

LPMGA AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

**6pm WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 6th
Southside Library**

**MG MARK SIMON WILL DIS-
CUSS NECTAR PLANTS, POLLI-
NATION AND THE AMAZING
HONEYBEE**

**ALSO: ACTIVE MEMBERS
VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGES**

LPMGA BOARD MEETING

**1PM MONDAY AUGUST 18TH
IRA NELSON CENTER**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner
- Second Saturday Garden Class
- LPMGA Meetings
- LPMGA August Garden Talk
- 2014 LMG Conference
- AOC "In The Garden"
- 2014 Master Gardener Class Welcome
- 2014 Christmas Social
- Fall Field Trip
- Bayou Vermilion Clean Streams Lecture
- Healing Traditions Lecture Vermilionville
- What Plant Am I?
- PLANTFEST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 6
- Garden Story From Korea
- Garden Stroll
- Holy Hibiscus!
- Volunteers Needed for Junior MG Classes
- Between The Rows
- August Calendar



Unique Garden Accessories

Enjoy a wide variety of PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Take Home a Garden Treasure From One of the Many Vendors

Answer your garden questions at the Ask-A-Master Gardener tent

LPMGA 2014 PlantFest

SPECIALTY Plants for Sale

MUSIC

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

FUN AND FABULOUS CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

MASTER GARDENERS

2 DAYS OF SPECIAL EVENTS

LPMGA Plant Sale

Saturday, September 13th, 8am to 1pm
LPMGA Demo Beds next to Blackham Coliseum
And Start Those Cuttings for the Fall Plant Swap at 10am

LPMGA Nature and Garden Exposition

Saturday, September 20th, 8am to 3pm
At Sugar Mill Pond Youngsville, LA

Visit www.plantfest.org Follow PlantFest on FaceBook
See volunteer opportunities and details on page 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association welcomes the members of the 2014 Master Gardener Class. You will receive outstanding training in various fields pertaining to horticulture. In return, you will be asked to share your knowledge with the community in a volunteer capacity. Our organization has numerous programs in which you can participate. I encourage you to attend various committee meetings or work days to find the programs that you are most interested in.

I would also like to encourage our current members to try new committees this fall. Your service is valuable and needed in many areas. For example, we will be expanding our school garden initiative and will be starting a Junior Master Gardener Program. The committee chairs will continue to provide reports at the General Meetings so that you can learn more about each program. I hope to see you at the August meeting where we will be voting on important bylaw revisions. Until then, enjoy the slower pace of the summer.

LPMGA President Babette Werner

GERALD'S CORNER

Since I'm increasingly getting request from homeowners to evaluate the overall health of shade trees and to give an opinion as to whether a tree or trees poses a safety threat or has or will become a liability I thought I would focus on preparing trees for hurricane season. As the heart of the hurricane season approaches most homeowner are fully aware of the value of trees in home landscapes. From providing shade to attracting wildlife there is no doubt that trees add value to our property. However, keep in mind that as much as trees can be valuable additions to our property, trees can also can pose a threat especially during a storm such as a hurricane. When high rain and wind accompanies a storm it adds weight and stress to large limbs. As winds causes these branches to flail especially those wet from rain it increases the probability that large limbs may break. Additionally trees that are structurally defective as in an unbalanced canopy (70% or more of the canopy is on one side of the tree), these trees are prone to being uprooted especially during period of prolonged rainfall which saturates the soil which usually is associated with hurricanes. Homeowners should also think about depending on the size of a tree not only how it will affect their property but potentially the property of neighbors. There are times when good neighbors will reach an agreement to share the cost of removing a large tree that is a threat to both properties despite the fact that it's on only one neighbor's property. This is an example of cooperation and good judgment between neighbors that realize both has a lot to lose if large limbs or the tree itself falls damaging property. Any final evaluations or pruning or tree removal should be done by a State Licensed Arborist, who is also insured.

