, mealy bugs

#### 2. *Alstroemeria psittacina* 'Variegata' ALSTRO-EMERIACEAE (Variegated Parrot Lily) ---2.32

This fast growing herbaceous perennial with gray-green leaves and irregular creamy edges was considered superb for the showy and beautiful foliage. Since it grows from rhizomes it was considered slow to start but gorgeous. Only very few reported flowers; however, most members reported planting in shade which of course would affect flowering. Several said it disappeared and never returned; however, it does go dormant in late summer and will be seen as spreading when it does emerge. Since the reports were submitted in March it is understandable that there

was no sight of the plants. Of course it is necessary to put markers so that they are not overlooked and planted over. Propagation by division would be very easy should you want to have in other areas. Several reported they had composted because they were afraid to release in the garden due to its invasiveness. The release report indicated that it spread by rhizomes; therefore, planting in an area where it would be allowed to spread would be best. Unfortunately, armadillos were destructive to several plantings.

Insects/Disease: Root rot. Snails and slugs loved it.

3. *Camellia sasanqua* "October Magic Inspiration" THEACEAE (October Magic Inspiration Sasanqua) ---2.35



These healthy upright shrubs produced medium to large double white beautiful ruffled flowers of great interest. The flower pattern edged in magenta-pink truly made a beautiful show. Many considered the dark green leaves with new bronzy-red foliage in spring a plus. Very few



(Photo courtesy of P. Piazza)

Auction about to start

had blooms and many said very slow growing; however, most looked forward to future growth and blooms. Insects/Disease: Black spot on leaves, powdery mildew, sooty mold and snails

4. *Clerodendrum wallichii* VERBENACEAE (Bridal Veil Clerodendrum) ----- 2.18



The beauty of this vigorous shrub from foliage to flowers was hailed by most of the members. Spectacular, unique and abundant flowers on a vigorous growing plant were a great plus and since they produce late fall blooms they certainly would be welcome at that time of year. The gorgeous loose panicles of white cascading flowers definitely are becoming to the common name Bridal Veil. If it was planted in part shade or in a pot which was placed in part shade it will be reaching a height of nearly 7'. Several wanted to have more of these beauties so they propagated by cuttings. Many indicated they survived drought. Several said died back in winter but in March was beginning to come back. One met up with a lawnmower and didn't survive. Many felt that this should not have been a release due to its invasiveness. Lesson coming from the old retired teacher now: "Never judge a person by their family!" Each and every one of us is different and all must be given a chance to prove ourselves before being looked down on by others. Just like in families not all have the same characteristics. Some grow slowly while others shoot up like a bean stalk. Some are disciplined while others are unruly. Unfortunately, the name *Clerodendrum* was immediately related to the Cashmere flower that is very invasive. But then think of the Bleeding Heart which is so beautiful and impressive and yes, a *Clerodendrum*, too. With all the technology in today's world all one has to do is Google the name and would have immediately gathered great information on this wonderful plant. Unfortunately, I lost mine and I would have been very glad to take those tossed out.

Plant Report, continues on Page 4

## Bean counter report (treasurer's) July 2016

Hard to believe it has been four months since the great annual meeting in March. Everyone was thrilled with the ten hardy new releases. I am anxious to see many blooms like on "Black Magic" camellia, and current blooms on Barbara Rogers begonia and Sunset Hibiscus.

The live plant auction raised \$5,078 and the silent auction raised \$402, for a total of \$5,480. Just remarkable to raise this much money in just a few hours! The luncheon had attendances of 96 and 140 new releases plant boxes were distributed. Remember, the Society is sponsoring ongoing research grants and college scholarships with all funds raised with auction and dues.

Thanks to all for supporting LSHR.

JoAnn Pugh, Treasurer,  
joannpugh@hotmail.com

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### PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

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Allen Owings	2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17
Dee Piazza	2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18
Glenda Balliviero	2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19

Plant Release, continued from page 3



(Photo courtesy of P. Piazza)

LSHR members check in to drop off reports and pick up plant releases.

