

SERA-27: NURSERY CROPS AND LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station/Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory

ATTENDANCE:

Advisors:

Patricia Knight (Mississippi State University)
Regina Bracy (Louisiana State University)

Official Representatives:

Gary Bachman (Mississippi State University)
Gene Blythe (Mississippi State University)
Ed Bush (Louisiana State University)
Matthew Chappell (University of Georgia)
Win Dunwell (University of Kentucky)
Gary Knox (University of Florida)
Anthony LeBude (North Carolina State University)
Allen Owings (Louisiana State University)

States not represented:

Alabama
Arkansas
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. CST on Wednesday, June 7, 2012, by President Gene Blythe. Gene welcomed us to the station and provided a brief overview of the upcoming meeting.

First order of discussion was an informal mention of University of Arkansas/Texas A&M/Auburn University video segments that Mengmeng Gu, Amy Wright and Jim Robbins had put together for educators. These are available for instructors at no charge but you must contact Mengmeng or Amy to acquire a copy.

No introductions were necessary.

The first formal order of business was to elect a board member. Gary Bachman was nominated by Alan Owings and seconded by Win Dunwell. A general vote was unanimous yes. At the conclusion of this meeting, Gary Bachman was to be promoted to Secretary.

Minutes of the 2011 meeting had previously been distributed via Email. Anthony LeBude motioned that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Allen Owings and approved unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP

Patricia Knight and Gene Blythe commented that we are short of members, particularly from Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia. If any active members have suggestions for new members from these states, please forward those names to Patricia and she will contact those individuals.

Matthew Chappell indicated he is still not listed on the participant list, despite going through the paperwork. Patricia Knight and Matthew will look into this issue.

Gene Blythe asked Patricia Knight if habitual non-participants be de-listed. Patricia indicated this was possible but that finding replacements from within states that do not routinely participate was a better option.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Alan Owings opened the update, showing the website to the group via LCD projector. Several of the pages had expired and Alan was in the process of updating these pages. All information was up to date through the 2011 Athens, GA meeting. However, some state reports (plant evaluation reports) and photos need to be uploaded to the website. Ed Bush indicated that photos need to be submitted for those plants submitted for evaluation in 2011. Additionally, in the future, when submitting plants for evaluation, Ed requested a photo be submitted concurrently to Alan for inclusion on the website. Matthew Chappell asked if there was a sample evaluation report on the website for those who are new to the group, so that new members could have a template to go by. Alan indicated there was not, yet we could add that to the website. Patricia Knight reminded the group that it is the responsibility of the person who submits a plant to be evaluated to also include the list of traits she/he wants data collected on. With this, the website update ended.

PLANT EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Ed Bush noted that a list of potential criteria for plant evaluations is still needed, yet he reiterated it is the ultimate responsibility of the person who submits a plant to be evaluated to also include the list of traits she/he wants data collected on. Ed also indicated we need to continue to publish reports on evaluations conducted by the group. Gene Blythe indicated that page 6 of the 2011 minutes refers to a list of the plants that still need final reports. Alan Owings indicated that at the very least, photos of the plants would be nice to have for the

website- hopefully from various locations. Ed and others liked this direction. However, we still need to try and get reports on plants. Discussion of how to obtain final reports on *Daphniphyllum macropodum* from Margaret Pooler, 6 plants submitted by Donna Fare, *Pinus ayacahuite* from Ken Tilt and 2 plants submitted by Tom Rainey ensued. Anthony Lebude will try to get reports from Tom Ranney. Ed Bush & Matthew Chappell will contact prior members who had plants under evaluation (see Table 1; 2011 minutes) to determine whether they have data on their plants and whether final reports will be prepared. Win Dunwell indicated we can remove *Rhododendron* ‘Gulfray’ from the to-do list as he e-mailed a UK Research Station Bulletin on this plant to Alan Owings.

Anthony wondered what we should do when we are evaluating a plant, released by a university that is a “dog”. Ed Bush indicated we should report anyway.

A replacement is needed for Todd West on the Plant Evaluation Committee. Alan offered to take his place. No vote was required for this committee assignment.

Alan indicated we need to mention, both as a group and individually as we give plant-talks, what the group is and what we do. Maybe a “universal” PPT slide to tag onto the end of talks. This led into a discussion on funding and grants.

