Gardener's Gazette

A LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS PUBLICATION

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 4

April 2024

LPMGA General Meeting

April 3rd, 12 Noon
Main Liabrary
West Congress

LPMGA Board Meeting

March 16th 1PM
IRA NELSON
2206 JOHNSTON ST.

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BETWEEN THE ROWS

By Mary Ann Armbruster

Oh, this weather! I really had thought that the weather would be warmer by now, but I always think that. I'm just ready for winter to be over. The extended forecast indicates a few dips into the high 40s through the end of March, but the real cold should be over by April.

After this last spattering of cold nights, you will be able to plant some of the warm weather crops, like tomatoes and squash, but please, do yourself and your plants a favor and wait until the soil has warmed to above 60º before planting tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers. The air temperature may be quite warm, but the soil temperature may still be well below 60º. Yes, you can try to get a jump on the season by planting one or two seedlings early, but if we get any serious cold, the plants could languish and never really develop well. This is especially important for eggplant, which do not like temps below 50°F. Waiting will insure sturdy, well-developed plants. Yes, I always try for an early tomato or pepper, but never with all my seedlings. Sometimes it gets me that extra-early tomato, but about half the time, I lose. Risking a few is a reasonable gamble though. Speaking of seedlings, most of mine are coming up well. I planted fourteen varieties of tomato, ranging from the reliable, I WILL get a crop, Better Bush or Celebrity, to the heirlooms and foreign seeds, like Mortgage Lifter and Japanese Trifele Black (actually from Russia), to the more modern creations, like Sungold, a heat tolerant variety, and the open-pollinated Chocolate Cherry. With this range, I should have tomatoes all season long. I follow the same idea with peppers, cucumbers and eggplant. I use a few seeds of each type to have one or two plants of many different varieties. This gives me early, mid-season and late varieties, as well as insurance in case one variety does not do well that season.
You can put out seeds or transplants of snap beans, summer squash, cantaloupe, okra, limas, cukes, peanuts, pumpkin, and watermelon starting in early April and continuing all month. All April you can set out transplants of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Sweet potato sets can be set out starting mid-April.

If you stagger setting the plants out, putting a few plants out each week or 10 days, that will lengthen the harvest as well for many varieties.

Next month we will have SPRING and we can go back to enjoying our gardens before the summer heat keeps us in again.
Until next month,
Happy Gardening!

MEETINGS AND WHAT PLANT AM I

2024 LPMGA General Meetings
First Wednesday Monthly
Daytime: 12:00pm
Evening: 6 pm

2024 LPMGA Board Meetings
1pm on Third Tuesday

Dates, times, topics, and locations are subject to change

GENERAL MEETINGS	BOARD MEETINGS
April 3	April 16
May 1	May 21
June 5	June 18
July 3	July 16
August 7	August 20
September 4	**September 17**
October 2	October 15
November 6	November 19
December 4	December 17

WHAT PLANT IS THIS

This perennial, herbaceous plant is native to the central and eastern North America and to Canada. It grows from 2 feet to 4 feet high and wide in stiff, erect, compact clumps in full sun to light shade. Often found in upland prairies, and in dry, rocky open woods. It can grow in dry, clay, poor soil and in moist acidic (less that pH 6.8) soil. Its narrow, pale green, slivery leaves which are borne on square stems, subtend the terminal flower clusters. These leaves, which are edible, will repel mosquitos when rubbed on the skin.

Numerous small, two-lipped corollas varying from white to lavender, with purple spots, appear when the plant is about 1 foot wide, blooming from June to September. These flowers are also edible, and they attract about 20 species of Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera, Bumble bees and Honeybees. The flowers produce small black nutlets which contain seeds. Small animals eat the seeds and deer eat the leaves of this plant. Propagation is by seed, cuttings and root division. It also spreads by rhizomes.

The leaves of this plant have been used in the past to treat indigestion, colic, flatulence, bleeding gums and menstrual cramps. The Cherokee used the leaves to make a poultice to treat headaches.

In 2020, this plant was named Native Plant of the Year. Do you know what plant this is? **Karen Trahan**

- similar to the hope

Spring Is On The Way – But...

