

THE COMPOST PILE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH
SUMMER 2021

SPRING MEETING HAS GREAT TURNOUT, SETS PLANT-AUCTION RECORD



This year's plant auction was held on the lawn of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, for Covid safety. LSHR members showed up ready to buy a bevy of plants.

Last year's LSHR annual meeting ended just as the Covid plague was rearing its insidious head. Restrictions were relaxing as our 2021 meeting began, and a substantial crowd filled Lafayette's Petroleum Club ballroom to hear nationally syndicated garden

writer Norman Winter discuss "Birds, Bees and Butterflies."

This year's plant release featured a Chinese quince tree and a "Mel's Rose" native azalea, along with "Crystal Falls" mondo grass, a white wood violet, a Himalayan honeysuckle, and a "Beni Ku-

jaku" ardisia. All the plant release boxes were picked up by LSHR members, an indicator of a good turnout. Even better, the annual plant auction netted \$6,225, which LSHR will use to fund research projects and horticulture student scholarships.

Luncheon speaker Norman Winter discussed how planting for pollinators brings about broad changes in the local ecosystem, as well as satisfaction and peace of mind for the gardener.

Winter is the author of four books on Southern gardening. He is a syndicated garden columnist for Tribune News Service, and his byline appears regularly in garden magazines.

Winter discussed plants adapted to the Deep South that create ideal circumstances for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and birds.

Along with cape plumbago, Winter recommended two dry-land bromeliads: "Cherry Cola" and "Nickel Silver." Winter commented, "Hummingbirds love 'em both."

Winter, who lives in Columbus, Georgia, said that his son is a landscaper for nearby Old Town, a Southern Living-inspired community. This development makes good use of the "Truffula Pink" globe amaranth, which produces lots of hot-pink pom-pom flowers

from spring til frost. Winter also recommended agastache cultivars "Rosie Posey," "Black Ad-der," "Blue Boa," "Poquito But-
continues on p. 2

Plant auction sets new sales record of \$6,225! LSHR thanks the plant donors below

Allen Owings
Bracy's Nursery
Westfarms Nursery
Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery
Clegg's Nursery
Buddy Lee, Transcend Nursery
LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station
Bobby Green
David Creech, SFA Gardens
Tennessee State University
Rick Webb, Louisiana Growers
Maxine Ducrest
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
All Seasons Nursery

ter Yellow,” and “Violet Vision.” These drought-tolerant, sun-loving plants are highly attractive to bees. “I am an agastache freak,” Winter commented.

The coneflower “Orange You Awesome” is another Winter recommendation for its tangerine-colored flowers, which attract butterflies, and for its seed heads, which serve as bird food in the fall and winter.

Showing images of the “Golden Lace” patrinia, Winter commented that the wildlife-attracting qualities of this plant are “like having your own Serengeti; you just want to sit in your chair and watch.” A native of east Asia, this patrinia produces yellow bee-attracting flowers on plants that grow to 60 inches tall. It is a drought-tolerant perennial.

Another yellow-flowering, drought-tolerant wildlife attractor that Winters recommended is the “Heat It Up” yellow gaillardia. This plant needs full sun, but it’s moisture- and heat-tolerant.

“Rockin’ Blue Suede Shoes,” a salvia hybrid, is yet another flower that offers beauty and wildlife benefits, particularly for hummingbirds. Winter noted, “At my house I had 210 days of hummingbirds.”

The “Suncredible” bush sunflower has a long growing season and serves as wildlife food. “It blooms til frost and you don’t have to deadhead them,” Winter said.

The “Vanilla Spice” bush is native to Louisiana but can be grown all the way up to Maine, Winter said. It attracts butterflies and can be used as a hedge. Another useful shrub is the sweet almond bush, a verbena from Argentina and Brazil. “It’s fragrant and never stops blooming,” Winter said.

