

Draft 7-12-2013

SERA-27 NURSERY CROPS AND LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday June 5, 2013

North Carolina State University Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center

Participants

Advisor(s)

- Patricia Knight (Mississippi State University)

Official Representatives

- Matt Chappell (Extension, University of Georgia)
- Gary Bachman (Extension, Mississippi State University)
- John Ruter (Research, University of Georgia)
- Win Dunwell (Extension, University of Kentucky)
- Alex Niemiera (Research, Virginia Tech)
- Allen Owings (Extension, Louisiana State University)
- Ed Bush (Research, Louisiana State University)
- Anthony LeBude (Extension, North Carolina State University)
- Donna Fare (USDA-ARD)
- Jim Robbins (Extension, University of Arkansas)
- Gary Knox (Extension, University of Florida)
- Mike Arnold (Research, Texas A&M University)
- Gene Blythe (Research, Mississippi State University)
- Zhanao Deng (Research, University of Florida)

Guests

- None

States Not Represented

- Alabama
- South Carolina
- West Virginia
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee

Welcome

The SERA 27 Business Meeting was called to order at 4:45pm on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 by President Matthew Chappell.

The business meeting was preceded by tours of the NCSU Mountain Crops Research and Extension Center and the Biltmore House Gardens. The following day a symposium will be presented by members of the SERA27 Nursery Crops and Landscape Systems.

Introductions

Introductions of current officers, advisors, and guest were made. Current officers: President, Matthew Chappell; Secretary, Gary Bachman; Board Member, Gary Knox. Minutes of the 2012 business meeting were reviewed, discussed and moved for approval. Motion made, Allen OwingsMSecond, Gary KnoxMMotion approved

State Reports

2013 SERA Floral Nursery Research Report

State of Affairs –

The Floral Nursery Research Unit has been affected by sequestration and rescinding of funds. The unit as a whole is short staffed. The Arboretum is closed on Tues-Thurs due to inadequate funds. Sandy Reed's position in McMinnville is still on the books, but the position funding was used to offset layoffs and furloughs for the unit. We do however, have the position and hopefully the funding will be restored in the next fiscal year so that the position can be filled.

A new research initiative is the Boxwood Blight. This is an industry supported research effort with several scientists from a multi-disciplinary group of pathologists, horticulturists, and breeders.

Donna C. Fare

US National Arboretum, USDA-ARS

SERA-27 Texas Report 2013

Departmental Update:

Dr. R. Daniel Lineberger is now the new Department Head for Horticultural Sciences. Dr. Lineberger also continues to fill the role of Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs until it is refilled; Dr. Larry Stein is now the new Associate Head for Extension and I have resumed my role after a five year hiatus as the Associate Head for Graduate Programs. There have been no new hires this past year. We were not able to refill Dr. Lineberger's former position nor were we able to refill a vacated vegetable breeding position. Two lecturer positions, one in vegetables and sociohorticulture and one in landscape were lost to the most recent budget cut.

Our undergraduate student numbers have leveled off at just under 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. The good news is that there may be some merit raises, the bad news is that there will likely be a 1 to 2% cut on the teaching side to accomplish this.

The Department just completed its second comprehensive academic program review, complete with external reviewers. Although we had hoped this might be an opportunity to leverage some much needed funding for facility and equipment upgrades, that does not appear likely. Nearly all physical plant, food services, and grounds maintenance activities have been outsourced in cost cutting measures that are causing serious problems for some on-going research and teaching activities.

Our 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 a paper on our broad landscape trials of candidate *Taxodium distichum* selections 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.

A Ph.D. student (Mr. Sean Carver) with undergraduate training in Landscape Architecture has begun to evaluate collections of some promising native 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. Some of these selections are now being trialed by industry partners for commercial potential.

A large scale transplant study is underway in which we are looking at the impact of container size on tree establishment and water use on three species of trees each grown in five container sizes ranging from 1 gallon to 45 gallon sizes. The study is being replicated in Texas and Mississippi.

Submitted by Michael A. Arnold, June 2013

2013 SERA Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture Report Alex X. Niemiera

Undergraduate Program

- Undergraduate enrollment about 100
- Two majors: Environmental Horticulture (-65%); Landscape Contracting (-35%)
- Majority of Horticulture students are transfers from community college or intrauniversity transfers
- Landscape Contracting major — new course check sheet: minor in Agric. Econ. is no longer required (too many course and course time conflicts for transfers)

Graduate Program

- 27 graduate students 12 MS; 15 Ph.D.

