LSU AgCenter Research · Extension · Teaching

Gardener's Gazette

A LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS PUBLICATION

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 7

August 2024

Louisiana Master Gardener

LPMGA General Meeting
August 7th, 12 Noon
Downtown Library
Lafayette, LA
Rayne Gibson
Enhancing Water Effiency in Landscapes

Board Meeting
August 20th, 1PM
IRA NELSON
2206 JOHNSTON ST.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Meetings/Board pg 2**
- **Save the Date pg 2**
- **Lisa Boudreaux pg 2**
- **Healers Garden pg 2**
- **Mary Ann Talk pg 2**
- **Maddox Miller pg 3**
- **Odd Plants pg4**
- **What Plant is This pg 5**
- **Events pg 5**
- **Answer pg 6**
- **LARC pg 7**
- **Invasive Plants Pg 8**
- **Vermillionville pg 9**
- **Abbeville Red Iris pg 10**
- **Callendar pg 11**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message, we haven't had any rain yet today. That's not a complaint, just an observation. It feels like Mother Nature is making up for the drought we suffered through last year. I feel bad for anyone who has gotten too much rain for their garden or flooded, but I am loving this regular rainfall. Keep it up Mama N.

While we have much to celebrate, we have also been touched by sadness. Mary Kramer has moved to San Antonio to be closer to her son. Her calm, always upbeat demeanor will be missed. (Thanks to Paul Manuel for volunteering to fill in for Mary as Recording Secretary for the remainer of the year.) An even sadder occurrence was the passing of Lisa Boudreaux, following a long and valiant fight against cancer. She was such a sweet, thoughtful person, who will be remembered kindly by anyone who had the privilege of working with her.

On another note, we've gotten to what I think is our busiest time of the Master Gardener year: the new class has been selected and will soon be starting, we're gearing up for PlantFest™ and the Nominating Committee has been busy finding candidates willing to run for office and serve LPMGA in a greater capacity. We encourage you to *share your abilities* by running for the board or *share your knowledge* of someone who may be willing to do so.

Regarding the upcoming revision of the handbook, the handbook committee is currently reviewing the proposed revision. They will finish doing that by July 29 and the revision will then go to the board for its review. The board will have the opportunity to approve the revision at its meeting on August 20, with that updated version being released shortly thereafter. Many thanks to Louann McClellan-Long and Patricia Soileau for getting us to this point in the handbook updating.

I hope to see you all at the August 7 general meeting.

Bootsie Durand

MEETINGS AND PLANTFEST

2024 LPMGA General Meetings	2024 LPMGA Board Meetings
First Wednesday Monthly Daytime: 12:00pm Evening: 6 pm	1pm on Third Tuesday

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

GENERAL MEETINGS	BOARD MEETINGS
August 7	August 20
September 4	**September 17**
October 2	October 15
November 6	November 19
December 4	December 17

Lisa Leblanc Boudreaux

It is with heavy hearts we say farewell to our friend and club member Lisa. She graduated in 2013 and was was a cherished friend who always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. She helped me with the newsletter, worked propagation, and helped with garden strolls.

SAVE THE DATE
September 28,2024

PlantFest™ is coming soon!

This is one of our biggest fund raisers and none of our projects get done without MONEY!

Our chairperson this year is Collette Anzalone. Collette needs each of you to let her know what you did last year and if she can count on you again this year.

If you have never worked this event consider doing so. It is a great way to help the organization, learn about the plants we grow and sell and meet the local community gardeners.

MaryAnn Armbruster, Ph.D. will be giving a talk at Vermilionville for the Healing Traditions of Acadiana lecture series at 10:00 on July 27th in the Performance Center. She will discuss four common plants and their uses. MaryAnn has been Co-Chair of the Medicinal Demonstration Garden since 2011 and has spent this time studying and using the plants in the garden and others. The Healing Traditions lecture series is a quarterly effort between the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners and Vermilionville. The lectures are free to the public and attendees need not pay the regular Vermilionville admission fee. Simply enter through the Gift Shop and tell the attendant that you are going to the Healing Traditions lecture.

Horticulture Camp

On July 15th, we held our first annual 4-H Horticulture Camp for Lafayette 4-Hers. Campers learned about various methods of plant propagation and explored many horticultural topics. The kids were in awe of the plant collection at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center and many considered "The Jungle" to be a favorite part of their day. The 4-H'ers were able to tour the demonstration beds with some of our wonderful Master Gardeners (shoutout to Gail, Kathy, Sandra, and Kevin) and had a great time learning about ornamentals, roses, native plants, Louisiana Super Plants, and vegetable gardening. Another highlight of the day was the pollinator lesson where the 4-H'ers were able to witness the 4 stages of the butterfly life cycle and release Monarch and Fritillary butterflies. To end the day, 4-H'ers learned about landscaping principles and used their creative side to make their own Fairy Garden with plants donated by the Propagation committee (thank you!). I want to sincerely thank all of the Master Gardeners who directly or indirectly contributed to a great event. It is always rewarding to see others get excited about something you are passionate about.