Other plants recommended by Winter in his lavishly illustrated discussion are:

- “Double Take” scarlet-flowering quince.
- Mountain hydrangea (“You don’t need a mountain,” Winter noted)
- Spotted bee balm
- Clustered mountain mint
- The cup plant. (“It’s tall,” Winter said. “Its leaves form a cup that holds water for birds and butterflies.”)

Following Winter’s discussion, the assembled LSHR members voted Rob Barry into the president’s office; see a profile on Rob on the following page.



Above, Jason Stagg of the LSU Hammond Research Center displays an auction azalea. Left photo: Dr. Allen Owings (center, in the purple shirt) assembles a bountiful array of auction plants from a variety of donors, and he does a lively job as auctioneer. Owings is retired (professor emeritus) from the Hammond Research Center and now serves as consultant to Clegg’s Nursery and Bracy’s Nursery.

LSHR PRESIDENT ROB BARRY: NURSERYMAN, RACONTEUR, EPICURE

Incoming LSHR President Rob Barry is a second-generation nurseryman who got his love of plants from his dad, Dr. Bob Barry, and his love of food and humor from his mom, Karleen Barry, aka “Madame Sauce Piquante.”

He co-owns Barry’s Nursery in Grand Coteau and is active in nursery organizations, currently serving on the Louisiana Horticulture Commission while also chairing the Farm Bureau Nursery Commodity Advisory Committee.

“My dad and Dr. Ellis Fletcher are to blame for my choosing horticulture as my life’s ambition,” Rob recalls. He and his brother Charles joined their dad in starting Barry’s Nursery in 1978. At the time Dr. Bob Barry was a professor of horticulture at UL Lafayette. The nursery is on a large, well-drained tract of Barry family land near the Academy of the Sacred Heart. They grow large landscape material in the ground, selling finished plants in the 5- to 10-foot range, balled and burlapped.

Rob began college at UL Lafayette as a general studies major,



Rob with some of the Barry’s Nursery Japanese Yews.

but soon realized horticulture was his calling and would be his academic major. “I was taught by a group of professors and administrators who had established a top agricultural program,” Rob remembers. “I competed on Dr. (Ellis) Fletcher’s state champion plant ID and plant judging teams.” Apart from class work,

Rob remembers, “I had lots of help along the way. I got practical horticulture application from Earl Vallot (Grandview Nursery, Youngsville), Kent Langlinais (Kent’s Nursery, Youngsville), Walter Imahara (Imahara’s Nursery, Baton Rouge), Mike Richard (Live Oak Gardens Nursery, Jefferson Island), all the Durios

(mostly Opelousas) and Lafleurs (mostly Grand Prairie and Washington).”

After graduating from UL Lafayette, Rob left Barry’s nursery to open a landscape service. “I was a landscape contractor for 10 years and am blessed with my connections, friends in the industry, classmates, and custom-

ers. I have attended nursery trade shows since 1976.”

In 1988 Rob re-joined Barry’s Nursery. The production part of the nursery moved away from trees to specialty sales in camellias, Japanese yews and Japanese magnolias. “Through careful seedling selection we were able to produce some superior Japanese yews for the market,” Rob says. In 2001, Rob and his wife Sheila joined Rob’s sister D’Ann Plauche and her husband Jerry in buying Barry’s Nursery from Bob Barry. “Barry’s Nursery is working in changing economy, market trends, market preference, consumer preference, and resource management,” Rob notes.

Rob is known for his ready sense of humor and story telling. “I was the speaker for the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association Gala. Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain doubled over in laughter when I told a true story of being attacked by a rogue bull armadillo at the Academy of the Sacred Heart.” As we say in south Louisiana, the acorn doesn’t fall far from the tree. Rob’s mom, *continues on p. 4*

Madame Sauce Piquante, was also a banquet humorist and told local-culture anecdotes that sometimes required her to unfurl a hand fan to cool off. Karleen Barry also compiled the widely used “Madame Sauce Piquante’s Cookbook,” which was production-tested on Rob and his seven siblings. “My mother inspired me to cook,” Rob says, “and my cookbook will be “Son of Sauce Piquante.” Rob is a certified barbecue judge who travels widely to judge contests. He also judges bird dog field trials, and his own dogs have food-inspired names like Andouille Louie, Boudin, Beignet and Maque Choux.

