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## GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday

January 7, 2015 - noon

South Regional Library

6101 Johnston Street

## LPMGA BOARD

### MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,

JANUARY 12, 2015

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE

CENTER (INHC)

## LPMGA BOARD

### RETREAT

8:30 AM—NOON, MONDAY,

JANUARY 5, 2015

INHC

**By Babette Werner**

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When typing in our organization name, please note that it is spelled as follows:

**Lafayette Parish Master Gardners Association.**

(the e is missing)

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner
- MG Events, Reports, & Announcements
- Committee Volunteers needed
- Master Gardener of 2014
- Gift Our New Calendars
- Submit 2014 Hours BEFORE 2015!
- Garden Stroll
- Between the Rows
- School Garden Initiative Potluck Social—Jan 27!!!
- January Calendar

**2014 BOARD:** President  
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**Vice President**

Linda Beyt 2013

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Carolyn Rink 2013

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**Agent/Adviser**

Gerald Roberts

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Mary Ann Armbruster

**Newsletter Editor**

Theresa Rohloff



Join us for the School Garden Initiative POT LUCK Social

Jan. 27, 6 p.m., Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Heather Finley**

Welcome to the New Year! I always make New Year's resolutions and sometimes I even keep some of them! This year my must-keep resolution for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association is to reach out and engage LPMGA members in our activities and planning efforts. We have great opportunities in our community as plans for the Horse Farm move forward, and we include more schools in our School Gardens Initiative, and we start our Junior Master Gardener program, and we maintain our Demo Gardens and strive to improve our plant sales and PlantFest efforts. These are all exciting opportunities, but to make them work for us as Master Gardeners, we need volunteers. So, this year as part of YOUR New Year's resolutions, I hope you will think about ways that you would enjoy working with our organization.

Really think about something new you might like to learn or maybe something you already have a skill set for and are willing to use for Master Gardeners. Right now, we are specifically in need of volunteers to help manage the Cottage facility and maintain the Demo Garden; to help with Habitat for Humanity; to work with the Junior Master Gardener Summer Camp; to help with the School Gardens; to help with the Speakers' Bureau; and to chair the Saturday Garden Talks at Ira Nelson. These are all important functions for our group, and I hope you will consider helping out. If you are interested, please call me at 337.501.9261 or email me at [redmangrove354@gmail.com](mailto:redmangrove354@gmail.com).

Please remember our General Meeting will be held on 07 January at noon at the Southside Library. The speaker will be our own Becky Taylor, discussing how to awaken your garden in spring. Thanks and happy gardening!

Heather

## GERALD'S CORNER

Hello Gardeners,

Pruning is one gardening job that is often neglected because gardeners are not exactly sure what to do. There is a great deal of confusion about how to prune, when to prune, and even why pruning is done. As a result, pruning is often delayed until radical and extensive pruning is required. Now is an excellent time to evaluate your landscape for pruning that needs to be done, since many plants can be pruned now through February. Hand pruners are your best tool. The bypass cut or the scissor type pruners are the most useful. Anvil-type pruners don't quite make as clean a cut and have the tendency to crush rather than cut cleanly. Use lopping shears to prune small trees or shrubs with diameters up to one inch. For plants with branches more than an inch thick, use a pruning saw. Applying wound sealants or pruning paints to pruning cuts are no longer recommended. In fact, it is felt that these materials may even interfere with the natural process of wounds' natural callusing. That is why it is very important to make proper pruning cuts so that they will heal properly. Dr. Alex Shigo, a plant pathologist with the USDA, did research years ago that changed our thought process on pruning techniques and also changed the recommendation of how tree wound dressings, pruning paints, or sealants affected wounds. If you are interested in reading more about Dr. Shigo's work, do a Google search; along with great information for thought, there are illustrations on how to make proper pruning cuts.

A wide variety of plants can be pruned during the winter and early spring, including most woody plants such as trees, shrubs, hedges, screens and foundation plantings that are not grown for their flowers. Both evergreen and deciduous plants can be pruned.