If you are looking to make a big impact on 4-H youth, I would encourage you to consider volunteering with the School Garden Initiative. This is an excellent opportunity to get the younger generation excited about gardening and eating healthfully. On a different note, we have been fortunate with more typical weather patterns this summer. It certainly has been hot, but the regular rainfall is welcomed after such a dry year in 2023. Here's to hoping for continued regular rainfall without the risk of flooding or a hurricane!

An Odd and Favorite Plant

By Nancy Anne Rowe

As favored potted plants, many of us like the caudiciforms, aka “Fat Plants” “Big Bottomed Girls” and other nicknames – plants that develop a swollen base either as a root that’s raised in the pot as it grows or a caudex appears naturally. Adeniums of different species: obesum, multiflorum, etc. are often offered in our local garden centers. As a bonus, these have beautiful blooms and long flowering seasons. These have nicknames like “Desert Rose” and “Impala Lily.”

Another common genus is the Packypodiums with nicknames like “Madagascar Palm” and “Elephant’s Foot” – these can also produce lovely flowers.

And others of us like to grow plants in the Stapeliad group – nicknamed “Carrion Plants” for their less-than-delightful scent. The flowers in this family tend to be quite spectacular, and often hairy and furry. Needless to say, they are pollinated by flies. We grow the “Starfish Flower” (Stapelia gigantea) and “Life-Saver Plant” (Huernia zebrina). There are many others in this group, mostly succulents, all beautiful in their own weird and stinky way.

A species that I’ve grown for many years has the best qualities of both of these groups – it forms a corky and very attractive caudex and also produces beautiful hairy flowers that smell like ground meat that has ‘gone off.’ This is ***Matelea cyclophylla*** or ***Gonolobus cyclophyllus.*** For some unknown reason, its nickname is “Milk Vine” though it is decidedly not a vine. This is in the Ascledpiadaceae family and is native to Mexico. Thus it is related to our common milkweeds that we like to grow as forage for the Monarch caterpillars.

I grow this like many other caudiciforms, in a mixture of about 2/3 potting mix and 1/3 sharp sand. It is relatively slow-growing, but begins to develop the fissures and grooves while still fairly young and small. Photos show a mature plant and its absolutely beautiful foliage and spspectacular/stinky flowers. Also a plant that is about a year or two old, already showing the traits of its elder.

Muture Plant

Foliage Of Plant

Flower

Young Plant

WHAT PLANT IS THIS?

This plant is a water-loving succulent perennial found in zones 3 to 7. It lives in marshes, ditches, wet woods and swamps in mucky soils high in hummus. If its soil goes dry temporarily, it will go dormant. Thick, hollow branching stems bear dark green glossy leaves which are 3 to 6 inches wide, heart or kidney shaped, and shallowly toothed. It will grow into a mound 1 to 2 feet tall. They secrete a substance which may cause contact dermatitis. No part of this plant should be eaten raw. It contains ranunculin, which is converted by an enzyme to glucose and protoanemonin. The leaves may be boiled in 3 changes of water and eaten
like a vegetable. Native Americans used it to treat colds and sores, as an aid in childbirth, to induce vomiting, and (ahem) to protect against love charms.

In spring, clusters of luminous yellow flowers 1 to 2 inches will appear. The smooth petals are strongly scented and are said to repel flies, mosquitoes, and possibly rabbits and deer. Insects, amphibians, bees, hummingbirds and songbirds use this plantas food and as a source of nectar.

Do you know what plant this is?

SOUTHERN GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

LETURES-WORKSHOPS-CHARM

OCOTBER 18 & 19 2024

thesoutherngardensymposium.org

SOUTHERN GARDEN FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 5, 2024

3502 EAST SIMCORE STREET

Familypromiseacadiana.org

Your Nomination Committee has been working toward a slate of qualified and willing nominees for the 2025 LPMGA Board. We have followed the directions of our handbook and think we have a good group of candidates. Included are some general membership nominees that are ready and willing to serve their club. All nominees will be announced at our October meeting.

TIME FOR NOMINATIONS

If you are interested in serving on the board, or if you know someone who you think is perfect for the position of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary or Member-At Large let someone on the committee know. Although not a board member, we are looking for someone to be our Electronic Communications Liaison. The Electronic Communication Liaison oversees emailing the newsletter to members and forwarding all "appropriate" email communications to the membership.

I have served on this committee for several terms and have always had a problem recruiting members with years of experience. If you have been a member for a few years, consider joining the board or becoming the communication liaison.

Mary Gladney

WHAT PLANT IS THIS?

