

LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

CANCELLED

LPMGA Board Meeting

CANCELLED

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

What a turmoil we are in!

Here it is Spring, and we are all itching to get out and plant and play in our yards and flowerbeds, but there is a strange feeling in the air something is just not right with the world. Let's not let this virus get us down. God is giving us some down time no one has ever had before, and I think we need to make the best of this time to "Stop and Smell the Roses" as they say. Take this down time to sit and enter your volunteer hours and educational hours before you forget, meet a new neighbor or help a friend in need, finish a project you started and left. Say a little prayer for all the victims and their families, and for all that are trying to make it thru day by day with all the changes that have occurred in the last week. Oh, and the let's not forget those with children that are home for a month. This too shall pass so make the best of it now hoping it will end soon.

I would like to thank all that participated in the Pine Straw sale and pick up. Mr. Melvin was so appreciative and commented how nice you all were to him and his crew.

The Handbook committee has jumped into action and Louann will be speaking at every meeting to discuss changes that need to be addressed and voted on. In preparation of this I ask that you pull out your handbook and start reading thru it so you will be ready to vote, yay or nay, for any potential changes.

As you are all probably aware by now, ALL MG activities, meetings, events, and talks for the next couple of months have been postponed to a later date. With the one exception being propagation, which has canceled Wednesday workdays and has gone to a skeleton watering crew to manage the plants that were to be sold at Festival des Fleurs. We are also discussing other avenues to sell our plants.

I am currently looking for a chair, co-chair team for the DREAMS class, which provides a gardening learning project weekly for 5-6 weeks for hour for Disabled, handicap individual. Candy will be out this summer and is asking someone to handle these classes for her. Please call me if you would be interested/ need more information/would like to co-chair with someone. If interested, please give Candy Bienvenu or Colette Anzalone a call.

The Garden Strolls dates have been set. Please review the upcoming dates after April and mark your calendar. Tours after April may be rescheduled.

Thank you very much for your support of the MG Program and take care.
Colette Anzalone, President

LPMGA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The organic vegetable garden group is looking for a chairman and co-chair. Responsibilities include planning fall and spring gardens, working with a committee to complete and maintain garden plantings, and enjoying a harvest. If you think you are interested please contact me.

Contact:: Kathy Troyanowski 337-804-2260

Kathytroy@yahoo.com

MEETINGS, KUDOS AND WHAT PLANT AM I

**2019 LPMGA
General Meetings**
First Wednesday
Monthly
except for July
Daytime: 12:30pm
Evening: 6 pm

**2019 LPMGA Board
Meetings**
1pm on Third
Tuesday of each
month except July

**Dates, times, topics, and locations
are subject to change**

APRIL CANCELLED

APRIL CANCELLED

May 6 Picnic

May 19

June 3

June 16

July No Meeting

July No Meeting

August 5

August 18

September 2

September 15

October 7

October 20

November 4

November 17

December Social

December 15

WHAT PLANT AM I?

I'm an annual herb, native to the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Asia. I was cultivated in Egypt over 5,000 years ago. A member of the Umbelliferae family, I'm related to fennel, parsley and anise. All of my parts except my roots are edible. I'm hardy to Zone 8. My stems are slender and hollow, and grow up to 3 or 4 feet. My leaves are alternate, finely divided, and softly delicate. They grow from 4 inches to 8 inches long.

In late March, begin successive plantings in moderately rich, well-drained soil and barely cover my seeds. Plant me where you want me to grow. I have a tap root, so don't transplant me. My seeds are brown and thick, slightly curved, and have a longitudinally ridged surface.

In summer, my white to yellow flowers appear. These produce an abundant number of seeds. If not harvested, I will self-seed and produce numerous seedlings. Deadhead if this is not desirable. Both my leaves and seeds have numerous culinary uses. I'm used heavily in Russia, Ukraine, and Scandinavian countries. I'm especially good with fish, yogurt, cream cheese, and can be mixed with butter for use over vegetables. But my main use, especially in the United States, is in the production of pickles.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 7 for the answer.

