

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday

April 1, 2015 - 6 pm

South Regional Library

6101 Johnston Street

INFORMAL SOCIAL

See page 3

LPMGA BOARD

MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,

APRIL 20, 2015

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE
CENTER (INHC)

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2015 BOARD:

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Join Us at our General Meeting—April 1 and learn about Attracting Birds to Your Backyard

The topic for our April Master Gardener meeting is "The Four Elements of Attracting Birds to Your Backyard (especially hummingbirds.)" Jack Must, owner of Lafayette's Wild Birds Unlimited, will share his vast knowledge of gardening to attract birds. Jack and Rose opened Wild Birds Unlimited in May, 1997. He is a certified Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist and is a Master Gardener, Class of 2000. The meeting will be held in the Southside Public Library auditorium on April 1, at 6:00 PM.



April 1: 6 pm Master Gardener Meeting and Social, South Regional Library

April 6-7: Jr. Master Gardener Camp, 9am –1pm (page 5)

April 10-11: Southern Garden Festival (page)

April 11: Second Saturday Class "Container Gardening" 10 am (page 3)

April 18th: Spring Plant Sale, Ira Nelson Horticulture Center (page 4)

April 19: Earth Day, Vermillionville Culture Days

April 20: LPMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm Ira Nelson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Heather Finley

Here's big news: it's spring in southern Louisiana! Everything is greening up and budding out and we are all entering that whirlwind of activity that is spring to gardeners and plant lovers. When Linda Broussard was trying to fix a date for our spring trip, she asked me for a list of garden activities for March and April, and there weren't any clear weekends! So to sum up our activities, Festival des Fleurs will take place on 28-29 March. Our plant sale is set for 18 April, and of course, our spring trip is scheduled for 26-28 April. And we still need to find time to get out into our own gardens, get our hands dirty, and rejoice in our beautiful planet.

In keeping with my theme for the last several months, I want to continue to share my thoughts on the priorities we developed at the board retreat in January. **Priority 1** is developing a plan for our relocation when we eventually move from the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. **Priority 2** is re-engaging our membership in our activities and projects. **Priority 3** is developing an operating plan that would include 1) event scheduling; 2) goals for all projects; 3) project evaluation; 4) messaging and branding – that is, sharing the LPMGA Mission and Vision in everything that we do; 5) have a PR focus; 6) improve PlantFest; and 7) support the nascent Jr. Master Gardener Program. Our Vice President, Linda Beyt, and I are working together on these issues. We've been working with our Website committee to make the most of our web presence and hope to present the membership with some very useful additions in the near future. We're planning to get committees together to discuss functions and missions among committees. We also have a very enthusiastic and motivated group of people working on publicity now which will help us get the word out about Master Gardeners in general and upcoming events. We hope these ideas will help us meet the needs of the Lafayette Master Gardeners as the group continues to grow. Time will tell, and I know that our members will let us know whether they think the ideas we have are workable. Please keep talking to us about your ideas. That's how we will all improve our association, and through our association, our community.

Thanks, Heather

GERALD'S CORNER

I am receiving calls daily from gardeners who are frustrated with mother nature, not only because of the cool temperatures but also the consistent rainfall that we've been receiving. The month of March was not very kind to gardeners causing many to delay garden chores they had planned to address during March. I told many of them to not despair and that soon enough conditions would improve and even though we've fallen off schedule many of those gardening chores can still be performed. For example, if you haven't completed your fertilization program on trees and shrubs that normally are fertilized in late winter or early spring, then do so as soon as you can. I've received as many calls on recommended fertilizer rates for home lawns than I ever have and this was in spite of all of the rain fall. It's just something about early spring that motivates home gardeners to want to fertilize their lawns. As you may recall, many times I have repeated the LSU AgCenter's recommendations that the first application of fertilizer on lawns should be around the first or second week in April. This will allow time for the soil temperature to heat up and the root activity of warm season lawn grasses to increase so that the nutrients required for shoot and root growth will be absorbed. Applying fertilizer too early will stimulate brown patch disease in primarily St Augustine lawns that has a history of this disease, especially if this rainy weather pattern persists into mid spring. A couple of applications of a fungicide to address brown patch disease may help to slow it down, but if it continues to rain and night time temperatures are relatively cool, it could be an uphill battle. This is all the more reason to not fertilize too early, but rather think about targeting areas of your lawn that have weed problems. Once our daytime temperatures average 60 degrees or above, herbicides like Ortho Weed B Gon/Weed B Gon Max and Fertilome's Weed Free Zone are effective. Once the daytime temperatures reach the mid – high 80's the injury from these two herbicides increases on lawn grasses. Herbicides can still be applied, but you'll need to apply Celsius or MSM Turf, both of which are formulated to decrease the likelihood of turf injury occurring under high temperatures, and both of which can be applied during the summer months.

