

Let's Learn about Hibiscus

Join us, again, at the Clifton Chenier Center on Wednesday, April 2 at noon. Our speaker will be Paul "Buddy" Short who will give a presentation about hibiscus. The presentation will be followed by our business meeting for April. It will be the last chance to sign up for the Texas fieldtrip. We welcome visitors, friends and family as long as space is available.

The board meeting takes place at the IRA Nelson Horticulture Center library on April 21, the day after Easter, at 1 p.m. With ULL classes in session, members should enter through the doors located near the restrooms.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Babette Werner

The LSU AgCenter has an Environment and Natural Resources Division which provides excellent information on topics such as Conservation and Water Issues. Although our emphasis is on horticulture, we have to be cognizant of

our environment also. As such, **I would like to challenge to our members to start using reusable water containers instead of plastic water bottles.**

Reasons to switch to reusable water containers:

- One plastic bottle can take hundreds of years to decompose; loading up our landfills for years at a time.
- Bottled water is costly compared to drinking tap water or filtered water from a reusable bottle.
- Bottled water can cost up to 500 times the cost of tap water.
- The production of one plastic bottle uses energy, emits toxins into the air, and uses more water to produce than actually put into the bottle for drinking.

Benefits of using a reusable water bottle:

- Better for our environment by reducing the amount of fossil fuels and toxins released into the air during production.
- Durable, and can help you decrease your carbon footprint.

- Convenient.
- Most public facilities have water fountains to fill up your water bottle.

Water bottles can be purchased in every price range at numerous retail outlets. Some companies, such as Eco Vessel, donate one percent of the purchase price of every product to Water for People, whose mission is to provide long-lasting solutions to the water, sanitation, and hygiene problems in the developing world.

On a local level the benefit of using a reusable water container helps to preserve the health of our Vermilion River. Bayou Vermilion District regularly removes between **90 and 150 55-gallon barrels** of floating debris per week from Vermilion River and its tributaries in Lafayette Parish. Lafayette Parish is in the Teche-Vermilion Watershed. Any time that it rains in Lafayette Parish, the water flows into ditches along the road, into storm drains, through coulees, into bayous and eventually all ends up in the Vermilion River. Not only does the water flow into the Vermilion, but everything that the water collects along the way. This includes plastic water bottles, styrofoam cups, spilled oil, cigarette butts, leaves and grass clippings (*Water Facts – excerpts from the Bayou Vermilion District website*).

I hope that you will embrace this challenge both helping the environment and keeping our river clean!
Babette

Wednesday

APRIL 2, at noon

@ Clifton Chenier Center
Lafayette

LPMGA BOARD

MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,
APRIL 21

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE
CENTER

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner— More about Freeze Recovery
- MG Events, Reports, & Announcements
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2014 BOARD: President

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GERALD'S CORNER

Hello Gardeners,

This month, let's look at several topics. To most of us, the effects of this winter are not a total shock because we are aware of the unpredictable weather here in Louisiana. I'm constantly getting calls, now, from gardeners who are asking questions such as: will my gingers come back? Or, how do I determine if my angel trumpets survive? Or, how do I determine how much of my citrus trees should be pruned? The first point I'd like to make is that we are not the ones that will determine the extent of damage that occurred on landscape plants. That is going to be determined by the overall health and vigor of the plants, the plant's (or plant group's) degree of cold hardiness, whether or not the plants were in an exposed or protected area, and finally, how low the temperatures dropped below freezing, and how many hours temperatures remained there..

When selecting plants for our southern landscapes, gardeners should become familiar with the terms *tender* and *hardy*. Hardy plants are those that can reliably survive winter temperatures in the area where you garden with little or no protection. A plant is considered tender when it will not reliably survive winter temperatures in the area where you garden without extensive protection. Also there are various degrees of cold hardiness and cold tenderness that exist among both (hardy and tender) groups of plants. In this day and age, gardeners should be aware of the potential for damage from freezing temperatures when choosing plants for our southern gardens.

Another misunderstood term used in discussing cold temperatures during winter months is *wind chill*. For the record, plants don't feel wind chill like we do; rather, plants are affected by the actual temperatures.