### 5. Hibiscus hamabo MALVACEAE (Yellow Hibiscus) --- 2.08

We take pride in saying that this perennial shrub was brought to America by Ken Durio, Opelousas horticulturist, and became a wonderful pass-along plant by the family. It dearly loved the heat as long as it was kept watered but was very slow to grow. Its beautiful deciduous leaves are impressive but only a few actually bloomed their first year. The bright yellow flowers with crimson centers were impressive. Many indicated leggy; however, full sun was indicated on the information sheet which certainly could have affected the shape and the blooming.

Insects/Disease: Spider mites, fungus, leaf drop and stem rot

### 6. Pelargonium 'Mary Helen' GERANIACEAE (Mary Helen Geranium) ---2.47

This old heirloom geranium variety from south Texas was considered the top plant of the 2015 releases. It was considered an Excellent plant, very vigorous and living up to its expectations of handling exceptional heat and drought tolerance. Several indicated they were the best geranium they had ever grown. Another plus was that they were considered exceptionally healthy plants when received. The clusters of beautiful flowers showed great variance in color ranging from medium-red to orange-red to dark pink flowers. The intermittent blooms throughout the year added even more beauty to the garden. Most members put in containers and many brought indoors to overwinter; however, the others left outdoors.

Of course, this past winter was considered very mild so this may vary in ordinary years. Those placing in the ground in areas with good drainage were also well pleased. The beautiful foliage was also considered a great attribute. Those that planted in the shade indicated that they were leggy and a few others indicated that over watering was destructive. Two great pluses were these plants were not able to be purchased commercially and propagation from cuttings was easy.

Insects/Disease: None

#### 7. *Prunus* x 'Purple Pride' ROSACEAE (Burgundy-Leafed Chickasaw Plum) ---2.09



The foliage was the characteristic that got the most attention with this plant. It was considered to have a beautiful leaf color, attractive foliage coloration and pretty burgundy leaves. Overall the majority considered not impressive indicating it was slow growing, skimpy branched, tall and leggy and not a full plant at all. No one reported blooms or fruit. One member planted at a family camp in Grand Isle.

Insects/Disease: None

#### 8. *Salvia* 'Silke's Dream' 2.39

This salvia being a cross of *S. darcyi* x *S. microphylla* certainly was rated high by most. Butterflies and hummers were attracted to the tall 15" spikes of dark orange-red flowers and most of the members loved it since it was a fast grower and a great bloomer with colorful showy flowers that were persistent in blooming till late fall.

A few felt it was not as good a performer as expected and a couple said they had no flowers. Many bloomed throughout most of the past warm winter and most of those that died back were coming back in March. Many considered the foliage unattractive. One member said it was too thirsty for their garden.

Insects/Disease: None

#### 9. *Tabernaemontana divaricate* APOCYNACEAE (Pinwheel Jasmine) 2.31



This perennial shrub with beautiful glossy-green foliage produced beautiful non-fragrant white five petaled whirly flowers in clusters. It grew fast and most indicated that the showy blooms were a favorite of many. Many planted it in containers and brought indoors on cold nights. For those planting in the ground some carried over through winter and others took cuttings with most being successful. The greatest downfall was lack of fragrance.

Insects/Disease: None

#### 10. *Taxodium* x *LaNana* TAXODIACEAE (Hybrid Bald Cypress) 2.25

This release was truly special since it is a Stephen F. Austin Gardens advanced selection from the breeding program on the Nanjing Garden of Nanjing China. Actually it has been known to grow up to 80+ feet. This cross of Montezuma Cypress and Bald Cypress was especially selected for salt and alkalinity tolerance. Many felt they weren't distinctive (looked like other bald cypress) and actually didn't grow as quickly as predicted. One said it had grown to almost 5' along a ditch which was usually very wet. Those that planted in full sun grew much faster than in part shade. Many indicated they were not drought tolerant. The biggest highlight was there would be NO knees. More than half indicated that it never lost the foliage; thus, feeling it was

Plant Report, continues on Page 6

very hardy. We must remember that this past winter was very warm. One planted in Grand Isle and another along the waterway (almost considered swampy area) of former community of Point Pleasant in Plaquemines Parish which tends to have mostly brackish water. One member's husband wants to make a Bonsai. Several said they were favorites in Texas.