Virginia buttonweed is a very serious weed in many lawns in South Louisiana. It is a thick mat forming perennial broadleaf that comes back year after year once established. Leaves are opposite and flowers are white star shaped with 4 lobes. Virginia button weed produces by heavy seed production and stem fragments, both of which can start a new plant. No one application of any herbicide is going to control it. It's going to take persistence with several applications of herbicides beginning in mid – late April through October. Apply Weed B Gon/ Weed B Gon Max or Weed Free Zone in the mid – late Spring (April & May) every 10 – 14 days and Celsius or MSM Turf every 4 – 6 weeks through the summer months from June until October. Some gardeners have sacrificed certain areas of their lawn by applying a herbicide containing glyphosate commonly known as roundup with spot treatments. Others have hand removed large mats of Virginia button weed and bagged or burned it. Virginia button weed can be spread by seeds floating in water and by lawn equipment moving from lawn to lawn. It may be a good idea for lawn maintenance crews to rinse lawn mowers between sites to remove seed and fragment of plants to reduce the spread of this weed that can be devastating to lawns. Nature has designed this weed to survive, it's very low growing, it's drought tolerant, it thrives in low or poorly drained areas, and it will out compete lawn grasses. So that is why especially if this weed is in a St Augustine lawn, the lawn should never be mowed shorter than 3 inches, or the advantage goes to the Virginia button weed.

Another broadleaf weed though not as invasive or competitive with lawns grasses as Virginia button weed is a winter annual called Spur weed or Lawn Burweed, which is a low growing resembling miniature parsley. It reproduces by seed and is presently in lawns. It has sharp spines or stickers located in the leaf axils and are injurious to humans when stepped on with bare feet as it approaches maturity. It can be especially distressing to young children. Many people here in south Louisiana refer to these as sticker weeds and as the temperatures rise, it begins to mature reaching a height of 2 – 3 inches or more. Now is the time to control it. If you choose to dig it up do so now!! If you choose to apply a herbicide, apply one of the 4 way blends such as Weed B Gon or Weed B Gon Max or Weed Free Zone. The key is to control it before it matures. It will naturally begin to mature and decline with high temperatures because it is a winter annual, but if it is allowed to persist into late April and into May, it may be too late to apply a herbicide because by then the sharp spines will already have formed and even though you kill it what will remain is a dead plant with sharp spines which can still be injurious and painful. Control it now!!

Happy Gardening!!

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



LAWN BURWEED

CONTROL IT NOW!

EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE

BRING YOUR REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE TO MASTER GARDENER FUNCTIONS!

2015 LPMGA Meetings:
(First Wednesday
Except in January & July)
Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm

**2015 LPMGA Board
Meetings, 1 pm:**
(Third Monday except for
Jan., Feb., Jul. & Dec.)

April 1-South Regional
Library, 6 PM

April 20 — INHC, 1 pm

MAY 6

MAY 11

JUNE 3

JUNE 8

JULY—NO MEETING

JULY—NO MEETING

AUGUST 5

AUGUST 17

SEPTEMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 21

OCTOBER 7

OCTOBER 19

NOVEMBER 4

NOVEMBER 16

DECEMBER 2 Social

DECEMBER 14

Master Gardener after-the-meeting Social
Come join us for appetizers or dinner at Tampico's Restaurant (5713 Johnston St) after the Master Gardener Meeting on April 1. The meeting is at 6:00 at the Southside Regional Library. Please let Linda Beyt (337-278-1258 or lbeyt@att.net) know by March 30 if you plan to attend.