Upon the advice of Dan Gill and Dr. Allen Owings, both horticulturists with the LSU AgCenter, I'm telling all gardeners with the questions that I mentioned above, to be patient. Wait on Mother Nature to determine the extent of damage and the amount of pruning necessary on woody tropical plants, such as hibiscus, angel trumpet, schefflera, and whether or not herbaceous tropical plants such as cannas, elephant ears, philodendrons or gingers will sprout or put out new growth. For woody tropical plants, try scratching the bark; if the tissue is green underneath it still alive. If the tissue is tan or brown, the branch is probably dead. Start at the top and work your way down to see how far down the plant was killed. If no leaves or new growth is produced on plants or parts of plants this month, then that plant or a portion of that plant can be pruned or removed. The key is to be patient and allow the growing season to unfold before making a final determination.

Palms and their freeze injuries have also prompted many questions. We should wait until mid-to-late summer before assessing cold damage because palms will not begin to actively grow until soil temperatures rise. That is when the soil is warm and encourages the roots of palms to grow vigorously. For this reason the recommended transplanting period for palms is from late April or early May through the month of August, instead of fall and winter like other shrubs and trees.

The bottom line is that this is going to be a recovery year for a lot of tropical plants in our gardens. We must do whatever we possibly can to minimize stress on these plants. We want all the energy of the plant to be directed toward recovery, instead of battling drought or pest problems.

I've looked at approximately 12 lawns and had ten or more conversations with homeowners primarily concerned about their lawns being slow to green up. I pointed out to them that we have to remember that all warm season lawn grasses such as St Augustine, Centipede, Zoysia, Carpet, Bermuda require warm soil temperatures for root activity. According to Dr. Ron Strahan of the LSU AgCenter, root activity gets started when the soil temperature gets in the 60's then progressively increases as the soil temperature rises. That is the primary reason why the recommendation for the first application of fertilizer is the 1st or 2nd week in April. In March and before daytime temperatures rises above 85 degrees, homeowners should be focusing on weed control. In early March while the soil is still cool, only very limited amounts of fertilizer will be absorbed by the roots of warm season lawn grasses. Controlling those winter weeds does a couple of things: first, it reduces the competition for water and nutrients with the lawn grass; second, it controls the weeds before they mature and drop seeds in the soil that will eventually germinate. We want to apply herbicides to control the majority of weeds before daytime temperatures surpass 85 degrees. Once temperatures rise above 85 degrees, temporary yellowing of lawn grasses can be expected with herbicide applications.

To control many of the winter broadleaf annual weeds that we currently see in lawns, there are two herbicides that are recommended at the rate of 2 ounces per gallon of water. One is Ortho Weed B Gon and the other is Fertilome Weed Freezone. Both contain the same 4 herbicides to control weeds. That is why both of these herbicides are referred to as 4-way blends for use by homeowners. Spray once; then in 10 – 14 days evaluate weeds and make another application if necessary. Either one of these herbicides will give homeowners what they need to control broadleaf weeds in warm season lawn grasses.

All lawn grasses will benefit from fertilizer applications which will provide nutrients needed for optimum performance. Some homeowners are choosing to not apply synthetic fertilizers. Instead, they are opting to leave grass clippings on the soil surface or mulching grass clippings, which return nutrients to the lawn. Other options include the application of natural or organic type lawn fertilizers. If you choose, synthetic slow-release fertilizers, those by Scott's, Anderson's, and Florikan are quality fertilizers that can be found locally. Water-soluble synthetic fertilizers such as 8 – 8 – 8 or 13 – 13 – 13 are also options.

Apply the fertilizer while the grass is dry, followed by rainfall or applying a sprinkler system for 15 minutes to wash the fertilizer from the lawn grass into the soil.

Finally, the best weed control is a healthy, thick, vigorous growing lawn that will keep out weeds. Mowing height makes a big contribution toward the health and performance of a lawn, with proper mowing height reducing stress on lawn grasses, especially when it is hot, dry or growing in the shade.

The following mowing heights are recommended for various warm season lawn grasses, St Augustine 3 – 3 ½ inches, Centipede 1 ½ - 2 inches, Common Bermuda 1 – 1 ½ inches, Hybrid Bermuda ¾ -1 inch and Zoysia 1 – 1 ½ inches.

Happy Gardening and Bring on Spring!

