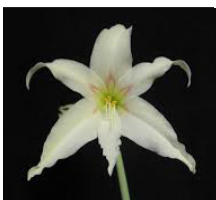




# LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

Summer 2017

## COMPOST PILE



### 2017 LSHR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Right off the bat, I want to thank everyone for another great LSHR annual spring meeting. From the board members to the volunteers and the general members, thanks for all you do. The auction raised much needed funds which helps with scholarships and plant research now and in the future.

Thanks to the retiring LSHR president, Albert Durio and members for all the work done for the organization. And congrats to the new board members, Sarah Schoefler, (First Vice President), Rob Barry, (2nd Vice President) and Norman Balliviero, (President) .

Buddy Lee, the guest speaker of the meeting, was a great auctioneer and loved the presentation on Encore Azaleas. Amazing to see how little space he used to develop his all those varieties.

Included in this edition of the Compost Pile is the 2016 plant release report. Many thanks to Glenda Balliviero for compiling the reports from all the members. Also, there is an update to Allen Ownings Lagerstroemia research and the ULL seed bank, and a couple 'Favorite Release' notes.

### 2016 PLANT RELEASE REPORT

by Glenda Balliviero

This past year certainly was an unusual year with historical floods and just a few days of freezing but yet extreme cold temperature. Unfortunately many of our members were flooded on August 13-16 and had major damage to their property thus also losing their plants. According to the information provided on the reports almost 1/2 of our membership reported to having lost some plants to the flooding. This report was very hard to prepare taking into consideration these situations. Members were asked to rate plants from 1 to 3 with 1 being the lowest and 3 the highest. Unfortunately, many did not rate and only provided comments which made it even harder to compile. I read each report individually and did the best I could to come up with the following.

Now for the results:

Top 2016 Plant Release: Begonia sp 'Barbara Rogers' receiving a rating of 2.52.

#2 Camellia japonica 'Black Magic' with rating of 2.41

#3 Illicium parviflorum 'Florida Sunshine' ILLICACEAE (Florida Sunshine Anise) with a rating of 2.28



2



3



(Photos courtesy of G. Balliviero)

## President's Message

I am truly honored that the LSHR Board of Directors nominated and the members elected me to be their President for the next couple of years. I am looking forward to working with the board and for all members.

I promise to perform the duties of President to the best of my ability and to carry on the great tradition of exploring the new emerging horticulture varieties, continue plant research through yearly releases and to provide educational assistance to new upcoming Horticulture students as well as grants for various horticulture studies.

Although I will be leaving Lafayette sometimes in the fall, I will still be very active in LSHR. I will be living just 3 hours away in Belle Chasse, LA and will be at every meeting and every event. I will make myself available for any occasion requiring my presence and answer any questions from anyone regarding our wonderful society.

We are looking forward to our annual meeting on March 17, 2018. Our guest speaker at that time for the luncheon will be the New Orleans Botanical Garden Director Paul Soniat.

With the help from the Board of Directors, I hope I am able to live up to the job you have honored me with.

*Norman Balliviero*

### IMPORTANT DATE FOR 2018

Mark or set your calendar for the Spring 2018 LSHR annual meeting set at the Ira Nelson Hort. Center:  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018**



(Photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)

Albert Durio, Allen Ownings and Buddy Lee auctioneers

## Plant Release, continued from page 1

The following provides information on each of the 2016 releases:

1. *Abelia x grandiflora* 'Little Richard'  
CAPRIFOLIACEA (Little Richard Glossy Abelia)  
– 2.18



This compact evergreen shrub with glossy, dark green foliage was considered to be a rugged shrub that took both heat and humidity. Some considered to have grown vigorously while others said very slow growing. Many felt the foliage was very showy and enjoyed the tubular white flowers in fall.

Insect/Disease Problems: None

2. *Abelmoschus manihot* MALVACEAE  
(Sunset Hibiscus) – 2.22

The beautiful primrose-yellow flowers as large as 5" in diameter with garnet centers and the deeply lobed unusual foliage were highlights of this tender deciduous perennial. A plus was it bloomed profusely till late fall. It grew to a height of 6' to 8' for several and was considered leggy; however, I think perhaps this was because it was not being grown in full sun. For most it was an annual and the seeds were gathered for planting.