The topic for our April Master Gardener meeting is "The Four Elements of Attracting Birds to Your Backyard (especially hummingbirds.)" Jack Must, owner of Lafayette's Wild Birds Unlimited, will share his vast knowledge of gardening to attract birds. Jack and Rose opened Wild Birds Unlimited in May, 1997. He is a certified Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist and is a Master Gardener, Class of 2000. The meeting will be held in the Southside Public Library auditorium on April 1, at 6:00 PM.

Vermilionville Culture Days:

April 19. Earth Day June 7. Creole Culture Day
August 9. Acadian Day September 26 Native American Day

Lecture Series/MG/Vermilionville

May 30. Rebecca Henry..... Healing Traditions in Acadiana
August 29. Eddie Boyd.:Home Remedies & Herbs Used By African Americans

Spring Garden Strolls

Spring is a perfect time to take a garden stroll. Upcoming Garden Strolls include:
April: Judge Edwards (bamboo gardening- Abbeville)
May: May Vidacovich, Rose and Jack Must (gardening for birds), Chris Butts, Sandy Schuermann (hibiscus)
Garden Stroll committee members will serve refreshments.
Dates will be forthcoming.

2nd Saturday Class

APR 11	Sonya Ducote of All Seasons	Container Gardening
MAY 9	Jay Branch of Bob's Tree Preservation	Tree Selection and Care
JUN 13	Margaret Brinkhaus	Gourds: Growing and Crafts
JUL 11	Megan Montgomery	Basic Landscape Design
AUG 8	Marilyn's Tropical Foliage	Interior Plant Selection and Maintenance
SEP 12	Kathy Trowanowski	Fall Vegetable Gardening
OCT 10	Tina Jumonville	Cool Season Annuals and SuperPlants
NOV 14	Candy Bienvenu	Irrigation
DEC 12		
NONE		



In the Garden of Harold and Sarah Schoeffler
3502 E. Simcoe Street, Lafayette 70501

A fundraiser for www.familypromiseacadiana

A coalition helping Families without homes to reach and sustain their independence.

Earn MG Volunteer Hours:

- On planting mornings (call Sarah at 288-0426 before going). Bring your planting tools, gloves and water bottles.
- Ask a Master Gardener" table: call Jan Vinning 258-2143
- Butterfly table.....contact Sarah Schoeffler 288-0426
- Jr. MG & School Initiative Area.....contact Sarah Schoeffler 337-288-0426

Just for fun/no MG hours

- Bake a sweet or bring a savory tidbit for the Garden Tea Room
- Serve Tea/Coffee and sweets in the Garden Tea Room

Come, Enjoy....Spring will be bursting out all over !

Friday April 10, 6 - 9 pm: **Dancing & Dining Under the Stars**
Tickets in advance \$75 single \$100 couple

Saturday Garden Festival; April 11, 9 am—5 pm: \$10 at the Gate Gardens, Master Gardeners, Music Information Booths, Boat Rides on the Bayou Artistsand the Fairies dancing between the petals.

Gospel in the Garden: 3 -5 pm:
Closes out the Southern Garden Festival

Hope to see you there! Sarah

www.LPMGA.org

We have made lots of improvements to our website, www.lpmga.org. It is a good resource for upcoming events, as well as gardening tips. At the bottom of the home page, click the link LPMGA Members to find forms and files which have been uploaded. One can find the latest roster, the latest committee list, a renewal form, a dues form, and many other useful files. We will need to have the password to access this link. Due to privacy issues, we cannot publish it in the newsletter. Email Karen at img@kreativegourds.com to get the password.

How would you like to get your flowers or garden pictures posted on the website? If you do, just email them to Karen. These will be posted. Just look around the site to see them all.

**Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association
SPRING PLANT SWAP
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 2015**

Sign In begins at 9:30am

Formal Swap begins at 10am

**The Spring Plant Swap is scheduled for April 18th 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 Formal 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-add your Swap plant to the table-join the fun. Tickets are drawn at random.

Be sure to stay for a prize drawing after the Swap.

