

Were you wondering about our meeting? We will be gathering at Colette Anzalone's and we will not have a separate meeting in May. SIXTY of us are all paid and ready to enjoy a very relaxing boxed meal with no fuss, no muss, and no fretting over clean-up. AND: Check out the Silent Auction items at the May Social. Treat yourself or another deserving Mom to some beautiful, some unusual, \& some useful treasures.

If you get lost, call Colette at 288-0283.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Babette Werner
Mission and Vision Vote:
The Executive Committee voted on April 21, 2014 to recommend to the LPMGA membership that the association adopt a reworded Mission Statement and a Vision Statement. The mission of the LPMGA hasn't changed. The change in wording just updates the way that our mission statement reads.

You will be emailed (or mailed if you do not have email) a ballot in May to cast your vote. You will have the option to approve the reworded mission statement or to vote to continue to use the current mission statement. You will also have the option to approve the vision statement. Please contact me or any board member if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue. Only active members can vote.

## LPMGA Current Mission:

The mission of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association, Inc. shall be to assist the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter) in serving the gardening interests of the Lafayette area. This mission is achieved by producing educational programs, volunteer hours in the completion of community service projects, and horticultural enrichment for members.

## Mission statement reworded:

The Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association, Inc. assists the LSU AgCenter in educating Lafayette and surrounding areas about horticulture and environmental stewardship through the transmission of factual, research-based information.

Proposed Vision Statement: Growing a vibrant, green and healthy community through horticulture education.

## GERALD'S CORNER

Hello Gardeners,
A lot of calls have been coming into the Lafayette Parish LSU AgCenter office regarding various landscape/gardening topics and I thought I'd share them with Master Gardeners this month.

Many questions and comments address knockout roses which seem to be providing gardeners with a spectacular display of lush green foliage and gorgeous blooms. I contacted Dr. Allen Owings at the Hammond Research Station and he is witnessing the same performance from knockout roses. He feels that, because of our long winter with below average temperatures, knockout roses went through a longer and more complete rest period. When they finally came alive, they were rejuvenated. The results are seen in the foliage and flowers being more concentrated, instead of like in mild winters. Where the rest period is shorter and less complete, folage and bloom activity is spread over a longer period of time. As we say, Mother Nature did us a favor. Let us enjoy this spectacular display from reinvigorated knockout roses. Keep in mind, however, that as temperatures rise and place more stress on all roses, they will probably not look as spectacular.

On Cannas and Amaryllis, as we move into May and peak blooming declines, both will be developing seed pods. It is recommended that these seed pods be removed. Removing the seed pods allows the plant to redirect its energy to leaves and roots instead of wasting effort on seed development. Also, watch for damage from the canna leaf roller which is a caterpillar that causes brown deformed leaves and holes in the leaves of cannas. In some cases, weekly application of Orthene (acephate) will be needed to control damage from this pest.

Removing faded blooms from annuals bedding plants - commonly referred to as "deadheading" - also redirects the energy of the plants from seed development to bloom development. So to encourage extended blooming on annuals, remove blooms as they begin to fade.

The month of May is going to bring higher temperatures and cause the decline of many of our cool season annuals such as petunias, violas, pansies, and dianthus. As the temperatures progressively rise, begin making preparations to clean out these cool season annuals beds and replace them with warm season annuals such as ageratum, lantana, marigold, butterfly pentas, periwinkle, rudbeckia, salvia, dusty miller, cosmos, celosia - just to name a few. The more heat-tolerant petunias may persist into June or July, but with the more intense heat expect cool season plants to gradually decline.

If you notice the leaves of azaleas showing whitish spots or discoloration on the leaf surface, look underneath. If there are dark brown spots this indicates the presences of azalea lace bugs. This may require a couple of applications of an insecticide such as Orthene (acephate).

June bugs have been sighted for several weeks and are currently eating the foliage of several landscape plants including pecan trees. These brown beetle like bugs feed primarily at night because they remain in the soil during the day and emerges after dark. Sevin or any insecticide containing carbaryl as its active ingredient can be applied to plants being affected by June bugs/beetles just before dark, by the next morning it's not uncommon to find these beetle bugs dead on the soil.