Insect/Disease

Problems: Small grasshoppers, caterpillars, and white flies.

3. *Aerva sanguinolenta* AMARANTHACEAE  
(Red Velvet Plant) – 2.21

This perennial herb grown for its aromatic and burgundy foliage was considered a great performer and beautiful by most. The burgundy foliage was considered striking, the leaf texture unusual and the flowers unique to most but ugly to some. Many said it survived winter and the flood. Several cut it back in order for it to spread. Some carried over in greenhouses where it continued to bloom throughout winter.

Insects/Disease Problems: Worms, mealy bugs

4. *Begonia* sp 'Barbara Rogers'  
BEGONIACEAE (Barbara Rogers Begonia) – 2.52

This vigorous, upright garden begonia was considered to be the top plant of the 2016 release. It was the favorite of more than half or members and it received the most 3's in the ratings. Its glossy/waxy, dark green foliage and very light-pink to white flowers bloomed continuously throughout the year. It was considered to be an excellent plant, very hardy, easy care and a reliable bloomer. It survived 20 degree temperatures for many as it was sprouting back in early March. Being easy to propagate was a highlight since it is very limited commercially.

Insects/Disease: Snails



(Photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)

Board members enjoying the luncheon

5. *Camellia japonica* 'Black Magic'  
THEACEAE (Black Magic Camellia) — 2.41



The tall upright shrub with glossy, heavily-seriated, holly-like foliage was a favorite to many. So much that it came out second in the ratings. It was considered a very strong grower even in pots. The beautiful flowers were stunning and the gorgeous colors of deep red-black ruffles were the highlight for most. Unfortunately, the buds never opened completely for about half of those producing flowers. Many did not have any blooms and for others the buds fell before opening. Still others loved the foliage as well.

Insects/Disease: Leaf spot, scale, spider mites

6. *Cliftonia monophylla* 'Chipolo Pink'  
CYRILLACEAE (Pink Buckwheat Tree) – 1.94



This native evergreen shrub or small tree was an old favorite for many. Unfortunately, it seemed to struggle for the members and perhaps the crazy weather of the past year was the cause. A few indicated it was vigorous and loved the nice native selection. For most there were not any blooms but for a few who did the small pink flowers were considered to be pretty.

Insects/Disease: None

# Bean counter report

(treasurer's)

July 2017

A great day was enjoyed by all attending spring plant auction, annual meeting and luncheon. A 138 boxes of new releases were distributed, and such wonderful plants. With 45 members at plant auction with 177 great plants, raised \$4,005 and the silent auction raised \$217 for a grand total of \$4,223. The auction helps to supports horticultural research project grants, scholarships for horticultural students, and acquire new releases for the coming spring. The membership has 215 members and welcome 14 new members this year. The luncheon had 83 to attend to hear outstanding speaker, Buddy Lee, one of the most respected plant breeder and horticulturist in North America. Kudos goes to Buddy for donating back his speaker fee and travel allowance to our scholarship fund. \$\$\$\$.

Speaking about scholarships, attending the luncheon were the two scholarship recipients, Russ Sonnier and Mark Wilson and their proud parents. Both Russ and Mark were so appreciative of scholarships and both have great goals to work in horticultural fields.

Mark your calendar now for next spring meeting, March 17, 2018. (St Patrick's Day, easy to remember)

Enjoy your summer and all your plants too,

JoAnn Pugh, Treasurer,  
joannpugh@hotmail.com

Plant Release, continued from page 3

## 7. Gardenia jasminoides 'Variegata' RUBIACEAE (Variegated Gardenia) – 2.06



The cream-yellow, variegated foliage of this gardenia seemed to be the highlight of the plant. It was considered beautiful, gorgeous, excellent and vivid. The fragrance was also a plus but few actually had blooms. For most it was considered to be very slow growing. A member from Conroe Texas said it was doing well there.

Insects/Disease: Root rot



(Photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)

Two top LA Horticulturists - LSHR Guest speaker, Buddy Lee and Honorary Board Member, Dr. Ellis Fletcher.

