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Gardener's Gazette

A LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS PUBLICATION

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 5

May 2024

Louisiana Master Gardener

LPMGA General Meeting
May 1st, 6 PM
201 Grossie Dr.
Lafayette, LA 70501

Meeting
May 21st, 1PM
IRA NELSON
2206 JOHNSTON ST.

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PRSIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy spring everyone. There is so much going on with LPMGA, that it's hard to know where to start.

Never mind; I know where to start. I want to give a shoutout to the Dans le Jardin committee. I call them the Dream Team because they are fantastic to work with. We have started discussing the 2025 version of Dans le Jardin and unanimously decided to go back to the Lite Center, a truly impressive and accommodating venue for a symposium, with a June date.

Congrats to our propagation team for a phenomenal FDF plant sale. Before you know it, Plant Fest will be here; speaking of which, we are still looking for two members to chair this fundraiser. Please contact Heather Warner-Finley if you have any interest in volunteering to do this.

Because of the work of Louann McClelland-Long and Patricia Soileau and the handbook committee, we will soon have a handbook revision distributed and posted on line. Because there is a great deal needing updating, this will be a partial revision, with a full revision coming out by the end of the year. I encourage you all to read the board and membership meeting minutes, to keep up with the changes being voted in.

Thanks to Ed Wilhelm and his helpers for tackling the drainage problem we have in front of the shade house. We are truly lucky to have a member who is so dedicated and skilled when it comes to improving our grounds. And thanks to May Vidacovich for hosting our May 1 social again this year. I can't think of a more inspirational place to have a garden party.

I hope the heat and drought from last summer are distant memories and your gardens are growing by leaps and bounds. The weeds surely are.

Margaret B. (Bootsie) Durand

MEETINGS AND WHAT PLANT AM I

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
SOCIAL	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

By Karen Trahan

It is a low-growing ground cover but can't stand up to heavy foot traffic. Hardy in Zones 4 or 5 to 9, it requires full sun and well-drained soil with a pH of neutral to alkaline and has low water requirements. Its stems are narrow and become woody on older plants. Leaves are small in opposite pairs, oval and entire. They are evergreen in most species and usually aromatic, with a pleasant pungent odor. These leaves are prized in many cuisines and are used both fresh and dried. They are added to chicken, pork and beef stock, soups and stews, and to make a tea. The culinary species are usually perennial. Many medicinal properties are attributed to this plant: boosts immunity, lowers blood pressure, treats acne, alleviates coughs. Its oil contains Carvachol, Vitamins A and C, copper, iron and manganese in small quantities. It is used in pesticides to repel mosquitoes and other insects. But they are also used as food plants by the larvae of some butterflies and moths.

The flowers of this plant can be purple, yellow or white, with three lobes in dense terminal heads, and appear in early to mid-summer. They attract butterflies and bees but are resistant to deer and rabbits.

Do you know what plant this is?

Oh My Gall!

On occasion, a home gardener brings an unusual plant sample in to the office which initially stumps the County Agent. Most recently, the home gardener was a Master Gardener and the office was Festival des Fleurs. The sample was strange, succulent-like foliage of what appeared to be *Camellia sasanqua*. My initial thought was that it must be a gall caused by some kind of mite or insect. I was correct about the issue being a "gall" but incorrect about the cause being a mite or insect; this gall was caused by a fungus.

The Camellia leaf gall is caused by the fungus *Exobasidium camelliae*. This particular fungus only infects Camellias and most often impacts one particular species, *Camellia sasanqua*. The symptoms of this fungus are thick, fleshy leaves that are discolored to a light green, cream, or even pinkish hue. The fungus invades developing foliage and causes the tissues to swell. This disease is most commonly seen in the Spring during the months of April and May. The treatment for this fungus is to remove all of the succulent foliage with pruning shears and discard. If the infected foliage is not removed, the spores mature (exposing a white underside) and can be a source of fungal inoculum for future years.