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

Contact Louann Long at mglouann@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

What Plant Am I?

What Plant am I?

My family has over 500 members, all with a similar arrangements of petals: two upper petals, two side wings, and one flat lower petal the serves as a landing strip for the small insects that pollinate my flowers. My leaves are heart-shaped. I may grow as tall as one foot but am usually only 3 to 6 inches tall. My flowers are about 1 inch across, and vary from deep purple to white.

I grow best in a deciduous or coniferous woodland, in well-drained, slightly acid, humus-rich soil, with a pH of 6 to 7. Propagate me by seed or by root division. My seeds are planted in the fall or early spring. Transplant my seedlings 6 to 12 inches apart, so that the top of my root is at ground level. I need no special care. I seed myself rapidly by popping open when my seed pods turn brown, shooting them up to 3 or 4 inches away.

**Do you know what plant I am?
See page 6 for the answer.**



Junior Master Gardener Report

We are doing our final prep work for our first camp April 6 - 7, 2015 from 9am - 1pm at the Demo Beds. We have been busy building our raised beds that were designed by Megan Montgomery and built by Tina Vidrine.

Compost was donated by Lafayette Consolidated Government Compost Facility. We used the compost to fill the beds up to 10-12 inches from the top. We then purchased bed builder soil to complete the last 12 inches. Thank you Sherlyn Larrison and her husband Jim for picking up the bed builder soil with their trailer and filling the raised beds so the kids can plant their garden.

We have planted seeds to transplant plants in the beds. We are in the process of building a teepee using bamboo poles given by Judge Edwards. (See photo.) We will be planting gourds to climb the teepee so we can harvest them later on to make birdhouse. Tina is completing our vertical garden wall.

All of this will be ready for when the kids arrive. Kids are registering and we have room for more kids ages 9 -11 or in grades 3-5!

Master Gardeners have volunteered to teach the lessons and/or donate snacks for the kids. You are welcome to come out and observe camp! Come and join the fun!



Lafayette Parish Junior Master Gardener

CAMP April 6-7

For Ages 9-11 or
Grades 3-5

9am to 1pm

Location: Ira Nelson Center/Master
Gardener Demonstration beds across
from the Coliseum on Johnston Street.

Cost: \$70.00

For information on all camp activities:

Contact Candy Bienvenue

337-291-7090

Visit our website: www.lpmga.org or

Facebook: Lafayette Parish Master
Gardeners Association

Please Detach and Send Money and
Information To:

Lafayette Parish Master Gardener (JMG)
LSU Cooperative Extension Service
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325
Lafayette, LA 70501