Gene Blythe asked Ed Bush if he could obtain a complete (“Master”) list of plants that have been or are currently in the evaluation program. Matthew Chappell asked how complete the list on page 6 of the 2011 minutes was. Gene indicated not totally complete but close. For example, 5 plants were distributed in 2011, yet only one is on the list. However, the date noted on the evaluation list are when the plants were voted upon and accepted into the evaluation program – not when the plants were distributed. This can lead to some confusion. Gene indicated he will work to update the list.

FUNDING/GRANTS

Ed Bush indicated we really need replicated field trials at each location to get real data – not simply one or two plants. But this takes funding in many cases, especially programs that lack technicians to look after plants. A general discussion ensued whereby funding options were discussed. This could include regional or national grants (NIFA, Nursery Floral Research Initiative, HRI, J. Frank Schmidt, Woody Landscape Plant Crop Germplasm Committee). Patricia Knight indicated we should consider linking plant trials with climate change. This idea was received favorably by the group. Patricia also indicated we could have a symposium that included funding support by the USDA. Matthew Chappell indicated there may be a pool of funding available similar to Uniform Field Trials of agronomic crops. Patricia Knight indicated she would look into this, as she may know who to ask. Win Dunwell suggested a USDA-SCRI planning grant may allow us to develop a trial program with grower inputs.

Alan Owings suggested a 15 minute break from 2:45-3:00PM CST. No objection was heard.

Meeting came back to order at 3:00PM CST.

2013 SYMPOSIUM – ASHEVILLE, NC

Gene Blythe recognized Anthony LeBude to discuss a proposed “symposium” immediately preceding the 2013 meeting. Anthony indicated meeting at the NCSU Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center were typically very well attended, so filling a room should be no problem. The focus should be gardener-oriented with new and interesting plants for the landscape a focus area. Talks would be 30 minutes each. Attendee cost would be \$55-\$70 per person and the room could seat as many as 104 persons. Anthony presented a rough sketch of a logo for the group that could be used for this symposium and also for many years forward. This sketch included a grouping of states with graphics filling the state(s) outline. A discussion ensued with Patricia Knight indicating maybe a planted wheelbarrow pouring out over the states. Anthony indicated he would work further on this. Alan Owings indicated we needed a symposium name and suggested “The Great Southern Plants Symposium”. Everyone liked this idea and the name was informally adopted. Matthew Chappell expressed his opinion that this may be “much larger” than we anticipate considering many in the group are regionally/nationally known and may draw a large gathering. Anthony agreed but wants to start small. This path was preferred by the group as a whole. Win Dunwell asked when we would hold the symposium. Anthony responded that June 5, 2013 is the proposed symposium date with the business meeting on June 6, 2013 and tours on June 7, 2013. Some members of the group expressed an interest to get to Asheville and have time to check out the setup. That would push the symposium back a day. Anthony and Matthew will poll the group to decide what the consensus is.

SERA-IEG 27 5 YEAR RENEWAL

See appendix A for draft renewal document distributed at the meeting.

Gene Blythe indicated he would discuss changes to the previous document, specifically the “Expected Outcomes and Impacts” section. Gene designed this section to include “measurable” outcomes. Anthony LeBude indicated that he disagreed with point #2, insomuch that the plant should remain in the evaluation program, even when the member no longer is part of the group. The group agreed that the plant should remain in the evaluation, regardless of member participation.

No other discussion, beyond the group thanking Gene for his leadership on the renewal, was had. Gene indicated he would make changes and forward the document to Patricia Knight for submission.

NEW (AND RECENT) PLANTS FOR EVALUATION

Ed Bush and Alan Owing asked if we could still get *Acer* from Garden Designs Nursery. Matthew Chappell indicated he would look into this. After the formal business meeting, Matthew Chappell called Garden Design Nursery and David Freed suggested the group trial ‘Bihou’ and ‘Hefner’s Red’. Matthew Chappell agreed and will provide these plants at the 2013 Asheville, NC meeting in #3 or #5 containers, depending on availability. Matthew will contact the members to determine who wants to trial these plants.

Anthony mentioned he would be ready to distribute *Ilex buergeri* and *Ilex* 'San Jose #2' at the 2013 meeting in Asheville, NC. However, no vote was needed as the vote could take place at the meeting and Anthony could just run get the plants at that point.

Matthew Chappell suggested trialing *Sasa veitchii*. It is a low-growing *Sasa* that is slow to spread (in clay soils). It would be nice to trial this in a variety of soil types as well as hardiness zones. Gene Blythe motioned that this species be accepted into the evaluation program in 2013. Alan seconded the motion. The general vote was unanimous yes.