As many of you are likely familiar– the most common type of galls in our area are oak galls. These galls can be found on many species of oaks and are abnormal growths on the leaves or stems of the oak. These growths are commonly caused by tiny wasps which lay eggs into developing tissues of the oak. The larvae of these insects produce chemicals that mimic plant growth hormones and cause the tissue to expand and form a "gall."

All in all, Festival des Fleurs was a great event that was well attended by the public and a great learning experience for gardeners, including myself. Thank you to Melissa Dardar for the interesting sample and photograph. A big thank you also goes out to all Master Gardeners in attendance at Festival des Fleurs as volunteers for the sale, Ask a Master Gardener booth, or even as customers

Maddox Miller, LSU AgCenter

Spring Fest At Moncus Park

Greetings Fellow Master Gardeners

Springfest at Moncus Park, allowed me to sit on the sidelines and listen to two members of the Speaker Bureau. Phillip Schott (class of 2022) and Ed Wilhelm (class of 2021) each did two presentations this past weekend under the Oaks at Moncus Park. The crowds were not big, however those in attendance were so impressed and grateful for the horticulture information they were given by both speakers. They both did a great job in mentioning the Master Gardener class, the three-committees doing volunteer work at Moncus Park and the LSU Ag Center. Great job by the two co-chairs of the Speaker Bureau, Susan Mead and Kevin Besse. Thank you all for all you do!

Juan Nieto

Ed Wilhelm

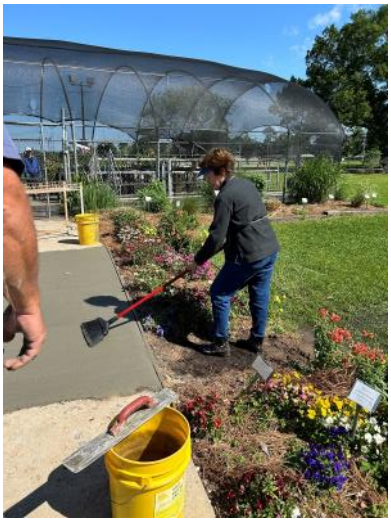
Phillip Scott

SAVE THE DATE OF THURSDAY MAY 9TH FOR AN UPCOMING FIELD TRIP!
CINDY WILEY HAS A TREAT PLANNED FOR US IN A TRIP TO PALMETTO PARK NEAR ABBEVILLE. THE PARK RANGER WILL GIVE US A TRAIL TREK, WE CAN VISIT THEIR NATURE STATION AND WE WILL RECEIVE AN EDUCATIONAL TALK FROM THE NOLA IRISA PRESERVATION SOCIETY! CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE SPECIFICS.

PROPAGATION DRAINAGE PROJECT

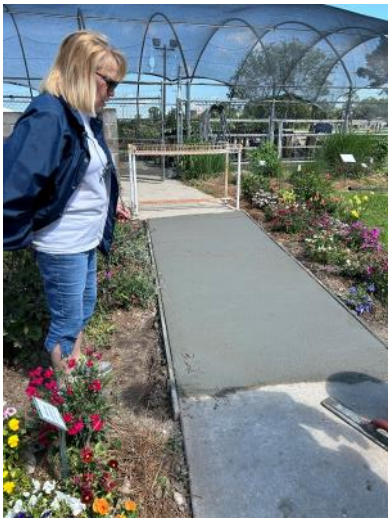
Shout out to Ed and Susan Wilhelm for planning a fun and successful project for propagation. Our sidewalk and drainage are fixed through stage one, everyone had a great time and the hot dogs were great!

The crew



Look at Collette go!

Getting to work



Bootsie Durand dates the work!