“I look forward to serving LSHR as President,” Rob says. “What a group of professionals, gardeners and plant enthusiasts to learn from! I am not alone, thanks to a great board of directors. We will continue to seek excellent guest speakers for our annual meeting, quality plant releases, worthy grants and scholarship recipients.

“We hope to get more of the younger generation to join LSHR. In the coming months we will be asking ourselves, how do we see LSHR, the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, UL and Lafayette in the future?”



Rob on the job, moving plants from field to shipping area.

LSHR RECORDING SECRETARY MAXINE DUCREST

Like President Rob Barry, newly appointed LSHR Recording Secretary Maxine Ducrest is a UL horticulture graduate with a family background in agriculture.

Raised on a small sugar cane farm, Maxine recalls, “My father instilled my love of plants and nature at a young age. Some of my earliest and fondest memories, about age 4, are of following him down a garden row patting down a butter bean, pea, or watermelon seed.”

Her father’s influence led her to major in horticulture at UL Lafayette (then USL). “I loved horticulture at USL in Lee Hall. My favorite classes were Plant Science and Plant Identification with Dr. Fletcher, Vegetable Gardening with Dr. Barry, Floriculture with Dr. Wollard, and Botany Lab with Garrie Landry.

“I have wonderful memories of trips to Hodges Gardens with the Horticulture Club for a free weekend in the lodge and run of the gardens after they had closed.” Maxine says. “Dr. Barry and Dr. Desselle and their spouses were our chaperones. As I understood back then, Dr. Jim Foret’s many contributions to the gardens over the years enabled us students to have that privilege. We planted daffodil bulbs as our own contribution before leaving.”

While a college student, Maxine worked for an interior plantscaping business. “That experience



Maxine Ducrest at the LSHR plant auction. She contributed plants but also bought plenty of them.

led to my husband Ted and I starting our own similar small business in the New Iberia area in January 1985. We began offering fresh cut flowers to our restaurant customers, which led to obtaining a florist’s license, many, many weddings, and eventually event planning. In recent years we have retired from weddings and events, keeping only our plant service.”

Maxine’s favorite plants include live oaks, magnolias and vitex. “I have a thing for blue flowers of varying shades,” she says, “and I love fragrance. My backyard patio has containers of assorted salvias, (“Mystic Spires” is a favorite), agapanthus and plumbagos, which I keep going from year to year adding seasonal annuals to the group.

“I love wooded, naturalized areas. I hope to incorporate some of our

LSHR releases and auction items into an area that will attract more pollinators, a transition zone between back yard/patio and wooded area.”

Maxine replaces the redoubtable Roxanna Champagne as LSHR recording secretary. Of her new role, Maxine says, “LSHR is a great group of horticulturists and gardeners, all with one thing in common: a love of plant life and its place in nature, a curiosity for more knowledge in this field, and a willingness to share that knowledge. And, so much fun!”

RESEARCH UPDATE: MAGNOLIA CULTIVARS, TEA AS AN UNDERSTORY PLANT, PINE BARK POTTING SOIL VARIABILITY

A year ago LSHR awarded \$10,275 for three grant proposals submitted by two researchers at the LSU Hammond Research Station: Dr. Jeb Fields, assistant professor, and Dr. Yan Chen, professor. Then Covid happened. All three one-year research projects have been somewhat delayed by the pandemic, but all three are under way now, allowing the progress reports that follow.