Gene Blythe suggested trialing two species. *Parahebe perfoliata* (digger's speedwell) has been grown by Gene in California and Mississippi and does well in both places. The plant was observed by the group in the trial gardens at the research station and it phenotypically resembles eucalyptus- yet it is strictly a groundcover. Overall, it is a very unique plant. The second species, *Fallugia paradoxa* (Apache plume) is a Southwestern U.S. native (Colorado/Texas) and is known for extreme drought tolerance. It also performed well in the trial gardens in southern Mississippi. Win Dunwell motioned that this species be accepted into the evaluation program in 2013. Anthony LeBude seconded the motion. The general vote was unanimous yes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ed Bush motioned that the following officers be elected for 2013:

President: Matthew Chappell

Secretary: Gary Bachman

Board Member: Gary Knox (Motion made by Anthony LeBude)

The motion was seconded by Ed Bush and was approved unanimously.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS FOR 2011

The following paper from the 2010 IPPS Proceedings was published in fall of 2011:

Blythe, E.K., W. Dunwell, E. Bush, J.W. Adelberg, M. Arnold, R. Bracy, Y. Chen, D. Fare, W. Klingeman, P. Knight, G. Knox, A.V. LeBude, J. Lindstrom, A.X. Niemiera, A. Owings, J. Robbins, J. Ruter, and T.P. West. 2010 (published 2011). Nursery crop and landscape systems plant evaluations by SERA-27 in the southeastern U.S.: 2010 update. Comb. Proc. Intl. Plant Prop. Soc. 60:607-609.

Gary Knox has a paper on 'Jon Jon' magnolia in the SNA proceedings from the January 2012 meeting:

Knox, G.W., J. Lindstrom, T. Ranney, E. Bush, A. Owings, W. Dunwell, and R. Beeson. 2012. 'Jon Jon' magnolia: A late-flowering deciduous magnolia recommended for zones 6b to 8b in the southeastern U.S. Proc. Southern Nursery Assn. Res. Conf., 57th Annu. Rpt. p. 219-224.

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING

Anthony LeBude reported that he and Tom Ranney would be organizing the meeting in Asheville, North Carolina for 2013. Tentative dates are June 5-7, 2013.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was proposed.

The meeting was adjourned by President Gene Blythe at 4:45 PM CST. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Crosby Arboretum - Mississippi State University. State reports were given during dinner.

STATE REPORTS

Present at the Meeting

Kentucky (Win Dunwell)

Approximately 20 undergraduate students enrolled.

UK Nursery Crop Programs

Win Dunwell – Nursery Crops: nutrition, plant evaluation, Integrated Pest Management

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/win1.html>

Dewayne Ingram – Life Cycle Assessment of nursery production practices

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ho/ho90/ho90.PDF>

Robert Geneve – SCRI Bio-container research

Sarah Vanek – Nursery Crop List Serve

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/KYNurseryListServeSarahVanekposts.html>

Carey Grable - YouTube Videos of nursery crop propagation, production, and pest Management

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UKRECHort>

SERA – 27 Plant trials are at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton, KY. Several SERA plants continue to perform well; Tennessee *Forsythia* cultivars, Kentucky Iris and Daylilies, *Cornus mas* ‘Spring Glow’, *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* ‘Berry College Selection’, *Lagerstromia* ‘Pocomoke’, *Magnolia* x ‘Jon Jon’, *xSinocalycalycanthus raulstonii* ‘Hartlege Wine’, *Daphniphyllum macropodum*, *Amsonia* ‘SPH’, *Viburnum luzonicum* (1 of 3), *Pinus ayacahuite*, *Callicarpa dichomata* ‘Duet’, *Syringa* ‘Betsy Ross’

SERA – 27 Plants that died or have not performed well.

Betula nigra ‘Summer Cascade’ - survives but bark damage on topside of all pendulous branches.

Styrax japonicum 'Emerald Pagoda' – died 2 years after suffering significant injury in the April 2007 3 day freeze after a week of 80 degree days. The temperature was 16 degrees 8 inches above the ground on April 8, 2007.

Illicium mexicanum 'Aztec Fire' was lost but only one example was planted and it was poorly sited.

