

THE COMPOST PILE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH
JULY 2020

SPRING MEETING COMPLETES JUST BEFORE CORONAVIRUS CLOSURES



Dr. Allen Owings conducts the annual LSHR benefit plant auction. Proceeds fund research grants, scholarships and future plant releases.

With the COVID-19 coronavirus spreading through the nation like a silent invading army, LSHR's annual spring meeting proceeded without a hitch on March 14, only a week before Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards issued a stay-at-home order.

LSHR members turned out in

good numbers, as 115 boxes of larger-but-fewer plant releases were distributed. Members spent record dollars on the plant auction, and learned about new plants adapted for the lower Gulf Coast region.

This year's plant releases diverged from the previous format

of 10 plants, most of them in four-inch pots. The 2020 plants, all in one-gallon containers, were: Alice Staub anemone, a star-leaf begonia, a cold-hardy tea plant, a Formosan creeping fig, a luna moth ginger, and a round-leaf firecracker plant.

Plant explorer Adam Black

discussed "Exciting New Plants Adaptable to the Gulf Coast." At the time of the LSHR meeting Black, the director of the East Texas Arboretum in Athens, Texas, had just returned from a plant exploration trip to New Caledonia.

Black opened his densely

Plant auction sets new sales record of \$6,052! LSHR thanks the plant donors below

Bracy's Nursery
LSU Ag Center Hammond
Research Station
Transcend Nursery - Buddy Lee
Green Nursery
Allen Owings
Live Oak Gardens
Glenda Balliviero
Kent's Nursery
TSU Nursery Crop Research Station
Van Der Giessen Nursery
Jenkins Farm and Nursery
Adam Black
TreeSearch Farms
Doug Young Nursery
Chauncey Nichols Nursery
Poole Bros. Nursery
Larry Bates Nursery



Adam Black

illustrated discussion with JPEGs of unusual Gulf Coast natives. These included a columnar-growing sweet gum tree, a wild-growing Texas stokes aster, and two newly discovered (Texas state record) plants: a pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) and a big-leaf witch hazel (*Hamamelis ovalis*).

Black also mentioned two members of the lily family that are worth gardeners' attention: the Sabine River wakerobin (*Trilium gracile*) and the Texas wakerobin (*Trilium texanum*). The latter plant is considered imperiled, particularly by exploding populations of wild hogs.

Black noted that horticulturists should not eschew rare plants:

“Rare plants need not be locked up in botanical gardens. Collectors are often the best safeguard [against extinction].”

Black mentioned the Pink Panther flowering plum as a good candidate for area landscapes, as it tolerates low chilling hours and “flowers like clockwork.”

He showed photos of three unusual camellia varieties from China: *Camellia azalea*, whose flowers resemble azalea flowers; *Camellia cordifolia*, and *Camellia grijsii*, which he called “a blooming machine.”

Many oak varieties made Adam Black's recommendation list:

- Monterrey or Mexican white oak (*Quercus polymorpha*), a popular plant on the University of Texas campus. A fast, columnar grower, it is virtually evergreen, flowering before its leaf flush in the spring.
 - Loquat-leaf oak, *Quercus ryso-phylla*, another Mexican native distinguished by its 15-inch leaves.
 - *Quercus insignis*, which produces silver-dollar-size acorns.
 - *Quercus tarahumara*, another Mexican species whose large cup-shaped leaves have a blueish cast on top and yellowish undersides.
- Black mentioned the Grand-



At left, the LSHR plant releases await their new homes. Right, Harold Schoeffler picks up his plants. Boy Scouts assisted LSHR by helping members carry out their plants.



view Gold live oak, developed by Earl Vallot of Grandview Nursery in Youngsville, La. Its spring growth is golden-yellow. It is virtually impossible to find commercially, however, and growers have found it difficult to graft.