Buck moth caterpillars are being reported by gardeners all over Lafayette and surrounding parishes. These black caterpillars covered with spines can inflict painful stings if they come in contact with your skin while you are gardening. If you're careful to avoid them, spraying an insecticide may not be necessary as they will be gone as soon as they complete their life cycle. However if you feel the need to control them, any common garden insecticides such a malathion, sevin, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, will give good control. I will include a picture in the article of buck moth caterpillars for identification purposes.

On woody plants such as citrus, figs and many of our woody tropical plants, damage that was done by this winter's freezing temperatures has become more evident. By now, you can look at plants and visually determine what parts of these plants can be pruned based on new growth. Brown areas can be pruned/remove up to healthy green growth.

Several callers have asked about reddish discoloration on amaryllis leaves. The reddish discoloration is cause by a fungus disease called red blotch which is common on amaryllis. According to Dan Gill, the most appropriate practice is to remove affected leaves if the infection is severe.

Finally, numerous St Augustine lawns suffered some cold damage from this past winter. Most people don't realize that St Augustine grass is susceptible to cold damage. For this reason, recovery is going to be very important during this growing season. It is even more critical that we reduce as much stress as possible to encourage recovery. The first step, fertilization, is to provide nutrients the grass needs. According to Dr. Ron Strahan of the LSU AgCenter, St Augustine lawns should be fertilized three times annually : mid - April, mid - June, and mid - late August. If you choose to apply a water soluble fertilizer such as $13-13-13$, the rate is $7-8 \mathrm{lbs}$ per 1000 square feet for each of the three recommended applications. Another option is a slow release fertilizer such as Scotts turf builder, or any other turf fertilizer that can be purchased at garden centers or at feed and seed stores. Follow the recommended rates on the bag or package. Finally, I have seen a major improvement of many St. Augustine lawns by simply following the recommended mowing height. St Augustine lawns should be mowed at $3-31 / 2$ inches, especially in shaded or areas or when we have very hot and dry conditions. This higher mowing height reduces stress and makes for a more healthy roots system This, in turn, means a more healthy vigorous lawn that grows thicker shading out weeds, resulting in deeper roots, which also increases drought tolerance.

Happy Gardening!!!Gerald P. Roberts<br>Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator LSU AgCenter<br>1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325<br>Lafayette, LA 70501<br>GRoberts@agcenter.lsu.edu<br>Office (337) 291-7090<br>Fax (337) 291-7099



Buck Moth caterpillars will soon form chrysalides.
Knock-out roses knocked us out this year with their bounty. -and beauty.



It won't be the first time school gardens have been in the spotlight. These engaging programs with school partnerships and 4-H have helped young people appreciate the finer points of gardening. Peggy Voorhies.


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

## NEW LOCAION! <br> Green T Lindon

Elementary School Cafeteria And Memorial Garden 603 Avenue B, Youngsville May 10 at 10 a.m. "Butterfly Gardening"
Hear everything our own Becky Taylor has to say about attracting beautiful butterflies to your garden!

Don't miss Juan Nieto's "Garden Talk" May 17, 10 a.m. - Ira Nelson Demo Beds

## In The Garden

Charles Hebert will be our guest. His topic will be school gardens. Charles has been working with students and education programs in the schools for years and does a fantastic job. Grant funding is in the pipeline and more schools have joined the program.

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

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.


## What Plant Am l?

I'm a native perennial wildflower, 2 to 4 feet tall. In open areas, I branch out and have a bushy appearance. My leaves can be simple, opposite, whorled or alternate. My flowers are $1 / 2$ to $3 / 4$ inches across, consisting of a tubular corolla with five widely spreading lobes. I have a very short calyx with five triangular teeth. My corolla is mostly pale blue and its lobes are narrow and starlike. My blooms appear from mid-spring to early summer and last for about a month. They are beautiful, but have no scent.

Each of my fertilized flowers are replaced by a pair of cylindrical follicles, which are four to five inches long. Each follicle contains a single row of small cylindrical seeds. By splitting along one side, I reseed myself. My root system consists of a tap root. I can grow in moderate sun to deep shade, and I like moist soil, making me ideal for rain gardens.