New Faculty Hires/Positions

- Dr. Meghan O'Rourke 75/25 Research/Teaching — Sustainable Food Production Systems — previously with USDA
- Dr. Jayesh Samtani — Small Fruit Specialist (non-tenure) at Hampton Roads Expt. Station — previously postdoc at U. of CA Davis
 - To be filled soon: position in translations genomics
 - Working on an instructor's position in sustainable food production — collaboration with VT Dining Services
 - Dr. Josh Freeman, Vegetable Specialist (tomato grafting, methyl bromide alternatives) at Eastern Shore AREC has taken a position with U. of FL (Quincy, FL perhaps) — thus, this position will open up for a vegetable specialist.

Beautiful Gardens Plant Introduction Program

- Annual funding dropped by the VA Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
- Program Coordinator, Ms. Lisa Lipsey, is a research specialist in Hort. Dept.
- Daylily Hokie Spirit is a success but some major problems along the way
- Plans for another daylily introduction
- Program offers an annual list of "Plants of Distinction"
- <http://www.beautifulgardens.org/plants.html>

SERA-IEG-27 University of Arkansas Report 2013

Horticulture Department

Faculty:

It is with great sadness that we report that Dr. Jon Lindstrom passed away on May 23, 2013 from a short but painful battle with melanoma cancer. Jon was a member of the SERA-IEG group. In addition to Jon's position, we have two additional vacant positions (turf extension, vacant 3 years; horticulture physiologist, vacant 1 year). Doubtful these positions will be refilled in the next 12 months. Our vegetable breeding position, which has been open for 4 years, will be filled starting mid-June.

Our current undergraduate enrollment is 60 for Fall 2013. Graduate student enrollment is 15 total, with 10 Masters and 5 Ph.D.

Budget:

State: As of May 2013, year-to- date actual growth after nine months in the fiscal year has been 4.7 percent above year earlier levels for net available and 3.4 percent for gross revenue, resulting in \$84.1 million above forecast (surplus) at this point. Rebound in the state economy from business and household economic activity continues at a modest pace, but with better-than expected income tax receipts.

University: University of Arkansas Board of Trustees' Fiscal Affairs Committee are proposing a 3.5 percent increase for the 2013-2014 school year. No announcement has been made for a raise for Faculty in the Division of Agriculture.

SERA plants:

Nothing to report

University of Kentucky report

Student populations have become fairly steady even risen a bit..

We are excited about the UKREC Horticulture YouTube channel activity of 90,000 views and 141 subscribers. Even the hour-long Integrated Pest Management Scouting short course presentations have had a reasonable number of views. <http://www.youtube.com/user/UKRECHort>

Currently we have two Extension Faculty working on nursery/landscape: Drs. Dewayne Ingram and Winston Dunwell and two Extension Associates for nursery crops Carey Grable and Sarah Vanek.

The UK Department of Horticulture is without a greenhouse specialist or greenhouse researcher and recently learned our vegetable extension faculty member is going to Georgia.

We, the UKREC Horticulture Group, are in the process of moving our evaluation plots from the Center landscape to our research plots; a more manageable environment for observation.

SERA plants: *Tagetes nelsonii* lost 2 of 3 winter 2013. Have not observed a bloom. The sole plant is to be moved to new location after a season in a container. *Arisaema dracontium* (green dragon) as distributor we have also had to move these plants. Shade and water seem to enhance health and vigor.

Daphniophyllum macropodum *Syringa* 'Betsy Ross' excellent for KY *Callicarpa dichomata* 'Duet' *Cornus mas* 'Spring Glow' is a favorite and seedlings been grown and move out for trial. *Styrax japonicum* 'Emerald Pagoda' was killed by April 2009 freeze, but we would like to replace it. *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Berry College Selection' is now three feet tall and somewhat further stunted from it's known slow growth by a lawn mower strike which removed a third of the trunk bark.

Lagerstroemia 'Pocomoke' *Viburnum luzonicum* one plant of three has survived and thrived.

Amsonia 'SPH' has performed well. *Eucalyptus neglecta* struggling due to drying out in overwintering storage but alive with some new growth *Arachis glabrata* 'Ecoturf' died the first year.

Web Site

Web site is up to date including historical proceeding compilation. Currently housed on the LSU AgCenter web site. Allen will email members with the correct URL. The intention is to add active links plant variety trials including data and pictures. There was a discussion to initiate a SERA27 Facebook page, and will be undertaken. Submitted by Allen Owings Symposium Plants for the Southeast presented by members of the SERA27 group. Attendees will include landscape

professionals, nursery growers, master gardeners, Extension agents, and home gardeners. Currently registration is 42-44, cost \$55/includes lunch, breaks and plant door prizes. The symposium has generated approximately \$1800 in revenues. The use of evaluations to measure symposium effectiveness were discussed.

