



COMPOST PILE

LSHR New Members

It is with great pleasure that we introduce our Class of 2010, the newly nominated and elected members of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research.

According to our Bylaws, a potential member must be nominated in writing by a member in good standing. The nomination must be submitted to the Membership Committee by November 1, of the current year, to be submitted for election at the fall Board Meeting.

Persons elected to membership at the November 7, 2010, meeting, along with their sponsoring members, include the following:



- DEBORAH 'DEBBIE' CORBO, nominated by Peggy Cox
- TED O. JOUBERT, nominated by Parry Granier
- MARILYN ARTON, nominated by Carla Pommier
- ROB BARRY, nominated by Roxanna Champagne
- MARGARET BACH, nominated by Diana Wells
- BETSY PALMER, nominated by Ann Justice
- TERRI KRAEMER, nominated by Jeanie Kreamer
- GARRIE LANDRY, nominated by Dennis Wollard
- MONICA BOUTTE, nominated by Stacy Lee
- JEANELL MENARD, nominated by Stacy Lee
- BABETTE WERNER, nominated by Stacy Lee

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Margo Wins Award

This Cover Girl needs no introduction to LSHR members. She's our president, Margo Racca, who's a whiz whether at the podium or with the wheelbarrow.

Margo graces the cover of the October 2010 issue of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation along with her celebrity plant, *Tillandsia ehlersiana*, winner of the coveted Judges Challenge Award at the World Bromeliad Conference held in New Orleans at the Astor Crown Plaza.

This plant, which Margo has grown for some 25 years, has won many awards because it doesn't change its appearance from year to year. It has never bloomed or had any offsets. The particular clone is quite rare, and Margo's plant is believed to be one of the largest of its species.

Growing award-winning plants is nothing new to Margo. She has been the recipient of a number of honors, and among other impressive position which she has held, she served as is a past-president of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation.



From the President's Desk



Winter is just around the corner. It's time to begin bringing in those tender tropical plants for their winter protection. Fall is the best time to be out working in your garden, cutting back dead branches and cleaning out the debris. Mulch your shrubs and fertilize those that will be blooming in January and February. The camellias and azaleas are making buds that need some fertilizer and moisture to make their blooms full and colorful.

I have been enjoying the cooler, low humidity days for working outside. I have weeded and mulched my daylilies and other perennial flower beds. The Lycoris radiate have put on quite a show this fall as well as the *L. albiflora*, *L. aurea*, and the *Gloriosa rothchildiana*. Fall is a very pleasant time of year with lots to enjoy in our gardens.



We are planning some plant releases for our March meeting that I know you love to work with. Elsewhere in the Compost Pile you will find the info that you need to mark your calendar and reserve the date. Our speaker this year will be Felder Rushing. If you have heard him before, you know what an entertainer is as he shares his plant knowledge. You won't want to miss our annual spring meeting.

Hope to see you there.

Marga

NEW SECRETARY ASSUMES POSITION WITH THE BOARD

With the fondest thanks and appreciation for an excellent job excellently done, we wish the very best for Nancy Anne Rowe, our former secretary, who is moving on to attend to a myriad of other duties.

With open arms we welcome Roxanna Champagne who will fill the position of secretary. She will certainly have our support and deepest appreciation.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND LOCATION ANNOUNCED

Mark your calendar for the next Annual Meeting to be held March 26, 2011, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center in Lafayette. You will be provided with details regarding the speaker and luncheon reservations in the next issue of the *Compost Pile*.

ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES

At the 2011 Annual Meeting, members with disabilities may note on their Membership Cards if they wish assistance during registration and pick up and loading plant release

boxes. Members needing assistance will be asked to be present, but they may remain in their automobiles.

PLANT RELEASE REPORT FORM

The revised form that you received with your summer newsletter has a space to list plants that you would like to see included among later releases. Please record your wish list.

If needed, blank report forms will be available by mail prior to the meeting by contacting Ann Justice, 202 Briargate Circle, Lafayette, LA 70503. An electronic form can be e-mailed to you if requested from ajustice@bellsouth.net.

The electronic form permits the member to type in the information, copy it, and turn in a copy of the completed form at the Annual Meeting.