Avoid extensive pruning of spring flowering trees and shrubs (those that bloom from January through April), such as Japanese magnolia, star magnolia, silver bell, parsley hawthorn, Taiwan flowering cherry, quince, azalea, Indian hawthorn, mock orange, spirea, banana shrub, wisteria and camellia. These plants have already set their flower buds for spring bloom, so any pruning done now will reduce the quantity of blooms.

On the other hand, summer flowering trees and shrubs such as crape myrtle, vitex, althea, oleander and abelia, don't have flower buds set on them now. These can be pruned during winter and early spring because their flower buds will bloom on new growth produced in spring and summer.

Certain shrubs, such as gardenia, hydrangea, some old garden roses, and climbing roses, seem to fall in a separate category because they bloom in *early* summer, so extensive pruning from now until they bloom will greatly reduce or eliminate flowering. Delay any necessary pruning for gardenia, hydrangea, some old garden roses, and climbing roses until immediately after they bloom. One example of a poor pruning technique that we see too often on crape myrtles is commonly referred to as "crape murder," where the tops of crape myrtles are sheared off similar to what is referred to as dehorning. This improper technique produces an abundance of new growth which produces weak stems that break and bend when loaded with blooms. Another example of improper pruning is when azaleas are pruned in the late summer or fall which amounts to removing buds that should have been the next crop of blooms.

Normally, Irish potatoes are planted in the garden from now until mid-February. Cut seed potatoes (usually available at nurseries or feed stores) into pieces about the size of an egg. Make sure each piece includes at least one eye. Allow the cut seed pieces to heal a few days, and then plant them in well – prepared rows or beds about 12 inches apart and four inches deep. Irish potatoes usually reach maturity and are ready to harvest in May. Recommended red potato varieties include Red LaSoda, LaRouge, and Fontenot. White varieties recommended are Norchip, Kennebec, and LaBelle. Usually, the Red LaSoda and Kennebec varieties are readily available this time of year.

Pansies and other cool season bedding plants may bloom sparsely during mid-winter, but blooming should increase again in late winter and early spring. If the foliage is a good green and plant seem to be growing well, you shouldn't need to fertilize now. Pansies are heavy feeders, if the foliage is even slightly pale and if the growth is less vigorous, fertilize with a 20- 20-20 soluble fertilizer, according to label directions, every two to three weeks until the color and vigor improves.

Seeds of tomatoes, peppers and eggplants should be started now through early February in trays in sunny windows, hotbeds, and under lights or in a greenhouse for transplanting into the garden in spring. Many gardeners don't have the facilities to properly grow transplants from seed. Providing enough light is generally the biggest factor.

Whenever practical, continue to deadhead cool-season annuals such as pansies, snapdragons, and dianthus to keep them blooming through spring.

Vegetables to plant in January include beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, onions, radish, shallots, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

HAPPY GARDENING

**Gerald P. Roberts**

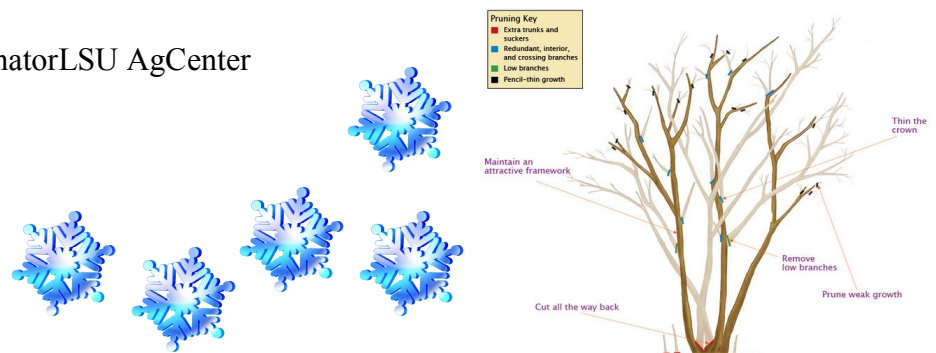
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## EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.)

