

LPMGA JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

MAY SOCIAL

Wednesday

May 6, 2015 - 6 pm

Colette and Joey
Anzalone's Garden

LPMGA BOARD MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,
MAY 11, 2015

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE
CENTER (INHC)

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May Social is May 6!

6 pm in the gardens of Colette and Joey Anzalone

Bring a lawn chair and anything special you would like to drink.

*A fun photo
from last
year's social.*



*It is a pleasure to share that
Bella (Colette's English
Bulldog) will be around to
enjoy the social, too!*



The In the Garden AOC program for May will cover the School Garden Initiative, Junior Master Gardener Program, and Cuisine du Jardin "iron chef" cook-off. Guests will be Master Gardener Candy Bienvenue, Celeste Haye, dietitian with the Lafayette Parish School System, and Molly Richard with the Horse Farm. **Tune into AOC on Thursday, May 7 at noon.**

The Second Saturday Gardening Class will be held on May 9, at 10 am at the Bayou Church Youngsville Office, 501 Church St. in Youngsville. Joe Domovich, ISA Certified Arborist, will speak about "Tree Selection and Care." Learn about the services that a certified arborist can provide and the proper care that can lead to substantial returns. Understand the important issues for planting, such as the intended function, location and species selection for your geographic location. Also learn about how proper pruning is essential in developing a tree with a strong branch structure and desirable form.

The topic of the May Garden Talk is "Pruning," with Master Gardener, Landscape Horticulturist, and Arborist, Tommy Hayes. **Saturday, May 16 , 10 a.m. at the Demonstration Gardens behind Ira Nelson Horticulture Center .**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's been six months since Thanksgiving, but in May, we are still counting our blessings. We're having a beautiful spring. All over the Kingdom Plantae, new life has budded or popped out of the ground. Our demo beds and greenhouse complex are also looking good. With approval from Billy Welch at the Ira Nelson Horticultural Center, we have begun improvements to our facilities there. Juan and his group of intrepid volunteers are currently replacing glass in the greenhouse, a very much needed rectification. That same group constructed a nice roof cover on the back of the cottage over the work bench to allow us to work out of the sun and rain. As soon as they built it, our Master Gardeners began to use it. And we have plans to repaint the cottage as well.

Our small piece of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center is definitely looking good! Many thanks to the Master Gardener volunteers and to Billy Welch and the ULL administration for their long term support of our efforts. Speaking of support, thanks to all the Master Gardeners who came out and worked for Festival des Fleurs in support of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. Thanks as well to those who came and shopped.

May promises to be full of opportunities to garden and to learn. Our May Social will be held at the gardens of Colette and Joey Anzalone. They have a beautiful space, as we learned last year, and I look forward to being in that garden again. We also have four garden stroll opportunities coming up in May. Our members open their gardens to us, so let's use the opportunity to admire and learn from our generous and skilled colleagues. The Southern Garden Festival has been rescheduled. On Saturday, May 16, Sarah Schoeffler, (a long-time Master Gardener) will open her gardens to the public in a very big way to benefit Family Promise of Acadiana. Also, the School Garden Initiative will hold the 1st Annual School Garden Initiative Fundraiser, the Cuisine du Jardin Cook-Off, May 30, 2015. The school teams will submit recipes with at least two ingredients coming from their school gardens. The event should be tons of fun.