In terms of what steps to take it is as simple as going to the LSU AgCenter's web site and type in " Hire an Arborist" . Information will be available to guide you in making an informed decision regarding hiring a licensed professional. My advice is never to be in a rush, get a least 3 estimates, and take the time to call the insuring agent to make sure that the Arborist's insurance policy will be current during the time the work will be performed. For those who may be considering doing tree work themselves, just be aware that this is serious work and the potential for accidents are very high.

I'd like to provide you with bit of information that you should consider when evaluating the trees in your landscape. These are just a few tips on what to look for when deciding if a tree poses a threat. When I get calls from people telling me that they have a tree on their property that is giving them cause for concern the first question I ask is where is the tree located in terms of its proximity to their house or another significant structure? With trees it's about location!! Even if a tree is showing serious defects , if it's located in an area where it poses no threat whatsoever to any structure or a threat to life such as people, pets, other animals , then there is no sense urgency. However, if the opposite is tree and I love and value trees significantly, no tree is worth the threat of it destroying a home, property or causing bodily harm to people or animals.

What are some of the outward signs that are good indicators that a tree or trees may be in a state of decline or that the tree is being or has been structurally weakened? Trees with trunks showing signs of significant decay, as indicated by a hollow or wound that shows rotted wood or is oozing a discolored and or foul smelling liquid. This could be a definite sign of internal rot and decay. Trees that are dropping branches such as is commonly seen in large old pecan trees , white oaks, water oaks , and sweet gum trees, just to name a few. One of the natural characteristics of pecan trees is brittle wood even when young. Sweet gum trees with age tends to develop brittle wood. Water oaks and white oaks as they age has a tendency to develop internal rots, hollows, and are prone to dropping large limbs unexpectedly or uproot completely. Trees that has large limbs that extends over the roof of a house need to monitored closely especially as a hurricane or storm approaches, it may even be a good idea to evacuate the structure completely or at least an isolated area of the house that would be affected if a limb broke during a storm. Consideration to having the tree prune by a licensed professional may be in order. Sometimes it's not necessary to remove the entire tree.

Finally, to me it's just common sense and good judgment to periodically evaluate trees growing on our own home grounds , but additionally as Master Gardeners who are in a position to enlighten others who may not have access to the information like we do. So if you're visiting a relative, friend or neighbor and you notice a tree that could be a potential threat , point it out , most people will be appreciative. Whether or not someone takes our advice or not, if we've done our part , then we've done our best to educate someone else in one area of horticulture. After all as a Master Gardener that is where you should get your greatest reward. Thanks for all that you do in assisting the LSU AgCenter in the dissemination of research based information.

Happy Gardening!!

Gerald P. Roberts

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

"SECOND SATURDAY" GARDENING CLASS

Do not miss the opportunity to hear Dr. Allen Owings present
"GREAT COOL SEASON PERFORMERS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE"
 to our Second Saturday Gardening Class on Saturday, August 9, 2014, at 10 am at
 Green T Lindon Elementary School Cafeteria, 603 Avenue B, Youngsville, La.

With the fall months approaching, we need to be considering flowering plants for the cool season landscape. Louisiana has very good growing conditions for cool season flowers such as dianthus, petunias, violas, pansies, snapdragons, kale, cabbage, stock and more. Dr. Owings will discuss the best cool season flowers for south Louisiana in addition to highlighting recommended planting dates and care. Cool season Louisiana Super Plants will also be included with an announcement of the fall 2014 winners.

Dr. Owings is a horticulture professor with the LSU AgCenter located at the Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA.
 For more information contact Sherlyn Larrison at 985-513-2777 or Jackie Carlisi at 337-277-0027

AUGUST LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

6PM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH

**MG MARK SIMON WILL PRESENT NECTAR
PLANTS, POLLINATION AND THE AMAZING
HONEYBEE**

ALSO

**ACTIVE MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON
BYLAW CHANGES**

AUGUST LPMGA BOARD MEETING

1PM MONDAY, AUGUST 18TH

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE CENTER

AUGUST GARDEN TALK

10am SATURDAY AUGUST 16TH

At The Cottage

**Pardon Me, But Do You Have
Worms?**

**Come find out why you should from Rusty
Wilson of Acadiana Worm Farm.**

Rusty's main goal is to educate Acadiana on the benefits of ver-
micomposting and using the resulting bi-product, worm cast-
ings, as a natural fertilizer
and growth medium.