JANUARY 7—South  
Regional Library, noon

JANUARY 12—INHC, 1 pm

FEBRUARY 4

FEBRUARY 9

MARCH 4

MARCH 16

APRIL 1

APRIL 20

MAY 6

MAY 18

JUNE 3

JUNE 15

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

## Committee Progress Reports

Twice a year, committee chairs complete a progress report which reflects the committee's goals, the types of activities undertaken, the audience reached and impact made. The report also notes number of contacts, project partners and the volunteer assistance and material needed. Based on the reports, the following committees need volunteer assistance:

- **Cottage at Ira Nelson:** Two or three people who would share set-up and clean-up duties on a rotating basis. Must be available on Wednesday mornings during propagation.  
Contact: Judy Corne, [comeaoii@yahoo.com](mailto:comeaoii@yahoo.com), 344-4367.
- **Demonstration Garden:** Volunteers to help weed, rake, plant, check irrigation, pruning, cleaning pathways.  
Contact: Gail Wakefield, [gailwak@cox.net](mailto:gailwak@cox.net), 288-8058 or 837-1724.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** A co-chair is needed.  
Contact: Jo Ann Pugh, [joannpugh@hotmail.com](mailto:joannpugh@hotmail.com), 233-6004.
- **Junior Master Gardener:** Volunteers to help with summer camps. Contact: Candy Bienvenu, [bienvecj14@yahoo.com](mailto:bienvecj14@yahoo.com), 241-9456 or Sherlyn Larrison, [sbelllar@gmail.com](mailto:sbelllar@gmail.com), 856-6662.
- **Medicinal Garden:** A videographer to video the LPMGA quarterly speaker series, "Healing Traditions of Acadiana". Also need video equipment and a lavalier microphone for speakers.  
Contact: MaryAnn Armbruster, [maryann.armbruster@yahoo.com](mailto:maryann.armbruster@yahoo.com), 856-8593 or Mary Perrin, [mlbperrin@gmail.com](mailto:mlbperrin@gmail.com), 501-3053.
- **School Garden Initiative:** Need additional MG members (man or woman power) that have a desire to teach gardening to elementary, middle, high school or special needs students.  
Contact: Sherlyn Larrison, [sbelllar@gmail.com](mailto:sbelllar@gmail.com), 856-6662.

## LPMGA Receives Grant



Lafayette Master Gardeners applied for a grant from the James Devin Moncus Family Foundation to help fund Plantfest 2015 activities. Our organization received \$2,500 from the foundation in December.

The foundation was established in 2008 by James Devin Moncus to continue his philanthropic tradition of supporting organizations and individuals that work hard for positive changes and non-profits that take a pro-active approach to addressing community problems. The Foundation gives primarily to organizations in and around Acadiana.

Babette Werner

## January 7- General Meeting

## South Regional Library at noon

Becky Taylor will present "Advice for Winter & Summer Gardeners" with tips for maintaining our awakening garden, advice for seasonal planting, and a month-by-month plan to maintain the landscape and prepare for a glorious spring.

Becky has been a Master Gardener since 1999, and proclaims herself a self-taught garden geek with a fondness for botanical Latin. When asked once what her name would be if she were a flower, she quickly quipped *Botanica prostituteus!* She is passionate about plants and claims THEY tell her what they need.

Join us for what is sure to be a great way to kick off the 2015 gardening year!



## START 2015 THE RIGHT WAY GET THE NEW CALENDAR!

If you don't have one of the new LSU AgCenter's 2015 Get It Growing calendars, you should! Bring in the NEW YEAR with this great gardening tool! Get yours soon and more for your special gardening friends. The list price for this beautiful and informative calendar is \$12.00. Members may purchase the calendars for \$10.00. Check your gift list. These calendars make great holiday gifts.



Photos courtesy of  
Jeanell Menard

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
2014  
Master Gardener  
of the Year  
Patricia  
Solleau**



**AND  
WELCOME  
TO ALL  
OUR NEW  
MEMBERS  
FROM THE  
CLASS OF  
2014!!!**

Patricia received this dynamic handmade vase to commemorate her honor.

## TreesAcadiana Arbor Day Planting

Join TreesAcadiana at Girard Park on 17 January at 9 a.m. They will be planting five "Food Forest Plots" within the park, including citrus, figs, persimmons, and Japanese Plums. Everyone is welcome!