Thanks.
Heather

GERALD'S CORNER

By the time you get this newsletter I hope the rain has subsided and normal gardening activities have resumed. Once again Mother Nature is giving us just another example of why we are not in charge. I've received numerous calls from gardeners talking about problems that are a direct result of the abundance of rain we've received this spring. If you recall in last month's article I briefly mentioned brown patch disease and weed control in home lawns. Well with the additional rainfall following the publication of last month's article, be prepared for brown patch disease problems in home lawns, especially those areas of the lawn that may not be well drained or those areas that receive poor air circulation such as an enclosed yard or areas in the shade. Additionally, be prepared to aggressively control broadleaf weeds which will continue to thrive with the abundance of moisture. Brown patch will appear as an irregular circle of dead or dying grass. Also remember to not wait to control broadleaf weeds which should be done before daytime temperatures reach the high 80's or 90's. Lawn grass injury will occur with the application of either of the common homeowner herbicides such as Ortho Weed B Gon or Fertilome's Weed Free Zone when daytime temperatures are consistently above 87 degrees. Once daytime temperatures consistently reach 87 degrees or above, broadleaf weed control should consist of MSM Turf or Celsius both of which are effective in controlling broadleaf weeds while greatly lowering the risk of turf injury due to high temperatures.

The popularity of home vegetable gardens has given rise to more gardeners who deal with fungus disease problems especially during and following rainy weather patterns. One of these is a fungus disease called "Southern Blight." Tomatoes and peppers are two of the most popular crops affected by Southern Blight or sometimes referred to as Southern Wilt. During periods of high moisture plants begin to wilt and die. If plants begin to wilt, look for a white cottony type growth near the stem of the plants at or just above the soil line. Additionally there may be small tan or brown round structures resembling mustard seeds, which are the fruiting bodies of the disease. If that is the case, then, pull those plants and eliminate them. Don't plant similar plants in that spot, instead turn the soil over and bury the area around the infected plants six-to-eight inches deep. Consider planting a grass type crop like sweet corn in that area next year. There are no fungicides to address the problem once the infection is established, and under high moisture conditions it's debatable if a preventative fungicide is effective. Many older gardeners at transplanting will protect the lower stems of tomatoes and peppers by wrapping a three-to-four inch wide strip of aluminum foil on the stem of peppers and tomatoes as a physical barrier to prevent infection. Typically since Southern wilt infects the lower stem at or just below the soil line, the aluminum foil is wrapped where one inch extends below the soil line and two inches above the soil line. This appears to be effective in decreasing infection.

Because of the wet cool conditions we've been experiencing, expect to see the leaves of several species of oaks become infected with oak leaf blister. While all species of oaks are susceptible and can be severely infected, live oaks are the least affected. Early symptoms resemble bright green spot which can cause leaf curl and defoliation. As the infection ages the spots become tan and eventually brown. While no permanent damage occurs to the tree as a result of oak leaf blister it can be very unsightly and alarming to gardeners. Even though there are fungicides labeled to control oak leaf blister it is not practical for a couple of reasons. One of which is by the time visual symptoms occur the infections have already taken place. The second reason is it is not practical for homeowners to invest in the equipment necessary to spray large trees. The trees usually recover without any permanent damage.

Every spring I get calls from gardeners who ask me if there are any herbicides labeled or effective to control grassy weeds in St Augustine or Centipede lawns. Remember we've talked in the past about controlling broadleaf weeds in lawns but grassy weeds are a different story. Controlling broadleaf weeds in lawns are easier than controlling grassy weeds in lawns. There is a wider selection of herbicides labeled to control broadleaf weeds in lawns than there are herbicides to control grassy weeds in lawn. There is only one herbicide that is available to homeowners that will give control of any grass in St Augustine grass, which is called MSM Turf, yes the same MSM Turf that can be applied to lawn grasses once the temperatures reaches the high 80's and into the 90's without injury to the lawn grass. This is the same MSM turf that is also effective in controlling broadleaf weeds, but it also controls Bahia grass in St Augustine lawns if Bahia grass is a problem. However, for Centipede lawns there is a better option for controlling grassy weeds, such as any herbicide containing "sethoxydim" the brand name is "Vantage" or "Poast", which will be effective controlling grasses in Centipede lawns.

Sedges can also be a problem in landscape beds and lawn grasses, both purple and yellow nutsedge (which is also commonly called coco grass or nut grass, but they're not grasses, they are sedges). There is a herbicide called Sedgehammer, with the active ingredient "Halosulfuron" which is very effective on both yellow and purple nutsedge!! It can be applied to landscape beds containing established woody ornamentals. It is applied directly to the nutsedge avoiding contact with woody ornamentals leaves or stems. It is not labeled for annual flower beds!!! It can also be applied to established lawns to control sedges!!