Please Make Checks Payable To: LPMGA

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Child's Grade (Age): _____

Email: _____

Enclosed Amount: \$ _____



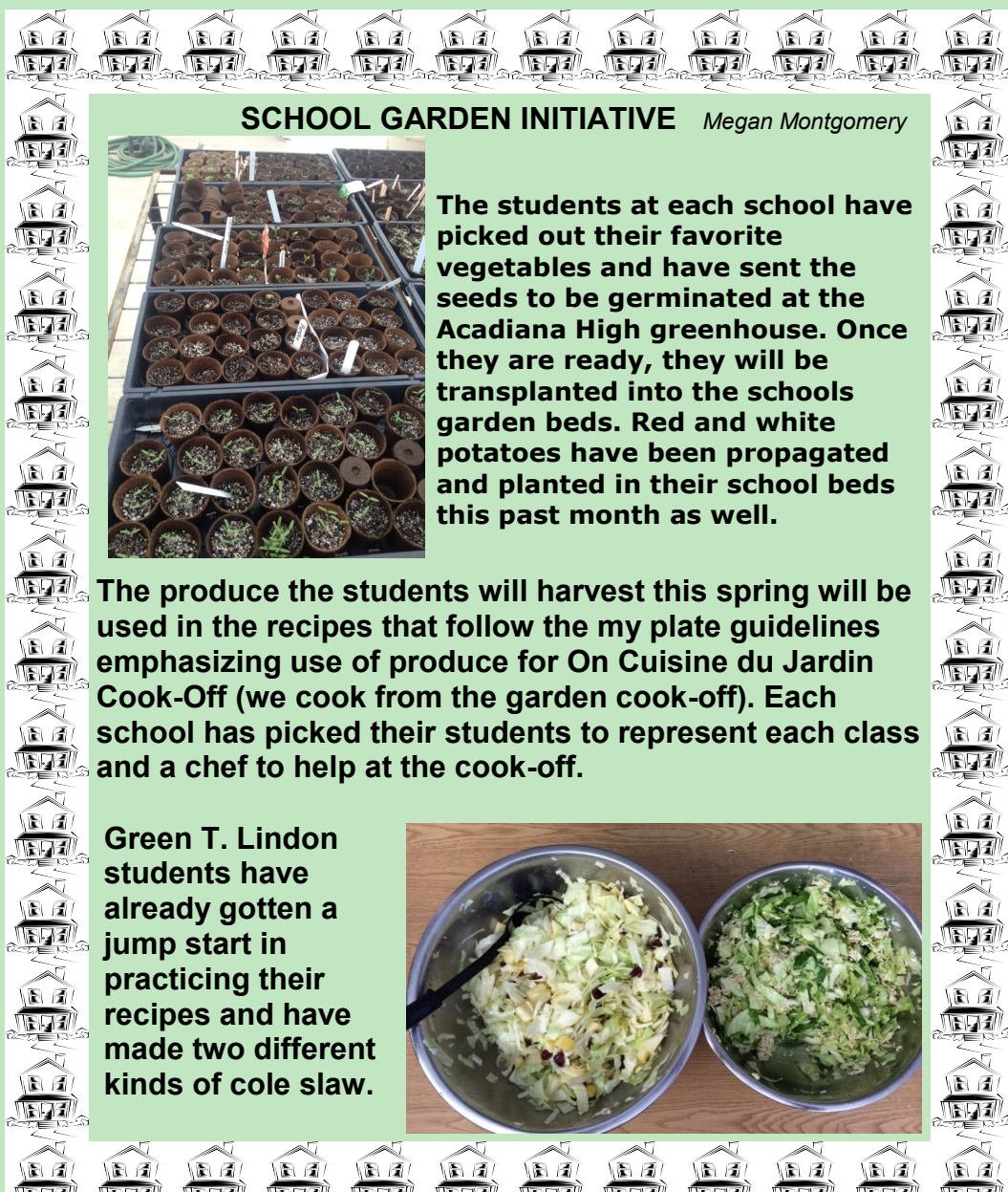


April 1st Meeting Speaker — Jack Must

Learn "The Four Elements of Attracting Birds to Your Backyard (especially hummingbirds)" – the topic for our upcoming meeting. Jack Must, owner of Lafayette's Wild Birds Unlimited, will share his vast knowledge of gardening to attract birds. Jack and Rose opened Wild Birds Unlimited in May, 1997. He is a certified Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist and a Master Gardener, Class of 2000. The meeting will be held in the Southside Public Library auditorium at 6 PM.



Yvonne Domas and Mary Miller were happy that the pine straw arrived on schedule Saturday morning at 8:30. March 21 Master Gardeners picked up their orders.



SCHOOL GARDEN INITIATIVE *Megan Montgomery*



The students at each school have picked out their favorite vegetables and have sent the seeds to be germinated at the Acadiana High greenhouse. Once they are ready, they will be transplanted into the schools garden beds. Red and white potatoes have been propagated and planted in their school beds this past month as well.

The produce the students will harvest this spring will be used in the recipes that follow the my plate guidelines emphasizing use of produce for On Cuisine du Jardin Cook-Off (we cook from the garden cook-off). Each school has picked their students to represent each class and a chef to help at the cook-off.

Green T. Lindon students have already gotten a jump start in practicing their recipes and have made two different kinds of cole slaw.



WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Viola papilionacea:
Butterfly violet.