Louisiana (Alan Owings & Ed Bush)

The School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences has 135 undergraduate students and 51 graduate students with majors divided among horticulture, agronomy and environmental management.

Faculty working in nursery and landscape program areas include Ed Bush, Regina Bracy (administration), Jeff Kuehny (administration), Allen Owings, Yan Chen, Roger Hinson (ag economics) , Don Ferrin (plant pathology), Dennis Ring (entomology) and Ron Strahan (weed science).

The LSU System will experience a 2.5% budget reduction starting with the July 2012 budget year. This is the fifth straight year of statewide budgetary reductions.

The Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station is closing or planning to close several off-campus research facilities, including the Coastal Plant Research Center and the Pecan Research and Extension Center. Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service positions are being filled following a business plan for parish staffing. Local funding will be 20% in the 2012-2103 budget year.

Florida (Gary Knox)

Total Undergraduate Enrollment:

- Environmental Horticulture undergraduate students are now included in "Plant Sciences"
 - A joint undergraduate major serving EH, Agronomy and Plant Pathology
 - Enrollment during Spring Semester 2012 was 107
- Includes enrollment at all campuses: Main Campus (Gainesville; about 3/4 of total enrollment is located here), Ft. Lauderdale REC, Gulf Coast REC (Plant City), Mid-Florida REC, West Florida REC (the program at TREC-Homestead was dropped)
- Does not include students in fruit/vegetable programs
- Represents mostly juniors and seniors

Total Graduate Student Enrollment (selected years)

Year	M.S.	Ph.D.	Total
2005	21	16	37
2006	18	14	32
2007	15	14	29
2008	15	13	28
2009	20	12	32
2012	17	13	30

2010 – 2011 Faculty Retirements

- Terril Nell (department chair; floriculture and post harvest Gainesville)
- Phil Busey (turf; Ft. Lauderdale REC)
- George Fitzpatrick (ornamentals; Ft. Lauderdale REC)
- Jim Barrett (floriculture, nursery and greenhouse production; Gainesville) will retire on June 30, 2012

Positions Available

- Department chair; Gainesville
- Assistant Professor (formerly landscape), Gulf Coast REC (Tampa area)
- Director, West Florida REC (Pensacola area)

IFAS Administration

- Dean for Academic Programs: Teri C. Balsler (new)
 - Assoc. Dean: Mark Rieger just took a job at U. Delaware
- Dean for IFAS Research: John Hayes (previously Interim, just named Dean)
- Dean for Extension: *Interviews in progress*

North Carolina (Anthony LeBude)

The ornamentals working group consists of Ted Bilderback, Brian Jackson, Anthony LeBude, Tom Ranney, Denny Werner, Barbara Fair, Lucy Bradley (100% Urban Horticulture Extension), Brian Whipker, Joe Neal, Mark Weathington (assistant director of the JCRA), Helen Kraus (100% teaching), Bryce Lane, Anne Spafford, and Julietta Sherk (14 people). Frank Blazich has retired fully as of June 1, 2012, however he will still haunt the halls wearing out red pens on the grammar of unsuspecting graduate students. Ted Bilderback is the Director of the J.C. Raulston Arboretum (JCRA). Kelly Ivors in Plant Pathology, positioned at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center (MHCREC), is the statewide plant pathologist for ornamentals and she recently published an article about finding Box Blight in North America. Other members of the ornamentals working group include Mike Benson (Plant Pathology) and Steve Frank (Entomology), and Charles Safely (Economics).

Our current undergraduate enrollment is 158 (mean 170 over last three years) for Fall 2012. Graduate student enrollment is 40, which is average.

LeBude is supporting 25% of a half-time technician. His most recent projects include working collaboratively with the Southern Nursery Integrated Pest Management (SNIPM) working group to survey the pest management practices of nursery growers, develop a mobile phone application (IPMPro) with the University of Tennessee as lead, and publish a production management book about using IPM on the top 10 common shade or flowering trees in production.

Mississippi (Gene Blythe)

University enrollment during the past year set another record with over 20,400 students. The Department of Plant and Soil Sciences included just over 100 undergraduate students and 59 graduate students during

the spring 2012 semester, including 8 M.S students and 5 Ph.D. students in horticulture. Full-time faculty in the state with primary emphasis on ornamental crops includes 3 in research, 3 in Extension, and 1 in teaching. A fourth Extension position (on campus) is expected to be filled soon.