Rusty is a member of the Louisiana Fruit and
Vegetable Growers' Association.



Southern Region Master Gardener Conference 2014

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

See us on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wj5bymY-ng>

The Time to Register is now.

Wanted to send another reminder about the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. Time is going by fast and July 15th is the last date for early bird registration. No doubt, this will be an outstanding conference. You can get a glimpse of the exciting program by visiting the U-Tube link at the bottom of this page.

There are still rooms available at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge where the conference will be held. Also registration is available for volunteers who would prefer a one day attendance rather than the full 3 day program.

The East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners invite you to come and be a part of this exciting, fun and educational event. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Conference,
Rene Schmit

LPMGA ON AOC IS

In The Garden

"In The Garden" airs live at noon on the first Thursday of each month and replays Fridays at 2:30 pm, Mondays at 4:30 pm, and Wednesdays at 5 pm, on AOC1, Channel 15 on Cox Cable.

The program will stream live on ustream.tv www.ustream.tv/user/lafayetteparishMGs

Visit www.aocinc.org and check the "Newsroom" for the 2013 Programming Schedule

If you are interested in volunteering with the AOC Team, please contact Vivian Katz OR Nancy Anne Rowe

Watch LPMGA'S Award Winning AOC Program "In The Garden" and earn one half hour of Continuing Education Credit



**Congratulations to our AOC
Master Gardeners volunteers
for winning the following
AOC Viddy Awards:**

AOC Community Media honored its top producers, members and volunteers on Thursday, June 19th, at its annual banquet at the Petroleum Club. Winning the top award of Viewers Choice was "In The Garden" produced by MG Nancy Rowe and our devoted MG crew.

The public voted for the winners in a number of categories including:

Spirit Award: Nancy Rowe
Executive Director Award: Theresa Rohloff

A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE 2014 MASTER GARDENER CLASS

ADRIENNE BAMHILL	MARY ALICE HALE	MEGAN MONTGOMERY
ANNIE BONAVENTURE	BETTY HAYNES	LAURA MYERS
KAY BRAY	NINETTE HAYNES	MARGIE BEAULLIEU ORGERON
CHANNON BREAUX	JENNY HULIN	RENE' PREJEAN
FERTAESHIA BROUSSARD	MARY KRAMER	VIRGINIA RANKIN
NANCY CECHE	NICHOLAS LONG	JANET RYLAND
SUSAN CHUSTZ	MICHELLE KING MAY	MARY KATHRYN SCOTT
TIMOTHY CREDEUR II	SHANE MAYERS	FLO SIZEMORE
CECILE DOMINGUE	LINDA MILLETTE	JOHN STANSBURY
W.P. "JUDGE" EDWARDS	JEROME MILLS	CHARLES TURNER
BEVERLY FUSELIER	RUTH MONCUS	CATHY URIEGAS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*The LPMGA Christmas Social
and
Master Gardener Class of 2014
Graduation*

December 3, 2014

6pm to 9pm

Petroleum Club

111 Heymann Blvd, Lafayette

*Cocktails, Graduation & Award
Ceremony, Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres
with Dessert*

2014 Graduates Gratis

Active Members \$20

Guests and Inactive members \$30

All payments should be made in advance.
Contact Linda Broussard for
additional information

2014 FALL FIELD TRIP

*NEW ORLEANS BOTANICAL
GARDENS AND MORE!*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Itinerary:

7am Depart from Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

**10am New Orleans Botanical Gardens
Cost \$8 per person**

**11:30am Picnic Box Lunch in the Park
Cost \$13.50 per person**

**12:45 Guided Tour of
Longue Vie House and Gardens**

**3pm Guided Tour of Holly Grove Farm and Market
Cost \$2 per person**

**5pm Depart for Ira Nelson
Horticulture Center**

Bus \$27

Tours and Lunch \$31.50

Total Cost per person \$59

**Contact Linda Broussard for
reservations and details**

*Don't Forget To Record Your
Continuing Education And Volunteer Hours
Make Every Hour Count!*

"Clean Streams" Lecture August 12th

The Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association has been holding a monthly 3-part lecture series this summer. The last lecture will discuss the use of fertilizers and will be held on August 12.



Right fertilizer, Right rate, Right time,
Right place
With Ernest Girouard, Ph.D.
Tuesday, August 12th 10:30 a.m.
Vermilionville

Coordinator for the LSU AgCenter Master Farmer Program, Dr. Girouard will share his expertise, as he educates us on the proper use of fertilizers and garden chemicals to control undesirable run-off into our streams.

These talks are free, but reservations are required.
Reservations: www.BayouVermilionPreservation.org
or at 337-591-1582

HEALING TRADITIONS OF ACADIANA

LPMGA SPEAKERS SERIES AT VERMILIONVILLE

Diane Queen
How To Use Medicinal Plants

August 30th, 11 AM to Noon
The Cooking School at Vermilionville

On Saturday, August 30th, Diane Queen will give a talk entitled "How to Use Medicinal Plants" as part of the quarterly speaker series, "Healing Traditions of Acadiana," put on by the Healer's Garden committee of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association.

A traditional herbalist, Queen uses plants the way they have been used for thousands of years, that is, in their whole form, in teas, tinctures, syrups, and salves. She has been growing, using herbs, and teaching about them for 25 years.

She gives lectures to encourage people to include more plants in their lives, their diet, in their health and bodycare, and in just spending time appreciating them, thus helping people get back to nature and, in the process, bringing balance back into their modern lives. Herbs are needed now, she says, more than ever in our chemical-laden modern lifestyles. In this event, she will show us how to get started.

At Vermilionville, her talk will center on how to harvest, dry, and use herbs in everyday life. She will then demonstrate their use through the making of medicinal teas, infusions, decoctions, syrups, poultices, and salves.

For more information contact Mary Perrin at mlbperrin@gmail.com or MaryAnn Armbruster at maryann.armbruster@yahoo.com.

What Plant Am I?



Our intrepid What Plant Am I columnist, What's It, has traveled to an undisclosed location and sent back these lovely photos of the local flora.

Play "Where's What's It" and use the clues hidden throughout this article to discover where What's It is. These clues will be the key to solving the puzzle.

Though you might think I'm in Bali, I'm actually in the United States, but just barely. This lush tropical paradise is filled with swaying coconut palms and gingers you just wouldn't believe.

Its USDA Hardiness Zone rating of 11 makes growing those tropicals easy breezy.

Native plants include exotics such as Gumbo Limbo, Mahogany, Coco Plum, Buccaneer Palms and Sea

Oats.

A Botanical Garden and Butterfly Conservatory show how much the friendly natives care about preserving the natural beauty of this area.

Though land fills have added addition acreage over the years, you better be careful driving west since it doesn't take long to run out of road. But, no worries, the "Conch Republic" is the perfect place to grab a cool drink, sit in the shade and wait for a glimpse of some of the town's frequent visitors- diminutive deer and Parrot Heads.

Can you guess where What's It is? See page 9 for the answer.