AMORPHOPHALLS KONJAC

BLOOMING NOW AT IRA NELSON



VOODOO LILLY, ALSO CALLED DEVIL'S TONGUE GROW ABOUT 6 FEET TALL, TOPPED BY ONE GIGANTIC LEAF. AFTER THE LEAF STALK WITHERS IT PRODUCES A FLOWER STALK. THE FLOWER IS SIMILAR TO A CALLA LILY. THE FLOWER RELEASES THE SAME COMPOUNDS THAT PRODUCE THE SMELL OF ROTTING MEAT, WHICH ATTRACTS FLIES AND CARRION BEETLES. THE FLIES POLLINATE THE PLANT, BUT IT IS A WASTE OF TIME FOR THE BUGS. THEY GET NOTHING FROM THE PLANT AND MANY TIMES LAY THEIR EGGS ON THEM IN HOPE OF THE MAGGOTS HAVE ROTTEN MEAT TO EAT. UNFORTUNATELY THERE IS NONE.

GLUCOMANNAN IS A SUGAR MADE FROM THE ROOT AND THE POWDER IS USED FOR CONSTIPATION, WEIGHT LOSS IN ADULTS, TYPE 2 DIABETES, BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL AND LOWERING CHOLESTEROL. IN FOODS, GLUCOMANNAN IS USED AS A THICKENER OR GELLING AGENT.

TOP PICTURE IS ONE OF THE LILLIES BLOOMING AT IRA NELSON

MIDDLE PICTURE IS THE ROOT BLUB

BOTTOM PICTURE IS THE AMORPHOPHALLS PLANT/TREE. THE FLOWER SHOWS UP IN MARCH FOLLOWED BY THE PLANT/FOLIAGE.

THE DEVENPORT REPORT:



The information I want to share with you today centers around citrus. We all know the importance of fertilizing our citrus plants in late January-early February every year but there is an additional nitrogen fertilizing that we should be doing in late May or June for citrus trees 4 years old and older. This additional fertilizing will help the tree make adequate vegetative growth and appropriate fruit size. The additional nitrogen will encourage the tree to set a crop the following year.

If your citrus plant sets a huge crop of fruit in the spring, it exhausts a lot of its stored food just to help hold those fruit on your tree. Sometimes the number of fruit it sets is so great that the fruit size is often smaller than normal and limb breakage is something that often occurs due to the excessive weight on the branches. Some homeowners resort to fruit thinning and propping up branches to help offset these issues. Citrus trees can easily go into an alternate bearing cycle when trees have set so much fruit at one time. This means that you will probably get little to no fruit produced on your trees the following year.

To avoid alternate bearing in your citrus crop, consider a late May or June fertilizing for trees that are 4 years old and older. You should apply to a 4-year-old citrus tree about 1 pound of Ammonium Sulfate (1 pint=1pound give or take). You can add ¼ pound each year until the trees reach 12 years old and older. You should only apply 3 pounds max of Ammonium sulfate per tree once it reaches 12 years old and older.

Remember, Ammonium sulfate will lower the pH of the soil due to the sulfate as being part of this formulation. Luckily citrus prefers a slightly acid pH. If the pH is too low, Calcium nitrate can be used in the late May or June fertilizing but at a slightly higher rate. You can view table 2. Summer Nitrogen Fertilizer for Homeowners Citrus Trees in Louisiana Home Citrus publication # 1234 by going to www.LSUAgCenter.com.

Please share this information with your friends that love to grow citrus.

LSU AgAgent Dan Devenport

KUDOS

Kudos this month go to master gardener Marcella Peron, class of 2015. Marcella is now helping with the refreshments in the cottage for the propagation team on Wednesday's. I can attest to the fact that our snack quality has greatly improved.

Thank you Marcella from all of us.

SOUTHERN GARDEN FESTIVAL

A Benefit for Family Promise of Acadiana

POSTPONED

3502 E. SIMCOE

HAROLD & SARAH SCHOEFFLER GARDENS

Family Promise Of Acadiana has informed us that due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic the Southern Garden Festival has been POSTPONED.

It will be rescheduled with a new date to be announced.

2020 Spring Garden Strolls

POSTPONED

NOTE: We will notify you of new dates and times.

My committee and I are excited to offer our membership 6 wonderful garden strolls. What an enjoyable way to earn an education hour!