In Memory of LSHR members we have lost this past year -

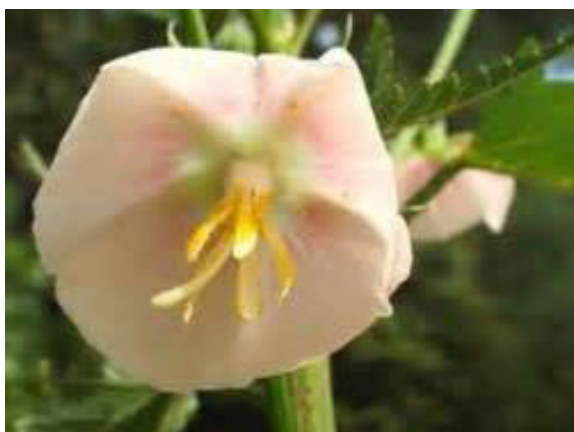
Suzan Allen  
JoAnn Delhomme  
Marilyn Arton

8. *Illicium parviflorum* 'Florida Sunshine'  
ILLICIACEAE (Florida Sunshine Anise) – 2.28

The variegation of the chartreuse-gold foliage of this vigorous dense shrub seemed to be special to most of the members. The contrast of the foliage color of the petioles/stems taking on a scarlet-red coloration against the foliage during winter was a great love of many since it was pretty, different and unusual. This is what gave it the many points to receive 3rd in the plant releases for 2016. Many indicated that they love, love this plant. It was pretty, different and unusual to most but to a few it was considered to look sickly and just too yellow.

Insects/Disease: None

9. *Pentapetes phoenica* PENTAPETACEAE  
(Pink Pentapetes) – 2.05



The rare pink flowers of the form of the red Pe-neapetes was considered delicate looking, dainty and cute. The stalks reached 5' to 6' (since these were planted in part shade) for many while most were about 3' in mostly sun. It was considered to be a great bloomer and produced many seed pods thus making it possible to add to the garden the following year. Many wished that the flower would have been larger.

Insects/Disease: Root rot

10. *Rondeletia leucophylla* RUBIACEAE  
(Panama Rose) – 1.95



The shrub producing bright-pink, star-shaped, penta-like flowers was classified as a nice, dependable and great plant. Some said was a slow grower while others said vigorous. The small pink clusters of flowers were considered beautiful and bloomed till late fall. Many did not survive the winter. Of these there was not any indication of them coming back in early March. For those planted in pots and taken into a greenhouse or put in a protected place they survived.

Insects/Disease: Fungal disease, root rot

Each year it seems that more and more of the members are planting more of their releases in pots. This year there was not as many who followed the release information as to where the plant would do best. This of course, makes such a difference especially in reference to producing blooms. More and more members have greenhouses; therefore, more of the plants are able to survive the winters.

Not only did floods and freezing temperatures kill the plants but there were instances when husbands devoured them with the weed eater, dogs dug up, and chickens trampled. Life in a garden certainly has many unusual happenings.

*Glenda Balliviero*



(Photo courtesy of G. Balliviero)

## Balliviero elected LSHR President

Norman Balliviero was unanimously elected to serve as President of the Louisiana Society of Horticultural Research at the Spring meeting. Norman and his wife, Glenda, grew up in orange country in Plaquemines Parish and had always had a love of plants. When they first married they began their first flower garden which contained 30+ rose bushes. While working for Chevron Oil Company he was transferred to Lafayette in 1989 and it was upon his retirement that he and Glenda went through the LSU Master Gardener program. They both became very involved in gardening and developed gardens on about 2 1/2 acres of their 4 acre home site. He also assisted Glenda with the Children's Garden and took the children on fun and educational tours. He is a member of the Lafayette Garden Club and does all their photography. He also assisted Glenda with doing Garden Therapy programs at Evangeline Oaks Nursing Home and the Sr. Citizen Greenhouse for many years. He is, also, presently Vice-President of the Louisiana State Horticulture Society. He has been very active in LSHR for several years having served as a director and then vice-president. Norman developed and maintains the LSHR Website. He and Glenda were recipients of the Horticultural Achievement Award Medallions in 2011. He has been a great example of a husband learning to love the hobbies of his wife.

