

**LPMGA JANUARY
 GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday
January 6 2015 - Noon.
 Lafayette Public Library
 301 W. Congress St.

BOARD RETREAT

January 12 - 8:30—12:30

**LPMGA BOARD
 MEETING**

Monday
January 25 2015 - 1 PM
 Ira Nelson Horticultural

LPMGA January General Meeting

The speakers for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association January meeting will be Babette Werner, Heather Warner-Finley, and Theresa Gore. They will be speaking about various topics. The meeting will be held at the Lafayette Parish Public Library downtown at 301 West Congress at 12:00 noon on **January 6** on the second floor. The public is invited.

Reminders: Report LPMGA volunteer and continuing education hours by December 31. If you haven't paid your annual LPMGA dues of \$10, now is the time! Dues go up to \$15 after December 31.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner— 2
- MG Events, Reports, & Announcements—3
- Outstanding Master Gardener—4
- December Social —5
- Greenhouse Report—6
- Between the Rows—7
- What Plant am I? - 7
- 2016 Committee Renewal and Selection Form—8
- January Calendar—9

2016 BOARD:

President :
Linda Beyt 2013
Vice President:
Charles Turner 2014
Recording Secretary:
Jay Ruffin, Jr 2012
Corresponding Secretary:
Lisa Boudreaux 2013
Treasurer:
Linda Alesi 2005
Member at Large:
Juan Nieto 2006
Prior President:
Heather Warner-Finley 2012
Agent/Adviser ;
Gerald Roberts
Volunteer Coordinator:
Mary Ann Armbruster 2010
Newsletter Editor:
Theresa Rohloff 2012



**Message from 2015 President
 Heather Finley and incoming 2016
 President Linda Beyt**



In January of last year, the then-new board attended a retreat to define needs in our organization, set common goals, and make plans to achieve those goals. We had four (4) goals:

1. Identify options for relocation of our demo gardens and production greenhouse, and report to the membership;
2. Increase member interest, understanding of leadership goals, and volunteer activities;
3. Share more information online and increase our community profile by posting events; information about our organization and our mission. Improve our public relations for plant sales, PlantFest, and the Jr. Master Gardener Program; and
4. Keep it FUN and SOCIAL.

So, as we look to the promise of a new board and a new year, please let us know whether you think these are the right goals, whether you think we made progress, and identify other goals that you think Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners should strive for. Contact any member of the board, old or new. We would be thrilled to hear your assessments.

And so, as the 2015 president, Heather wants to thank you again for the privilege of serving as the President of this organization. Linda, as the 2016 president, hopes you share in her excitement and determination to make 2016 the best year ever!

Linda and Heather

GERALD'S CORNER

Happy New Year Master Gardeners!!!

Welcome to a new year and new opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of others; and also for opportunities for our personal growth and development in the area of horticulture and gardening.

Citrus continues to gain popularity among gardeners here in south La. The reason being that in addition to not requiring a lot of management, citrus fruit are delicious and vitamin rich. The one limiting factor in terms of production in this area is cold damage which can severely injure or kill citrus. Because it's been several years since the last time we had killing cold temperatures, many gardeners have citrus trees that are producing quality fruit. As we approach winter, gardeners must remain vigilant about watching the weather for predicted freezing temperatures along with being prepared to protect trees if needed. There are a few things I'd like to point out to gardeners who at the first prediction of freezing temperatures begin placing calls to the Extension office with question about how to protect citrus trees. It must be noted that in order to be prepared, one must understand cold hardiness and the way it relates to citrus. Cold hardiness refers to a plant's ability to withstand or survive freeze temperatures without being seriously injured or killed. In terms of cold hardiness kumquats are the most cold hardy, followed by Satsumas, Sweet oranges, and grapefruit, with lemons and limes being the least cold hardy. The old saying by many older gardeners regarding citrus is that sweet fruit can take more cold temperatures and survive than sour fruit. I wonder if that is the reason why we frequently see older kumquat trees on old home sites rather than older lemon trees? It is very important to manage citrus trees to maintain good health because as a general rule healthy trees usually tolerate more cold temperatures, as do older mature trees. It must be noted that anytime the temperature drops below 32 degrees the potential for damage to the fruit on the trees is possible. As temperatures approaches the mid - 20's and below, the potential for damage to the actual tree becomes increasingly possible. One of the unique things about citrus is that mature fruit can remain on the tree and can be harvested as needed. However, whenever a freeze is predicted, especially if freezing temperatures are predicted for several hours, it becomes more likely that the quality of the fruit on trees will be affected. Long story short, keep an eye on the weather and predicted freezing temperatures and remove fruit anytime a freeze is predicted, especially for several hours. Remember if trees are covered with plastic overnight, that plastic covering should be removed the following morning to avoid damage from heat buildup especially if the sun is shining the next day!!