LSHR MAIL AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

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PO Box 1473
Breau Bridge, LA 70517-1473
LSHR@cox.net

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF LSHR

Margo Racca, President
Albert Durio, Sr., First Vice-President
Rob Barry, Second Vice-President
Roxanne Champagne, Recording Secretary
Ruth LaVaque, Treasurer

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Norman Balliviero 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011
Jeanie Kreamer 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012
Oswald Brown 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

PAST PRESIDENTS WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Richard (Dick) Calhoun
Mary Courville
Belle Durio
Dalton Durio
Leonard Lasseigne
Barbara Nelson
James (Jim) Racca

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH

Dennis Wollard, Director
Kenneth (Ken) Durio, Associate Director

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS OR OTHER

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

FYI: Glimpse of One Silver Leaf Beckoned Vallot

Editor's note: *One of my treasured mementos is a letter from the late Earl Vallot Sr., horticulturist and nurseryman, LSHR Life Member, recipient of the prestigious Horticultural Medallion Award, and discoverer and developer of the famous ground cover Ajuga reptans 'Burgundy Glow'. This letter describes the series of events leading to this momentous event.*

Some years back, when Earl was walking through one of his greenhouses at Grandview Nursery in Youngsville, a spot of silver caught his eye. Among 5,000 pots of bronze-leaf ajuga, one white leaf had appeared. Deciding to investigate, he was amazed to discover a variegated sport off of one of the bronze-leaf plants.

He let it grow out to about 3 inches, took a cutting, and left enough variegation on the parent plant to insure survival if the cutting were lost. It rooted, however, and Burgundy Glow was on its way to national and international fame.



This ajuga's foliage is a blend of rose, white, pink and green, at only 4 inches tall and wide. The color deepens in summer, and turns a rich rose in fall. It grows rapidly so space plants 12 inches apart, in a shady spot. Plants are available at most nurseries and garden centers.

From the Treasurer's Desk



Surely this lovely, cool weather is appreciated by all of our avid gardeners.

This is just a reminder to our members that dues statements will be coming out soon. After receipt of dues payments, membership cards will be mailed.

We value *each and every member*, and look forward to our members' continued participation in LSI-R. As always, unpaid dues will result in the suspension of membership.

Please be sure to mail dues payments early! Due to a change in the ByLaws, which was approved by the membership on March 20, 2010, "a suspended member may attain membership after being nominated by a member in good standing and following both the approval of the Board of Directors and a positive response to an official invitation to join the Society."

Members must present their own current membership card at the annual meeting in order to receive their plant distribution.

Is your name and mailing address correct in our records? Please take a moment to look at the mailing label on this issue. Membership cards will be issued with the name as it is on your mailing label. A name is very personal, and a correct address is important. Please send corrections to me at the return address of the Compost Pile or to Ruthiesgarden@cox.net.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

Ruthie LaVaque
Treasurer

Louisiana Super Plants

What do these 3 plants have in common?

- 1) Dianthus Amazon series,
- 2) Foxglove Camelot series
- 3) ShiShi gashira

You're right! They have been selected as our first Louisiana Super Plants for the fall season. While there have been a variety of plant promotion programs in other states, until now there has not been one for our state?

Now we have the Louisiana Plants Program just for us! These plants will be selected seasonally by professionals knowledgeable about Louisiana growing

conditions and are familiar with plants that have a history of doing well in all parts of our state.

The program was created by LSU AgCenter horticulturists with funding from a grant from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and participation from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association.

There are 3 parts to the program. First is to identify and test the plants' ability to measure up to strict benchmarks, the second is to spread the word to Louisiana gardeners and the third is to ensure that the selections are available at retail nurseries and garden centers.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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A Favorite LSHR Release – Gloriosa Lily

By Aline Arceneaux

One of my favorite releases from the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research is the Gloriosa lily, *Gloriosa rothchildiana*. A 1982 release, it was planted under a Camellia bush. Over the years there has been a very large increase from the rhizomes and seedpods that have fallen, so much so that in the fall it looks like the Camellia bush is in full bloom.

Unfortunately, because of our dry summer, the bloom this year is not as prolific as in the past. Regardless of how much one waters, you just can't beat Mother Nature's healing rain.