## 2017-19 LSHR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Norman Balliviero	President
Sarah Schoeffler	First Vice-President
Robert Barry	Second Vice-President
Roxanna Champagne	Recording Secretary
JoAnn Pugh	Treasurer

## PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Mary Courville	Dr. Jim Racca
Albert Durio, Sr.	Margo Racca
Belle Durio Dr.	Dennis Wollard
Dalton Durio	

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Aline Arceneaux	(Past Treasurer)
Dr. Jean Kreamer	(Nominations Chairman)
Dr. Ellis Fletcher	(Membership Chairman)
Kevin Kimball	(Current Editor - Compost Pile)
Ann Justice	(Past Editor - Compost Pile)
Rebecca Moss	(Past Editor - Compost Pile)

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Dee Piazza	2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18
Glenda Balliviero	2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19
Billy Welsh	2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20

## UL Lafayette

### UPDATE

## Seed Bank processing facility



Front view (3/2017)

In March 2016 the construction phase of the Wildflower Seed Bank Project began and was projected for completion by January 2017. All of the seed processing, handling, storage, testing, and bagging equipment are ready to be installed as soon as the building is completed. (April 2017).

The total size of the new facility will be approximately 10,000 square feet, under roof, and sits on 4 acres of land. It will feature a seed handling and receiving area, seed processing room, dry lab, wet lab, storage space,

dehumidified walk-in cooler for long term storage, a large seed technology lab and educational / outreach meeting room with restroom facilities.

The Wildflower Seed Bank facility will be equipped with a back-up generator for emergency use during storms and other related power outages. It will also feature two separate de-humidified walk-in coolers for long term storage, research, and preservation of many types of wildflower seeds from locally grown ecotypes.

Final details of the completion are underway. Interior components are presently being completed and the targeted move in date is April 2017. Many equipment items will be installed and laboratory supplies purchased for completion of the Wildflower Seed Bank Facility. This will take several months to complete. New wildflower seeds (Coreopsis and Coneflower) will be harvested in July of 2017. The staff will begin processing seeds in the new facility during the Fall 2017.

The Wildflower Seed Bank is located at 1234 W J Bernard Rd, St. Martinville, LA 70582. It is part of the University of Louisiana Experimental Farm Complex (Cade). The Wildflower Seed Bank Facility will accommodate up to 178 seating capacity for professional meetings of the LADOTD, Master Gardeners, NRCS, LSU AG Center, and other cooperators from the University, Public, and Research community. It will also accommodate graduate level research in Seed Technology and Environmental Science.

Mark J Simon

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## EVALUATIONS and OBSERVATIONS: NEW LAGERSTROEMIA VARIETIES

Allen Owings and Jason Staggs  
Professor (Horticulture) and Instructor (Horticulture)  
LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station  
E-mail aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu and jstagg@agcenter.lsu.edu

A landscape trial including most of the recently introduced crape myrtle cultivars has been initiated and expanded since 2013 at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, Hammond, La. These collections include the Early Bird, Enduring Summer, Delta, Barnyard Favorites, Magic, Miss, Princess and Ebony (aka Black Diamond) series. There is also a new group from Mississippi State University that includes 5 cultivars and new cultivars from Arkansas (Freedom, Cindy and Kitty's Purple from Stan Brown in Clarksville). Other new series not yet in our trials are Play It Again (Carl Whitcomb/Lacebark), Bellini (Conard Pyle), Infinitini (Proven Winners/Spring Meadow Nursery), Barista (Walter Gardens) and Emerald Empire (J Berry Nursery).

Several other cultivars are also included in the evaluation. We also have plants of Bayou View which is the Lagerstroemia fauriei national champion single-trunk crape myrtle tree located at Akin's Nursery in Shreveport. This plant dates to the 1950s/1960s and has been sold the past 4-5 years at the SFA Gardens Plant Sale in Nacogdoches, TX. We are also evaluating several lavender-flowered crape myrtle cultivars (New Lavender and First Lavender) from John Davy at Panhandle Growers, Pace, Florida.

The **Early Bird** series, introduced by Plant Development Services, Inc., has been on the market the longest and is part of the Southern Living Plant Collection. These are dwarf growing plants maturing at 4 feet. Early Bird Lavender (soft lavender) is promoted as a very heavy earlier bloomer. Other cultivars include Early Bird Purple and Early Bird White.