Dr. Mike Phillips is the new Department Head for Plant and Soil Sciences. Dr. Phillips had been the chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Morehead State University in Kentucky since 2007. Prior to that, he served as Professor of Agronomy and Director for the Southwest Research and Extension Center at the University of Arkansas.

The university budget has been relatively level. Internal MAFES funding sources will be made available for 1.5% merit increases in the next fiscal year.

The South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Poplarville added additional beds and a new shade structure to the trial gardens this spring to accommodate an expansion of our annual variety trials, including more winter annuals. American Takii and Sahin are the latest companies to send new varieties for trialing.

Georgia (Matthew Chappell)

Dr. Donglin Zhang will be joining us in Athens in August 2013 as he fills the Michael A. Dirr Endowed Professorship. He will have 62% research : 38% teaching appointment. Research will focus on breeding and selection of woody ornamental plants. Dr. John Ruter moved to Athens at the beginning of June 2013 and has initiated research projects related to selection and breeding of herbaceous ornamentals at the Horticulture Farm in Watkinsville, GA.

The state legislature has approved two new positions that will be housed in Tifton, GA at the Coastal Plain Research Station. One position will focus on peaches & blueberries and the other on vegetable crops. Both will be 80% extension : 20% research appointments. Retirements coming up include Dr. Armitage, Dr. Kays and Dr. Sparks.

Undergraduate enrollment (majors) is in the mid 60's, minors is in the 140's and graduate enrollment is in the mid-20's.

Not Present at the Meeting

Arkansas (submitted by Jim Robbins)

Faculty: We currently have two vacant positions (turf extension, vacant 2 years; vegetable breeder, vacant 3 years). Another faculty member will retire July 1. Doubtful these positions will be refilled in the next 12 months.

Our current undergraduate enrollment is 71 for Fall 2012. Graduate student enrollment is 12 total with 8 Masters and 4 Ph.D.

Budget: State revenue: As of May 2, 2012, the gross general revenue was above forecast by 2.6% with individual income tax collections totaling \$2.435 billion, up 5.6% compared to the 2010-2011 period and 4.1% above the budget forecast. Among major revenue categories, both individual and corporate income taxes are above forecast and sales tax collections (gross receipts) are down year-to-date relative to forecast.

University: Starting this fall there will be a 5.29 percent tuition increase for **University of Arkansas Fayetteville** students. Faculty in the Division of Agriculture will receive an average 2.5% merit raise July 1.

SERA plants: None under evaluation

Other:

1. Arkansas Plant Evaluation Program:
http://www.aragriculture.org/horticulture/plant_evaluation/default.htm
2. USDA 'Virtual Nursery Field Trip' videos available Sept. 1, 2012 (one free copy per 1862, 1890, 1994 school)

Texas (submitted by Mike Arnold)

Sorry that I will not be able to join the group this year. Our department / college does not provide travel funds for these meetings, so am waiting for one in driving distance or some federal bailout funds. However, I wanted to give you all an update on the TAMU Dept. Horticultural Sciences and my lab group's progress in the past year.

Departmental Update: We have interim leadership during the past year as Dr. Leland Pierson, who is Head of Plant Pathology, has also been serving as interim Department Head for Horticultural Sciences. Dr. Dan Lineberger (undergraduate teaching), Dr. Dave Byrne (research/graduate programs), and Dr. Doug Welsh (extension) serve as the Associate Heads. Dr. Mungmung Gu has been hired as a replacement for Dr. Don Wilkerson, after his retirement, and we now have no vacant positions which are open.

Our undergraduate student numbers have risen to 200, about half of whom are in our B.S. program and half in our B.A. program. The Department suffered a total of about a 20% budget cut over the last few years, resulting in the loss of all technicians, save one general farm technician who maintains equipment and mows common areas, and two of our four instructor positions. The TAMU Horticultural Gardens have been closed and all but the core research/teaching greenhouse and nursery / trial beds turned over to TAMU Physical Plant. Dr. Dan Lineberger and Dr. Bhimu Patil are the current candidates to assume permanent Department Head responsibilities (search was limited to internal candidates only due to budget constraints). The Department and College are facing tight budgetary times and the next year may bring additional challenges.

My Lab Group's Update: Research efforts in our lab group continue in a variety of areas including testing of plants from SERA-IEG members. We are in the process of writing up and reporting (poster is to be presented at ASHS in Miami and one was presented at the Urban Tree Conference in Chicago, IL last fall on the tree province work of which several SERA members were cooperators. We are looking at releasing two to four clones of *Taxodium distichum* from this work. One survived -27F in Iowa without damage. All have performed well on alkaline soils.