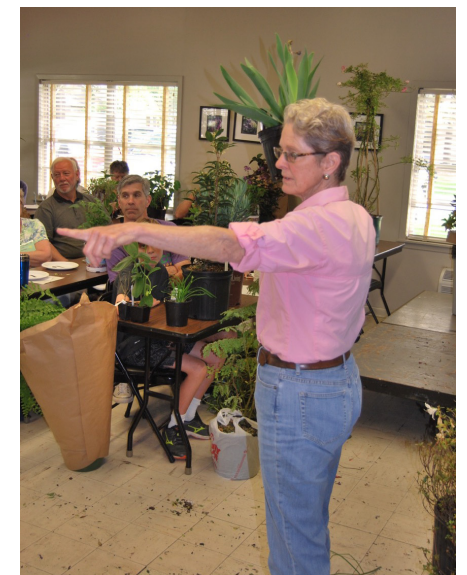
Rock gardening may seem odd along the Gulf Coast, which has no rocks, but Adam Black encouraged LSHR members to give it a try: “All those Mediterranean herbs that don't do well here will thrive in rock gardens. The reflected heat of layered rocks makes all the difference. This opens up a broad palette of plants you can grow.” One such

plant that thrives among rocks, Black noted, is the *Penstemon triflorus*.

Black recommended *Anstolochia sempervirens*, Evergreen Dutchman's Pipe, a vine from Crete that makes a carnivorous flower that resembles a pitcher plant.

Several conifers made Black's list of interesting plants adaptable to our area:

- *Podocarpus Nakaii*, which Black described as very hardy, and which produces an intense red new growth.
- *Araucaria angustifolia*, a Brazilian pine that resembles the parasol pines of Italy.



Heidi Sheesley of TreeSearch Farms (a plant auction donor) takes a turn as auctioneer.



The annual plant auction is always lively fun, as members pick up good plant bargains while supporting LSHR's program of horticulture research grants and scholarships.



LSHR AWARDS \$ 10,275 IN RESEARCH GRANTS, \$ 6,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

LSHR funded three grant proposals submitted by two researchers at the LSU Hammond Research Station: Dr. Jeb Fields, Asst. Professor, and Dr. Yan Chen, Professor.

Chen will study *Camellia sinensis* [tea] establishment in an understory production system; the grant amount is \$3,000. The project aims to help homeowners with urban forestry on their property, with tea as an understory plant. Chen plans to conduct tea-tasting seminars and growing workshops.

Fields was awarded funding for two research proposals. One is the study of pine bark variability sources, research aimed at Louisiana nurseries and greenhouses, and funded at \$3,000. His second project is an evaluation of lesser-known and underutilized magnolia cultivars for the promotion and viability in the Louisiana nursery industry. LSHR funding is for \$4,275. These projects will be funded for two semesters, with results presented to LSHR.

LSHR 2020 Scholarships

Two LSU graduate students and a Louisiana Tech undergrad will each receive \$2,000 from LSHR to support their horticulture studies this year.

Recipient Kristopher Criscione is a graduate student in the LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Science. Criscione's master's thesis topic is Soilless Substrates. Elements of his research inquiries include hydrophobicity and rewetting of substrate strata, efficiency of various irrigation schedules in container production utilizing stratified sub-

strates, fiber amendments in top strata and subsequent effects on production sustainability, crop growth and development and resources efficiency in nursery production. Criscione's research also seeks to understand the relationship of strata porosities.

Recipient M. Taylor Bryant, LSU horticulture graduate student, will be studying lead contamination of urban soils screening Asian Jasmine, Ardisia, Sandy Leaf Fig, Creeping Fig and Bugleweed.

Both master's graduate students have received numerous awards and recognitions.

LSHR scholarship recipient Kelsey Shoemaker is majoring in Agricultural Business plant concentration. She is a junior at Louisiana Tech. She has received numerous recognitions and scholarships, including the Ira Nelson Scholarship-Louisiana Nursery and Landscaper Foundation 2020 Scholarship for Research, a Hillard Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Additionally Shoemaker is member of the President's and Dean's list. She has presented at regional and national levels with extensive public speaking experiences.

