



COMPOST PILE

The Ira Nelson Horticulture Center – A Facility for Horticulture Education and Enjoyment

By Glenda Balliviero

Throughout the years the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center has been used as a facility for education, enjoyment and as a gathering place for many horticulture clubs and societies. It was dedicated on November 1, 1960 as the Ornamental Horticulture Center and later renamed in honor of Professor Ira S. Nelson.

The Lafayette Garden Club, Acadian Orchid Society, Acadiana Hibiscus Society, Bonsai Society of Acadiana, and the Delta Daylily Society all use the facilities. It is the site for LSU Ag Center Master Gardener classes and for meetings of our own Louisiana Society for Horticulture Research.

In addition the facilities are used for many of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Children’s Garden activities and for the LSU Ag Center’s and the Lafayette Garden Club’s programs for Greenhouse Senior Citizens.

Learning about the wide array of plant specimens in the greenhouses is greatly enjoyed by both the young and older citizens of our community thanks to facilitators, Billy Welsh, INHC manager and Kristy Thompson, horticulturist.



Greenhouse Senior Citizens enjoy visiting the greenhouses in winter when other outdoor activities are not possible.



Students from Comeaux High School are making Cajun Grass Babies. The planting area was utilized to teach planting procedures and the germination of seeds.



From the President's Desk

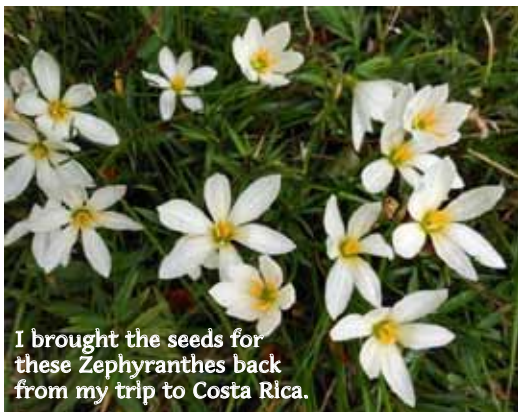


I have just returned from Panama including a trip through the Panama Canal. This was one item on my bucket list that I can now check off. I was invited to judge the International Expo in Colon, Panama. The garden clubs there are only for the elite and boy, do they know how to make a person feel welcome. We were lavished with gifts and meals and parties. The dancers were extraordinarily beautiful.

The week was spent touring the country and then the day before we came home, we judged the flower show. The Americans were only allowed to judge their Design Section because we are not knowledgeable enough to judge their horticulture. Since their growing period is 12 months of the year with warm temperatures, humidity and sun, their plants reach an enormous size comparatively. It was awesome experience that I will not soon forget.

Now, back to earth and making plans for our upcoming

annual
LSHR
meeting.
This will be
an election
year with the
new officers
and directors
taking
charge at
the end of
the March



I brought the seeds for these Zephyranthes back from my trip to Costa Rica.

meeting. New faces with new ideas. We are looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Margo Racca
President

THE ANNUAL MEETING DATE HAS BEEN SET

Please note on your calendars that the 2013 Annual Meeting in the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center and the Petroleum Club will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013.

Use the form included in this issue to check on your Spring 2012 plant releases. The completed form is due to be turned in at Registration, Annual Meeting, March 16, 2013.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you have not turned in your email address, please do as soon as possible, via LSHR@cox.net. Recently we had a situation where a document had to be mailed to members. This was simple and cost-free to send to those with email addresses. We understand that not everyone has email, but would like to hear from those who do.

LSHR MAIL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES:

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Lafayette, LA 70503-3210

LSHR@cox.net

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From the Treasurer's Desk



Dear Members,

With end of the year quickly approaching, the dues reminder will be going out soon. Please check that your mailing address and name are correct on your newsletter, and report any changes to joannpugh@hotmail.com or at 337-247-5526. The dues renewal form will have a new address to mail your payment, PO Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505. Your prompt attention will be gratefully appreciated and make my job much easier. I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring and getting to know each of you.

JoAnn Pugh
Treasurer

Plant Release Report Form

Form for reporting on Plants Releases issued Spring 2012

Please note: In an effort to select plant releases that members will enjoy most, the Plant Release committee would be most grateful if you would list at the end of this report, names of plants that you would like to be included among future releases. Thank you.

Please use this form to help LSHR know more about the 2010 Plant Releases. Please use the Comments and Notes line for any other information that you noted (Ex. Fragrance).