Gerald P. Roberts

Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator

LSU AgCenter

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EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE

BRING YOUR REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE TO MASTER GARDENER FUNCTIONS!

2014 LPMGA Meetings:
(First Wednesday
Except in January & July)
Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm

**2014 LPMGA Board
Meetings, 1 pm:**
(Third Monday except for
January, July &
December)

APRIL 2—Clifton Chenier
—200 Willow Street * noon

APRIL 21 Ira Nelson
Horticulture Center * 1 PM

MAY 7

MAY 19

JUNE 4

JUNE 16

JULY—NO MEETING

JULY—NO MEETING

AUGUST 6

AUGUST 18

SEPTEMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 15

OCTOBER 1

OCTOBER 20

NOVEMBER 5

NOVEMBER 17

DECEMBER 3

DECEMBER 15

Some manufacturers give back a percentage of their product sales to help developing nations fund clean water programs. These help with hygiene and sanitation. At home, we can be part of our own clean-water solution!

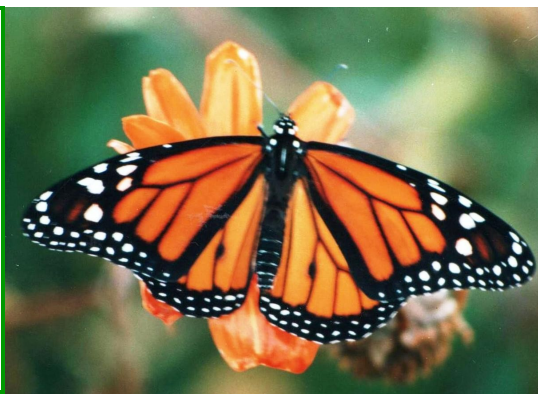


May's "2nd Saturday Garden Talk"
continues to take place at its

NEW LOCATION!

**Green T Lindon Elementary School Cafeteria
And Memorial Garden
603 Avenue B, Youngsville
May 10 at 10 a.m.
"Butterfly Gardening"**

Think butterflies!
See the monarch exhibit at Garden Fest this weekend, 3502 E. Simcoe, April 5 and 6. Mark your calendar now for the May 10th talk at Green T. Lindon by Becky Taylor about butterfly



The next "2nd Saturday Garden Talk" will take place in May. NO April session has been scheduled because of the date conflict with Festival des Fleurs. In May, join Becky Taylor, who will be presenting a wealth of knowledge about gardening with butterflies in mind!

**April's Garden Talk—Saturday, April 19
takes place at the Ira Nelson Demo Beds.
This Saturday will be the Ira Nelson Plant Swap
Invite your friends!**



Karen Willingham-L and Margaret Brinkhaus were featured in March. They talked about gourds and the Louisiana Gourd Society Show that takes place April 3-5 at 113 Willow Wood Drive in New Iberia. See www.LouisianaGourdSociety.org for more information about the show and the society.

In The Garden

Anita Leggett and Mary Courville will be talking about Festival des Fleurs, and they will be showing off some interesting plants. Remember that by watching "In the Garden," Master Gardeners can add an education hour to their membership credits. Those producing the show, will count the production as a volunteer credit.

Master Gardeners who help produce the show include Nancy Rowe, Cheryl Crow, Geneé Foley, Marie Jones, Vivian Katz, Lois Manuel, Gary Trahan and Peggy Voorhies.

This monthly TV Show broadcasted by AOC Community Media, is targeted to run LIVE, every first Thursday at noon, with reruns each week throughout the month on LUS Channel 3/Cox Channel 15. The show is streamed by computer through AOC One.



SPRING FIELDTRIP

APRIL 22

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP:

APRIL 2nd!