Rebecca Moss
Jean Kreamer

BUDDY LEE AND MAARTEN VAN DER GIESSEN NAMED HONORARY MEMBERS

BOTH HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE SERVICE TO LSHR AND TO HORTICULTURE

Buddy Lee

Folsom, La., native Buddy Lee is one of the most respected plant breeders and horticulturists in North America, said Glenda Balliviero, LSHR First Lady, in recognizing him at the annual meeting.

“Buddy’s greatest accomplishment was his development of the Encore Azalea, the world’s best-selling re-blooming azalea,” Balliviero said. “He also works with many other plants including lorapetalums, vitex, hardy hibiscus, hollies and many more.”

With almost 35 years of experience in nursery management, breeding, propagation and new plant development, Buddy Lee is now Director of Plant Innovations for Plant Development Services, the introducers of Encore Azalea, the *Southern Living* Plant Collection and the Sunset Western Garden Collection.



Buddy Lee accepts his Honorary Member plaque from Glenda Balliviero at the LSHR luncheon.

Some of his newest introductions are White Wedding Hydrangea *Paniculata* and Diamond Spire Gardenia.

He is owner of Transcend Nursery in Independence, La. He is past president of the Azalea Society of America, the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association, and the Southern Region of International Plant Propagators Society.

Lee was featured speaker at the LSHR annual meeting in 2017. He is a regular contributor of plants to the LSHR auction.

Maarten Van der Giessen

After studying horticulture at Memphis State University and the University of South Alabama, Maarten van der Giessen served as assistant manager for Cottage Hill Nursery in Alabama.

He and his father launched Van der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Ala., where he was manager and vice president for 25 years. Five years ago he became president

of the nursery, which specializes in growing liners and containers for growers and garden centers. This past spring Van der Giessen Nursery shipped two million liners.

Van der Giessen has served as president for the Mobile Botanical Gardens, president of the South Alabama Nursery

Association and president of the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association. He is known for sharing his knowledge plus learning from others in various fields.

Maarten van der Giessen was the featured speaker at the 2019 LSHR annual meeting. His nursery has provided plants for the LSHR plant releases several

times, and he has contributed plants for the annual auction.

Although he was not able to attend the LSHR annual meeting, Van der Giessen said by email: “I certainly appreciate the honorary membership to LSHR. It’s a great organization, and exactly what American horticulture needs right now. I’ll try to repay your trust in future meetings.”



Maarten Van der Giessen with his dog, Rhododendron.

THE BROTHER GARDENERS: SIX MEN WHO CHANGED HORTICULTURE

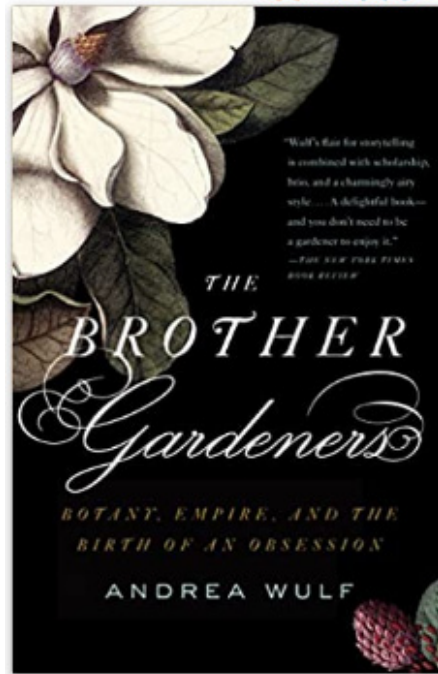
During the final 75 years of the 18th century horticulture hit a sweet spot in its history, as biota from the new world began circulating to gardeners, voyages of discovery turned up even more new plants, and a new method of classifying plants achieved wide acceptance.

The Brother Gardeners tells the story of how six men changed horticulture through their collaboration.