Winter and early spring are generally the optimum time for gardeners to **prune** most plants in the home landscape. Every year especially as winter arrives, many calls come into the Extension office regarding pruning of specific plants; mostly questions about when is the best time to prune. Many times I wish the first question would be - I have a particular type of plant and I'd like to know if it requires pruning? Plant species vary in terms of if they need pruning and how much should be removed when pruned. Believe it or not, there are many gardeners who prune only because they read about pruning, or saw someone pruning, and just assumed that the plants in their landscapes needed pruning. It must be kept in mind that before pruning a plant you should decide if you're pruning for a specific purpose. Gardeners probably should ask why prune before asking when to prune. As Certified Master Gardeners, you'll be asked or will be a part of conversations regarding pruning especially at this time of the year. While there are no specific etched-in-stone rules for pruning, gardeners should not be afraid to try their hand at pruning. Be sure that you're pruning for a purpose, you have the right tools and use the proper pruning techniques. Some considerations regarding pruning that gardeners should be aware of is that once the decision to prune is made, preserving the natural form or character of the particular plant species is important. It is also important to note that some shrubs may require annual pruning, while others may not. However it is better to do a little pruning each year than to drastically cut back a plant that has been neglected for several years. For example, if pruning to lower or maintain a certain height for a particular plant species, lower the height by selectively removing branches or canes at varying heights instead of shearing straight across the top of the plant which will destroy the natural form of the plant. On small branches or wood the size of your fingers, the type of pruning technique is not as critical as when you begin removing larger branches. That is when it's important to make proper pruning cuts. Cuts should be made just outside the wrinkled area where the limb or branch attaches to the main trunk, which promotes callusing and healing of the wound. However if you cut too far inward and into the wrinkled area, this will result in a flush cut that severely restricts healing, leaving your plant susceptible to insects or disease-induced rot.

Gerald's Corner continued on page 6

EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 LPMGA Meetings: (First Wednesday Except in July) Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm	2016 LPMGA Board Meetings, 1 pm: (Fourth Monday except for July & Dec.)
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JANUARY 6, Noon	JANUARY 25
FEBRUARY 3, 6 pm	FEBRUARY 22
MARCH 2, Noon	MARCH 28
APRIL 6, 6 pm	APRIL 25
MAY 4, 6 pm (Social)	MAY 23
JUNE 1, Noon	JUNE 27
JULY No meeting	JULY No Meeting
AUGUST 3, 6 pm	AUGUST 22
SEPTEMBER 7, Noon	SEPTEMBER 26
OCTOBER 5, 6 pm	OCTOBER 24
NOVEMBER 2, Noon	NOVEMBER 28
DECEMBER 7, 6 pm (Social)	DECEMBER 12

School Garden Cook Off

As you recall, the Second Annual School Garden Cook Off was held November 14, 2015. Several Lafayette Parish School Board Members and public officials were in attendance. The event was so impressive to those officials that the school children, teachers, and chefs who participated were invited to the December 2 School Board meeting. In addition to being recognized, all 5 schools were awarded \$100.00 from Lafayette Parish Farm Bureau! I invite you all again to be a part of our School Garden Initiative Program. It is truly rewarding.

Cindy Wiley

THANKS!

PLANT SWAP VOLUNTEERS

I'd like to extend a very special thank you to all the MGs who volunteered for our Master Gardener Plant Swaps in 2015.

Our devoted team members have worked hard to make the Swaps interesting, educational and, most of all, fun events. The time you have given is truly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all in the spring, and I invite anyone who would like to volunteer to contact me at mglouann@gmail.com

Happy holidays to all our MGs, and all the best in the coming year,
 Louann Long



OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER

Candy Bienvenu Named Outstanding Master Gardener of the Year!

Heather Warner-Finley (left) and Babette Werner (right) present the Outstanding Master Gardener award to Candy Bienvenu (center).

A message from Candy Bienvenu:

“To all Master Gardeners.

I was so overwhelmed to receive the Outstanding Master Gardener of the year award! I feel it is the highest honor to be recognized by your peers for the contributions you have made. To hear all of those kind words from you all means so much! I want all of you to know that to belong to an organization that is made up of members who give of themselves, to spread the seeds of knowledge, is a privilege and I share this award with you because without you, all the good we do in the community can not happen!”