*Observations: Very early bloomers. Repeat bloom well in late summer. Leaf spot susceptibility, Early Bird White is largest grower in the collection (5 feet). Early Bird Lavender seems to be the consumer favorite.*



(Photo courtesy of Flowerwood Nursery)

Photo of Early Bird lavender Crape Myrtle

For several years, the burgundy-foliaged Delta Jazz (semi-dwarf, brilliant pink) was the only variety in the **Delta** series from Plant Development Services, Inc. has been a stand-alone cultivar (originally named Chocolate Mocha). This cultivar is included in the Southern Living Plant Collection. Five year old plants of Delta Jazz are 8 feet tall in most locations. Plants are classified as semi-dwarf growers, which normally indicate heights ranging from 8-12 feet. New for 2014 are four new color additions – Delta Breeze (light lavender), Delta Eclipse (brilliant purple), Delta Moonlight (white) and Delta Flame (dark red). New for 2016 are Delta Fusion (dark pink) and Delta Fuchsia (fuchsia).

*Observations: Burgundy foliage colored maintained spring through fall. Larger flowers than other series/varieties with burgundy or black foliage. Some powdery mildew observed some years in cool, overcast spring seasons. Bloom begins early to mid-June. Little to no leaf spot observed.*

The new black foliaged **Ebony** crape myrtles developed by Cecil Pounders at the USDA-ARS in Poplarville, MS are

Lagerstroemia Report, continues on Page 8

available to all growers. They are also sold under the **Black Diamond** name by J. Berry Nursery, Grand Saline, TX. The Black Diamond name is exclusive to J. Berry Nursery. These plants supposedly mature at 8-10 feet and retain foliage color spring through fall.

<u>Ebony Variety Name</u>	<u>Black Diamond Variety Name</u>
Ebony and Ivory (white)	Pure White
Ebony Flame (dark red)	Best Red
Ebony Embers (deep red)	Red Hot
Ebony Fire (dark red)	Crimson Red
Ebony Glow (light pink to white)	Blush

New additions to the Black Diamond series are Shell Pink (coral pink), Mystic Magenta (magenta pink) and Purely Purple (vibrant purple).

*Observations: Variable flowering year to year. Black Diamond White and Black Diamond Blush less vigorous growers than the red flowering varieties. Newer varieties are better bloomers. Black Diamond Mystic Magenta and Black Diamond Purely Purple have larger blooms and improved landscape performance. Blackish to very dark burgundy foliage present spring through fall. Little to no leaf spot observed. Some powdery mildew observed in springtime.*

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. According to Gardener's Confidence, Red Rooster is a plant to "crow about", you can "squeal with delight" over Pink Pig, and Purple Cow can be used to create an "udderly majestic garden".

*Observations: Cold damage observed early in trials on*

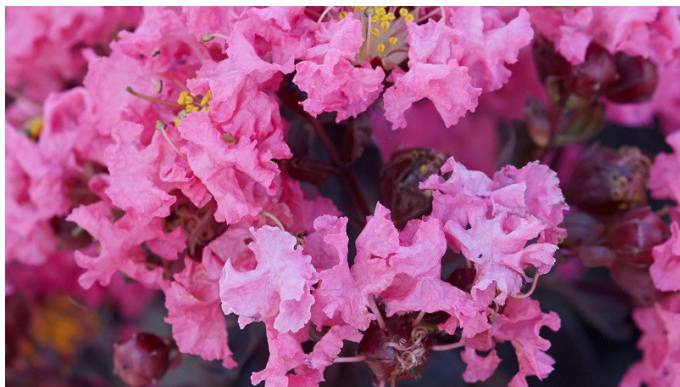


Photo of Black Diamond Crape, Shell Pink

*Purple Cow and Pink Pig. Red Rooster has very good red flower color and has better early growth rate than Dynamite. Leaf spot problematic on all three varieties. Undecided on mature height. Red Rooster is the best variety in the collection.*

The **Magic** series from Plant Introductions that are 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). Coral Magic and Purple Magic have reddish new foliage in the spring. Plum Magic has plum purple foliage in the spring. Midnight Magic has purple maroon foliage that persists from spring to fall and Moonlight Magic has dark maroon foliage persists from spring to fall. These are semi-dwarf plants (6-10 feet tall at maturity for Coral, Purple, and Plum, while Midnight matures at 4-6 feet and Moonlight matures at 8-12 feet) that were developed by Mike Dirr in Georgia at Plant Introductions, Inc. New additions to this group are Ruffled Red Magic (glowing red), Red Magic (red), and Twilight Magic (plum purple to burgundy foliage, pink flowers).