Example: *Lagerstroemia indica* – (Crepe Myrtle)

Transplanted (location/light) – Ex: Flower bed – full sun or 6 “pot – shade

Fertilization – Ex: Miracle Gro monthly

Current size and health – Ex: 24” – very healthy

Insect or disease problems – Ex: none

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest – Ex: 8

Comments and notes – Ex: fragrance

1. *Begonia ‘Wings’* *BEGONIACEAE* (Wings Begonia)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

2. *Bletilla ochracea* *ORCHIDACEAE* (Yellow Ground Orchid)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

3. *Fragaria* *ROSACEAE* (Heirloom Strawberry)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

4. *Lysimachia ‘Purple Velvet’* *PRIMULACEAE* (Purple Lysimachia)

Transplanted (location/light) _____

Fertilization _____

Current size and health _____

Insect or disease problems _____

Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____

Comments and notes _____

5. *Malpighia glabra* MALPIGHIACEAE (Barbados Cherry)

Transplanted (location/light) _____
Fertilization _____
Current size and health _____
Insect or disease problems _____
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____
Comments and notes _____

6. *Sarcococca hookeriana* BUXACEAE (Himalayan Sweet Box)

Transplanted (location/light) _____
Fertilization _____
Current size and health _____
Insect or disease problems _____
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____
Comments and notes _____

7. *Solenostemon 'Smallwood Driveway'* LAMIACEAE (Smallwood Driveway Coleus)

Transplanted (location/light) _____
Fertilization _____
Current size and health _____
Insect or disease problems _____
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____
Comments and notes _____

8. *Sophora tomentosa* FABACEAE (Yellow Necklacepod)

Transplanted (location/light) _____
Fertilization _____
Current size and health _____
Insect or disease problems _____
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____
Comments and notes _____

9. *Verbena tenuisecta 'Alba'* VERBENACEAE (White Moss Verbena)

Transplanted (location/light) _____
Fertilization _____
Current size and health _____
Insect or disease problems _____
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____
Comments and notes _____

10. *Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea'* VERBENACEAE (Purple Chaste Tree)

Transplanted (location/light) _____
Fertilization _____
Current size and health _____
Insect or disease problems _____
Overall performance (1-10 with 10 as highest) _____
Comments and notes _____

FYI: People Who Garden Have A Likelihood of Being Bitten

Excerpted from State-by-State Gardening Newsletter, September 2012 by Carol Reese

I felt a sting above my ankle when I stopped to snip some blackberry stems blocking the path. I leaned down to see if there was a wasp still attached to my sock and saw instead the distinctive triangular head of a poisonous snake. It was a gorgeous orange and tan copperhead, and its head was drawn tightly back to pop me again. I stepped away — not frightened, just incredulous. At least, I thought, it was just a copperhead.

I had a long hike back to the house on my rural property — uphill on meandering paths that dodged the downed treetops and thickets. I called the dogs and walked steadily as the burning sensation continued to spread from the bite. It wasn't terribly painful... yet.

At the house, I called Dr. Dean Martin, my veterinarian. In his hands, my dogs have fared well from snakebites, and since I am much larger than they are, I hoped he might tell me I had little to worry about. Instead, he ordered me to the emergency room and tried to send someone to get me, an offer I waved off.

About 35 minutes passed from the time I was bitten until I finally walked into the small local hospital's emergency room.

"I've been bitten by a copperhead snake," I said to the lady at the counter, feeling sheepish about how uninjured I looked and felt.

Things flew into high gear. I was suddenly prone, with drips in my arm. Phone calls were made and medical history taken. By now, my face was flushing and my heart was beginning to race. After a while, I became violently ill in every way that you can imagine.

I was loaded into an ambulance for a run to a bigger city's hospital. Between bouts of being ill, I wanted to laugh from disbelief over the wailing sirens. At the hospital, anti-nausea medications took hold, but the bitten leg eventually became a dragon. A wasp sting hurts like the dickens for a few minutes before it begins to subside, but this pain never seemed to find that turnaround. My entire leg was finally possessed by it, and there was no position that offered relief. I had waved off pain meds previously but, by mid-afternoon, I was grateful to get them.

Still, the doctors had given me hope that after a night of anti-venom, I might go home in the morning. The leg just didn't cooperate, and 36 hours after the bite, it was a hot, red, tight monster with swelling that was moving higher by the hour. Infection from the snake's mouth had set in, and the treatment changed to high-powered antibiotics. By Monday morning, they had kicked in, and I was able to maneuver out of the bed and hobble about.