AN EVALUATION OF LESSER-KNOWN AND UNDER-UTILIZED MAGNOLIA CULTIVARS

by Dr. Jeb Fields

There are not many trees that evoke the feel of the South more than magnolias. As such, magnolias have always been some of my favorite trees, as they remind me of my family and heritage.

As I began to evaluate and study them more, I become even more enamored

LSHR FUNDING: \$4,275

with the genus *Magnolia*. I developed a strong interest and admiration of the diversity and beauty that exists within magnolias as I became more familiar with the group. This interest partially helped fuel our interest at the Hammond Research Station to find an opportunity where we could support the industry

through evaluation of a large number of magnolia hybrids and cultivars.

We wanted to identify which of the numerous new hybrids would be best for our Louisiana landscapes, and in turn which we would recommend to our local nurseries to grow. Moreover, we wanted to re-evaluate some long-existing cultivars

and species that are amazing and might have been forgotten or fallen out of the trade.

Our goal was to collect, evaluate, and promote as many new and underutilized cultivars that we can find. With support from the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research, we have been able to establish a new, permanent magnolia evaluation garden

where we can conduct this long-term research.

In our grant we proposed to collect between 20 and 30 new varieties of magnolias. However, we could not quite control ourselves, and to date we have collected over 50 magnolia varieties and species! Those ranged from our wonderful native southern magnolia (*M. grandiflora*), to native sweetbays (*M. virginiana*), to deciduous types (such as *M. x soulangeana*), and everything in between.

We are particularly excited to have acquired many of the original and hard-to-find Gresham hybrid deciduous magnolias, such as ‘Pink Goblet,’ ‘Full Eclipse,’ ‘Dark Shadow,’ ‘Todd Gresham,’ ‘Darrell Dean,’ ‘Heaven Scent,’ and ‘Winelight.’ We have also collected a number of yellow-flowering magnolias, including ‘Yellow Bird,’ ‘Sunsation,’ ‘Yellow Lantern’ and ‘Golden Gift.’ ‘Daybreak’ is a particularly nice pink selection, and ‘Black Tulip’ is a striking dark purple color.

The evaluation will also benefit from a significant number of

continues on p. 6



Jon Jon



Anilou



Alexandrina



Banana Split



Butterflies

unusual magnolia species, as well as named cultivars of some of those. We are still collecting new specimens for the garden, and we plan to continue this permanently.

The official evaluation period has not begun as we are allowing this summer for establishment

and additional time to get some of the younger plants to transplant size. When we begin our official evaluation period next spring, we will continue to closely monitor the plants for a minimum of five years to identify any optimal or problematic characteristics that develop in our hot and wet landscape.

Throughout this process we plan to provide updates on new varieties and which ones are performing the best.

It is our intent to develop a

"IT IS OUR INTENT TO DEVELOP A LIST FOR NURSERY GROWERS AND THE GARDENING PUBLIC OF THE BEST MAGNOLIAS TO PLANT IN LOUISIANA"

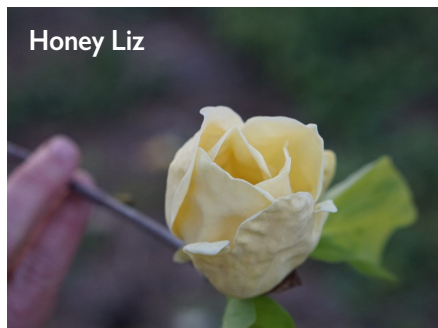
list for nursery growers and the gardening public of the best magnolias to plant in Louisiana, with an emphasis on new breeding and unknown species. We are particularly interested in deciduous magnolias, which make up the vast majority of our newly collected trees.

The research station has previously amassed a nice collection of

deciduous magnolias, including more well-known varieties such as the Little Girls series from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Arboretum, and a well-established group of yellow-flowering magnolias. We plan to use these established plantings of native southern and sweetbay magnolias as comparisons.