We have also begun to evaluate germplasm from some native and naturalized herbaceous vines and wildflowers to evaluate their potential for inclusion in patio pots, hanging baskets, and greenroofs as well as for potential groundcover use. A Ph.D. student (Mr. Sean Carver) with undergraduate training in Landscape Architecture has begun to evaluate collections of some promising herbaceous perennial groundcovers and low evergreen shrubs species from along the Texas coastal dunes for initial screening. Another Ph.D. student (Mr. Andrew King) is following up on production issues for some of these groundcover species and is investigating marketing studies to assess their appeal in the industry.

Transplant studies on planting depth looking at genotypic variation within a species and the effects of seed versus cutting propagation are underway.

On a personal note, my oldest had surgery this summer for his adult size mitral valve replacement, a contributing reason for my absence from the meeting this summer. I am also continuing my studies in Taekwondo, Combat Hapkido and Modern Arnis, working toward my second degree black belt in the next year or so. I will look forward to seeing you all at ASHS this summer in Miami!

Submitted by Michael A. Arnold, July 2012

Table 1. Plants selected for evaluation by SERA-27 that will need final reports.

Plant	Number	Date	Faculty Introducing	State
<i>Michellia skinneriana</i>	FL00-01	2000	Gary Knox	Florida
<i>Magnolia</i> 'Jon-Jon'	FL01-01	2001	Gary has prepared a paper for SNA 2012	Florida
<i>Viburnum luzonicum</i>	FL04-01	2004	Gary Knox	Florida
<i>Arachis glabrata</i> 'Ecoturf'	FL11-01	2010	Gary Knox	Florida
<i>Stachys coccinea</i>	AR01-01	2001	Jon Lindstrom	Arkansas
<i>Conradina canescens</i> 'SPH'	AR01-02	2001	Jon Lindstrom	Arkansas
<i>Amsonia</i> 'SPH'	AR03-01	2003	Jon Lindstrom	Arkansas
<i>Buddleja</i> 02-25-142	AR04-01	2004	Jon Lindstrom	Arkansas
<i>Buddleja</i> 03-05-045	AR05-01	2005	Jon Lindstrom	Arkansas
<i>Ceanothus x delilianus</i> 'Gloire de Versailles'	AR05-02	2005	Jon Lindstrom	Arkansas
<i>xSinocalycanthus raulstonii</i> 'Hartlage Wine'	NC02-01	2001	Tom Ranney	North Carolina
<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Summer Cascade'	NC03-01	2003	Tom Ranney	North Carolina
<i>Daphniphyllum macropodum</i>	DC02-01	2002	Margaret Pooler	Wash., D.C.
<i>Forsythia</i> 'Fairy-Land'	TN03-01	2003	Donna Fare	Tennessee
<i>Forsythia</i> 'Minikin'	TN03-02	2003	Donna Fare	Tennessee
<i>Forsythia</i> 'Tinkle Bells'	TN03-03	2003	Donna Fare	Tennessee
<i>Forsythia</i> 'Pygmy red'	TN03-04	2003	Donna Fare	Tennessee
<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i> 'Duet'	TN07-01	2007	Donna Fare	Tennessee
<i>Syringa</i> 'Betty Ross'	TN07-02	2007	Donna Fare	Tennessee
<i>Pinus ayacahuite</i>	AL05-01	2005	Ken Tilt	Alabama
Taxodium distichum seedling selections	TX07-01	2007	Mike Arnold	Texas
<i>Hypericum olympicum</i>	KY08-02	2008	Win Dunwell	Kentucky
<i>Hypericum</i> 'Blue Velvet'	KY08-01	2008	Win Dunwell	Kentucky
Rhododendron 'Gulfray'	MS04-01	2004	Win will write a report	Kentucky
Hemerocallis 'Octavia', 'Happy Returns', and 'Milano White'	KY99-03	1999	Win Dunwell	Kentucky
<i>Arisaema draconitum</i>	KY10-01	2010	Win Dunwell	Kentucky
<i>Eucalyptus neglecta</i>	MS09-01	2009	Gene Blythe	Mississippi
<i>Tagetes nelsonii</i>	MS10-01	2010	Gene Blythe	Mississippi
<i>Artemisia afra</i>	MS11-01	2011	Gene Blythe	Mississippi
<i>Parrotia persica</i> 'Jennifer Teates'	VA11-01	2008	Alex Niemiera	Virginia

APPENDIX A.