Merry Christmas!
Candy

WINTER SOCIAL



Congratulations to the 2015 Master Gardener Class!



GREENHOUSE REPORT

The Awesome Propagation Team did not let greenhouse repairs keep them from starting plants for the Spring sale. Cuttings thrived in the mini mist houses created from hanging baskets and plastic bags. Pictured are Lori Wotring (right photo) and Judy Higgins (bottom photo) caring for the plants.

The team is looking forward to working this winter in better conditions thanks to a new irrigation system installed professionally under the supervision of Candy Bienvenu and Juan Nieto. All glass panes in the roof were repaired and caulked by a contractor under the supervision of Juan. Charles Turner replaced our antique water controller with one that is more efficient and provides more zones. At the same time he cleaned the greenhouse interior to prepare it for painting.



We are so appreciative for their efforts, and the Executive Board for approving these greatly needed improvements.

The Propagation and Demo Garden members want to also give a big Thank You to Tommy Hayes, who has become our self-appointed groundskeeper.

Our LPMGA has earned a reputation of excellence because of the dedication of our members in every project and area of operation. An appropriate collective New Year's resolution would be, "Let's keep it up!"

Happy 2016 to all,

Becky Taylor



Thank
costly but

Gerald's Corner continued from page 2

There was a time that whenever pruning cuts were made on a plant, the wounds would be painted with special pruning compounds to prevent entry of insects or diseases and to promote callusing. But now it is believed that these compounds actually do more harm than good. As a result, pruning paint, pruning sprays or other compounds are not recommended being applied to pruning cuts or wounds.

Before making the decision to prune, ask Why. Does the shape of the plant need to be influenced or altered? Does the size of the plant need to be controlled? Are there any dead or diseased branches that need to be removed? Are there any parts of the plant that are severely infested with insects? These are the questions that should be asked before deciding to prune a plant. No plant should be pruned without a specific purpose or goal by the gardener. Finally, remember that plants should be selected for placement in the landscape based on their expected average mature size, including height and spread. Too often plants are placed in areas where they outgrow the space and gardeners are forced to constantly battle to maintain the plant at a certain size which leads to frequent pruning. So making the right decision regarding plant selection and placement will go a long way in keeping gardeners out of a constant battle with mother nature. Once you get into a battle to control the size of a plant, you'll realize that mother nature doesn't give up!! Remember, if in doubt as to how to properly prune, or when to prune or why to prune, the LSU AgCenter website provides great information. There are also great how-to books on pruning that should be a part of every Master Gardener's gardening resources.

Happy Gardening in 2016

Gerald P. Roberts
Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator
LSU AgCenter
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325 Lafayette, LA 70501, GRoberts@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office (337) 291-7090, Fax (337) 291-7099

BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



I have broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage transplants out and I planted peas mid-December, Oregon Sugar Pod II and Mammoth Melting Sugar. I couldn't wait to see those tiny green shoots pop up with the rain that we had. Now I'm hoping that I get a yield from them since I planted them at the wrong time. I'll let you know how it works out.

Starting mid-January you can plant beets, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Swiss chard, Irish potatoes and radishes, all from seed out in the garden. You can also plant eggplant from seed, peppers from seed indoors to generate seedlings to set out later in the year. You can plant broccoli, cabbage, Kohlrabi, lettuces, mustard greens, onions or leeks from sets, English peas, shallots, spinach and turnips all month long. Also during January you can plant tomatoes from seed indoors.

The recommended varieties for eggplant are Black Beauty, Calliope, Classic, Dusky, Epic Fairy Tale (AAS), Ichiban, Night Shade, and Santana. For lettuces, the Ag Center recommends the following: in the Romaine category: Cimmaron Red, Cuare (DM), Flashy Trout Back, Green Towers, Paris Island Cos, Red Eye and Tall Guzman Elite. In the leaf lettuce category they recommend: New Red Fire MI (DM), Red Salad Bowl, Nevada (DM) Sierra Red Sails, Salad Bowl, Tango, and Grand Rapids. Finally, they recommend Buttercrunch, Esmeralda (DM), Great Lakes and Ithica in the heading lettuce category. Do remember that the heading lettuces are the most difficult for us to grow here. Our short cold season makes it difficult for the heads to form properly. Leaf lettuces, on the other hand, are super easy to grow and we can start harvesting within a few weeks. There's absolutely nothing like a salad of baby lettuces from your own garden.