There's always a renewed interest in gardening and landscaping in the springtime, as this is when most homeowners *literally and figuratively* step back outside. I'd like to think of this renewed interest as a "New Year Resolution" of sorts of going to the gym every day or changing habits of eating sweets regularly. As the weather warms up in the spring, the LSU AgCenter office can expect to get innumerous calls each day. Even the casual or "fair-weather" gardener dreams of having a garden worthy of the highly coveted Garden Club of the Month award. Little do most homeowners know that gardening is not a one-month a year obligation – it is an ongoing and considerable task.

One of the most common questions to come into the LSU AgCenter office the past few weeks is how to care for your stressed plants following the heat and drought of last year. One thing I have communicated is that if the problem took 4+ months to develop, it will not be fixed in a couple of weeks. Patience is key when nurturing your plants back to health. I had a discussion last week regarding a nearly 100 year old camellia that was heavily injured by the recent drought. The tree lost nearly 50% of its foliage and was looking less than ideal. The homeowner was distraught that the tree did not leaf out as it did in previous years. Many homeowners expect a plant to "bounce back" from any affliction with a little water and fertilizer, but the reality is that recovery takes TIME. If a plant was not able to simply maintain its growth in a previous season, it usually doesn't have the reserves to flush new growth and return to its former vigor.

Of the many plants in the home landscape, turfgrass has been one of the hardest hit. While it seems helpful to fertilize the grass when it starts greening up in the spring, it is best to wait until early-mid April to apply any Nitrogen fertilizer. This gives the grass time to develop a sound root system following an early season root decline. I have also seen inadequate Potassium levels in many of the soil sample results for home lawns. If you recall, Potassium is the macronutrient tied to drought and heat tolerance in turfgrass. The LSU AgCenter widely preaches the necessity of soil testing to determine nutrient levels in soil – Don't Guess, Soil Test! During the growing season, make sure the turfgrass gets 1 inch of water a week through rain or irrigation. In areas where the turfgrass has completely died, sodding may be necessary. One key to keeping your landscape healthy is to constantly venture out and spend time with your plants. They will often let you know when they aren't happy!

To end on an exciting note, Dans le Jardin was a wonderful event that inspired many gardeners – including myself – to get outside and enjoy the magic of spring. A big thank you and congratulations to everyone who assisted with the event. It truly was an excellent opportunity for gardeners in our community to share in the excitement that is gardening!

Maddox Miller, LSU AgCenter

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS GET A NEW PERGOLA

Our Propagation and Demo Garden teams enjoying the new pergola.

2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS NEEDED

The officers needed for 2025 are Vice President, Recording Secretary, Member-At-Large and Treasurer. The nominating committee comprised of Mary Gladney, Mary Kramer, and Ed Wilhelm and Paul Manual are looking for members who are willing to serve on next year's board.
We will, also, elect a member to be on the 2025 Nominating Committee.

Keep in mind that serving on the board is not lonely, you have the Ag Agent and 8 LPMG's to serve with you. We, also, encourage any member who desires to attend a meeting to do so.

So step up and volunteer yourself, or let one of us know of someone you think we should contact

PROPAGATION DRAINAGE PROJECT

If you work at propagation or in one of our demonstration beds you have noticed a large lake between the cottage and the shade house after a rain. This is the result of the drain under the sidewalk between the two building has collapsed . The project will be to remove part of the sidewalk, replace the pipe and then to replace the sidewalk. Replacing the sidewalk will include removing the trip hazard where the sidewalk and the shade house foundation do not meet properly.

Ed Wilhelm is our project head and has suggested that the project should include hotdogs for lunch. The unanimously approved hotdogs and the fixing board approved the project, to include hotdogs and fixing.

Ed is looking for a team and we promise this will be way more fun than a root canal. Ed is accepting any and all skill levels and assures us we will all learn something.

We will be serving hotdogs and lemonade.

Date April 11th and time 8:30 AM. Pleas contact Ed at 337-523-0866, to let him know you will be there so we have enough FOOD.