- Knowledge base before and after
- Value of symposium based on end user of information
 - Consumer vs horticultural professional
- Will you likely (considering attendee's top three plants):
 - Grow this plant
 - Use this plant
 - Buy this plant
 - What did you learn about the plants that will be used in the future
- Demographics
 - M/F
 - Income

o Ethnic Discussion included a motion for the continuation of the symposium in future years and other geographical locations. M

Motion made, Donna Fare Second, John RuterMMotion Approved

SERA27 has been renewed for 2012-2017

SEftA027: Nursery Crop and Landscape Systems (IEG-63)

Duration: October 01, 2012 to September 30, 2017

Administrative

Advisor(s): Regina Bracy (L.A.B) - Research
Patricia Knight (MIS) - Extension

NIFA Reps: Thomas A. Bewick

Outline: SERA027M Page 1 of 3

Statement of Issue(s) and Justification:

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Accomplishments: To date, 54 taxa have been distributed for evaluation. Concluding reports have been written or are being prepared for 23 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), *Illicium mexicanum 'Aztec Fire'* (1999), *Bulbine caulescens* (2000), *Magnolia 'Jon Jon'* (2001), *xSinocalycanthus raulstonii 'Hartlage Wine'* (2001), *Daphniphyllum macropodum* (2002), *Ceanothus x 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

I. Using multistate cooperators, evaluate these selected plants at multiple trial locations over a 3-to 5-year period.

<http://www.nimss.umd.edu/homepages/outline.cfm?trackID=15016> M 8/6/2013

- 1 Annually, meet to share and discuss quantitative and qualitative results collected from the multiple trial sites.
- 2 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.
- 3 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:

- Introduce at least 15 plants into the SERA-27 evaluation program.
- 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 Evaluation Committee will complete data collection and prepare the final report).
- 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.
- 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.

Project Participation:

Include a completed Appendix E form

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.

Governance:

Officers elected for 2011-2012 were Eugene Blythe (Mississippi State University) Chair and Matthew Chappell (University of Georgia) Secretary, and Gary Bachman (Mississippi State University) -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 SERA-27 Officers:

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.

M

<http://www.niins.umd.edu/homepages/outline.cfm?trackID=15016>

8/6/2013

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 SERA27 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.

Literature Cited:

None

Attachments:

[SERA IEG 27 Final 2012 docx1

Internal Linkages:

External Linkages:

Signatures:

s:/Regina Bracy

Last Modified: 20-Jun-2012

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<http://www.nimss.tund.edu/homepages/outline.cfm?trackID-15016> M 8/6/2013

New Plants for Evaluation

Those interested should communicate directly with the members via email for plant distribution.

Yellow magnolias

Donna Fare will do the budding for members that are interested in trialing, a common selection across all locations and others of landscape interest. M

Motion made, Gene Blythe Second, Alex NiemieraMMotion Approved

Artemisia arborescens, Tree Wormwood

Gene Blythe suggested this plant for landscape evaluation M

Motion made, Allen Owings Second, Mike ArnoldMMotion Approved

Hemerocallis 'Suburban Nancy Gayle'

Gary Bachman submitted this plant to the group for evaluation. M

Motion made, Gary Knox Second, Gene BlytheMMotion Approved

Election of Officers for 2013-2014

President, Gary Bachman

Secretary, Gary Knox

Board Member, Zhanao Deng

Future Meeting Sites

2014 — Hammond, LA

- Continuation of the Plant Symposium

- Those driving consider bringing plants for attendee door prizes 2015 — Louisville, KY

Competitive Grants

There was much discussion concerning the group working on competitive grants. It was decided that a SCRI Planning Grant would be the most appropriate venue with an emphasis on how climate change impacts the ornamental landscape and perhaps including edible and/or value-added landscape crops. The 2015 symposium in Louisville would be the dissemination venue.

Recruiting

The need to recruit new members and encourage states not participating to select members. Potential new members identified who would be contacted include Amy Fulcher, Geoff Denny, Jim Owen, Bob Polomski, Garry McDonald.

Adjournment

Before meeting adjournment, motion was made to recognize Anthony LeBude for his extraordinary in meeting preparation and symposium arrangements. Motion was made to thank Matt Chappell for his work and dedication to the SERA27 group