Beets, carrots, radishes, turnips and kohlrabi should be fertilized with 6-7 pounds of 8-8-8 or 4-5 pounds of 8-24-24. Do this by side-dressing 3 to 4 weeks after planting.

Since this is the Christmas season and I'm sort of busy I'm going to make this one shorter than usual. I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful Christmas and all the best in the coming year.

Until next time – Happy Gardening!

What Plant Am I?

I was discovered in the 16th century by Spanish sailors along the west coast of North America. Because I carpeted the hillsides with my yellow-gold flowers, the sailors thought they were seeing the gold they were seeking. In 1719, a naval surgeon and botanist collected and returned me to England, but my plants did not survive and my seeds did not germinate. A Russian scientific expedition in 1815 rediscovered me and named me after a naturalist on the voyage.

My 4-petaled flowers, which last 3 or 4 days, and close at night, are about an inch across. I grow to about a foot tall. I now come in many other shades, such as scarlet, terra-cotta, yellows, oranges and white, in single and double blooms. My double blooms are sterile. The disk at the base of my flower is called a torus. My blue-green leaves are fern-like.

I'm usually considered an annual, but in milder climates I can be biennial and even a perennial. I grow best in well-drained soil in full sun. I'm now the state flower of California.

Do you know what plant I am?

(See page 9 for the answer)

Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association

2016 Renewal & Committee Selection Form

Name: _____

Check if your contact info is correct on the current roster

Mailing Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____ Email: _____

Year of Class: _____ Spouse (optional) _____ Business Affiliation (optional) _____

Please check all items you wish to include in the LPMGA Roster

__ home address __ home phone __ cell __ work __ email address __ spouse's name

Please check committees/volunteer opportunities for year 2016. (If you served on a committee in prior year and want to do so again for 2016, please check it again)

COMMITTEES:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| __ AOC | __ Historian | __ Programs |
| __ Ask a Master Gardener | __ Horticultural Hints | __ Propagation |
| __ Calendar Sales | __ Irrigation (Demo Gardens) | __ Publicity |
| __ Children's Garden (garden tours) | __ Junior Master Gardener Program | __ School Garden Initiative |
| __ Class Coordinator Assistant | __ Master Gardener Office (Ag Office) | __ Second Saturday Garden Talks |
| __ Cottage Keeper | __ MG Merchandise (T-shirts) | __ Social Coordinator (May and Christmas Event) |
| __ Demonstration Gardens | __ MGIT Class Mentor | __ Speakers' Bureau |
| __ Facebook Administrator | __ Newsletter | __ Vermilionville Medicinal Garden |
| __ Festival des Fleurs | __ Pine Straw | __ Volunteer coordinator |
| __ Field Trips | __ PlantFest | __ Webpage administrator (coordinates with state LSU website) |
| __ Garden Stroll | __ Plant Sales | __ Website committee (assists with development of LPMGA website) |
| __ Garden Talk | __ Plant Swap | |
| __ Guy Squad/Property | | |
| __ Habitat for Humanity | | |
| __ Handbook Update | | |

OFFICERS/CHAIRS:

__ Demo Garden Bed Chair __ Executive Board __ Committee Chair
Bed of Interest: _____ Office of Interest: _____ Committee of Interest : _____

LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325
Lafayette, LA 70501-6884



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for the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com

LPMGA Calendar JANUARY 2016

December 31st: Deadline to report volunteer and continuing ed. hours!
December 31st: Send in your dues by Dec. 31 to avoid \$5 late fee.
January 6: General Master Gardener Meeting, Main Library at noon.
January 25: LPMGA Board meeting, Ira Nelson Center, 1 p.m.



Gardener's Gazette is issued to all members of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners' Program. All members are encouraged to submit news, educational features, and photographs. The deadline for all submissions is the 17th of each month for publication in the next month's issue unless otherwise noted.

Please send newsletter items to:

Theresa Rohloff thescottherald@aol.com Please include:

"MG NEWSLETTER" in your subject bar.

The Master Gardener program is a division of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Agency and can be contacted at:

1010 Lafayette Street/Suite 325,
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
Telephone (337) 291-7090
fax (337) 291-7099

The Web site is www.lsuagcenter.com

The Louisiana cooperative extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana Governing Bodies, Southern University, and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability.

If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in our meetings, please call 337-291-7090

Please note: All meeting and event dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

WHAT PLANT AM I?

ANSWER:

Eschasholtzia californica :

California poppy