My flowers attract ruby-throated hummingbirds and long-tongued insects such as the large carpenter bees, hummingbird moths, and many butterflies. My foliage contains a white latex that is toxic to mammalian herbivores. I share this toxicity with one of my much larger cousins, the oleander. One of my relatives grows on the shady side of one of the log cabins at the Caroline Dorman Nature Preserve. Another colony exists in a wet meadow near the Lafayette Visitor's Center. I have no serious insect or disease problems. I am normally available only in native plant outlets, or as a pass-a-long plant through clump divisions and seeds.

Do you know what plant I am?


## VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER

May 2014
AHHH, SPRING - FINALLY! Dare I really say it this time? I couldn't believe we had freezes in mid-April; although, my great-grandmother said that she remembered snow in May. This time I really am moving ahead as though we are finished with cold. I can actually use the same words that I did last month, "The past few days have been absolutely glorious. I have been unable to stay indoors." In fact, I want to be outdoors right now, but I have to write instead. Oh, well, there's always tomorrow. I have finished adding all the compost goodies to the beds. I planted a variety of squashes down the center of one $4 \times 25$ foot bed and waited. The more I looked at that bed, the more the empty space annoyed me, so I planted parsley along the edges of the bed at the mid-point between the squash plants. There was still too much bare ground, so I put radishes in an arc around the squash plants, figuring that the radishes would be up and harvested before the squash plants filled out enough to need that space. This is inter-cropping (or companion planting, if you prefer) in time. Time, because two crops will utilize the same space, but one will be mature and harvested before the other needs the space. There was still too much bare space to suit me, so I thought of the 'Three Sisters' and decided to use that concept. I planted corn in the bare spaces. As soon as the corn is up, I will plant pole beans around the corn stalks.
You probably have heard of the 'Three Sisters' used by Native Americans, but most people don't think of all the different features provided by and taken from each type of plant. For example, people usually think that the corn gives the beans a place to climb, and the beans fix nitrogen for the corn and squash, but there is a lot more to it than that. Corn and squash have fibrous root systems, which mean that their roots are shallow and stay near the surface. This makes them easily prone to drying out, and they are unable to mine deeply into the soil for nutrients. The bean roots not only fix nitrogen, making it available to itself and the other plants, but they also mine for nutrients all the way down into the fourth foot of soil. The bean plants use these nutrients to form roots, leaves, stems, flowers, and fruit. When these plant parts die, (some rootlets only live a matter of hours), those nutrients become available to the corn and squash. The beans also stabilize the corn plants against wind damage. The third part of the trilogy features the squash, the big leaves of those squash plants help keep the ground cooler and conserve water, protecting all three plants from drought. The shade provided by the squash leaves holds down weeds, and the spines on the squash deter certain pests. The cooperative nature of this plant combination continues on to the table. The combination of corn and beans yields complete protein for humans, and the squash adds vitamins and carbohydrates. When the plants die at the end of the season, that large amount of green mass turned into the soil improves the tilth and nutrient availability for the next crop. So, you can begin to see how these plants help each other when planted together. This combination of cooperative plants placed in close proximity is called a 'guild' in permaculture, and there are many other combinations in addition to the 'Three Sisters'. Deep-rooted plants like daikon radish are called 'dynamic accumulators' or 'miners' because their roots go down into the soil and bring up nutrients that are then released to other plants when the radish dies. Plants like comfrey are great for mulching in place. They are perennials that grow quickly and have large fleshy leaves. These leaves can be cut off and dropped to create a mulch that breaks down relatively quickly to provide nutrients to the other plants in the guild. Every guild also should have a ground cover to hold down weeds and keep moisture in the soil. Plants that have strong smells, like onions, chives, and strong-smelling flowers, can help to repel insect pests. Having climbers in the guild helps to make maximum use of the available space by using space in all dimensions. Guilds are just a way to replicate nature.
So, what's happening in the garden now? The broccoli is about done. I cut back all the flower stalks, added compost and watered well. If they start producing side shoots again, great. If not, up they come. The peach trees are now covered with peaches just a little smaller than a golf ball. I really need to thin them to make it easier on the tree and to get large, flavorful fruit instead of a lot of small, insipid fruit. One of the small citrus, the Improved Meyer Lemon, seems to be coming back, but the growth is all from the base, and I'm not sure if it's coming from the root stock or the graft. I'll wait a little while to see before I decide whether to pull it out or not. The blood orange seems to be gone though. I've recently bought more citrus to replace those two and added two more. I created a guild around each one with comfrey, narcissus bulbs, garlic chives, multiplying leeks, pole beans, and daikon radish.
Plans notwithstanding, my first planting of cucumbers did not do well at all. So, I'm starting again. I'm putting them on teepees this year because the trellis area was used for cucumbers last year, and I didn't want to plant them in the same area again. So over the winter I let some trash trees grow around the edge of the property instead of taking them down when they were small. One day, after I'd pulled up all the weeds in the beds and paths, I spend a couple of hours cutting these trees down. They were 7 to 9 feet long, nice and straight, and perfect for making the teepees I wanted for the beans and cucumbers. And they were free.
Insect Bulletin. What I've seen so far is aphids, mostly on a few young pea pods and the flower stalks of a few weeds (good trap crop maybe?). As I was cleaning up the massive weeds in March, I saw a few very large leaf-footed bugs. I assume they had overwintered in the weeds, but they truly were huge. Fortunately, they were also very slow, so I treated them to my variation on the 'two-bricks' method of insect control, the 'Louisiana Stomp'. I continue to see the occasional assassin bug, and I see ladybugs everywhere.
The first planting of peas are producing really well. I've served them, frozen them, and dehydrated them, I still have a lot coming on the plants, and the second planting is just starting to produce. I should be well set with peas for the season. The dewberries are covered with berries. I picked about a gallon and didn't even get to all the bushes. The blackberries are in flower and just setting fruit. Having both dewberries and blackberries doubles the length of the harvest because the dewberries flower and set fruit before the blackberries do. Just about the time that the dewberries are fading, the blackberries are starting to produce. The only bad thing about the dewberries is the thorns. I love the fact that the blackberries are thornless. The strawberries are producing well, and the blueberry bushes are loaded with tiny berries and flowers. I hope you are all enjoying this great weather as much as I am. I hope it continues all summer - I know that won't happen, but I can hope can't I ?