Insects/Disease: None

### 11. *Turnera ulmifolia* 'Trailing Yellow' TURNERACEAE (Creeping Buttercup 2.16



Most members said this creeping form of yellow turnera with dark green foliage produced abundant flowers from spring through fall. There were just a couple who indicated it did not bloom. One member said hers spent the winter stashed in the greenhouse did it was still green thus able to bounce back. Several indicated that it didn't like dryness or hot sun, others said it was not drought tolerant and took time to recover once dried out while one indicated it melted in mid-day heat. The plant release form did indicate that it did not like the afternoon sun. It was described



(Photo courtesy of P. Piazza)

Albert showing off another auction item to eager members

by one as having nice sweet little blossoms. Most put in hanging baskets and some used as a ground cover. Several thought the leaves were beautiful and the prostrate growth pattern was a plus. A couple did propagate cuttings.

Insects/ Disease: None

I feel from the information provided on the reports that more people are actually reading the information provided when the plants are distributed. I say this in reference to the location of plantings and the forms of propagation. I hope many of the members will thus be able to have more of the plants for the next year and also share some of these plants with fellow gardeners. The reports also indicated that many more members are actually potting many of their releases rather than putting in the ground. Now is a good time to check and make notes on the plants you received in this March's release. Happy Gardening!

*Glenda Balliviero*

#### IMPORTANT DATE FOR 2017

Mark or set your calendar for the Spring 2017 LSHR annual meeting set at the Ira Nelson Hort. Center:  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017**

## LSHR Scholarship Winner headed to Horticulture Field

Anna Ribbeck, LSHR Scholarship recipient for 2015-2016, has wonderful goals. She has already proven herself as being a top graduate at LSU in Horticulture this spring receiving a University Medal for having maintained a 4.0. She was very appreciative of receiving the scholarship and in her speech in March indicated that it allowed her to focus on school instead of having to worry about her finances. She will begin her Horticulture Master's Program at the University of Florida soon. Two of her main interests in horticulture are ornamentals and public horticulture.

Her career goal is to become a horticulture extension agent with a split appointment as a 4-H agent but one of her main goals is to get more students in the horticulture industry. She was quoted as saying "Kids are our future and we need our field to continue to grow."

We are so proud to have been able to provide the scholarship to such a deserving and dedicated Student and look forward to her coming back to work in Louisiana.



Anna Ribbeck

(Photo courtesy of P. Piazza)

*Glenda Balliviero*

## 2016 James A. Foret Award

Dr. Allen Owings was awarded the 2016 James A. Foret Award at The Gulf States Horticulture Expo in Mobile, AL. It is the highest award given by the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association for contributing to the Horticulture Industry. Dr. Owings is director of the LSU Ag Hammond Research Station. He is truly a dedicated and very knowledgeable horticulturist who is a horticulture professor and an Honorary Member of LSHR. He received his B.S. degree in plant science from Southeastern Louisiana University, M.S. degree in horticulture from LSU and his Ph.D. in horticulture from Mississippi State University. He is the statewide leader for LSU AgCenter extension programs providing service to nursery, landscape and garden center professions.

He is also Project Leader in many research areas including some that LSHR has partially funded. His professional society activities are too numerous to list; however, there is hardly a day without him presenting programs or attending various horticulture activities. He also contributes to various media concerning horticulture. Congratulations Dr. Owings for being such a Special Horticulturist at such a young age.



*Glenda Balliviero*

## LSHR Supported

### David Austin English Rose Trial – Final Report

Allen Owings, Professor (Horticulture), LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Station aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu; Office Phone 985.543.4125; Office Fax 985.543.4124

The LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA has been evaluating 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 was partially funded by LSHR and was initiated in the spring 2014 and will be continued through 2017/2018. The trial is replicated with multiple plants of each variety planted. Plants are growing in full sun and receive irrigation when needed. Roses are being fertilized with a slow release fertilizer late winter and late summer each year. Plants were exposed to other typically recommended rose cultural practices with the exception of disease and pest control. Fungicides and insecticides were not used. Quality ratings below are for the 2014 and 2015 growing seasons (four evaluations annually – mid to late spring, early to mid-summer, late summer to early fall, mid-fall). Quality ratings are on a scale from 1 to 5 (1=dead, 2=poor performance, 3=average performance, 4=above average performance, 5=superior performance). Typically, a rating of 3.5 or higher would be considered a good variety for landscape consideration.