# What Plant Am I?

What Plant am I?

I am a native of South Africa, used as both a ground cover in mild climates and as a container plant. My aerial offshoots are small plants which can be used to start new plantings. I can even plant them myself if my long arching stolons are allowed to touch soil. I grow well in early morning sun, with protection from direct afternoon sun in summer months. Indoors, a spot that receives several hours of direct sun is ideal.

Warning: Do not use perlite in my potting mix. It contains fluorides that can cause leaf burn.

Some of my cultivars are solid green and some are striped with white. Plant me in spring in moist – but not too moist – soil that is rich in organic matter. Excess moisture causes leaf tip burn and rot. My clumps increase in size over time and can be divided and planted in spring.

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



# DECEMBER - LAST CHANCE TO FILE YOUR HOURS

Time is running out to record your volunteer and continuing education hours. You must record them in the year that you have earned them. The system will not let you record hours from 2014 in 2015. Active members need 20 volunteer hours and 6 continuing education hours. Master Gardeners In Training should, also, record any earned Master Gardener volunteer and education hours.

If you have problems with your computer, it may be too late to mail them. In the December newsletter, we mentioned that MaryAnn Armbruster could help you if you contacted her soon. Don't let this happen to you again. Be sure to record your hours in a timely manner so you are not caught short at year's end.

There are many opportunities to make sure you have the hours you need. Members can check out DVDs of "In the Garden" "Get It Growing." from the Master Gardener archives stored at the LSU AgCenter Office,. The address is 1010 Lafayette Street. Some of the shows are accessible through the AOC website, aocinc.org. Click on the "Watch" tab at the top of the URL site. Click on the AOC 1 television (Cox 15 or LUS 3) and a list will come up with the most recent shows. Scroll down this list and click more to find shows taped on earlier dates. While this may seem time consuming, perseverance will pay off when you find some of our "In the Garden" AOC shows. Also, two AOC shows: part one and two of the gourd talk with LPMGA member Karen Willingham can be found by searching for "Lafayette Master Gardeners" on YouTube.



## Junior Master Gardener : A New Space to Grow and Call Home

A new plot of land has been created in the demo beds thanks to the removal done by Mark Simon of the fig tree, orange tree, blueberries and lemon tree from the former Citrus bed. Master gardeners came out and worked to clear the blackberry bush and to remove the remaining roots from the fig tree.

This cleared up space is now the future home for Jr Master Gardener camps that we plan to hold in April and in June! In April, we will have the first 2 day camp which will include the planting of garden veggies and gourds to make bird houses. In June, we will hold a summer week long camp and have the first official Jr Master Gardener graduating class!

Megan Montgomery, from this year's graduating class, is going to design the bed, and LouAnn Long has started collecting pallets. Once the design is complete, we will start preparing the beds for the kids to come learn and grow with the garden.

Please feel free to share what you have learned and Volunteer to teach a class for the camp. A schedule of the camps will be forthcoming after the

holidays! Come and have some fun! Class segments are anywhere from 1/2 hour to an hour long ! Lessons involve, music, writing, reading, crafting, gardening design, ecology and more!!

Please contact Candy Bienvenu or Sherlyn Larrison to get on board!





Ruth Moncus, Master Gardener Class, 2014, graciously opened her gardens to us for a beautiful stroll on Friday, December 12. Ruth's terraced garden was filled with pink Shishi Camellias, azaleas, Indian Hawthorn, day lilies, and an assortment of shrubs. The center of the grounds was the Helen Elizabeth 300 year old live oak named in honor of Jim Moncus' mother. The weather was perfect for such a relaxing afternoon stroll.



**December Garden Stroll**

#### January Garden Stroll Committee Meeting

There will be a Garden Stroll Committee Meeting on January 21, from 2:00 to 3:00 at Linda Beyt's home. The address is 300 St. Christopher St., Lafayette, 70506. Anyone interested in joining the Garden Stroll Committee is welcome!

## WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Chlorophytum comosum:  
Spider plant, airplane plant



# BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH  
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



Christmas is over and it's time to think about the garden again. Yes, really! I know it JANUARY, but this is south Louisiana—the coastal south. We have 12 months of growing here --even if we have to to give Mother Nature a hand from time to time to protect our plants from those freezes she throws at us sporadically.

Sometimes in January, it's just plain nasty outside. So? One thing we can do is plant tomatoes. I'm not kidding. We can plant tomato seed indoors, in greenhouses, or in cold frames starting in early January so that we have our own organically grown seedlings to plant out in March and April. Why go to the trouble of planting seeds when you can just wait and plant the seedlings from a big box store or garden center in March? Two MAJOR reasons – cost and variety. For what you pay for a dozen seedlings you can buy seeds for hundreds of plants. If you only want to grow a few varieties, you will come out **way** ahead in the cost department by starting with seed. In the garden centers and big box stores you can get seedlings for eight or ten varieties (maybe 15 in specialty shops). You can choose from literally hundreds of varieties when growing from seed. You can choose special tomatoes that grow well in heat, ones that come in early (like Sophie's Choice, a 55-day determinate heirloom from Canada), ones that last late (like the Louisiana heirloom, Longkeeper), and ones that come in every color imaginable from white (like White Wonder, an 84-day heirloom with great flavor) to purple, indigo, and black (like Cherokee Purple, Indigo Blue Berries, or Black Prince – which is actually dark maroon). You can choose from the oldest heirloom to the newest hybrid and seeds that you will never see grown out in a big box store. It's so much fun choosing tomato seeds that it's one the highlight of my year – well, the early part anyway, until I start picking the tomatoes and eating them. If you're looking for new places to try for tomato seeds go to Seed Savers Exchange offering 84 varieties on line and many more in their catalog ([seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org)), Southern Exposure Seed Exchange with 204 varieties ([southernexposure.com](http://southernexposure.com)), Heritage Harvest Seed ([heritageharvestseed.com](http://heritageharvestseed.com)) which offers too many to count. There are hundreds of sources available; just Google "tomato seed source" and start reading.

Some of the varieties recommended for this area by the Ag Center are: Indeterminate: Better Boy (N), Big Beef (AAS, N), Champion (N), Jet Star, Pink Girl, Sun Gold, Terrific (N); Determinate: Bella Rosa (TSWV), BHN 981 and BHN 876, Carolina Gold, Celebrity (AAS, N), Crista (N, TSWV), Floralina (TSWV), Mountain Fresh Plus (N), Mountain Spring; Heat Tolerant: Florida 91, Heatwave II, Phoenix, Solar Set, Sun Leaper, Sun Master, Solar Fire, and Talladega (TSWV). Other types are Cupid (SPECK, TSWV), Juliet (AAS, EB, LB), Muriel Roma (N, SPECK, TSWV), Picus Roma (TSWV), Small Fry (AAS, N), Sweet Million, and Sun Gold Cherry. The code for the letters in parentheses are: N=Nematode Resistant; AAS=All America Selection; DM = Downy Mildew Resistant; EB=Early Blight Resistant; LB=Late Blight Resistant; SPECK=Bacterial Speck Resistant; and TSWV=Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus Resistant.

But we want more than tomatoes in our salad, so let's look at lettuces. You can plant lettuce seed, outside, right in the garden, all January. Lettuce likes the cold. Some of the varieties recommended by the Ag Center follow: Romaine includes Cimarron Red, Cuore (DM), Flashy Trout back, Green Towers, Parris Island Cos, Red Eye, and Tall Guzman Elite. In the leaf lettuce group are New Red Fire MI (DM), Red Salad Bowl, Nevada (DM), Sierra, Red Sails, Salad Bowl, Tango, and Grand Rapid. In the head lettuce category are Buttercrunch, Esmeralda (DM), Great Lakes, and Ithaca.