The author, a German Anglophile named Andrea Wulf, has pored through the correspondence and writings of the six brothers and crafted a vivid, entertaining narrative that centers on Britain's role in importing, classifying and growing plants from the emerging new worlds.

The core two brothers are John Bartram, a plant explorer and exporter who lives near Philadelphia, and his English patron and plant importer Peter Collinson. The Brits loved and prized American plants, with *Magnolia grandiflora* as the most prestigious import. Not far behind, though, were tulip trees, rhododendrons, willow oaks and, of all things, white pines (the Brits had very few native conifers).

BOOK REVIEW



Bartram goes on plant collecting trips ranging from upper New York to Florida, and west to Pittsburgh (after the French and Indian War ends). With Collinson's help, Bartram eventually develops a plant subscription service that reaches many wealthy and influential English aristocrats and scientists, including brother gardener Philip Miller of the Chelsea Physic Garden, whose *Gardener's Dictionary* is the standard

horticultural reference work of the era.

By this time Britain had pretty much conquered the geographic world and science as well, and to this day no one does condescension like the Brits.

Enter into the story brother gardener Carl Linnaeus, an arrogant, self-promoting, stingy, dishonest, vindictive and not particularly truthful Swede who speaks no English, but who comes to London in 1736 at age 29 to persuade the haughty British that their various systems of classifying plants are all wrong, and that they should switch to his system.

Linnaeus's system involves counting stamens and pistils. The Brits howl that classifying plants according to their sexual parts is indecent: "too smutty for English ears" according to an Edinburgh professor of botany, and more licentious than "the most obscene romance-writer" according to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* of the day.

Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae*, written in Latin, did eventually prevail because it was easy to use and parsimonious: Every plant had a unique Latin name showing its genus and species, and classifying plants by their repro-

ductive parts was simple and easy to use in the field.

Linnaeus also prevailed because he goes home to Uppsala to lick his botanical wounds after the British botanists had beaten him up badly. But he sends his star pupil, brother gardener Daniel Solander, to London to evangelize.

Solander charms his way into British scientific circles, and becomes so well-liked that Collinson and other Brits find him a job curating (with Linnaeus's system) the Hans Sloane collection of dried plants, which becomes the startup core of The British Museum. Not many years thereafter, Solander is one of two botanists aboard the Endeavour, on Captain Cook's historic first voyage of exploration to Tahiti and Australia.

The other botanist, and the final brother gardener to enter the story, is Joseph Banks. He grows up in the Chelsea Physic Garden and has money, energy and passion for plants. He buys his way onto the Endeavour by proffering £10,000, which is 100 times Captain Cook's annual salary.

After numerous adventures Banks and Solander find them-

selves in April 1770 in Botany Bay, Australia, so named by Capt. Cook in recognition of the trove of new biota that these brother gardeners discover and collect.

Banks (after whom *Banksia* is named) eventually becomes director of Kew Gardens and president of the Royal Society. He promotes science during weekly walks through Kew with King George III.

There's much more to *The Brother Gardeners* than this perhaps-too-detailed review can mention. The story is not just the intersection of the brothers' lives, but also on how science develops during this era, and how the English garden comes into its own.

As Andrea Wulf puts it, the English "dug up their topiary and planted a new world." Which is to say, the English garden departed from the geometric precision of French and Italian gardens, and instead strove to paint with foliage, using the wealth of new plant material that became available through the brother gardeners.

—Mike Maher

Pinwheel Jasmine

story and photos by Dr. Ellis Fletcher

The Pinwheel Jasmine, *Tabernaemontana divaricata*, was a LSHR plant release in 2015. Blooming almost continuously with showy, numerous flowers and unusually attractive foliage, the Pinwheel Jasmine is popular in many locations.

Flowers are most abundant during the spring. Waxy blossoms appear terminally in paired clusters commonly with up to 6-8 in each cluster. The flower is formed by united petals that form a long, thin tube about 1 inch long before expanding to form 5 oblong-ovate lobes. Each lobe is nearly at right angles, and at least as long, as the slightly greenish corolla tube.