SERA027: Nursery Crop and Landscape Systems (IEG-63)

Duration: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2017
Administrative Advisors: Regina Bracy (research), Patricia Knight (extension)
NIFA Rep(s): Thomas A. Bewick

Statement of Issue(s) and Justification

Accomplishments: To date, **43** taxa have been distributed for evaluation. Concluding reports have been written or are being prepared for **13** of these taxa. A new website, hosted by the Louisiana State University AgCenter (www.lsuagcenter.com/en/administration/about_us/professional_organizations/sera_ieg_27/) has been established to provide information on current and historical efforts of our group. Individual committee members who introduce plants for evaluation are responsible for requesting data collection according to criteria they deem most appropriate for each plant, compiling the data that has been submitted, and preparing a final report. The Evaluation Committee periodically prepares summary reports on plants that have been evaluated or are under evaluation, with these reports presented at industry conferences. A presentation titled "A Historical Summary of Plant Material Evaluations by SERA-IEG 27" was made at the Southern Nursery Association Research Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in August 2008, along with publication of the report (Proc. Southern Nursery Assn. Res. Conf., 53rd Annu. Rpt. p. 156-158). A collaborative poster titled "Nursery Crop and Landscape Systems Plant Evaluations by SERA-27 in the Southeastern U.S.: 2010 Update" was presented at the Eastern Region of North America, International Plant Propagators' Society Annual Meeting in Warwick, Rhode Island, September/October 2010, and at the Southern Region of North America, International Plant Propagators' Society Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 2010; along with publication of the report (Comb. Proc. Intl. Plant Prop. Soc. 60:607-609.). Planning by the group is underway for a first public seminar to be held in North Carolina in 2013, with presentations by SERA-27 members to highlight plant materials previously evaluated by the group, along with other outstanding plant materials suitable for nursery production and landscape planting in the Southeastern United States.

Statement of Issues and Justification: New germplasm continues to be discovered or created in the ornamental plant realm. The introduction of new plant material, whether through traditional breeding programs or plant exploration expeditions, has been an integral part of ornamental horticulture in the United States. This hunger for new plant material continues to exist with both horticultural professionals and consumers. Some nurseries have invested in the discovery and development of new plant releases and are using this technique to gain market share. Unfortunately, some releases are not widely tested and most have not been independently tested in unbiased trials. In addition, most Southern Region universities are engaged in landscape plant evaluations or have active plant breeding programs and seek ways to determine the adaptability range of these plants. Many new woody and herbaceous plants are introduced every year with extensive marketing programs, exclusive growing agreements, protective plant patents, and extensive distribution. However, there also exists a wide variety of plants that fall outside of this circle that, although lesser-known, may be quite worthy of use in the landscape for specific

regions. When information is not available on the performance of these plants in different regions, a coordinated system of independent evaluation, along with dissemination of the resulting information to nursery and landscape professionals, becomes invaluable.

A number of the plants evaluated by the group have gained common status by the gardening community. These plants include *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* (1998), *Lagerstroemia* 'Pocomoke' (1999), *Lagerstroemia* 'Chickasaw' (1999), *Styrax japonicas* 'Emerald Pagoda' (1998), *Hemerocallis* 'Happy Returns' (1999), *Illicium mexicanum* 'Aztec Fire' (1999), *Bulbine caulescens* (2000), *Magnolia* 'Jon Jon' (2001), *Daphniphyllum macropodum* (2002), *Ceanothus* × *delilianus* 'Gloire de Versailles' (2005), *Callicarpa dichomata* 'Duet' (2007), and *Syringa* 'Betsy Ross' (2007).

This project relates to the following Southern Region Priority Areas for Multi-state Research Activities: Goal 1, An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy; Goal 4, Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment; and Goal 5, Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans. In addition, participation in this project contributes to the professional development of faculty involved.

Objectives

1. Using multistate cooperators, evaluate these selected plants at multiple trial locations over a 3- to 5-year period.
2. Annually, meet to share and discuss quantitative and qualitative results collected from the multiple trial sites.
3. At the end of the evaluation period, the group will summarize the regional results with quantitative data, qualitative comments, and an overall rating for the plant
4. Collectively and individually disseminate information gained from the plant evaluation system such as cold hardiness, heat tolerance, growth rate, environmental adaptation limits, etc. to a wide variety of audiences.