To control grasses in landscape or flower beds fortunately there are a couple of very effective grass herbicides, one is Sethoxydim also called Poast, and Fluazifop also called Grass B Gon. There may be other brand names available but as long as the active ingredient is Sethoxydim or Fluazifop it will be effective. These herbicides will control grasses only, not broadleaf weeds.

Because this has been a wet spring, I know weed problems are going to be a problem. I tried to provide information which will allow you to make decisions not only in your gardens but also in advising others. It must always be emphasized that it is very important to read the label and follow directions before using any Pesticide!! It is not only about safety (protecting yourself, others, pets, and the environment), but also about following recommended rates to increase effectiveness and avoid injury to desirable plants.



Southern blight images

Remember "The Label is the Law!"

Happy Gardening!!

Gerald P. Roberts

Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator

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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.)

May 6-Social, 6 pm

May 11 — INHC, 1 pm

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

Vermillionville Culture Days:

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

Lecture Series/MG/Vermillionville

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:

*Thursday, May 7, 10-12 Chris & Hal Butts

120 Park Ridge Lane, Lafayette **Hostesses: Sandra Mills**

*Saturday, May 9, 10-12 May & James Vidacovich

201 Grossie Dr., Lafayette **Hostesses: Jan Vining**

*Saturday, May 16, 10-12 Rose and Jack Must

105 Hal Dr., Lafayette **Hostesses: Linda Beyt**

* Saturday, May 30 10-12 Sandy & Larry Schuermann (Hibiscus)

305 Keeney Ave., Lafayette **Hostesses: Loraine Allain**

2nd Saturday Class

MAY 9 Joe Domovich, Arborist Tree Selection and Care

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



Learn about the School Garden Initiative at our June 3 meeting.

Charles Burke Elementary 4th grade students harvesting their vegetables.

**Southern Garden Festival May 16**

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.

With the rescheduling, hour opts are extended:

On To help planting: Wed April 29, Thurs April 30, Tues May 5, Fri May 8, and Mon May 11 through Fri May 15. Call or text Sarah @ 288-0426

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

Saturday Garden Festival; May 16, 9 am—5 pm: \$10 at the Gate Gardens, Master Gardeners, Music Information Booths, Scavenger Hunt, Boat Rides on the Bayou A Maypole dance featuring Cissy Whip Artistsand the Fairies dancing between the petals.

Gospel in the Garden: 3 -5 pm:

Closes out the Southern Garden Festival

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.



SPRING PLANT SALE & SWAP MEMORIES A RAINY SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 18th



What Plant Am I?

What Plant am I?

I am a woody, deciduous perennial shrub, native to the United States and Canada. I am fast-growing, and relatively pest and disease free. Although my usual height ranges from 2 to 8 feet, some of my relatives can reach 20 or more feet. My branches are horizontal and the tips turn up. Roots will form where my branches touch the ground. I can also be propagated by planting suckers, softwood cuttings of new growth or hardwood cuttings. This will eventually create thickets if the ground is well-drained, and quite dry. I am deer resistant and drought tolerant. My leaves are alternate and compound with 3 leaflets which lack stems. They are fragrant, and turn red and orange in the fall.

I'm not poisonous, but am sometimes confused with poison ivy, whose terminal leaflets are on stalks 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches long. Its berries are creamy white and hairless, while mine are red and hairy. Poison ivy climbs, while I do not.

My small yellowish-green flowers appear in clusters 1 1/2 inches long from March through April, before my leaves. They grow at the end of my twigs, not along the stem. Fruits follow from May to July. Though quite sour, they can be mixed with sugar and water to make a refreshing iced drink.