PLANTFEST 2014



The 3rd annual Plantfest, hosted by the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association, will consist of two events this year. On Saturday, September 13, from 8 am -1 pm, at the Master Gardener Demo Beds next to Blackham Coliseum the LPMGA will offer for sale a wide variety of unique and interesting plants propagated locally. A Plant Swap will be held at 10 am. On Saturday, September 20, the LPMGA will hold a Nature and Garden Exposition from 8 am – 3 pm at Sugar Mill Pond. This exposition provides a blend of information, education and hands-on opportunities designed to help community members connect with nature. Some of the environmental and conservation exhibits and demonstrations planned are: Palmetto park rangers will have a native plant leaf rubbing activity for children; Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries will bring whopping crane and black bear exhibits; Marcus Descant, the Urban Naturalist, will discuss how to create an edible landscape; Dusty Reed, the Cajun Picasso, will provide materials and show children how to create a piece of original art out of recycled material. Guided by

trained instructors, visitors can try a variety of activities promoting a healthy lifestyle including yoga, pilates and Zumba classes. Detailed information about all activities can be found at www.plantfest.org.

Attendees will be able to shop for a wide variety of unique and interesting plants, garden accessories, nature themed pottery, art and a signature poster for sale created by the Cajun Picasso. Local musicians will play throughout the day. Kevin Hawkins with Romacelli and local food trucks will provide comfort food for purchase. An Ask-A-Master Gardener representative will be on site to assist with plant questions. Admission and parking for the plant sale and the Nature Exposition are free. Proceeds from this PlantFest and plant sale will be used to fund our community education programs both for adults and children. These include school garden programs in 6 schools presently, possibly increasing to 10 schools in 2014-15; a Junior Master Gardener Program for lower elementary and middle school children; Garden Talks with varying speakers twice a month; the Medicinal Garden at Vermilionville; Speakers Bureau for community events; our monthly garden show on AOC; Habitat for Humanity homes; demonstration garden beds at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, etc. You will be presented with opportunities to volunteer by email and at the General meetings. Please consider assisting with one or both of our fundraising events. Your help is needed to make them a success. Please share this information with your friends.

2014 Plantfest Volunteer Opportunities

2014 Plantfest Volunteer Opportunities
Saturday, September 13th, LPMGA Demo Beds
LPMGA Fall Plant Sale
Contact Becky Taylor to volunteer information

2014 Plantfest Volunteer Opportunities
Saturday, September 20, 2014, Sugar Mill Pond
Colette Anzalone, Chair
Heather Warner-Finley, Vice-President, Co-chair
Babette Werner, President, Co-chair

Activities/ demonstrations (Children and Adult): Sherlyn Larrison

Art: Sale of Signature Print: NEED A CHAIR

Ask-A-Master Gardener – Jan Vinning
Communications:

Plantfest Website: Belle Leblanc, Chair
Facebook: Stacy Lee, Chair

Publicity: Babette Werner, Chair, Camilla Drobish, Anita Legget
LPMGA Website: Karen Willingham

Food and Drink Vendors: Kevin Hawkins – Romacelli will oversee
Layout/ Setup: Juan Nieto

Information table: NEED A CHAIR

Music: Sarah Schoeffler

Non-Profit Chair: Heather Warner Finley

Security: Babette Werner

Signs: Carole Gaubert

Sponsorship: NEED A CHAIR

Trash – recycle and other: Marie Jones and Gary Trahan

Treasury: Sandy Scheuermann

Vendors: Colette Anzalone

Vendor Parking: Jim Farasey

Volunteers: Sharon Bakay

Our Newsletter Editor is visiting South Korea and files this report...

Garden Story from Seoul

A tour of Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul, South Korea included the queen's terraced garden that pristinely graces the grounds behind the queen's living quarters. Much of the palace as it appears today has been restored from ashes due to burning by the Japanese occupation. This garden, the "Amisan," like so many royal East Asian gardens, includes many symbolic representations in its form and design.

Its arrangement incorporates significant associations with the area's history and symbols. For example, the higher elevation of the garden is interpretively separated from the lower elevation by a rock that symbolizes the mountain outside the palace walls, signifying the protection the mountain affords the palace and transferring the same to the queen and her quarters. The rock is given the same name as the mountain and a small pool adds protection as water has protected the Korean dynasties for generations. Four chimneys that span the garden length include the images of bats. The bat often represent fertility in East Asian lore.