WHAT PLANT IS THIS ANSWER

Thymus species:

Creeping thyme

Healer's Garden

The Healer's Garden had a busy week in mid April. On Wednesday, April 15, a a group of 20 Bonne Terre Master Naturalists from Houma came to the Healer's Garden to get a tour. Mary Ann Armbruster, Mary Perrin, and Pat Miller each took a third of the group and taught them as much as they could in an hour about the native Louisiana medicinal plants growing there, what conditions they treat, what formulations are used to make medicines from them, a little about the folklore that surrounds them, and also a bit about the history of the garden. After they got their tour and asked questions, they went for a leisurely lunch at Vermilionville's wonderful restaurant, La Cuisine de Maman.

Then on Sunday, May 21, Vermilionville celebrated Earth Day. Several members of the committee spent hours out there giving tours to the visitors. Committee members present were co-chairman, Mary Perrin, Dr. Paul Gulotta, Dr. Nancy Atkins, and Billie Maylard.

LARC HAS TRANSPLANT DAY

Transplant Day at LARC arrived in mid-March with all the production trappings of Opening Night at the theater.

Bobby Darnell and the LARC gardeners had readied the beds with compost covered with construction paper two days earlier. With early morning dewdrops encircling the nearby tomato cages, Bobby began the final preparations using some creative alternatives to typical transplanting steps.

With drill in hand, he cut a two-inch circle through the construction paper to indicate where the tomato plants would get their start in the garden. He then followed this step with an auger attached to his handy drill and voilà, transplant-ready holes appeared.

With the placement of the seedlings next to their names that had been written on the paper two days earlier, the stage was set.

When the cast of LARC gardeners arrived, Bobby demonstrated the preparation work. They were then teamed up with an MG for a quick review of the transplanting steps. This review proved unnecessary—several of the gardeners demonstrated what they had already learned and carefully planted the seedling before the review was completed. The gardeners then covered the transplanted veggies with bottomless large plastic planters and anchored the planters to protect the transplants from the wind.

At the end of the class, the LARC gardeners took bows and received "Bravos" from the MGs (some of whom are shown in the photos): Jerome Alesi, Katharine Batiste, Bobby Darnall, Pamela Durrett, Delia Eskine, Carolyn Freeland, Jennifer McKay, Lois Page, Joyce Payne, Tom Spencer, and a local photographer, Chuck Schrader.

Beds covered with compost and paper

Puttin the plant in

PLANT SWAP 2024

Lynn Hair

IRISES AT THE FARM

THANKA CINDI WYLIE FOR THE FIELD TRIP

Denise Files

Guy With Cool Shirt

THANKS YVETTE NEVITTE FOR THE PICTURES

Happy Birthday Acadiana Rose Society

By: Vanessa Sam

The month of May marks the 34th anniversary of the Acadiana Rose Society. The first meeting was held in May of 1990 at Marshall's Nursery in Lafayette and was attended by eighteen people. Letha Briggs and her late husband Willard started the ARS. The club continues to flourish by adding new members. The program committee plans a year long program of monthly guest speakers to present information. In addition to a guest speaker two segments; "Consulting Rosarian Tip" and "What Works or Didn't Work in My Garden" are presented by current members of the club. Being a member, you also receive a monthly newsletter "Thorny Issues" published by BJ Abshire. During our meeting time members bring roses from their gardens for Show and Tell. This presents a fantastic opportunity to see and smell roses that you are not familiar with. ARS currently has eight consulting rosarians with Ms. Linda Aguzin being a Master Rosarian. Delicious refreshments and door prizes are standard for each meeting. Meetings are held at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. No meetings are held in July and December. Many people shy away from growing roses because they think or have been told roses are difficult to grow. The members of ARS all have a passion for growing roses and teaching others. With all the resources offered we feel confident that anyone can learn to grow and love roses. Feel free to join us at a meeting and keep growing.

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

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MAY 2024

May 1, 6 PM LPMGA Spring Social
May's house 201 Grossie Drive 70501

May 4th Sunset Herb and Garden Festival, 235 Marie Street, Sunset LA

May 6, Burdon Conference Centers "Lunch and Learn. 4560 Esson Lane BatonRouge

May 21 LPMGA Board Meeting, 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

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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.