Birds and mammals enjoy my fruits. In harsh winters, rabbits eat my bark. I also attract large numbers of native bees, which nest beneath or within me, and harvest my parts to construct nests. Predatory and parasitoid insects that prey on pest insects are also attracted to me. My nectar is a larval host for the Red-banded hairstreak butterfly.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 6 for the answer.



Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Hold 1st JMG Camp

The Junior Master Gardeners bed had been built and ready for the kids to plant! Campers arrived on Monday morning ready to have fun and learn! Class was held under the pergola and the kids were greeted by Gerald Roberts! Gerald welcomed the kids and told them about growing vegetables and he

let them know that they are our future.

Jane Langford taught the campers "Some Like it Hot" The kids worked with other Master gardeners to learn when to plant different vegetables in Louisiana by playing a card game.

We proceeded to make sombrero hats under the direction of Alice Blakewood to wear while working in the garden. Laughter filled the air, kids were busy helping kids create their unique hats! Alice also taught the kids the Choo-Choo song about what different vegetables turn into when hit by a choo choo train on the track! The kids quickly got the hang of it and shouted out the answers! Music filled the demo gardens!

We proceeded to the garden beds to plan our garden for planting the next day! Nick Long taught the kids spacing needs for each plant by using paper towels and drawing circles to glue seeds on. The kids then covered the seeded paper towels with soil! Master Gardener Janice Prejean introduced a service learning project with the kids to share some of their vegetables with elderly neighbors. The kids planted tender transplants, along with flowers for beauty and to help control certain bugs.

Stacey Lee and her daughter conducted an activity with herbs called "Touch and Smell" The kids enjoyed learning about these plants and using their sense of smell only to identify the herb!

Karen Willingham captivated the kids with her knowledge of gourds! The kids planted bird house gourd seeds at the base of each bamboo hole and strung string around the teepee for the gourds to climb on!

Our final activity was making scarecrows led by Linda Beyt! The kids were so creative with their scarecrows and no two looked alike! We had four or five master gardeners helping the kids with their scare crows and picking out their clothes!

We presented certificates and a JMG pin at the end of camp! It was hard to tell who had more fun, the kids or the Master Gardeners!



Gerald Roberts gives campers encouragement first morning of April 6—7 JMG Camp.



Gardeners don't mind a little mud!

From Becky Taylor

That's obvious by the many MGs who came out on Friday and Saturday prepared to work despite the predicted rains. That's obvious by the many customers who streamed through our gardens to shop.

Our plant sale was a huge success on so many levels. First: because the days before reminded us that we can only do all we can, and then leave the rest to a higher power. Second: it brought all the individual personalities of our group together as one fighting, spirited bunch of people who never give up. Third: it reinforced the fact that LPMGA is a viable and respected force to be reckoned with in the community. We have built a brand that is in demand!

So much work goes into preparing and holding this event, starting with the many Wednesdays that dedicated MGs work to grow the plants. But plants don't sell themselves. Credit and bravos go to:

- The lifters and haulers, who brought our set up plan to life and cleared the area quickly post-sale*
- The parking crew, who had the difficult assignment of finding enough dry spots for arriving shoppers to park without getting stuck, tearing up the grounds, or walking far*
- The refreshment committee, who provided luscious sustenance for the workers*
- The runners and basket keepers, who relieved customers of their plants so they could continue shopping, and assisted loading once customers checked out*
- The money people, tally and cashiers, who did their job with great efficiency*
- The sales staff, determined to not let a customer walk away until they had found the perfect plant (did we really sell almost 70 'Hot Lips'?!?)*
- And finally, the unscheduled MGs who just showed up asking, "What do you need?" and gladly taking on any job assigned to them*

Congratulations to all on a job well done. Money is still being counted; there may still be some plants to sell, so you'll have to come to the May Social for the drum roll. See you there!.



Photo courtesy of Mazie Movassaghi

Plant Sale Chairs Ellen Grote and Becky Taylor

WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Rhus aromatica :
Fragrant sumac,
Polecat bush



P.S. Rhus virans is evergreen.