The inside of the floral tube is yellow and creates a small yellow center where the pure white petals join the tube. The pinwheel flower appearance is caused by corolla lobes that twist to the left. Long-lasting flowers fall cleanly from the plant.

In less hardy zones, or when maintained as a small tree, this evergreen shrub is grown with



protection or as a container specimen. In zones of questionable hardiness, plants tolerate frost or freezing temperatures for a short time. Temperatures below this range may damage or kill above ground portions, and if extended, the roots as well. When freezing is of short duration, regrowth occurs from near the base or from

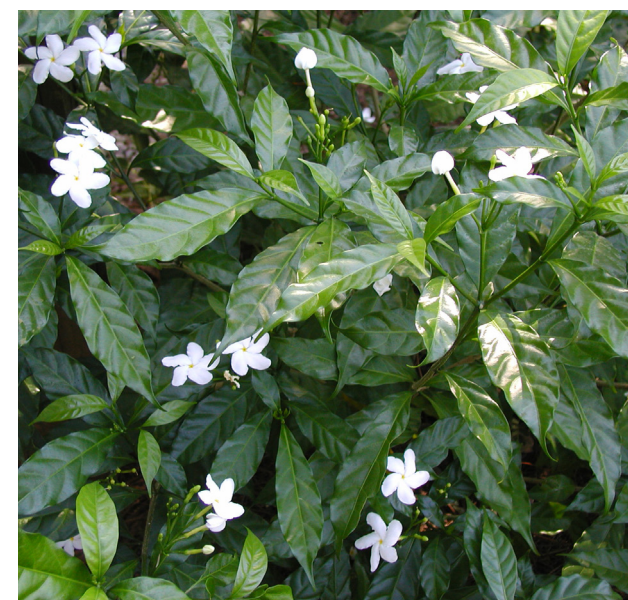
underground plant parts. With very low winter temperature, roots should be heavily mulched for plant survival. Cold protection should be provided in areas experiencing low winter temperatures for best appearance during the year as well as earlier flowering and a longest period of effectiveness.

Leaves are simple, deep green, waxy or glossy, wavy margined, elliptic-ovate to elliptic-oblong in outline and opposite. Few observe that leaf pairs are most often not the same size. On terminal stem portions where two flower clusters occur, branchlets develop immediately below to cause forking or development of two equal-size branches.

Tabernaemontana divaricata often performs and has a more pleasing appearance when grown in light sun or semi-shade; however, they grow well in full sun. Rate of growth is moderate to fairly rapid. Moist, well-drained and slightly acid soils seem ideal. Loss of leaf color and yellowing

foliage, along with more frequent fertilization, is necessary in strongly alkaline soils. Once established, plants are generally tolerant of drought. One is quickly reminded when water is insufficient as leaves quickly become limp or droop. Leaves regain turgidity rapidly following watering.

Other names for *Tabernaemontana divaricata* include Ceylon Jasmine, Crape or Crepe Gardenia, Crape or Crepe Jasmine, False Jasmine, India or Indian Rosebay, Milk Flower, Milkwood, Nero's Crown, Pinwheel Flower and Propeller Flower. Single-flowered as well as semi-double and double-flowered varieties are popular.



Only the multi-petaled forms have the delightful jasmine fragrance that is more evident at certain times than others. Even knowing this, many find themselves attempting to detect a fragrance in plants having the typical pinwheel flowers.

BELL PEPPER BASIL WAS THE 2019 PLANT RELEASE RATINGS WINNER

By Glenda Balliviero

Year after year we as members of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research look forward to the surprises of plants we will be receiving. It would be so very wonderful if all would be as enthusiastic about reporting on those plants.

After tallying all ratings and information on these reports for many years it is sad to see that each year less time is devoted to providing us with this information. We are a research society so in order for our reports to be valid it is necessary for us to have information reported. We share our information with all our members as well as other horticultural organizations thus we want to be sure it is correct.