HIGHLIGHTS:

- BECKER VINEYARDS AND LAVENDER FARM
- WILDSEED FARMS
- ARNOSKY CUT FLOWER FARM
- LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON STATE PARK—WILDFLOWERS & BUFFALO
- FREDERICKSBURG GERMAN VILLAGE

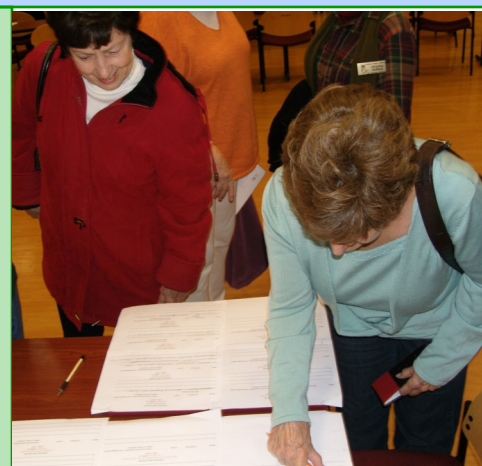
We decided that we need to give it more time and continue to publicize to other groups. The deadline is April 2 to sign up. So a week before, we should evaluate how many people have signed up, calculate the cost not covered and contact those who have signed up to see if they are willing to absorb the extra cost. Example: 37 people have signed up. \$1620 divided by 37 is \$44.00. Each person will have to pay \$44 extra dollars. If more people sign up, this cost will go down! Let's do this!

Encourage your friends, spouse, family and other garden organization members to sign up with us for the field trip! Notify Linda V. Broussard as soon as possible!



Tina Jumonville presented at the March monthly meeting.

Tina Jumonville presented her program about plant genetics at the March monthly meeting. Before the meeting was called to order, many members signed up for a wide variety of volunteer positions open for this month's Festival des Fleurs. Look for many Master Gardeners at Blackham Coliseum, April 12 and 13.



What Plant Am I?

I'm a hardy native perennial of Europe, Africa and Asia. Because of my stalked heart-shaped leaves, the ancient Greeks considered me a symbol of love and fertility. I make a good ground cover because I'm low-mounding and make long runners. My flowers appear in Spring and range from deep purple to pale lavender to white and are sweetly scented. They, as well as my leaves, are edible. My essential oil is used to make delicately scented perfume.

Rock gardens, borders and naturalistic settings make happy homes for me. After blooming, I develop small seed pods which pop open when they turn brown, scattering my seeds up to six inches away. If they fall on loose, fertile, well-drained, slightly acidic soil, they easily take root, even to the point of becoming slightly invasive. But I'm so pretty, who cares?

Cake decorators often crystallize my flowers with sugar and use me to beautify wedding cakes.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 9 for the answer.



A partnership between UL Lafayette Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
and the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association

Save the Date

Saturday & Sunday

April 12 - 13, 2014

Blackham Coliseum

Lafayette, Louisiana

Contact Colette Anzalone for more information
337-288-0283 or colettea@bellsouth.net

HELP NEEDED!

Cindy Wiley is seeking MG volunteers to work the check-out at Festival des Fleurs. She needs people to fill out tally sheets and people to work as cashiers. Please email her at cindywiley47@gmail.com.

SPRING PLANT SWAP

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH 2014

Sign In begins at 9:30am Swap begins at 10am

The Spring Plant Swap has been scheduled as the April 19TH LPMGA "Garden Talk" at the LPMGA Demo Beds, behind the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center 2206 Johnston St, Lafayette on Coliseum Road.

Bring one rooted, identified plant for the Swap and some to trade, or share, before and after.

The more interesting the plant, the more interesting the Swap.
Sign in, get your ticket, and join the fun. Tickets are drawn at random. Be sure to stay for prize drawings after the Swap.

Bring along "extra" plants you might have (especially foundation plants) to be collected for Habitat For Humanity.

Contact Louann Long at louannmastergardener@gmail.com if you need more information, or if you are a Master Gardener who would like to volunteer to help at the Swaps.

Participating in LPMGA Plant Swaps earns 1 hour of Continuing Education for Master Gardeners.

Visit our website at lpmga.org and like Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association on FaceBook

Members of the public are very welcome.

Also on site.....

Ask a Master Gardener

Available to assist with any other garden related questions, look at problem samples brought in, receive soil samples, and provide information on how to become a Master Gardener.

PICK UP YOUR ORDER OF 4-H' s FRESH STRAWBERRIES



Remember to pick up your \$20 flat if you ordered your strawberries from 4-H. Pick up has been scheduled between April 7-11, 2014 from 2 – 5 p.m. at Fresh Pickin's Market located at 907 Kaliste Saloom Road in Lafayette, LA. Pre-orders were required and checks need to be payable to the Lafayette 4-H Foundation. Thanks!



SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 4-6 | A BENEFIT FOR FAMILY PROMISE OF ACADIANA



A Benefit for Family Promise of Acadiana, a non-profit coalition helping families without homes to reach and sustain their independence.

The Gardens of Harold and Sarah Schoeffler: 3502 E. Simcoe St., Lafayette, LA (near Oakbourne Country Club)

Master Gardener Spring Project

Volunteer hours on April 5 (times to be announced) for:

Ask a Master Gardener | Speakers Bureau

Researching the Monarch Butterfly to set up an Informational Booth
Talks on Blueberries, Camellias | Any Other Short Gardening Topics
(15-Minute Limit suggested)

Planting in Sarah's Garden (dates to be announced)

Contact Sarah Schoeffler for more information at 337.234.4042 or cell 288.0426

FamilyPromiseAcadiana.org

[Facebook.com/FamilyPromiseAcadiana](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseAcadiana)



Garden Stroll & Tour May 2, 2014

GARDEN STROLL 9 – noon

Sun Garden (Flower Trails)
Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden
Piney Woods Garden
LA Super Plants Garden
Crape Myrtle Collection
Shade Garden

GUIDED TOURS 9:30 A.M.

by LSU AgCenter Horticulturists

Sun Garden: *Allen Owings*
M. Jenkins Azalea Garden:
Regina Bracy
Piney Woods Garden: *Gina Hebert*

PRESENTATION 11 A.M.

Louisiana Super Plants:
Dan Gill

Hammond Research Station

**LOUISIANA MASTER
GARDENER
APPRECIATION DAY
MAY 9, 9am - 2pm**

AgCenter

Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond, LA
www.lsuagcenter.com/Hammond

P.O. BOX 2984 LAFAYETTE, LA 70502 337.233.3447 FAMILYPROMISEACADIANA.ORG

Festival des Fleurs de Louisiane returns This premier Garden Show will take place at Blackham Coliseum on April 12 and 13. This year, LPMGA has been invited to partner on a trial basis whereby we will share 50 percent of the proceeds. The Propagation Team will conduct a plant sale and all Master Gardeners are encouraged to volunteer. The event began as a small group of individuals interested in a raising funds for the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center.

Sponsorships are needed. Advertising will take place on the LPMGA website and FaceBook Page. Please spread the word throughout your neighboring community, to family and friends about Festival des Fleurs.

In addition to the sales area, there is also a display area for local plant organizations such as The Lafayette Garden Club, the Bonsai Society of Acadiana, and the Acadian Orchid Society. For more information about the show or being a vendor, call Colette Anzalone at 337 288-0283 or e-mail colettea@bellsouth.net.

Inviting All Gardeners!!! 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference



**October 21 – 24, 2014
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Baton Rouge, LA**

**Sponsored by:
East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association
LSU AgCenter,
Louisiana Master Gardener Program**

**For information and registration, go to....
www.southernregionmgconf2014.com
Early registration ends July 15**

HELP NEEDED! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CREATE 2014 REGIONAL MG CONFERENCE DISPLAY

LPMGA has been given the honor of creating a tabletop display for the 7-State Regional Master Gardener Conference in Baton Rouge, October 21-24, 2014. The display will represent the contributions of nearly 2,000 Louisiana Master Gardeners and promote the LSU AgCenter.

We would like to start early since information and input will be gathered from LMG organizations in 26 Parishes and promotional materials need to be ordered. This will be an on going project with a tentative completion date of October 1st. If you are interested in joining in, and earning some indoor hours during the coming summer heat, please contact **Louann McClelland Long** at louannmastergardener@gmail.com

Southern Region Master Gardener Conference Invites You

The 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference will be in Baton Rouge October 21-24. Sharing Our Southern Roots is the theme for this year's conference, which will present many opportunities for conference attendees to learn more about how horticulture has contributed to our Southern lifestyle.

East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association is hosting this conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at College Drive and I-10.

Several presenters, including one of five keynote speakers, Marcelle Bienvenu, will talk on the impact of locally grown food products on Southern cuisine. The other keynote speakers are Mary Palmer Dargan, who will speak on healing the earth one garden at a time; Norman Winter, who will focus on the color presentation in your garden each season; Joe Lamp'l, who will give the "dirt" on healthy soil; and Douglas Tallamy, who will explain how to bring nature home.