© Thomas G. Barnes

BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



Spring is FINALLY here. You know that it's said that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, and that was really true this year. I think that our freezes are over although there are a couple of nights predicted to be down in the 40's — but the high 40's at least. We can all be planting pretty much any of the heat loving plants that we want right now — whether from seed or transplant, except for tomatoes. It's too late to plant them from seed now because they won't be able to produce much, if anything, before the intense heat sets in, slowing down or stopping production. Better to wait until June, then plant seeds for the fall harvest. Of course we can continue to plant all of the beans and Southern peas, but English peas and all of the pod-peas should be producing well now, but will begin to decline as the temperature rises. Now is a great time to start melons of all types. They will mature in the heat of summer and produce the sweet, juicy fruit that makes summer tolerable. You can still plant Swiss chard, which is a wonderful green. I like the new, tender leaves in salads — they make a nice replacement for lettuce when it gets too hot for its liking — and all of the leaves can be cooked like any green. I must say that I really like it lightly steamed with garlic and onion and seasoned with a little ham or bacon. It's delicious either way, raw or cooked. If you've never tried it before, plant some. It only takes a two or three plants to provide for the two of us. You certainly don't need a row full. And chard is such a beautiful plant that you can plant it in the front yard as an accent plant as I do. Some varieties, like Bionda de Lyon or Forkhook, have white midribs, others, like Rhubarb chard, have brilliant ruby colored midribs, or the neon pink of Flamingo chard. Then there are the varieties, like Bright Lights, that provide a delightful mixture of white, yellow, orange, pink and red as shown in the photo.



Of course you can continue planting collards all month long, as well as eggplant and all types of peppers, from seeds or transplants. Okra can be planted now without fear of losing it to the cold. If you are in the mood, you can plant peanuts now, although that is one plant I've never tried to grow. You can plant squashes all month long and sweet potatoes after the 10th. If you want to try an unusual, but delicious squash — it's really one of my favorites — try the scalloped squashes. The Ag Center recommends Patty Green, Peter Pan, and Sunburst as varieties that do well here.

The spring vegetables are winding down now. All of my cauliflower has been harvested and there is quite a bit in the freezer. I am still harvesting the broccoli side shoots and will probably continue to do so until the summer heat makes them too bitter. Then, maybe I'll pull them up, but not as long as they keep producing well.

Now is a good time to treat the soil with worm castings over any bare spots or side dress any plants that that are showing buds or fruiting. It won't burn anything, but it can be a little pricey, so use it sparingly. Twenty percent seems to be the optimal quantity to get great growth without spending too much. Of course, if you 'grow your own' it doesn't cost too much. I have a storage container that serves as my worm bed. Drill holes for air and give them good things to eat, that is, a great deal of the kitchen waste. Don't feed the worms fats, or dairy, citrus, or any other acid food, like tomatoes, or meat, or anything that's really rotten, and they don't seem to like seeds. They thrive on most other things, anything green from lettuce to asparagus to zucchini. Add some slightly moistened, shredded paper, and shortly, you will have worm castings. You can look up worm bins on the internet and you will find a wide variety of designs, but I find the simple 5 gallon bucket or Rubbermaid-type storage container to be the simplest for me. Well, I'm going to cut this a little short tonight. This cast makes typing quite uncomfortable — not to mention full of errors that have to be fixed.

So, until next month when this horrible thing is off,

Good Gardening.,

MaryAnn Armbruster

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



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

LPMGA Calendar April 2015

April 1st: General Meeting, South Regional Library, 6 PM Optional Social (page 3)
April 2nd: "In the Garden" first run at AOC, broadcast on channels LUS and Cox
April 6th—9th: Junior Master Gardener Camp, Ira Nelson, 9 AM—1 PM
April 10th & 11th: Southern Garden Festival—Sarah's @ 3502 E. Simcoe
April 18th: LPMGA Plant Sale, Ira Nelson Demo Beds, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.
April 18th: Spring Plant Swap: Ira Nelson Demo Beds, 10 a.m. (Page 3)
April 19th: Earth Day (Program at Vermilionville)



Gardener's Gazette is issued to all members of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners' Program. All members are encouraged to submit news, educational features, and photographs. The deadline for all submissions is the 17th of each month for publication in the next month's issue unless otherwise noted.

Please send newsletter items to:

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.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.



Maps at the Tourist Center



Great Memories Blackham Coliseum, March 28th—29th