

LPMG General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 2021
Southside Library 12 PM

Our January meeting was called to order at 12:02. Juan led with the pledge of allegiance noting that we are honoring our veterans and all of our first responders for keeping us safe.

Vice President Mary Gladney introduced our speaker, LJ Delcambre of the class of 2021 with his presentation on Incorporating Natives. LJ began by outlining the four main steps: Know your topography (lay of the land), create a concept design, find available native plants, and implement your design. A native is a plant not introduced by immigrants from other parts of the world. LJ notes that Doug Tallemy is an expert who has written several books on the importance of natives. Insects have co-evolved with our local plants. Our native live oak tree, for example, hosts over 500 species of caterpillars. Without these insects and the hosts that support them, birds wouldn't survive. Natives are also very easy to grow. They don't need added water, fertilizer, or pesticides. Be aware that when growing natives, they will be eaten. Purchase natives from a reputable source. Check the genus and species name to make sure you are getting natives. Dr. Charles Allen is an excellent source of natives information. Anyone can ask to get on his email list to learn more about our natives. ANPP has a Louisiana Certified Habitat program in which one can earn a bronze, silver or gold certification for having 25, 50, or 75 native species respectively in one's yard. Check for resources on our LPMG website. One final point that LJ emphasized is that one can have both natives and non-natives co-existing in the yard. For example, a turks cap could be next to a bottle brush.

Juan introduced the new and returning board members and spoke of their accomplishments. Don Weintritt, Immediate Past President and class of 2017, joined the board in 2020 and moved us through the tough times of covid restrictions. Our new Vice President, Mary Gladney, has been editor of our newsletter since late 2018 and is chair of the perennial bed, and is on Festival des Fleur committee. Mary is also from the class of 2017. Our treasurer, Angela Moles (class of 2021), came as a transfer from Harris County, TX, and she has completed the MG class for the second time. The corresponding secretary also wears many hats. Ellen Garacci (class of 2016) has chaired Horticulture Hints and is now the chair of plant-swap. She is also volunteer chair for the Festival des

Fleurs and joined the board in 2018. She has been doing an excellent job in keeping our roster updated. Our volunteer coordinator, LouAnn McClelland Long (class of 2009) , works in many areas. She takes on printing projects, works on the handbook committee, and works at the demo bed in Acadian village. Our recording secretary, Kathy Troyanowski, the latest recipient of the Outstanding Master Gardener Award, is currently chair of the vegetable garden. She is from the class of 2003. Marsha Bayer, class of 2016, is currently working as member at large. She also works in propagation and chairs one of the school gardens.

Juan said we are trying to reach out to Vermilion Parish as they recently graduated 6 or 7 master gardeners. He is hopeful they can set up events in their own parish. Perhaps Acadia and Iberia Parish will be able to do the same as we have had members from those parishes enter our program.

Dan Davenport, LSU agent, reported that requirements for the program are now back to 20 hours of volunteer and 6 hours of education. He mentioned a possible Sustainable Gardening class happening soon. Dan will let us know and said it would be a good educational hours opportunity .He also said that a small group of people may still need to be screened. If screening is needed, you will be sent an email from Sterling Volunteers. An upcoming event is the Arbor Day Planting on Saturday, January 22 from 9-12. Location is Southside Regional Park adjacent to Fabacher Field. In April, Heather will be giving a talk on trees at the Southside Library.

Babette presented badges to Deedee Johnson-Reid and Rusty Petitjean who have already earned their 40 hours. Lynn Hair is the new co-chair for Ask A Master Gardener table. Yvonne Lanoux was introduced as the new chair for the Master Gardener website. Her co-chair is Margaret Bootsie Durand. The new chair of our Master Gardener facebook page is Erica Domingue. Ellen Garacci continues to co-chair. Cindy Wiley currently works at checkout coordinator for the plant sales. It would be great if someone joined her as a co-chair and could learn the ropes and move into the chairman position in the future. Juan encouraged everyone to consider becoming a co-chair of a committee, learn all about the position, and take the next step up as chairman.

Announcements: Board meeting is Tuesday, January 18, 1:00 PM at Ira Nelson. The next general meeting is Wednesday, February 2, at 12:00 at Southside Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:58.
Minutes submitted by Kathy Troyanowski