Also on the agenda are 24 breakout sessions in which presenters will give information on a wide range of topics from hummingbirds, butterflies and natural habitats to designing flower beds for older people and with children in mind, to choosing the right plants and your cooking style. Throughout the four days of the conference, the Southern Garden Marketplace will be open for conference participants to see and buy new and established plant products from businesses associated with horticulture.

Tours of the area include guided excursions to Imahara's Botanical Garden and Afton Villa Gardens, Rosedown Plantation and The Myrtles, Houmas House Plantation, Burden Museum and Gardens, Hammond Research Station, a Cajun Night at White Oak Plantation and a tour of Manchac Swamp and lunch at Frenier Landing.

More information about the keynote and breakout speakers and their topics, tours and registration is available at the conference website www.southernregionmgconf2014.com. Conference registration can be accomplished only online at the conference website. We are taking registrations NOW! Early registration ends July 15.

We look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge in October.



PINE STRAW PICKED UP IN TIME FOR SPRING!

Nearly 450 pine straw bales were picked up by our membership on Wednesday, March 5, in plenty of time to beat our late freeze. Spring has been slow in coming this year! You might recall that the pickup was originally set for February 26, but that was changed due to an icy mix that impacted the delivery from Melvin Husser's place in Husser, Louisiana.

Loading began at 8 AM in the field behind MG Demo beds. A big thank you goes to Yvette Nevitt (pictured with Mary Beyt's husband, Doug English and K.C., their dog) and Mary Ann Nix for helping make it successful for the rest of us.

School Garden Initiative

SGI Grant Application newsletter has the history, goals, objectives, application process, requirements, grant timeline, as well as the application.

The application deadline is Tuesday, April 1, 2014. If you have questions, please call Charles Hebert at 291-7090.

MAY SOCIAL



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SIGN UP @ APRIL MEETING

LPMGA MAY SOCIAL / PICNIC BOXED MEAL

Wednesday, May 7, 2014—6 PM until 8 PM

Taking place at Colette Anzalone's: 600 Pappa Joe Drive
Broussard, LA 70518

Bring your own lawn chair

Visit Our Website!

www.LafayetteMasterGardener.org

Attention: All LPMGA Committee Chairmen

We would like to include any information that you can provide regarding the accomplishments, recognitions, and awards of your committee, as a whole, and/or of individual committee members.

Only information that you provide to me will be included on our website. Please take time to send me any pertinent information/pictures, including years in the past. Also, feel free to e-mail anything of this nature that you would like added to the website.

Jay Ruffin— lpmgacalendar@gmail.com

BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



AHHH, SPRING – FINALLY, (I certainly hope, but am almost afraid to write it :)) Anyway, I'm moving ahead as though we are actually finished with cold. The past few days have been absolutely glorious. I have been unable to stay indoors. I spruced up the beds by adding compost, composted manure from dove bedding, and broken down

pine straw to the beds to refresh them. The compost was a mixture of finished and partially finished materials. I just put the partially finished stuff under the others and wet it thoroughly. It will finish breaking down there, the earthworms and other break-down specialists will be drawn to the bedding and within a very short time, they will have everything broken down and mixed.

So, what's happening now? The broccoli is still producing nicely, lots of side shoots totaling about three cups each week. I accidentally left some of it on the plants too long and the yellow flowers started to show, so I brought the stems in and put them in a vase. They make a nice bouquet. I am beginning to see some aphids on the lower stalks of some of the broccoli. I started spraying them with a strong stream of water, and I'll wait to see how the predators handle the infestation.

The veggies are doing great, and the peach trees are covered with blossoms. They survived the cold very well. The two small citrus are still iffy, but I'll wait and see. I tried a few new squashes this year, an open-pollinated summer squash called 'Saffron,' and one called 'Sibley.' Sibley is an heirloom introduced in 1887. It is a banana squash with "thick sweet flesh," and it's supposed to be an excellent keeper. We'll see how long it keeps in our coastal Louisiana climate - but maybe if I dehydrate it.