Until next time,

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



# October 21 - 24, 2014 Crowne Plaza Hotel Baton Rouge, LA 

Sponsored by:<br>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 DISPLAYLPMGA has been given the honor of creating a tabletop display for the 7State 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 $1^{\text {st }}$. 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. Gardening Class

> May 10,2014 $10: 00 \mathrm{AM}$
Backyard Confettr Building a Complete Backyara Habitat
Turn Your Existing Garden into a Green J. Lindon Elementary
Complete Butterfly Habitat! School Cafeteria and Memorial Garden
A Master Gardner since 1999
Becky Taylor is one of the most sought after speakers in
Acadiana! You will learn
about the best nectar plants,
host plants and other garden
elements necessary for being
a good steward of these fascinating insects!
603 Avenue $\mathfrak{B}$ Youngsuille, fa. 70592
For more information contact Sherlyn Larrison 985-5132777 or Jackie Carlisi 337-277-0027 or visit www.lpmga.org

## Where is it?



## sww.LatayctieMasterGardener.ong

## 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— Ipmgacalendar@gmail.com

## 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.Isuagcenter.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.Isuagcenter.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 you have done what it takes!!!


Sunday afternoon sales, Sherlyn Larrison, SandyScheuemann and Laura Wotring help check out a happy customer at the Master
 Gardener booth.


WHAT PLANT AM I?
ANSWER:
Amsonia tabernaemontana
Eastern Bluestar, Dogbane




May 1st: "In the Garden" on AOC Community Media, LIVE at noon
May 2nd: Garden Stroll and Tours @ Hammond Reseach Station, 9 a.m.-noon
May 5th: Cinco de Mayo
May 7th: Master Gardener Social @ Colette Anzalone's home in Broussard, 6-8 p.m. (pages 1 \& 3)
May 7th: Silent Auction @ the Social!
May 8th-10th: Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association Water Symposium
May 9th: Master Gardener Appreciation Day @ Hammond Research Station, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
May 10th: Second Saturday "Butterfly Habitat" at the "cool school" Green T. Lindon, 10 a.m.
May 11th: Happy Mother's Day! Wear a corsage in honor of your mother
May 17th: Garden Talk@ the Ira Nelson Demo Beds, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
May 26th: Memorial Day Observance



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: 1010 Lafayette Street/Suite 325,

Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
Telephone (337) 291-7090 fax (337) 291-7099
The Web site is www.Isuagcenter.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.