Betty



Honey Liz



Jane



Gold Cup

PINE BARK VARIABILITY SOURCES

by Dr. Jeb Fields

The Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research has also supported a project to investigate the variation of pine bark properties from our primary regional sources. During my time in graduate school, we researched source variation in pine bark media in the mid-Atlantic. We found what all growers know: The bark is different from each of the suppliers. Furthermore, we found that the differences were much greater than we had expected, and went well beyond looking and feeling

LSHR FUNDING: \$ 3,000



Pine bark being prepared for physical evaluation.

different. These differences have been attributed to differences in processing, bark age, timber harvest time, and management practices.

Utilizing this research as a springboard, I decided it would be helpful for growers in Louisiana to understand the differences in their bark media. As such, we set out to in-

vestigate as many suppliers' bark products as we could. We want to not only understand the extent of the differences, but also to identify the ramifications of using these different bark sources.

So we set out to identify a baseline understanding of the variation exhibited in bark from some of our major regional sources. The goal is to help growers understand not only how they can

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get the most out of the bark, but also what they can look for when evaluating their current or potential new sources.

Unfortunately, Covid slowed down our initial research progress, with restrictions on collecting bark and bark availability. We were able to ramp up inves-

tigations early this spring, and we have evaluated a number of sources that support growers in Louisiana. The project has grown in scope and we are now working with researchers in nearby states to transform this in to a Gulf States Bark Review, acquiring sources from Texas to Florida

to look at the difference in bark sources. Upon completion, we plan to publish a guide to assist growers in assessing bark physical and chemical characteristics, in understanding source variation, and in planning how different bark sources can be used for best performance.



Pine bark can look very similar; however, slight differences in age, processing, and storage environments can make large differences in how the bark media will support crop production.

TEA IN AN UNDERSTORY PRODUCTION SYSTEM

Tea grows well in Louisiana; indeed the 2020 LSHR plant release included a tea plant. The LSU Hammond Research Station has had a full-sun test plot for tea production for the past five years.

However tea is by nature an understory plant, according to Dr. Yan Chen, professor of horticulture at the LSU Hammond Research Center.

With LSHR funding, Dr. Chen is establishing a shaded tea test plot at the Hammond station, to determine whether growing tea as an understory plant has commercial and gardening potential.

“The structure and density of the tea bush are vastly different under full sun vs. shade,” Chen says. “Tea grows dense and upright under full sun and looser and spreading under



Tea harvest at Fleur de Lis tea farm, Amite, La.

the shade. Leaf area, greenness, and chemical compounds are all affected by light intensity and quality, so they are all different under full sun vs. shade. Overall growth under shade is much slower than that under the sun, thus yield is higher from a full sun tea field.”

The taste of a green tea is affected significantly by light intensity. The regions of China and Japan that produce the best green tea are in areas where there is monsoon cloudiness during green tea harvesting season. So there are good theoretical reasons why shade-grown tea might be better. But

will data bear out these expectations?

Fleur de Lis tea farm in Amite, La., has been growing tea under pine tree shade for two years. With LSHR funding, Dr. Chen will establish a similar shaded growing area at the LSU Hammond research station.

“The field that we will be planting this fall at the Urban Forestry Area at the Hammond Research Station is supported by the LSHR grant. It will be a new understory

tea field,” Chen says. “I would like to have it as a demonstration of urban understory tea farming.”

This summer Chen is comparing the Hammond full-sun tea field to the Amite understory tea field. “The two fields have the same varieties and have been managed following the same fertilization and trimming schedules,” Chen says. A statistics consultant will analyze how to compare these data.



Pine trees shade the Fleur de Lis tea farm



The Hammond full-sun tea field.

LSHR FUNDING: \$ 3,000

Chinese Ground Orchid

story and photos by Dr. Ellis Fletcher

Bletilla striata, the Chinese Ground Orchid, was an LSHR plant release in 1979 and 1987. This early spring-blooming plant is often overlooked because many believe orchids will not thrive when grown under ordinary landscape situations. While grown mainly in soil, container specimens are quite successful; however, plants require more careful watering and greater protection during winter months.