Procedures and Activities

Objectives will be accomplished by implementing the protocol for plant evaluation that was developed by IEG-63 in 1994 and subsequently modified. State representatives and invited guests will meet annually to exchange plant information results, distribute plant material for future evaluation, and select candidates for future evaluation. Plants will be evaluated for not less than three years at participating sites in the Southeast Region using the established protocol. Responsibility for timely reports (at the annual meeting) rests with the evaluator. The introducer will then provide a finished summary to the chair. For each plant that the group judges worthy of regional approval, the chair will appoint a committee to develop and disseminate propagation and production protocols to the nursery industry. The same committee will compile and distribute landscape-use information on the plant to the nursery and landscape industry and to the gardening public.

Expected Outcomes and Impacts

The following are expected to be completed by the group over the next five years:

1. Introduce at least 15 plants into the SERA-27 evaluation program.
2. Complete reports for all plants whose evaluation period has ended and publish summaries with photos on the SERA-27 website. (If the introducing member no longer participates in the SERA-27 program and is not able to prepare a final report, the plant will be removed from the list of introductions (but will be maintained in a separate archival listing).
3. Present updates on SERA-27 evaluation activities at two or more professional or nursery research meetings through oral and/or poster presentations, such as the Southern Nursery Association Research Conference or regional meetings of the International Plant Propagators' Society.
4. Conduct an initial public seminar with presentations by SERA-27 members to highlight plant materials previously evaluated by the group, along with other outstanding plant materials suitable for nursery production and landscape planting in the Southeastern United States. Determine the potential for future seminars in other geographic locations and, if feasible, conduct a second seminar. Also evaluate the potential of these seminars to generate revenue that can be used to offset costs associated with distributing future plants in the SERA-27 evaluation program.

Projected Participation

Include a completed Appendix E.

Educational Plan

Information gained from the plant evaluation system such as cold hardiness, heat tolerance, growth rate, environmental adaptation limits, etc. will be disseminated collectively and individually to producer, landscaper and consumer audiences via scientific articles, industry trade magazines, webpages and presentations in extension and popular information channels.

Organization/Governance

Officers elected for 2011 - 2012 were Eugene Blythe (Mississippi State University) – Chair and Matthew Chappell (University of Georgia) - Secretary, and **TBD (TBD)** -Executive Committee. Ed Bush (Louisiana State University) is Chair of the Plant Evaluation Committee. Administrative Advisors: Regina Bracy (Louisiana State University) and Patricia Knight (Mississippi State University). CSREES Representative: Thomas A. Bewick.

Guidelines for Officers SERA-27:

CHAIR The Chair is responsible for coordinating activities throughout the year, working with the Plant Evaluation Committee to ensure plant evaluation information is collected and compiled, and planning the working program for the next meeting. She/he may delegate or request assistance from the Secretary or Executive Committee Member to accomplish these objectives or making recommendations and decisions as needed throughout the year.

SECRETARY The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes of the meeting and distributing them in coordination with the IEG Chair and Administrative Advisor. The Secretary also works with the Chair to develop an annual report that is submitted to the Administrative Advisor for posting on the NIMSS system. The minutes and annual report must be written, reviewed, approved and posted on the website and the NIMSS system within 60 days after the annual meeting. It is the intent of the SERA-27 for the Secretary to serve as the Chair the next year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER The Executive Committee members functions as a member of the Executive Committee in decision-making between annual meetings and to assist the Chair as assigned. It is the intent of the SERA-27 for the Executive Committee Member to serve as the Secretary the next year.

MEETING HOST The host for our annual meeting is responsible for making arrangements for meeting space, local tours/events, a hotel, etc. The Host coordinates with the Chair regarding local requirements for the formal program/agenda for the annual meeting. The Host and/or Chair provides the details of the local arrangements, travel, and agenda to the Administrative Advisor who maintains the e-mail addresses of members. The Host/Chair may also send such information to the members by mail. The Administrative Advisor can provide Email addresses.

PLANT EVALUATION COMMITTEE CHAIR The chair of the standing Plant Evaluation Committee reminds members to submit evaluation data at the appropriate time and in the predetermined format, logs plants made available or to be made available for distribution, records who requested each plant, and compiles and summarizes the data annually for the SERA-27 meeting.