I was bitten Friday morning, and it was Monday afternoon before I got home. I made it through the snakebite only to be nearly killed in the terrible melee of the canine welcoming party.

Since then, I have had to reevaluate my cavalier attitude toward snakes. Many times, I have recited the phrase that a person is more likely to be struck by lightning than to be bitten by a venomous snake, and that half the people bitten were "messaging with them."

Those statements are comforting, but in retrospect, I realize that they take into account urban populations and suburban dwellers who rarely stray from a sidewalk. People who venture off the beaten path — and people who garden — certainly increase their likelihood of being bitten.

I certainly wasn't "messaging" with the snake that bit me, except perhaps psychologically. Who knows what goes on in a snake's brain, but because I stopped on the path to snip the thorny vines blocking my way, I suspect the snake thought it had been spotted.

I believe that had I continued walking, I would have been spared.

I always believed that snakes would warn you before striking, preferring not to waste their venom on something they couldn't eat. After my experience, I learned that copperheads don't usually give warning, and that copperhead bites are the most common. This is partly due to their numbers and their likelihood of being found in places frequented by humans, but it has also been found that copperheads, when tested against rattlesnakes and water moccasins, are the most likely to inflict a bite.

If bitten, do not bother to capture or kill the snake to "bring with you" to the hospital. If the physicians decide to administer anti-venom, they will use one that is effective for all three closely related snakes described above. The newer anti-venom is made from sheep, not horses, and has fewer negative side effects.

Often there is no need for anti-venom at all. The decision to use it is based upon the victim's response to the bite. Every incident has its unique consequences determined by the envenomation and the individual's reaction to it. Death is extremely rare, so don't panic — but do take it seriously.

I still think highly of snakes, in spite of the copperhead that didn't return the favor. It would bother me if my misfortune caused more ill will toward snakes than they warrant. Think about this: I got away with heedlessly trekking through fields and forests, creeks and ponds for over half a century, most often in sandals. I will never know how many times snakes avoided me or spared me, but I can tell you that I witnessed them doing so on several occasions.

In spite of the few days of misery and the weeks of recuperation, the worst damage to me has been psychological. I had always set forth freely to take the dogs to the creek with no thought of snakes. Now I am rarely free of the thought of snakes, and I often feel wary and apprehensive when on my rambles afield. If being bitten has made me "wiser," I regret it. I would choose naiveté.



FYI: Is It Illegal to Kill A Snake?

Excerpted from State-by-State Gardening Newsletter, September 2012 article by Carol Reese.

Although many people may not be aware of this, the fact is that in many states it IS illegal to kill a snake. So you may want to think twice before you grab that shovel!

In Louisiana

According to Jeff Boundy, Herpetologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: "Anyone killing a snake in Louisiana must possess a basic fishing license. No species are protected."

You must have a basic fishing license to collect and/or possess native reptiles & amphibians in Louisiana. Natural habitats such as stumps or logs may not be destroyed while searching for animals. Removal of nesting or nest-tending animals is prohibited. Cost is \$9.50 annually for residents. For non-residents it is \$5 for one day, \$15 for 4 days or \$60 annually. (Class 1 violation)

Source: "Louisiana State Laws for Reptiles & Amphibians." The Louisiana Gulf Coast Herpetological Society, n.d. Web. lgchs.org (PDF)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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A Favorite Plant Release

In Memory of . . .

A Favorite LSHR Release – *Senna bicapsularis*

by Ann Justice

Senna bicapsularis, released by LSHR in 1996 as *Cassia bicapsularis* and whose common names include Christmas *Cassia*, Butterfly Tree and Shower Tree, has brought me an enormous amount of pleasure over the years that I have grown it in my yard. Amazingly, this lovely tree always opens its beautiful golden blossoms the third week in October like



Senna bicapsularis

Photo by Dr. Ellis Fletcher

clockwork! And what a traffic-stopping spectacle when it climbs to the roof of my two-story townhouse, blooming non-stop until the first freeze! A semi-evergreen perennial, the plant returns each spring, reaching full height in time for its autumn bloom.

In addition to being beautiful, the flowers are also very attractive to bees and butterflies and are a favorite food plant for the larvae of sulphur and white butterflies.

In memory of . . .

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research express their sympathy to families in the loss of their loved ones

Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Ruth Maher

Dr. Carlos Smith

Michaela Shunick

Dr. Tom Pope