No other hardy orchid offers greater possibilities of success than does the Chinese Ground Orchid.

Other common names for *Bletilla striata* are: Ground Orchid, Hardy Orchid, Striped Bletilla, Hyacinth Orchid, Landscape Orchid, Nut Orchid, Pleat-leaf Orchid, Terrestrial Orchid, and Urn Orchid.

From fleshy, corm-like pseudobulbs, these deciduous plants give rise to foliage and flowering spikes in early spring. These shoots persist for only a single year and are replaced by growths from the pseudobulb. Each pseudobulb typically produces up to 5-6,

linear, many- and horizontally-pleated, papery-textured leaves. Leaves are in the developmental stage when flowering spikes appear. Foliage, 12"-18", is attractive following flowering and offers landscape value until dormancy begins in the fall.

Small, cattleya-like, pinkish-purple to pinkish-lavender flowers develop upon leafless scapes or spikes often 12"-18" in height. Sepals and petals are similar in size and shape with the lowermost petal conspicuously lined, ruffled, or furrowed and somewhat different in color on the lower lip. Basal flowers open first and proceed toward the tip with 2-4 open at the same time. Slightly nodding flowers, often 6-8 in number and 1.5" to 2" wide, develop for over a month before dropping from the spike.

Well-drained soil is essential for success. Adequate water is necessary during early growth because new root development has not completed prior to leaf and flowering stem development. However, wet soil or inadequate drainage during inactive growth (dormancy) generally results in bulb damage (rotting).

AN LSHR FAVORITE RELEASE



Plants perform best in mainly or partial shade. Full sun is tolerated early in the morning but full afternoon sun discolors or burns foliage. Mulching with leaves or straw may be of direct value in weed control, moisture conservation and preventing cold damage to early developing leaves and flowering stems.

Sparse fertilization with a complete fertilizer keep plants growing well. When soil temperature increases rapidly during late winter or early spring, growth may begin before all danger of cold is past. To prevent damage, protection must be provided to new leaves and flowering spikes. Once established, plants are generally

drought tolerant and free of major disease and insect problems. Young foliage and developing spikes may be damaged by slugs and snails.

Varieties or cultivars are available and a less-hardy, yellow-flowered species (*Bletilla ochracea*) was an LSHR plant release in 2012.

LUNA MOTH GINGER WAS THE 2020 PLANT RELEASE RATINGS WINNER

by Glenda Balliviero

This past year of Covid changed all our lives, even our gardening. Many people turned to gardening as a release of their energy, growing their own veggies and also adding beauty to their gardens.

I would have thought that more members would have had more time to devote to their release plants this past year; however, many instead indicated that care lacked due to Covid.

I personally feel it's our love of plants that is within us that motivates us to devote time and love to them. I firmly believe that gardening can be a family affair and passing that love on to the next generations is so important.

Reports continue to indicate that dogs, cats, squirrels, raccoons and spouses were the culprits in losing plants. I'm hoping that this year's release plants have been planted and given care to carry them through this horrible heat.

Most of the 2020 release plants indicated great results. The higher the number of stars the greater the plant was rated. The Luna Moth Ginger was the Outstanding Plant Release for



Luna Moth Ginger

2020, with an average rating of 4.57. A close runner-up was the Star-Leaf Begonia. Not only were its blooms outstanding but also its great leaves. It received an average rating of 4.29.

Lee Tea was the third-place plant. Many made comments they were looking forward to growing and making their own

tea, which is a big plus.

Each member rated each plant on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest. Here are the ratings for our 2020 plant releases.