BETWEEN THE ROWS

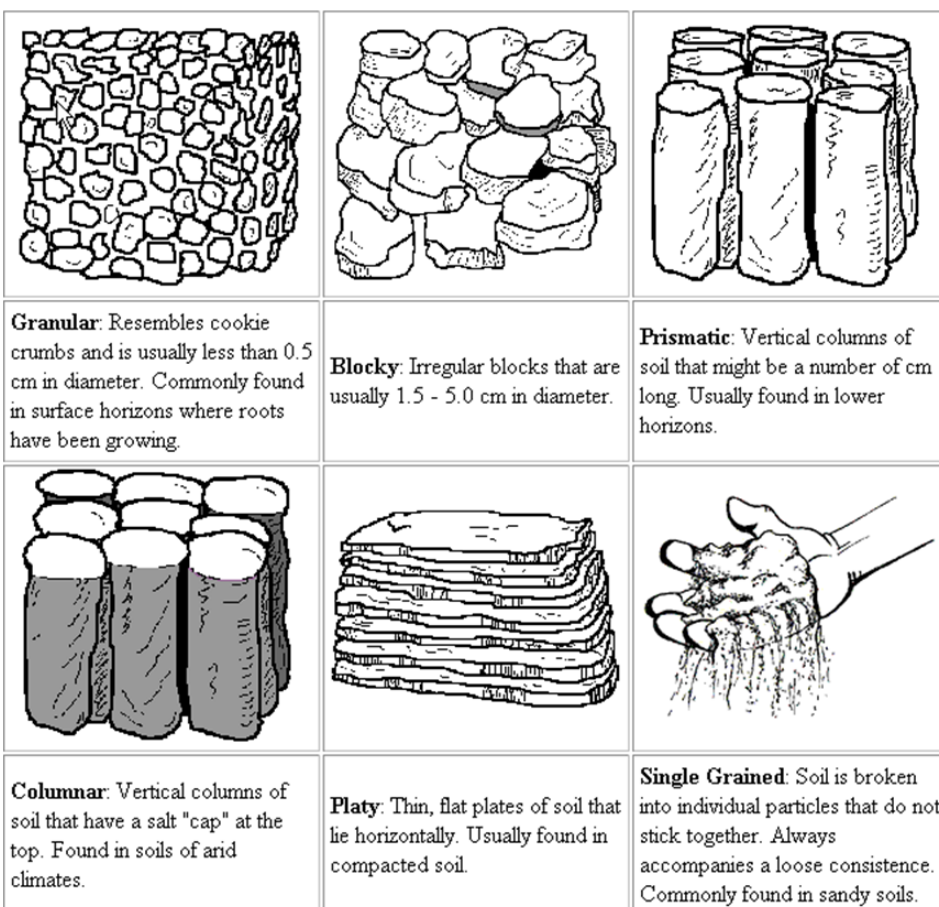
VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



Rain, RAIN, RAIN!!! The only thing I can say is we need the rain and at least a lot of it has been slow and gentle. That's just the kind of rain that can soak into the ground and do some good instead of creating runoff and causing problems with erosion. Nonetheless, I'm ready for it to stop.

Once the rain finally stops you'll be able to get back into the garden and plant. After all this rain, however, be sure to check the soil before working it. If you work soil that is too wet you'll destroy the soil's structure, forcing all of the air out. This leaves the roots unable to do their job adequately and your plants may not do as well as you had hoped.