Each member rates each plant on a scale of 1-3, with 3 being the highest. Here are the ratings for our 2019 plant releases.

Top Plant – *Ocimum selloi* (Bell Pepper Basil). 2.65

It received 55 top ratings of 3 and highest average of all plants. This aromatic perennial herb has outstanding growth with glossy, deep-green foliage. Its pretty



Bell Pepper Basil

spikes of lavender to purple flowers, which bees love, and its wonderful aroma plus flavor of green peppers gave it high marks. It was definitely great to see that a vegetable plant was given top ratings.

1st Runner-up – *Zephyranthes rosea* (Pink Rain Lily). 2.52

This plant received 45 top ratings of 3 and had the second-to-highest average. This bulbous perennial with grass-like foliage produced beautiful rose-pink funnel-shaped flowers. The attrac-

tive flowers that came from bulbs only 1/2” to 1” in diameter was a favorite plant of more than half of members.

2nd Runner-up – *Michelia ‘Hagiwara Everblooming’* (Everblooming Banana Shrub). 2.34

This plant received 36 top ratings of 3 and the third highest average. This evergreen shrub

with an intense fragrance of bananas made a hit with many members, even though other banana shrubs have been around for endless years. The shape and form of blooms were a plus.

Below is a report of each of the 2019 plant releases indicating their ratings in reference to a top rating of 3, as well as, comments made by members on their reports.

1. *Cestrum diurnum* SOLANACEAE (Day Blooming Cestrum). 2.0

This upright evergreen shrub produced clusters of white tu-

bular flowers that were highly fragrant during the day. One member considered it as their favorite LSHR release plant of all times. Even though it was considered a very strong, excellent and fast grower to 6’ only one member provided their plant’s size of 1 foot. One indicated they loved the foliage, another felt the plant was too thirsty, but most members indicated they enjoyed the sporadic showy flowers on short-lived bloom cycles. Insect/ Disease Problems: none.

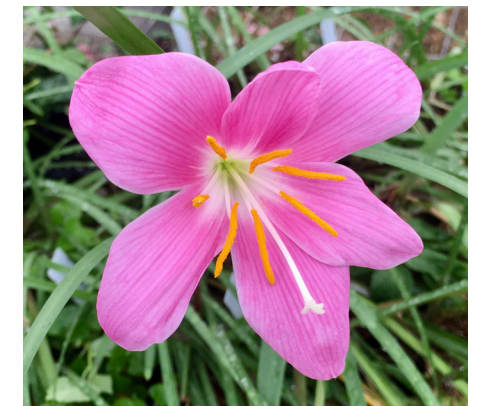
2. *Iris brevicallis* (Zig-Zag Iris) 2.29

This native rhizomatous perennial was considered to be the best plant release for the year by a few members. The bees considered it a favorite flower while members truly enjoyed its lovely colorful blue-purple flowers. It was a surprise to see that members indicated they could not see where the zig-zag common name came from, despite the release information, which indicated the short and thick flower stalks grow in a zig zag pattern. One member indicated not to over fertilize because it would make susceptible to fewer blooms. Insect/ Disease Problems: none.

3. *Leucothoe axillaris* “ReJoyce” (ReJoyce Leucothoe). 1.92

Most comments indicated the clusters of tiny white flowers were not that showy on this native evergreen shrub but the yellow/red new growth of leaves, which became brighter red in fall, made it attractive.

One commented on the unique hair on the leaves of this shrub. It was noted that the lovely green leaves would offer it to be a great foundation plant for annuals. More than 35 people lost this plant from varying reasons but one indicated it was killed by a chipmunk, which I honestly did not know lived in our area. Insect/Disease Problems: Several indicated that fungal issues were a problem.