April 3, 10:00 to 12:00, Melissa Fournet's garden, 104 Kensington, Lafayette, La.

April 14, 10:00 to 12:00, Colette Anzalone's garden, 600 Papa Joe, Broussard, La.

May 5, 10:00 to 12:00, Linda Beyt's garden, 300 St. Christopher, Lafayette, La.

May 16, 1:00 to 3:00, Mary Ann Armbruster's garden, 410 S. Larriviere, Youngsville, La.

May 16, 1:00 to 3:00, Linda Moore's garden, 1007 Old Spanish Trail, Broussard, La.

May 20, 1:00 to 3:00, Alice Morrow's garden, 2900 London, Opelousas, La.

Email Cindy4wiley@yahoo.com or call 337-207-6424.



FESTIVAL DES FLEURS FOR 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED

If you have any questions please contact Colette Anzalone 337-288-0283

colette.anzalone1@louisiana.edu

LEARN THE ART OF GARDENING

Out of an abundance of caution related to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association has announced the **cancellation** of the Master Gardener Lecture for the month of **April**.

MASTER GARDENER
LECTURE SERIES AT THE
SOUTHSIDE
LIBRARY

UPCOMING
EVENTS OF
INTEREST

GARDEN TALKS

ALL SEASONS NURSERY
2974 Johnston St, Lafayette
3RD SATURDAYS AT 3 PM

Postponed Until Further Notice

Ask A Master Gardener table opens at 9:45 Our Garden Talks series offers an important educational outreach of LPMGA. Please contact Colette Anzalone if you would like to become involved as a speaker or helper, or to volunteer for the Ask A Master Gardener table. Garden Talks earn one hour of Continuing Education.

Bracy's Garden Tour
April 23, 2020

POSTPONED UNTIL FUTURE NOTICE!

WE WILL SEND NEW DATE AS SOON AS WE CAN.

We have 22 LPMG signed up already!

I WILL KEEP THESE AND CHECK WITH YOU WHEN WE RESCHEDULE !

Propagation Changes to Meet Covid-19 Recommendations



Dear Master Gardeners:

Time has not stood still this past week! We find ourselves faced with a very different set of expectations and challenges. As you will likely have heard, Festival des Fleurs has been canceled.

We hope that we can eventually have a sale in our own Demo Beds as we have done in the past. There is no crystal ball, but we hope the restrictions on people gathering will be lifted in the late spring/early summer. Maybe earlier? At any rate, we are working toward the goal of having good healthy beautiful saleable stock by that time.

Things change so fast right now. Billie Welsh advised that beginning Monday, March 30th, UL will transfer to remote operation. This will include the Ira Nelson grounds and our propagation beds. Since the directive is for only one person to be there at a time, and then only to do what is absolutely necessary, Billy has graciously offered to check on things for us and notify Heather if anything needs our attention.

Here is a suggestion from Heather on virtual gardening. While we are asked by our Governor to “shelter in place” and “stay home” we can get some projects started and complete. Heather suggested we pick a project in our yard and take pictures of before, during and after to share with each other

Mary Gladney has a dead zone in her garden where three 20 year old Azaleas died during the summer. A soil test revealed some major adjustments were needed to the soil and changes to the types of plants she chose for this spot needed to be considered. Over the next few weeks Mary will share, via email, pictures of the work as it progresses. During this time of distancing ourselves lets try to stay in touch using gardening....something we all love and find pleasure in.

EDUCATION HOURS CAN BE EARNED FROM HOME

LPMGA Youtube channel offers a number of short videos , most around 30 minutes long, on a variety of subjects that are of interest to gardeners. There are around 27 of them that cover topics like: Attracting Wild Birds, Tropical, Orchids, Hurricane Prep For Your Yard, Hibiscus, and many more topics.

Just search “Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners” on YouTube
or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/lpmgayoutube>

LARC SEEDLING SALE A SUCCESS

The LARC Vegetable Garden Project is entering its third year of operation under the direction of several Master Gardener volunteers. On March 13, Jerome Alesi, Carolyn Freeland, Peggy Musser, Cindy Rynott, and Chuck Schrader joined seven LARC gardeners in conducting a Seedling Sale. This Sale provided an opportunity for the LARC gardeners to show off a new set of salesmanship and teamwork skills to complement the work skills of growing vegetables for the LARC Cafeteria and flowers for the offices and classrooms of LARC.