A tree we will not see near the queen's quarters nor for any of the areas considered that of the court ladies is the crape myrtle. Why? It was felt that the because of the absence of bark on the crape myrtle bark that it was essentially naked.

It was believed that the "nakedness" of the tree would cause the ladies embarrassment and shame.

How many of us will blush when we see our next crape myrtle?

Theresa Rohloff

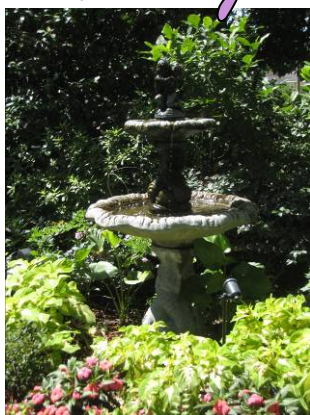


Behind the queen's palace quarters, referred to as the Gyotaejeon, pleasure and peace were inspired by her garden.



In Jeonju, tourist can see this 400-year-old crape myrtle that grows within the confines of the Gyeongggijeon Shrine in a area not frequented by women.

LPMGA Garden Stroll



Images of a brass water fountain, Koi pond, and landscaped beds....

were just a few of the inspiring sites at the May 10 Garden Stroll home of Fabian and Ann Patin. Nearly 25 strollers were treated to a tour of the ten year old gardens in Oakbourne Estates. While digging up red potatoes in his raised vegetable beds, Fabian explained that he does the gardening while his wife takes over the cooking. Pointing out the small artichoke on its plant, he discussed his successes with his mulch recycling system. Strollers were treated to punch and snacks sitting on the back porch enjoying the vision of the gardener and just talking about plants. Hard to ask for more.

On June 21, strollers toured the cottage garden of Ray Menard. More than 30 MG enjoyed learning about his approach to gardening and landscaping while viewing his water features, yard art such as gazing balls, glass pieces and urns and other unique sculptures. While the front yard at 522 St. Thomas Street was more traditional with masses of white caladiums, sweet potato vines and begonias, the back was more whimsical and less structured.



Thanks to Colette Anzalone and Pam Womack and all of the hostesses who participated. As Master Gardeners, we are all interested in new ideas for the garden and are looking forward to visiting yours in the fall.

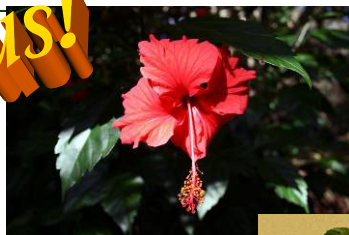
Everyone has something they can share, and if you know of some-

one who has a garden worth noting, please contact Anita Petitjean at 366-4080 or Kathy Van Ness at 856-2339.

Holy Hibiscus!



Hibiscus dascalyx, Neches River Mallow – Small creamy white blooms with a red eye appear in October on long slender stems with small, linear leaves. Suitable for boggy conditions or beds with consistent moisture. We are a little confused about its classification as a federally listed endangered Texas native because it has proven to be one tough puppy for us.



Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Psyche' – one of the oldest and most hardy of the species and the parent of many others. Large glossy green leaves, red bloom. Can grow to be a quite large bushy tree.



Hibiscus 'Moy Grande' - huge rose-pink flowers, 8 to 12 inches. One of the largest open-faced hibiscus flowers in the world. Often mis-named as Mui Grande, but named for the same Dr. Moy who created the hedychium bearing his name.



Hibiscus cooperii,
Variegated Hibiscus



Hibiscus syriacus
'Diana', Rose of Sharon

Every year garden centers present a wonderful array of hibiscus with huge colorful blooms. Most are grown as container plants and have to be lugged in to the garage or greenhouse for winter. Less often seen, however, are the hardy hibiscus species which grow so well here. Your LPMGA propagation team will offer a huge assortment of hardy hibiscus at our September 13th plant sale. Here are the highlights:

Hibiscus syriacus 'Diana', Rose of Sharon aka Althea – can grow to a small tree with a nice upright spreading canopy. A heavy bloomer, with pure white flowers.