You can also plant Broccoli, Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Mustard Greens, Leek (from sets), English peas, Shallots, Spinach, and Turnips all through January. Starting mid-January, plant Beets, Chinese Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Swiss Chard, and Radish out in the garden. Indoors, plant Eggplant and Pepper seeds. Of course, the same comments go for starting your own transplants for these vegetables, too. Then in late January start planting Irish Potatoes. If you planted garlic in the fall, it should be nicely up now. You should fertilize about 6 weeks after transplants are set out. That means if you planted in early October, you should have fertilized in mid-November, but if you planted late in November, you should fertilize about mid-January.

Going back to tomatoes, trials on heirlooms were run in 2012 and the results were interesting. Some of varieties that are not recommended were Prudens Purple, Old German, and Hillbilly, a potato-leaf variety. Recommended for home growers were Persimmon, Thessaloniki, Red and Pink Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter, German Pink, and Black from Tula. So if you want to try your hand with heirlooms, you might want to start with one or more of these.

I hope every one of you had a blessed and peaceful Christmas season, and I wish you all the very best in this New Year.

Until next time,  
Good Gardening.  
MaryAnn Armbruster



# School Garden News

*The harvest is plenty, and students are ready to eat!*



November and December were very busy months for students in their gardens.

During these months, students had to inspect their cool weather crops of broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, swiss chard, and kale plants for bugs and weeds. Once the students were able to harvest their lettuce, they indulged in salads made from what was grown from their own garden! In addition to maintaining their growing crops, each school received 25 strawberry plants in which they had to learn how to implement and establish production. While the students are on their holiday break, they took the responsibility of protecting and winterizing their crops by mulching with pine straw.

- Northside High School students did an in service learning project at Myrtle place. The high school students presented a PowerPoint presentation about MY Plate to kindergarteners and had them draw and color their Thanksgiving dinner on a plate.
- St. Thomas Moore harvested lettuce, made healthy smoothies while riding the smoothie Bike, and delivered seedlings they grew to Holy Family Catholic School.
- Acadiana High had completed 90 percent of their green house that will be used to plant seeds for the ten School Garden Initiative schools for spring planting.
- Green T. Linden held a science fair and the first graders taught the Jr. Master Gardener lesson entitled "Nature's Web" to six classes. This activity explains the interrelatedness of life on earth.
- Judice Middle learned that their soil needed organic matter so have started composting, and the students are collecting green items from the school cafeteria.
- Judice Elementary had a guest chef, Mindy Prados, from Joey's Speciality Foods. Mindy created a meal for the 5th graders by using the produce they grew in their gardens!
- Alice Boucher garden ambassadors taught classmates a lesson, "Some Like it Hot," from the Jr. Master Garden program. This lesson identified plants that are cool season and warm season plants. They are also doing vermiculture with red wigglers!
- Holy Family students were learning about the damage cabbage worms and snails can cause in a garden. They were able to harvest lettuce!
- St. Peter and Paul were able to plant their strawberries.
- Charles Burke harvested from their gardens.



*Green T Linden student make their "Nature's Web."*

*Green T. Linden works at harvesting lettuce.*



We are having a potluck social on January 27 at 6 p.m. at Ira Nelson. We will be inviting the teachers and the master gardener teams to round table discussion of mid-year accomplishments in school gardens and plans for the remainder of the school year. If you are interested in learning about school gardens, please come to the social or contact Sherlyn Larrison or Candy Bienvenu.



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Lafayette, LA 70501-6884

# LPMGA Calendar January 2015

**January 1: Happy New Year !!!** If your 2014 dues are not paid, they are late.

**Jan 5th: Retreat by Kyle Love—Board Members: INHC, 8am**  
Epiphany & the beginning of Mardi Gras season

**Jan 7th: General Meeting, South Regional Library, noon.**

**Jan 9th: “In the Garden” first run at AOC, broadcast on channels LUS and Cox**

**Jan 12th: Board Meeting, Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 1 p.m.**

**Jan 17th: TreesAcadiana Arbor Day Planting, Girard Park, 9 a.m.**

**Jan 19th: Martin Luther King Day**

**Jan 27th: Scott Garden Initiative Pot Luck Dinner, Ira Nelson Center, 6 p.m.**



*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](mailto: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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The Web site is [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

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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.

  
**Gearing up for  
Mardi Gras!**