The group of seven gardeners had prepared for their roles on Wednesday and eagerly looked forward to the March 13 sale. Dane greeted the LARC staff members and guests and welcomed them to the sale area. Three salesmen identified the vegetables and answered questions from the customers: Nathaniel presented the eggplant seedlings, Jimmy covered the four varieties of tomatoes, and Gregory talked about the six varieties of peppers. Bobby and Marion provided boxes for the purchases and helped the customers carry them, and Avery assisted with a tour of the garden's herb bed and kale, eggplant, cabbage, leek, and shallot beds. Within thirty minutes, the salesmen had sold all 68 seedlings, and the smiling LARC gardeners were congratulating each other for their efforts.

The morning project finished with the group's trademark ending: With one hand of each gardener piled high to form a mound, followed by a chant of "1-2-3 Boom!" and hands "exploding" into the air, the LARC Vegetable Gardeners celebrated the success of the first Vegetable Seedling Sale.

WHAT PLANT AM I ANSWER



Dill: *Anethum graveolan*



OBSERVATIONS FROM OUTSIDE

1



2

3

Jerry Hale's talk at Vermilionville on Acadian brown cotton⁴ was a great success and we had a nice crowd. We learned so much about an important part of our Acadian heritage. Jerry, Mary Alice and company also setup a large and educational display of brown cotton artifacts in the back of the performance center which included numerous items made of brown cotton both old and new, antique items they unearthed⁶ when plowing the fields, and even a portable cotton gin.

5

The Hales' friend Tony who has grown brown cotton in North Louisiana shown in front of part of their brown cotton display.

7



Jerry and his ball-of-fire Acadian treasure of a partner Mary Alice of Arnaudville.

9



Our own May Waggoner in front of another part of the display showing antique hand-woven¹⁰ and contemporary machine-woven cotton blankets and other items. The French saying on the tablecloth translates to "I love brown cotton," and even though the local French calls it yellow cotton, it is definitely light brown.¹²

[illegible]



DEMO BED'S WEED CONTROL CREW

Even while working in smaller groups LPMGA are keeping the demonstration beds in top shape.

Thursday was the day for the Demonstration bed chairs and their crews to meet and work on the beds.

Please note this is no longer allowed.



NICK LONG LPMGA OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER 2019 IS MOVING

Nick was a graduate of the LPMG class of 2014

This is a picture of Nick and one of his buddies Tommy Hayes. I was told that Tommy often said Nick was a saint. Nick enjoyed making folks happy and he loved to plant things. He worked with the Green T. Lindon School Garden, and when he made a seed tape for the school he always made one for the LPMG organic vegetable garden. He is the kind of guy who enjoys fixing things and would be the person to fix the screen on the screen sifter for the gardens or drain all the timers for irrigation when a freeze was coming.

Kathy Troyanowski, who worked with Nick and Tommy in the vegetable garden, says he was a big kid at heart and supportive of others. When she would suggest a new idea, his eyes lit up and he would say, "yes lets try that".

Beside working with our vegetable garden and School Garden Initiative program, Nick was a mentor for our new classes and helped out with Horticultural Hints.



KALE GROWING IN LPMG ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDEN

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

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

innovate . educate . improve lives



LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

CANCELLED

April 25 All Seasons Garden Talks *Cancelled*
 April 18: Festival des Fleurs/LPMGA Spring Plant Sale
CANCELLED
 Bracy's **CANCELLED**
 May 2: Sunset Herb And Garden Festival 8am-4pm
 240 Marie St, Sunset LA
www.sunsetherbfestival.com
 LPMGA Spring Picnic May 6
MAY BE POSTPONED CHECK FOR EMAIL
 May 8-9 Southern Garden Festival **CANCELLED**
 May 30: Daylily Festival 8:30am-3pm
 2 South Magdalen Square Abbeville, LA
 Spring Garden Strolls **POSTPONED**

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:

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If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in our meetings, please call the LSU AgCenter 291-7090

Please note: All meeting and event dates, times, and locations are subject to change.