Rain Lily

4. *Michelia* 'Hagiwara Everblooming' MAGNOLIACEACEAE (Everblooming Banana Shrub). 2.34

This evergreen shrub was a favorite of release to several because of its beautiful waxy leaves and the repeat blooming of the yellow flowers, which produced a typical banana aroma. Many were fond of the shrub's ability to withstand coastal heat and humidity. Several reported their plant was 2'-3' tall at the time of the plant release report in March. Others felt it grew too slowly. Insect/Disease Problems: scale reported by several.

5. *Ocinum selloi* SOLANACEAE (Bell Pepper Basil) 2.65

This vegetable plant received the highest ratings of all the 2019 plant releases. Its dainty lavender to purple flowers, its wonderful aroma and flavor of green peppers, plus its ability to be prolific gave it these high reporting results.

Several indicated that they reseeded like crazy while others said it was very easy to root cuttings thus making it a great pass-along plant. Several indicated that this plant would be a great plant for herbal gardens. Insect/Disease Problems: Fungal issues plus some insect problems.

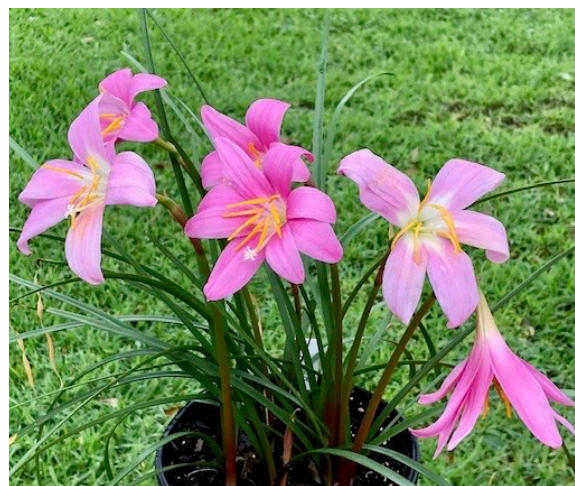
6. *Pieris ryukyuensis* 'Temple Bells' ERICACEA (Temple Bells Pieris). 2.30

This evergreen shrub was reported to be very special but slow growing by most; however, one indicated it had reached 3' in size. It was loved for its gorgeous dainty white bell-shaped flowers that were produced in drooping clusters.

It overwintered nicely for many and the emerging bronze foliage in spring was a plus. In summer the leaves turned a dark glossy-green, which was also attractive. On the down side 35 people had lost their plant while one indicated it had self-seeded in their garden. Insect/Disease Problems: mildew and root rot.

7. *Rhododendron* x 'Radiant Red' ERICACEAE (Radiant Red Native Azalea) 1.8

This deciduous azalea, which was hybridized by Dr. Eugene Aromi of Mobile, Ala., was reported by most to be very slow growing and even though hardy was struggling to live. More than 40 members lost this plant. Several indicated they loved the pretty red leaves and the colorful gorgeous blooms. Insect/Disease Problems: fungus and dampening off.



Rain Lily clump

8. *Rhododendron* x 'Spring Fanfare' ERICACEAE (Spring Fanfare Native Azalea). 1.70

This deciduous azalea, also hybridized by Dr. Eugene Aromi, was also reported to be slow growing. Many said the plants were stressed when received. Most had transplanted into containers rather than into ground and several said they did not transplant well. Many enjoyed the sweet airy blooms of various colors in early spring. Insect/Disease Problems: scale, insects.

9. *Zenobia pulverulenta* 'Woodlanders Blue' ERICACEAE (Woodlanders Blue Zenobia) 1.79

This semi-evergreen shrub was liked by most for its very beautiful foliage color; however, one indicated it was unattractive

and another that the foliage was not blue. The change of foliage color to reddish-orange in fall was a plus. The plant was lost by over 30 members, and others said their plant was still struggling. Only a few got to enjoy the white bell-shaped blooms. Insect/Disease Problems: none.