Caltha palustris :

Marsh marigold, cowslip

LARC/Acadian Village Garden – Delivers for the "Grow a Row to Share" Program

As we have shared in the past the LPMG and LARC gardeners have a very productive and educational garden project. We have extended our impact from the LARC community to the neediest in the Southwest Louisiana community. We have done this through the LSU AgCenter's "Grow a Row to Share" training. So far this year we have delivered 122 lbs. of vegetables to our partners.

We learned about the training through announcements from our local AgCenter. The course is online, does not take much time to complete, straight forward and educational.

This is how the program is described on the LSU AgCenter Website-About Grow a Row to Share.

Grow a Row to Share is a program that connects home gardeners and local farmers with charitable food organizations like food pantries. The goal of the program is to get more fresh fruits and vegetables into the local food system and onto the plates of Louisiana residents, especially those who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

The program provides training and information on home gardening, food safety, and food handling procedures. After donors register and complete the training, they are matched with a charitable food partner in their area. There is no commitment on how much or how little participants must donate. Just share when you have extra and remember that every bit counts!

Over the past several years I have been sharing with Second Harvest the extra produce I have harvested from my backyard garden. I have felt the great satisfaction that comes from sharing. Thanks to Chuck Schrader's leadership and the generosity of the LARC gardeners we are making an impact within the larger community of Southwest Louisiana. All the gardeners of LARC are experiencing a higher level of accomplishment and satisfaction coming from being a service to the greater community

We want to share this satisfaction with all of the LPMG and invite those that have the room to grow a row to share to participate. Please take a brief moment to enroll in the program and connect with a participating partner within the program. The link is located on the AgCenter website and below for your convenience.

Home gardeners, local farmers and charitable food sites can register at http://bit.ly/growarowlsu.

1. Complete the short training after registration to become a certified partner.

Get matched and begin sharing your bounty with the community!

Regards,

Bobby Darnall

Plants Behaving Badly
Invasive? Or Just to Pushy…

By Carol Antosiak

Although many gardeners use the word "invasive" to describe any quick-spreading garden-thug of a plant, an invasive is actually defined as a non-native plant that causes environmental or economic harm where it is introduced. Invasive plants in the wild can spread so rapidly they out-compete and replace the natives on which our wildlife depends. A plant that seems innocuous enough to us in our own gardens may behave very differently when let loose on our unsuspecting ecosystems. Conversely, a plant bully in our flower beds might not (or might) cause a problem elsewhere.

Check out the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website (Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Chapter 6, or the Louisiana Native Plant Society's list for more info on plants considered invasive in Louisiana so you can avoid using them in your garden and work on getting rid of the ones you have.

Back to the thugs. Many plants may be too exuberant for a carefully manicured bed, but one person's badly behaved spreader is another's "Space Filler", taking over an area where nothing else can be persuaded to grow. Call it "aggressive" (or any other bad name you like) but to avoid confusion, not "invasive."

But wait, there's more:

Charlotte's Crossing
By Marty Thompson Arnold
Schuler Books, 2023

If you would prefer your problem plants with a side of romance, you might enjoy this novel about a young woman on a mission to start her own native plant landscaping business. Although Charlotte Adair doesn't have a single client so far, all that is about to change when she meets an eccentric man with an island in need of a garden. Although set in Michigan this story will resonate with anyone in any state who loves and grows natives. (And hates invasives)

But don't just take my word for it:

"*This is not just a balanced, well-researched discourse on the value of native plants… although it is certainly that. This is a real novel, with human-interest plots and sub-plots, witty, laugh-out-loud dialogue… But most of all, this is a deeply touching love story. One of my all-time favorite books!*"

-Doug Tallemy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*

VERMILLIONVILLE

CREOLE CULTURE DAY

Every year Vermilionville celebrates our Cajun and Creole heritage. The Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners are present and helping to spread our knowledge and understanding of the plants they grow there. This year there were 260 people who attended and interacted with the LPMG that present at the Healers Garden at Vermilionville.

MaryAnn Armbruster gives a tour of the Healing Gardens at Vermillionville Cajun Culture Day

Mary Perrin gives a tour of the Healers Gardens at Vermilionville, Sunday

Tom Cylkowski and Kathy look on and learn while Mary Perrin gives a tour of the Vermilionville Healing Garden on Sunday

Mary Ann Armbruster even gave tours in French!

June 9, 2024

Seventeen members of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association are shown putting the pots holding the Abbeville Red iris seeds into their shade house at their demonstration garden/nursery on ULL's Ira Nelson Horticultural Center grounds on July 9, 2024.

LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325
Lafayette, LA 70501-6884

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

AUGUST 2024

August 7th, 12 Noon, LPMGA General Meeting, Downtown Library, Dan Gill

August 18th LPMGA Board Meeting, 1 PM Ira Nelson

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:
Editor Mary Gladney newsletter@lpmga.org
The Master Gardener program is a division of the
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Agency
1010 Lafayette Street/Suite 325,
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
Telephone (337) 291-7090 Fax (337) 291-7099
The AgCenter website 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 A State Partner in the Cooperative Extension System.
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.