Most Favorite, Best Performing David Austin Rose varieties from members of the Baton Rouge Rose Society:

Abraham Darby	Pretty Jessica
Chaucer	Tamora
Evelyn	The English Garden
Lillian Austin	The Prince
Molineux	Troilus

Most Popular David Austin Rose varieties in the region (Louisiana, Mississippi) according to members of the American Rose Society:

Graham Thomas	Abraham Darby
Heritage	Molineaux
Pat Austin	

Best David Austin Rose varieties (based on growth habit, flower fragrance, flowering and disease resistance) in the region based on earlier research at the Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA:

Top performers:	
Abraham Darby	Benjamin Britten
Charlotte	Cordevale
Heritage	Jude the Obscure
Molineaux	Tess of the d'Urbervilles

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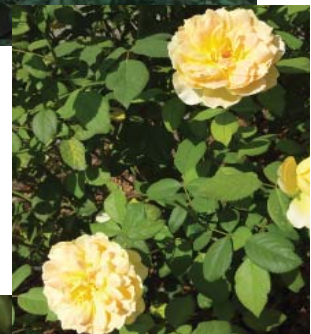
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Above average performers:

A Shropshire Lad	Charles Rennie Mackintosh	Fair Bianca	Sharifa Asma
Anne Boleyn	Eglantyne	Portmeirion	Winchester Cathedral

**Research Observations / Summary:**

Variety	Flower Color	Mature Size	Quality Rating
Abraham Darby	apricot and yellow w pink	5' x 5'	4.0
Alnwick	soft pink	4' x 2.5'	3.4
Ambridge Rose	apricot peachy orange	3' x 2'	4.0
Benjamin Britten	red with orange touch	4' x 3'	3.9
Carding Mill	pink apricot yellow blend	4' x 3.5'	3.5
Charity	soft apricot yellow	6' x 3.5'	3.8
Charles Darwin	rich yellow	4' x 3'	3.4
Darcey Bussell	deep rich crimson	3' x 2'	4.0
Eglantyne	light pink	4.5' x 3'	3.9
Evelyn	apricot and pink	4' x 3'	3.6
Gertrude Jekyll	deep pink	5' x 3.5	3.7
Glamis Castle	white / cream	4' x 3.5'	2.8
Golden Celebration	golden yellow	4.5' x 4.5'	3.8
Graham Thomas	yellow	5' x 4'	4.0
Heritage	medium pink	5' x 4'	4.2
Jude the Obscure	apricot yellow	4' x 4'	3.8
L. D. Braithwaite	red / crimson	4.5' x 4'	3.6
Lady Emma Hamilton	tangerine orange	4' x 3'	2.0
Mary Rose	rose pink	4' x 4'	4.0
Molineaux	rich yellow	3' x 2'	3.8
Pat Austin	copper	5' x 3.5'	3.5
Portmeirion	deep pink	3' x 3'	3.9
Queen of Sweden	pink with apricot	4' x 2.5'	3.9
Scepter 'd Isle	soft pink	4' x 3'	4.2
Sharifa Asma	light pink	4' x 3'	3.4
Sophy's Rose	light red	3' x 2.5'	3.2
Strawberry Hill	rosy pink	4' x 4'	3.6
Tamora	blush apricot	3' x 3'	3.2
Tess of the d'Urbervilles	red / crimson	4' x 3.5'	4.2
The Dark Lady	red / crimson	4' x 4'	3.4
William Shakespeare 2000	crimson / purple	4' x 3'	2.9
Winchester Cathedral	white	4' x 4'	3.8



top-Pretty Jessica, center - Molineux, bottom - Tamora  
 (photos courtesy Dr. Allen Owings)