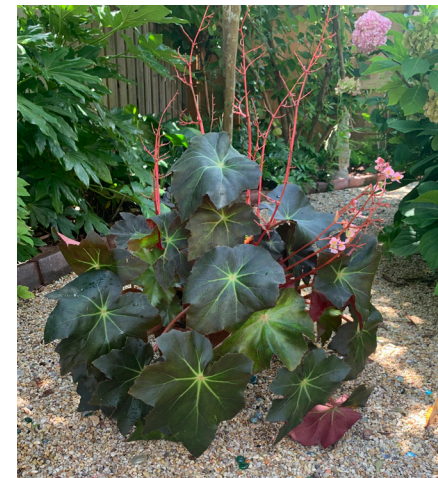
Top Plant - Hedychium 'Luna Moth' ZINGIBERACEAE (Luna Moth Ginger)

This rhizomatous tropical perennial with green foliage on upright stems was loved for its large, fragrant, white flowers that were luna moth-like in late summer. Most felt it bloomed very well and was similar to butterfly ginger; however, it was also considered nothing new. The freeze knocked many back but they were already emerging in early spring, which indicated their hardiness. Top rating 4.57 of all the specimen releases.

1st Runner-up - Begonia 'Heraclei-cotyle' BEGONIACEAE (Star-Leaf Begonia)

The star-leaf begonia received 46 top ratings of 5 stars. The average rating was 4.29. It was considered to be the favorite plant for almost one-third of members.

This hardy tropical perennial has creeping rhizomes and star-shaped, red-green, beautiful



Star-leaf begonia, flowers and foliage

foliage produced for almost the entire membership beautiful stalks of showy, pink flowers from late spring through most of summer.

The plant was considered to be fabulous, amazing and fantastic. It was an excellent bloomer with beautiful flowers, and the foliage has large, beautiful star-shaped leaves.

One member reported that her plant had 12" leaves. Very few lost these plants, and that was due to either being in too much sun or being overwatered. In fact, most indicated that the plant was very freeze hardy even to 16 degrees. Source of problems: watering.

2nd Runner-up - Camellia sinensis 'Lee Tea' THEACEAE (Tea Plant)

This evergreen shrub with small, glossy-green leaves is very cold hardy. Its small, single, white flowers with yellow stamens were considered delicate, sweet and beautiful.

The dozens of flowers blooming in fall, and often continuously, gave it a high rating by many. The average rating was 3.51.

It was considered to be a fabulous selection and a great specimen. It was slow growing for many but others indicated it had reached a height of 3' in the year's time. Problem: Leaf spots.

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Lee tea plant

The also-rans are listed below

Anemone 'Alice Staub' RANUNCULACEAE (Alice Staub Anemone)

This perennial anemone that forms mounds of dark-green, grapelike foliage has been classified to be the only anemone that could survive our hot, humid climate; however, our members indicated they had lots of issues in raising it. It had a very slow start for most but slowly perked up with cooler temperatures in Fall.

It was very hardy in most areas of our membership since it with-

stood temperatures of 14 degrees. At least half indicated that it was a very thirsty plant requiring lots of water. It was considered a low-maintenance plant by many, but others felt it was fragile. It only bloomed for a very few, but those few indicated it had beautiful and attractive flowers. Only half of membership reported that it was still alive. Average rating 3.

Source of problems: watering.

Ficus vaccinioides MORACEAE (Formosan Creeping Fig)

The low-growing evergreen groundcover was planted in baskets by many, who indicated it could be very aggressive; other members planted it by a wall.

Many were passed on to others because they felt it would be too



Alice Staub anemone

invasive for their garden and one member even put it right into the compost bin. Almost half of the recipients lost their specimens due to cold temperatures or lack of water, while several felt it couldn't be killed. Average rating, 3.44. Source of problems: white flies, leaf spots.

Russelia rotundifolia 'San Carlos' SCROPHULARIACEAE (Round Leaf Firecracker Plant)

The herbaceous semi-evergreen perennial died very quickly after release for one-third of the members and was thought to be either unhealthy or poorly rooted.