Hibiscus cooperii, Variegated Leaf Hibiscus – beautiful mottled foliage in shades of green, white and pink, with a small red flower. Very nice in containers or added to the back of the border for height.

Hibiscus acetosella, Red Leaf Hibiscus – burgundy leaves and stems, deep wine flower. Growth is loose and upright and a good mixer with denser plants. Responds well to pruning to maintain shape. Semi-tender but often survives if planted in a protected location. Grows well from cuttings.

Hibiscus schizopetalus 'Peach Tassel' – interesting ruffled peach bloom with a smaller "pouf" emerging from the center. This is one of the more tender hibiscus, but can be cut back to a stump once leaves have fallen and mulched heavily or taken in.

Hibiscus coccineus, Red Texas Star – giant red single-petaled blooms on tall stems. Particularly attractive to migrating hummingbirds. Seems to do well in sun or shade, wet or dry. Stems can be cut back in late spring to promote a more bushy growth.

Hibiscus mutabilis, Confederate Rose – an old Southern standby in many gardens. Unlike the more common multi-petaled blooms, resembling tissue paper flowers, this one presents large, open-faced blooms in a lovely shade of deep pink. Striking when blooming high above other shrubs and perennials.

This is only one genus of the many annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, and tropicals we grow.

As you can imagine, it takes a large dedicated team working year-round to produce these lovely plants. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at the greenhouse. Mark your calendars for the plant sale on September 13th at the greenhouse. We need helping hands for set up, cashiers and tear down. Contact me to volunteer at btayl@cox.net or 337-654-2691

Becky Taylor

THE JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM IS LOOKING FOR YOU

We are looking for retired teachers, or other Master Gardeners, who might be interested in School Gardens and/or teaching a lesson for the new Jr. Master Gardeners program.

All lesson plans are prepared, and the level is 3rd to 5th grade.

If you are interested, please contact Candy Bienvenu



BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER

I hope everyone had a great summer. Personally, I've fought with whooping cough (my 91 year old mother – she keeps telling us she's in her second childhood, I guess that was her trying to prove it – then me. Believe me, it was no fun.), then no rain, then rain and more rain, then weeds, then stinkbugs. In other words, it's been a normal South Louisiana summer – except for the whooping cough, of course.

We have had a nice bit of rain lately, that helps a lot, because most of my yard does not have irrigation and I truly hate standing around with a hose. I do have soaker hoses on most of my vegetable garden though, so even if the ornamentals lack water, I can usually manage watering the veggies without too much trouble.

Right now, almost everything is suffering from the heat, except the eggplant, cucumbers, beans, and most herbs; they seem to thrive on heat. The tomatoes and peppers look terrible, my squash are all gone, and the weeds are taller than I am again. I know I'm short, but they're still too tall. There seems to be a recurring theme here.

Now I'm getting ready to plant the fall garden. From now to the beginning of August you can plant cantaloupe, okra, and watermelon. Missing out on the fall garden is one of the biggest mistakes new gardeners make. They just think that summer is all there is to gardening. Plant Southern peas, bell pepper (transplants, not seeds, it's too late for seeds), summer squash, and tomatoes (again, transplants) from now until the beginning of August. As a gardener gets more experience, (s)he doesn't want the season to end. Here, we are so very lucky to have an average growing season that exceeds 300 days. Through mid-August you can plant beets, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, lettuce and Irish potatoes. Feel for those poor people who have 60 day growing seasons. All through the month of August you can plant beans (green and lima, bush and pole), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, cucumbers, and mustard. And we're not finished yet. There's more to come in September.