I love melons. One of my favorites is 'Heart of Gold'; it is fragrant, juicy, and very sweet—everything you want in a cantaloupe. I'm also trying a couple of new ones this year: 'Noir des Carmes' is a true French cantaloupe with a "complex and deeply satisfying flavor." I'm looking forward to that one. The other is 'Petit Gris de Rennes' - supposed to be *la crème de la crème* of French cantaloupes. It was first documented almost 400 years ago. I also like 'Hale's Best Jumbo,' another sweet, fragrant melon. This one has a small seed cavity. Last but not least, no melon garden is complete without watermelon. I'm trying 'Sugar Baby' and 'Moon and Stars.' It's been around a long time, so I hope it lives up to its reputation.

I've started a succession of cucumbers, starting with 'Parisian Pickling,' another French heirloom used in the late 1800's to make *cornichons*, those tiny, tart and delicious pickles that I love. I made some of them last year, and they came out great. I definitely want more. I also planted 'Homemade Pickles' and 'Yard long Armenian.' I will keep planting cukes every two weeks throughout the summer until about six weeks before the first frost. That way I keep using young vines and when they start to flag, I pull them up. Trellises and lots of space increase the air circulation, reducing the incident of disease and making them easier to pick them, too.

As for insect pests, I've seen aphids on a couple of plants, but not many. I have seen a couple of assassin bugs on the citrus though, so I expect the good guys will take care of the bad ones and keep everything in balance.

Over the past five days, I have weeded four 100-square-foot beds. Some of the weeds were as tall as I am – granted, I'm not that tall, but still it was a lot of work. When I planted some seedlings that I started early in the year, and then looked over those beds, you know, it was the most satisfying work I have done in months. I think I'll keep doing it.

Until next time,

Happy Gardening

RECORDING VOLUNTEER HOURS ON YOUR SMART PHONE

Everyone knows they have to record hours and have the intention of recording their hours as they do them....Next thing you know a month has gone by and you say to your self, "I need to record my hours!" Before you know it, December is here and you scramble to record those 20 volunteer hours and 6 educational hours.

Record your hours right after you do them by using your smart phone. It is easy, more accurate and only takes a minute!!

DIRECTIONS: 1. Go on the internet on your smart phone to:

www.lsuagcenter.com.

2. Under topics on the left side click

on lawn and garden, and then click on subtopic master gardeners.

3. On the Master gardener page, all the way to the right, towards the bottom, click on Reporting Volunteer hours.

Or you can just type in the entire address:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gadener/Reporting+Volunteer+Hours/

4. Click on LMG Service Hours Report. This will take you to the login and password page.

5. Look at the bottom portion of your screen on your smart phone and tap the box with the arrow pointing up.

6. Tap the box that says Add to home screen.

You should now see an LSU Ag Center icon on your screen along with your other apps.

7. Tap the LSU Ag Center icon and this will take you to the login screen to record your hours.

Make a promise to yourself to take a minute to login your hours right after you complete them and your done!!!



WHAT PLANT AM I?

ANSWER:

Viola odorata (*V. Canadensis*)

Garden violet, Sweet violet



*I can
adorn a
dessert!*

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

innovate . educate . improve lives



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

LPMGA Calendar April 2014

April 1st: 4-H Strawberry Order Deadline ... 1010 Lafayette, Ste 325 or 291-7090
April 2nd: Deadline for Texas Fieldtrip ... contact Linda V. Broussard, EdD
April 3rd: "In the Garden" on AOC Community Media, LIVE at noon.
April 3rd-5th: Gourds on the Bayou, 311 Willow Wood Drive, New Iberia (see pg. 3)
April 4th-6th: Garden Fest, 3502 Simcoe benefitting Family Promise
April 4: Garden Fest Twilight Dinner (Reservations Required)
April 7th: Strawberry Pick-up Day, Fresh Pickens on Kaliste Saloom
April 12th-13th: Festival des Fleurs, Blackham Coliseum
April 13th: Earth Day, Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road, Lafayette, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
April 14th: Education Day, Vermilionville @ the Medicinal Garden
April 15th: Federal Tax Returns due
April 19th: Plant Swap and Garden Talk, Ira Nelson Demo Beds, 10 a.m.
April 20th: Happy Easter!
April 22nd-24th: Fieldtrip to the Texas Hill Country
April 28th: Education Day, Vermilionville @ the Medicinal Garden



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 24th 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:

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

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