WHAT PLANT IS THIS ANSWER

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium :

Mountain Mint

SPEAKERS BUREAU SCHEDULE

April	6th	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	**Festival des Fleurs**	
		9 a.m.	Flower Design Tips and Tricks	Lafayette Garden Club-Noreen Bienvenu
		10 a.m.	Propagating Roses-How to Make Rose Cuttings	Rose Society-BJ Abshire
		11 a.m.	How to Start Warm and Cool Season Cut Flowers	LPMGA-Colette Anzelone
		1 p.m.	The Ungarnished Truth about Herbs	LPMGA-Marcelle Bienvenu
	9th	5:30 p.m.	Moncus Park	Medicinal Gardening	Mary Ann Armbruster
	20th	8:30/ 11:30	Spring Fest	Starting and Maintaining a Garden	Phil Schott
		9:30/ 12:30	Moncus Park	Warm Season Vegetables	Ed Wilhelm
		10:30 / 1:30		Composting	MaryAnn Armbruster
May	14th	5:30 p.m.	Moncus Park	Heat Tolerant Miniature Orchid	Nancy Anne Rowe

FOOD FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Each year when FDF rolls around the members of LPMGA and the Board of FDF provide food for the private snack room in the rear of Blackham Coliseum. Some of our volunteers work all day and a little pick me up is needed.

Favorites include: cookies, sandwiches, peeled boiled eggs, cake, chips and dip, pretzels, vegetable trays, hummus and veggies or chips, fruit, donuts and pastries...really just about anything is welcome. Get creative and surprise us!

If you can help please contact Julie Anna at 337-288-0172.

OUR NEW COTTAGE KEEPER

Colette Anzalone, class of 2012, has become our new cottage keeper for the demonstration beds and propagation.

Thanks for stepping up Colette and welcome aboard!

CHANGES TO OUR HANDBOOK !

30-DAY NOTICE: BYLAW AMENDMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP VOTE AT APRIL GENERAL MEETING:

The LMGA Board has voted to make changes to our bylaws to accommodate electronic voting. During the recent pandemic closures, the Board approved the use of electronic voting to continue LMGA business under challenging circumstances. Electronic voting was also used in elections. The result was a larger participation in voting by our members and voting that could be done in a timelier fashion rather than waiting for meetings.

When the Board approved this, it was only approved for the year 2020 and has not been renewed. These amendments will rectify this oversite and allow members and the Board to vote electronically. Bylaw amendments are dependent upon membership approval. Motions for amendments require a 30-day notice before the membership vote. These motions (below) will be voted on at the Wednesday, April 3rd General Membership Meeting.

MOTION I
BYLAW AMENDMENT TO ALLOW MEMBERSHIP TO VOTE ELECTRONICALLY.
Justification: This motion would allow Lafayette Master Gardeners Association members to vote electronically. The wording of the approved Bylaw change would be included, as an addition to the Bylaws, with the wording currently included in Bylaws Article III Membership Section D. Voting as "3. Electronic Voting".

Motion for Membership approval for a LMGA Handbook Bylaw amendment to allow electronic voting by the Lafayette Master Gardeners Association membership:

3. Electronic Voting (Also see Policies: Elections and Voting, Jobs: Electronic Voting Coordinator)
Electronic voting is approved for use during any vote before the membership or Executive Board. The voting process will be managed by the Electronic Voting Coordinator, or Co-Coordinator, at the direction of the Executive Board.

Items that will be voted on may include, but are not limited to:
Elections (requires a simple majority vote)
By-Law changes (requires a two-third (2/3) majority vote)
Financial items that require membership approval

This Bylaw amendment will become effective upon the date of approval by the membership.

MOTION 2
BYLAW AMENDMENT TO BYLAW ARTICLE VI, SECTION C ELECTIONS OF BOARD OFFICERS ALLOWING OFFICER ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER RATHER THAN SPECIFICALLY AT THE NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEETING.
Justification: The current wording in the Lafayette Master Gardeners Association handbook states that the election of officers takes place at the "annual meeting in November". This motion would change the wording of the bylaw to allow Board elections to take place in November electronically or at a November General Meeting.

Motion for Membership approval for a LMGA Handbook Bylaw amendment to change the wording of Handbook Bylaws Article VI, Sec. C which currently reads: "1. The election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting in November." be amended to read: "1. The election of officers shall take place in November."

This Bylaw amendment will become effective upon the date of approval by the membership.