Now, about those tomato and pepper transplants. You can grow (or buy) new transplants, or you can cut back the ones you already have, give them a feeding of compost, fish emulsion, worm tea, or your favorite pick me up, and by the end of August these well-developed root systems will have produced strong new tops and as soon as the weather cools, you'll have a beautiful crop of tomatoes and/or peppers. Treat the plants just like you would roses. Prune them to 18" to 24". To prevent the spread of disease, I like to remove the old mulch, put on a layer of worm castings, and spread fresh mulch, and, of course, keep the moisture even. This should get those plants off to a great new start.

I must say, the insect population was a lot less this year than last. I hope that is because the reduced use of pesticides on the property has allowed a more natural balance to develop. That doesn't mean that I'm happy with the stink bug damage, especially to the tomatoes. I had to pick my large tomatoes long before they were ripe. Fortunately, tomatoes ripen easily indoors, but there is just something so wonderful to see those beautiful, red tomatoes on the vine. Picking a ripe tomato and biting into it, letting the juice drip down your chin, there's very little that can beat the experience. Picking them early and letting them ripen on the counter lessens that experience significantly, but at least I get ripe tomatoes. When too many tomatoes show stink bug damage, I do reach for the insecticide. First, soapy water, maybe with some oil in it. Then, Neem oil, and lastly, something with spinosad in it. I reach for the spinosad last because it is a broad-spectrum insecticide and kills the good bugs along with the bad. This sets back the good bugs more than the bad because when the bad bugs are pressured, they respond by increasing their rate of reproduction. Good bugs don't respond the same way. They continue to reproduce at the same old rate, allowing the bad bugs to outpace them. So try not to use broad-spectrum pesticides as your first line of defense. Soapy water drowns insects readily, water with a little soap and oil in it slows the insects down enough so that they can be caught and either squashed or drowned. Insecticides like *Bacillus thuringiensis* (commonly called Bt) are very specific for caterpillars and do not affect any other insects, good or bad. It also doesn't affect birds, fish, pets or people. It has to be ingested by the target insect. It infects that insect and stops it from feeding. You will still see caterpillars, but they will no longer be chewing your plants.

Until next time, good gardening,

Mary Ann

**GET THOSE ROOTED CUTTINGS READY FOR
THE FALL PLANT SWAP**

**10AM SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13TH
AT THE PLANT SALE**

**Contact Louann Long for more information
or if you'd like to volunteer**

**WHAT PLANT
AM I?**

ANSWER:

**Yes, indeed.
What's It is
in beautiful
Key West
Florida.**





LPMGA Calendar August 2014

August 6th, Wednesday at 6pm

GENERAL MEETING SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

Amazing Bees by Mark Simon. Active members vote on bylaw changes.

August 7th, Thursday at 12pm AOC Program "In The Garden"

August 9, Saturday at 10am Cool Weather Plants

2nd Saturday Gardening Class at Green T Lindon Elem School Cafeteria
603 Avenue B, Youngsville

August 12th, Tuesday at 10:30am Bayou Vermilion Clean Streams Series

Right fertilizer, Right rate, Right time, Right place
Ernest Girouard, Ph.D. Vermilionville

August 14th, Thursday 8:45am to 3pm

2014 MASTER GARDENER CLASS

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center Classroom

August 16th, Saturday at 10am LPMGA Garden Talk

Rusty Wilson Worms and Vermicomposting

August 18th at 1 pm LPMGA BOARD MEETING

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

August 30th, Saturday at 11am Healing Traditions Lecture Series

Diane Queen How To Use Medicinal Plants

The Cooking School at Vermilionville

PLANTFEST NATURE AND GARDEN EXPOSITION

September 20, Saturday 8am to 3pm Sugar Mill Pond

PLANTFEST LPMGA PLANT SALE LPMGA Demo Beds

September 13th, Saturday 8am to 1pm

Plant Swap at 10am

October 16 Field Trip New Orleans Botanical Gardens and More

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 or

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

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 337-291-7090

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

**DON'T FORGET TO RECORD YOUR
VOLUNTEER HOURS & CONTINUING EDUCATION**