*Observations: Some of the Magic series has blackish foliage that is retained spring through fall while some varieties have burgundy foliage that is retained into late summer. Others just have burgundy foliage in the spring months. Cold damage observed on young plants of Plum Magic, Purple Magic and Coral Magic early in trials. Midnight Magic and Moonlight Magic are taller growers in the series. Leaf spot variable variety to variety with varieties having mostly green foliage later in season being more susceptible. Twilight Magic has unique flower color. Need more growth habit and flowering uniformity in this series.*

The **Princess** (aka Little Princess) series is a new dwarf group developed by Dow Whiting at Garden Adventures Nursery in Missouri and 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). Height varies from 2-6 feet on these cultivars.

*Observations: Favorite is Princess Lyla. Variable height variety to variety. Some leaf spot susceptibility. Princess Jaden is most dwarf and may be too slow of a grower. Zoey has unique "peppermint" (bicolor) flower characteristic.*

Ball Ornamentals released the **Enduring Summer** collection of crape myrtles. Varieties Enduring Summer Red, Enduring Summer Fuchsia, Enduring Summer Pink, Enduring Summer White and Enduring Summer Lavender. These plants were also developed by Mike Dirr. These are reported to have re-blooming characteristics. The Enduring Summer cultivars have an upright habit and mature height is 6-8 feet with a 4-foot spread. These are now marketed by Conard-Pyle Company.

*Observations: Enduring Summer Red is best of the series. Cold damage on other varieties in the series in LSU Ag-Center trials. Enduring Summer Red very similar in phenotype to Red Rooster. Some leaf spot disease.*

The new **Miss** series of *L. indica* from Cecil Pounders' breeding work at USDA-ARS Poplarville, MS includes Miss Gail (20 feet, upright vase shape, purple violet flowers), Miss Frances (16-18 feet, round spreading, red) and Miss Sandra (18-20 feet, upright spreading purple violet).



Observations: Need to be considered. Nice growers. Common green foliage. Intermediate habit. Miss Frances has outstanding red flowers (comparable red flowers to Freedom variety from Stan Brown in Arkansas; better red than Dynamite). Only minor leaf spot occurs in average/above average rainfall years.



(Photo courtesy of LSHS facebook page)

Photo of Miss Gail Crape Myrtle

The new crape myrtle group from **Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center** (unnamed series) released by Patricia Knight and Wayne McLaurin include Neshoba, Pascagoula, Sequoyah, Shumaka and Tishomingo. These have been on trial with several MS growers over the past 5 years. These have not yet been generally-distributed to the industry.

*Observations: Have not been in trials very long. Need more time for observations. Neshoba blooms well into the fall months and may be best of the series.*

Data collected during our evaluations include flowering dates, durations, and quantities, fungal (*Cercospora*) and bacterial (*Xanthomonas*) leaf spot susceptibility ratings, and height measurements. We are also observing for "rabbit tracks", retention of burgundy/black foliage characteristics and other things. This evaluation will continue through 2019-2020.

*Not included in these trials but previously evaluated:*

In the Gardener's Confidence Collection is the **Razzle Dazzle** crape myrtles. These have been around for 10 years or so now. These are true dwarfs with heights reaching 4 feet. Cultivars include Berry Dazzle (fuchsia), Cherry Dazzle (cherry red), Dazzle Me Pink (pink), Diamond Dazzle (pure white), Strawberry Dazzle (neon rose) and Sweetheart Dazzle (pink). Cherry Dazzle has been a longtime exceptional performer in LSU AgCenter landscape trials.

Also, crape myrtle varieties developed by Carl Whitcomb in Oklahoma (Lacebark) include Dynamite, Pink Velour, Red Rocket, Siren Red, Tightwad Red, Raspberry Sundae and

Burgundy Cotton. Most of these have been evaluated in LSU AgCenter trials in recent years. *Cercospora* leaf spot and powdery mildew are significant issues with growing these varieties in south Louisiana. Also developed by Dr. Whitcomb are the new Play It Again series which includes Double Dynamite and Rhapsody in Pink.