10. *Zephyranthes rosea* AMARYLLIDACEAE (Pink Rain Lily) 2.52

This bulbous perennial with grass-like foliage was the runner-up for most-liked plant for 2019. The rose-pink dainty funnel-shaped flowers were considered as great surprises after rain events. The flowers were considered to be charming, sweet, delightful and fantastic. One especially loved the red at base of the leaf. Only a very few did not get to see the blooms. Most are looking forward to the bulbs to multiply to provide more beauty. Insects/Disease Problems: none.

We hope that your 2020 plants are doing well and that you will have great success with them. Hopefully, since these were more established plants you will be able to supply better reports to us next year.

The entire list of LSHR plant releases, 1959 to present, now available online

Should you be interested in all plants released for evaluation by LSHR members, this information is now available on our Web site. You can also observe a brief history of LSHR, year(s) of plant release, selected common names, contribution and percent of plant families and genera, and other names by which plants are sometimes called or listed.

You will discover "new" plant family names, as well as updates in botanical nomenclature. Included in this information are 18 photographs of some popular releases.

Now, if you are thinking this sounds like an updated special society publication, it is!

To check this out, simply key in the society website (LSHR.org). From subject titles located at the top of this screen select PLANT RELEASES. From the entries that appear, select the one titled 1959-2020 LSHR Plant Releases.

Or just copy and paste this link:

[HTTP://LSHR.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2020/05/1959-2020-LSHR-PLANT-RELEASES-.PDF](http://LSHR.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2020/05/1959-2020-LSHR-PLANT-RELEASES-.PDF)

—DR. ELLIS FLETCHER

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Editor: Dr. T. Michael Maher
tmmaher@gmail.com

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last few months our country has experienced so many sad times. The pandemic hit us hard in many ways but there were a few good things that came out of it. Families got to spend more quality time together and gardening became a great addition. Actually many nurseries ran out of various vegetable plants because they were being bought up so quickly. Children being able to enjoy this activity gives them the opportunity to learn more about where their foods come from other than Wal-Mart. More ornamental plants than usual are also now adding beauty to more and more yards. The storm gave us a scare but thankfully

it didn't develop as predicted. I know you as gardeners were prepared by getting your plants protected just like you do your children. Hopefully we will not have a bad hurricane season. I'm hoping that you got your new plant releases established in your garden by now. Having fewer but larger and more established plants should give you the opportunity to have better results with them. There will always be times when some plants will struggle but we need to give them that extra love and care just like Glenda my wife gives me as I continue to struggle with health issues.

—Norman Balliviero

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thinking back to our release day March 14, how I long to see all my friends again of that day! How our world changed the next week. We were definitely blessed with wonderful weather this spring and bet it saved many of us from climbing the walls.

The plant auction raised \$5,860 and silent auction raised \$192, grand total of \$6,052. To our amazement, this was an all-time high fund raiser. Funds will be used to award research grants, scholarships and new plant releases for the coming spring.

LSHR distributed 115 boxes with six new release plants, and such wonderful plants to watch thrive this spring. The luncheon group of 75 heard Adam Black with amazing pictures of new plants for our area. Membership is at 190 with 13 new members.

The next newsletter should have more information on our spring 2021 meeting and speaker. The fall issue will have information on dues due in December.

Keep gardening and stay safe.

— JoAnn Pugh

PEOPLE

Aline Arceneaux, long-time LSHR member and recipient of the LSHR Silver Medallion for her dedication to horticulture, will turn 100 on July 20. It's so sad that due to the coronavirus pandemic she will not be able to have a party with family and friends, but will have to celebrate virtually. We know this is a big day she has really looked forward to for many years and despite many health issues has showed her strength in recuperating.

Those who wish to send her a card can reach her at:
Courtyard Manor
306 Sidney Martin Rd.
Room 130
Lafayette, La 70507

MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Now is the time to nominate your gardening friends for LSHR membership, so that they will qualify for next year's plant release.

New member nominations should be directed to LSHR@lusfiber.net. Usually nominations for new members are sent in throughout the year for approval at the Fall board meeting.