Soil structure, you say? What is soil structure? Well, soil structure refers to the pattern of solid particles and air spaces found in healthy soil. The soil's structure controls the movement of air and water into and through the soil. The spaces between aggregates contain air and hold water and soluble plant nutrients, making them available to plant roots. There are many different soil structure patterns depending on how much clay is in the soil, how much organic matter there is in the soil and a few other factors. Here is an illustration of the common soil types:



Now, unless you're a soil scientist, all you really have to know is that soil structure is important, and you don't want to destroy it. Any time you till or cultivate the soil, however, you destroy the structure to some degree. Regular tilling, especially machine tilling with heavy machinery, changes the structure over time and this causes major changes in the microherd. (The microherd refers to all the bacteria, actinomycetes, fungi, protozoans, worms and other critters that live in the soil. There are between 100 million and one billion organisms in just one teaspoon of healthy soil.) Working the soil when it's too wet is the absolute WORST thing that you can do, especially when the soil is basically clay, like we have.

The way to avoid working the soil when it's too wet is to test it before starting to dig. Do this by taking up a handful of loose soil. Close your hand over the soil and squeeze lightly. Open your hand again. If the soil falls apart it's either too dry or nearly pure sand. This almost never happens here. If it holds its shape, poke it lightly with a finger. If it falls apart when you poke it, it's perfect to work, but if it doesn't fall apart, it's too wet. Absolutely DO NOT work the soil until it dries some! If you do, you will destroy the soil structure, and your plants will suffer. The microherd that are trapped in that area will die from lack of oxygen and the microherd from the surrounding areas will have to work overtime infiltrating that area and restoring the structure. It could take many months.

Aside from not devastating the soil by working it when it's wet, there are things that you can do to improve

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANAO

soil structure. The first, and one of the easiest is to add organic matter to the soil on a regular basis. The reason that you can't add it once and be done is that we live in a mostly hot, humid climate. The organic matter that you add this season will be used up and reduced to humus within a short time leaving the soil in need of another shot of organic matter. So make it a habit to continually add organic matter to your soil. You can do this by regularly adding compost, worm castings or other organic materials, and by covering the soil with organic mulch and renewing it annually.

Now, when it's dry enough for you to work the soil, what can you plant now? If you hurry you can get very early bearing tomato plants in and you might get fruit before the heat gets to be too much for the plants. Alternatively, you could plant some of the "heat set" plants during the first week in May and get fruit through the heat. These plants are designed to tolerate heat because their pollen does not deform when the temperature climbs. You could also hurry and plant hot peppers from seed and Swiss chard. Remember that Swiss chard is beautiful and can be planted among your flower beds with no problem.

Before mid-May you can plant bush or pole snap beans, sweet corn, and sweet pepper transplants. Any time during May you can plant Lima beans, cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant from seed or transplant, okra, peanuts, Southern peas, hot pepper transplants, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, summer squash, and watermelon.

These are probably the last days that you can work in the garden comfortably. The weather will get hotter and the humidity higher as the summer progresses

Enjoy those last beautiful days and until next month, Good Gardening,
MaryAnn Armbruster

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

LPMGA Calendar May 2015

- May 2nd: Sunset Herb Festival, 8am—4 pm, Sunset
- May 6th: May Social, 6 PM, Gardens of Collette and Joey Anzalone
- May 7th: “In the Garden” first run at AOC, broadcast on channels LUS and Cox
- May 7th: Garden Stroll, 10 -12, Chris and Hal Butts
- May 9th: Second Saturday Class, “Tree Selection and Care” 10 AM, Youngsville
- May 9th: Garden Stroll, 10-12, May and James Vidacovich
- May 11th: LPMGA Board Meeting, Ira Nelson, 1 pm
- May 16th: Re-Scheduled Garden Festival—Sarah’s @ 3502 E. Simcoe, 9-5
- May 16th: Garden Stroll, 10-12, Rose and Jack Must
- May 16th: Third Saturday Garden Talk, 10 AM, “Pruning” Ira Nelson
- May 23rd: Healing Traditions of Acadiana, Vermilionville, 11 am
- May 30th: Cuisine du Jardin Cook-off, David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy, 805 Tearlings Drive, 2-4 p.m.
- May 30th: Garden Stroll, 10 -12, Sandy and Larry Shuermann



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:

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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

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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.



Earth Day in the Healers' Garden at Vermilionville