It was to have numerous showy, red tubular flowers on delicate stems with round foliage; however, it performed very poorly, with only 10 people reporting blooms and those were mostly sparse.

One member had extraordinary success with growth and blooms. For those with blooms it was a great hummingbird favorite. It was considered super delicate and not impressive, having very poor growth. This plant struggled and died for almost the entire membership.

Average rating, 2.52.

We hope that your 2021 plants are doing well and that you will have great success with them.



LSHR dedicated a live oak tree in memory of member Aline Arceneaux, who died July 2020 at age 100. Aline was active in gardening circles for decades and won the LSHR Medallion Award and many other horticultural honors. Her memorial live oak is on the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center grounds, right along Johnston Street. The dedication was held on the LSHR annual meeting day, March 20. At the dedication, from left, are Norman and Glenda Balliviero (LSHR outgoing president and board member), and four members of the Arceneaux family: Lynette Arceneaux, sister-in-law; Francis Arceneaux, brother; Suzanne Ambler, sister; and Edna Wheeler, sister. In the back row, from left, are Billy Welsh, director of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center; Rob Barry, incoming LSHR president; and Albert Durio Jr., LSHR first vice president and donor of the live oak tree.



IN MEMORIAM: NORMAN BALLIVIERO

Outgoing LSHR president Norman Balliviero died April 24, 2021, just a month and four days after presiding over the spring annual meeting.

Although he was beset by a host of health issues in his later years, Norman led *continues on the following page*



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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

Hello and good gardening!!! We had a splendid annual meeting March 20, with a great turnout of members: All 125 plant release boxes were distributed. The plant auction netted \$6,225, a record sum; cool weather with hot bidding and great auctioneering.

We installed a deserving and wonderful a tribute to LSHR Medallion Award winner Aline Arceneaux on the morning of the annual meeting: We planted a memorial live oak donated by Albert Durio and planted by Billy Welsh at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, with a memorial plaque.

The luncheon was attended by 98. Our guest speaker was horticulture writer and gentleman gardener Norman Winter. His talk on "Birds, Bees and Butterflies" gave me an exciting spring outlook. He did not forget to name lots of butterfly-attracting blooms.

We are all saddened by the death of outgoing LSHR president Norman Balliviero, only a month after he completed his term as LSHR president. He was a genuine plant person, dedicated to LSHR, dedicated to the industry, and dedicated to his wife Glenda.

—Rob Barry

TREASURER'S REPORT

The outside plant auction in March was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone. The board did a great job in moving the auction outside to have distance in gathering. The Ira Nelson Horticulture Center had never looked so clean after a release day! All 275+ plants auctioned looked so majestic under the lovely trees. The grand total of \$6,225 was made at the auction with 50 members bidding. Again, topping all previous years! These funds are used to award research grants and college scholarships within our state.

LSHR distributed a total of 115 boxes containing six new release plants. The luncheon had 98 attending to hear Norman Winter's presentation.

Please mark your calendar for March 19, 2022, for our next annual meeting. More information will be in the fall newsletter, along with information on dues, which will remain the same. We must admit year 2021 has been better than all the Covid issues in 2020; we are looking forward a greater year in 2022! Enjoy your plants!

— JoAnn Pugh

IN MEMORIAM, CONTINUED

a vigorous, active life of service to his community and family.

Apart from his years of volunteer work for horticulture groups (documented in the spring issue of this newsletter), Norman was a Boy Scout leader, an organizer of youth football, and a member of the Plaquemines Parish school board.

An active outdoorsman and traveler, Norman even enjoyed motorcycle riding and bungee jumping.

Norman's presidency was virtually a co-presidency, as he was assisted in so many ways by Glenda Balliviero, his wife of almost 60 years. She will continue to serve on the LSHR board of directors.

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 emailed to LSHR@lusfiber.net. Please include your proposed member's postal and email addresses. The LSHR board will meet in November to approve new members. Members proposed after this meeting normally will not be eligible for the spring plant release.