VOTE WILL BE AT GENERAL MEETING APRIL 3RD

SPRING SOCIAL
MAY1, 6PM TO 8PM
MAY VIDAGOVICH
FLYER ATTACHED

LPMGA Seed and Plant Swap

Saturday, April 13 LPMGA Demo Gardens 300 Coliseum Road Lafayette, LA

Open Trading 9am to 11am • Get there early for the best selection • Bring as many different plants as you'd like to trade before and after the Formal Swap • Label with variety, color, planting hints or any other helpful info

Formal TABLE Swap 10:30am • Numbers are drawn randomly • Bring one quality plant for the Formal Table Swap at 10:30am • it's a 1-to-1 trade – Bring one, pick one • Please remember that all plants need to be identified

Festival des Fleurs 2024

Saturday, April 6, 2024

About the Festival

For Acadiana gardeners, April traditionally marks the return of the ever-popular Festival des Fleurs, Lafayette's premier Garden Show and Sale.

Part celebration of spring's arrival, part fundraiser for UL Lafayette's Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, and part educational outreach and resource for the enhancement of horticulture in Acadiana—the event returns to Blackham Coliseum on April 6, 2024. Now in its 31th year, over 100 expected gardening-related vendors provide the show's main attraction. Festival goers will discover a wealth of resources and activities. Local gardening societies host displays and information kiosks where gardening techniques will be shared with attendees.

FESTIVAL DES FLEURS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Some of you may not know that you can volunteer to work directly for the Festival, as well as working the LPMGA plant sale. You get volunteer hours for both. Many members work at the LPMGA plant sale and then work a couple of hours for the Festival. You are already there so why not?

FDF will provide you with a nice t shirt, and a voucher to get into the festival free (you can still pay as a donation if you choose), most shifts are two hours long.

What is needed:

Admissions

Childrens' Booth

Back Door Watch

Shopping Cart Retrieval and Return

We will need volunteers from 7:30 AM until 4 PM.

To volunteer call Julia Anna 337-288--0172

or Mary Gladney 337-278-7668

Ira Nelson is our landlord, who does not charge us rent! This is the way our club can give back to them.

FDF is their only fundraiser and your help goes a long way to keeping the space open and in use.

In Memory of Mazie
By Julie Jewell Roy

The LPMGA Education and Events committee recently placed a small plaque in memory of our beloved Mazie Movassaghi in the Louisiana Super Plants bed, adjacent to the amphitheater in Moncus Park. It reads "Because someone we know in Heaven, there is a little bit of Heaven in our garden,"

Mazie's dedication to LPMGA is legendary. In addition to her work helping to beautify Moncus Park, Mazie was an active and treasured member of the propagation crew and you could find her there almost every Wednesday.

Genee Foley rccalls, "Mazie's career as an educator continued in her work to establish a working relationship between Moncus Park and the Master Gardener's. She wanted to see the Master Gardeners united with Moncus Park in presenting horticultural outreach programs and she spent many hours coordinating the objectives of the LSU Ag Center and Moncus Park. She used her Landscape Contractor License to scout out the Super Plants bed fronting the performance pavilion." Genee added, her love of her community and the love of plants were on display for Lafayette. We all have to continue her work

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS TO OUR DEMONSTRATION GARDENS ARE A HIT!

During the month of March, the Demo Beds have been getting lots of requests for school field trips! So far to date, Gail Wakefield and her committee have given tours and lessons to more than 220 students! And more are scheduled to visit during April and May!
What fun it is to share our knowledge and love of horticulture with these aspiring gardeners!

p.s. We noticed the teachers and chaperones enjoyed the tours and lessons just as well!

LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
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APRIL 2024

LPMGA General Meeting April 3rd, 12 noon Down Town Library

LPMGA Board Meeting April 16th, Ira Nelson

Festival des Fleurs April 6th Blackham Coliseum, This is LPMGA spring plant sale

Hammond Spring Garden Day & Planrt Sale-April 13. From 7:30 AM to 1 PM Hammond Research Station

LPMGA Seed and Plant Swap April 13th, Demo Gardens from 9 am to 11 am

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:
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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 the LSU AgCenter 291-7090

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