*Not yet included in these trials but have been introduced (or are being introduced) and will be included shortly:*

Spring Meadow Nursery (marketed by Proven Winners as part of their Color Choice Flowering Shrub Program) has released in 2016 the **Infiniti** series. These include Orchid (lavender), Magenta (magenta), Brite Pink (pink) and Watermelon (bright pink red). These are being promoted as 3-5 foot growers but will get larger in southern United States growing conditions.

New for 2016 from Walters Gardens is the **Barista** series of crape myrtles. This includes six cultivars - Cherry Mocha (cherry red flowers), Frappe Pink (true pink), Like a Latte (pure white), Sweet Macchiato (hot pink), Bubble Tea (bright lilac purple) and Spiced Plum (raspberry purple).

There is also what appears to be a new addition to the series called 'Cool Beans' (peppermint, bicolored). These are northern climate developed cultivars that are promoted as root hardy as far north as USDA hardiness zone 6.

Another new series currently being released is from J Berry Nursery in Texas. The **Emerald Empire** series will initially include Amethyst King, Garnet King, Garnet Queen and Ruby Prince (deep red). The complete collection will include King (20 feet growers), Queen (12-14 feet growers) and Prince (dwarf, 3-4 foot growers).

*Appreciation – thanks to the following for support of our LSU AgCenter crape myrtle work: Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research, Bailey Nurseries, Greenleaf Nursery, Walters Garden, Stan Brown, Stephen F. Austin State University Gardens, Spring Meadow Nursery, Plant Development Services, Inc., Panhandle Growers, Stokley Nursery, Windmill Nursery, J Berry Nursery, Mississippi State University, Cecil Pounders, and USDA-Agricultural Research Service.*

*Allen Owings and Jason Stagg*

Looks like the horrible Sod Webworms are back! Treat your lawns with Talstar or another insecticide for lawns. It takes about 6 weeks to break their life cycle. So, treat more than once.

**Special thanks to contributors  
to the plant auction and the  
silent auction:**

*Albert Durio*  
*Dennis Wollard*  
*Ira Nelson Horticulture Center*  
*Broussard LA Foliage*  
*Treesearch Farms*  
*Glenda & Norman Balliviero*  
*LSU AgCenter*  
*Plant Development Services, Inc.*  
*Live Oak Gardens*  
*Kent's Nursery*

**FAVORITE PLANT RELEASE** (from 2016)

Thomas Jefferson is credited with growing Pentapetes at Monticello inn 1811. It took me a good 2-3 years of emailing, internet searching and asking garden favors to local a source of the rare pink flowering form of scarlet mallow. Pentapetes phoenica is in the Pentapetacea family and is commonly called scarlet mallow or copper cups. The rare pink flowering form of the scarlet-red Pentapetes was a 2016 LSHR release. The scarlet, red form was a release in 2006. The pink flower form is less bloom prolific. Flowers open mid to late morning. It is considered a tender annual herb. Plants have olive-green serrated foliage and erect branching. Grows to 5'. Blooms late spring to mid fall. Prefers full sun to partial sun. South Asia native. Propagated by seed. Germination success is excellent. Both colors can re-seed in beds the following year.



(Photos courtesy Dr. Allen Owings)

Allen D. Owings  
Professor and Research Coordinator  
LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Station  
21549 Old Covington Highway  
Hammond, LA 70403



(Photo courtesy of Dr. E. Fletcher)

**FAVORITE PLANT RELEASE** (from 2014)

Florida Dwarf Rose Purslane is a favorite LSHR release. From the 2014 release several "trailing/hanging" containers and the major part of a large round, full-sun flower bed feature this plant. This favorite serves as the ground cover for the major part of the planting directly viewed from the dining room and patio. Other society releases in this bed provide long-lasting and seasonal color (standard and yellow Gloriosa Lily, Indian Pink, Obedient Plant, Spring Beauty, Prairie Nymph and Gulf Coast Penstemon).

Although propagated extremely easy by cuttage, plants for my purposes are provided by "volunteer" seedlings that develop rapidly as the season progresses. From late spring until frost, the abundant fuchsia/magenta-colored flowers, from a dense mat of trailing and much-branched succulent foliage, make this release an almost care-free and ever-blooming plant for hot, dry locations.

Dr. Ellis Fletcher