

LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

April 7 th
Noon

Acadian Village
Pavilion

LPMGA Board Meeting

APRIL 20, 1 PM

IRA NELSON

2206 JOHNSTON ST.

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President's Message

Hello Gardeners!

Just a brief note to welcome us all into longer and warmer days! The next few weeks will be busy ones for rebuilding gardens damaged by the cold weather. The demo beds are being refurbished and refreshed, and propagation is getting ready for the Spring Plant Sale pick up on Saturday **April 17 starting** at 8 AM. The vegetable garden at LARC is due to start up again soon as well!

On Wednesday April 7 at noon we want to get back together in person for a General Meeting. I'm pretty excited about that! Our Vice President Juan Nieto is looking for a suitable venue where we can stay distanced and accommodate everyone. He will let us know the details when they become available. It will be great to begin to return to a normal life as the pandemic winds down and vaccinations increase. But remember to continue to take all the recommended precautions when we get together!

Happy Gardening!

Don Weintritt

LPMGA President 2021



MEETINGS AND WHAT PLANT AM I

**2021 LPMGA
General Meetings
First Wednesday
Monthly
except for July
Daytime: 12:30pm**

**2021 LPMGA
Board
Meetings
1pm on Third
Tuesday**

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

**HELP NEEDED
WITH LPMGA
WEBSITE**

Our website needs a few good people to keep the LPMGA site up to date.

If you can cut and paste, then you can do it. If you like to write a quick note then you can do it.

Contact Karen Willingham text at 337.280.6500 or email at lmg@kreativegourds.com, to learn how **you can do it**



NONE JANUARY 19

NONE FEBRUARY 23

NONE MARCH 16

APRIL 7 APRIL 20

MAY 5 MAY 18

JUNE 2 JUNE 15

JULY JULY

AUGUST 4 AUGUST 17

SEPTEMBER 1 SEPTEMBER 21

OCTOBER 6 OCTOBER 19

NOVEMBER 10 NOVEMBER 16

DECEMBER SOCIAL DECEMBER 21

THE DEVENPORT REPORT:



“GROWING BETTER BLUEBERRIES”

Before the “Big Freeze” I went to check up on my blueberry plants to see how they were doing. I was shocked to see swollen buds and even a few had flower buds that were peeking out. The warmer temperatures that we had been experiencing before the big freeze were enough to trigger these plants into blooming. Some of the recommended varieties of rabbit eye blueberries for our area have chilling hours of 400-550 hours and evidently those hours were met prior to the freeze. If you remember from your master gardener class, chilling hours are something that fruit plants require to set flowers and produce a crop in a specific region of the country. The target temperature for chilling hours is below 45 degrees F. Although we did not get a lot of subfreezing temperatures, we did get quite a few days where the temperatures never got above 45 degrees F. I was convinced that the temperatures (teens) that we received was going to cause a complete crop failure. I was surprised to see the freeze damage extended only on those few buds that were opened enough for flower buds to be seen. The photo attached to this article was taken on March 5th and the plants are just about in full bloom.



These plants were planted on a “pitcher’s mound” for drainage purposes in a mixture that was mostly peat moss, pine bark soil conditioner and bagged topsoil humus. I have done some research and found that blueberry plants respond well to Ammonium Sulfate. The Ammonium form of Nitrogen works best on these plants and is the nitrogen source of choice not the Nitrate form. The “sulfate” part of this fertilizer will assist in lowering the pH of the soil to a level that the plants require to do well somewhere between 4.0-5.5! Another video I viewed mentioned how the importance of having a source of calcium in your soil for bigger and firmer blueberry production. I added a small amount of calcium sulfate, better known as gypsum to the soil as my source of calcium. On both of these products, I followed label directions on the amount to add around my plants. I will let you know how this new mixture has worked for me in a future article.

Spring is here and I am so ready. Please have a great spring and enjoy the hobby of gardening!

Dan Devenport

KUDOS

MARSHA BAYER

Kudos this month goes out to a Master Gardener from the class of 2016.

She has been an active participant in LPMGA activities beginning with the School Garden Initiative. As Chairman of Charles Burke Elementary she oversaw the establishment of their gardens and taught students in and out of the classroom. With her training, other Master Gardeners were encouraged and prepared for participation in the SGI program.

She has generously volunteered to man the Ask A Master Gardener table at various community events, and you can catch up with her at the upcoming Sunset Herb Fest. On Wednesday's she is "aproned and masked" as part of the propagation team preparing plants for our plant sale.

Most recently, she has served as Member at Large on the LPMGA Board considerably raising the bar of that position!

Thank you, Marsha Bayer, for contributing to the success of our Master Gardener Association.

SUNSET HERB AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

MAY 1 2021

8 AM TO 4 PM

<http://www.sunsetherbfestival.com/>

The *Sunset Garden Club* has continued to impress garden enthusiasts with a wide selection of plants and herbs for over twenty years through the [Annual Celebration of Herbs & Gardens](#) in Sunset, Louisiana. The event is a great opportunity to step outside with your kids, friends, or even spend an afternoon with Mom and Dad. Vendors specialize in a variety of plants and can answer your questions about growing and cultivation. These include hibiscus, grasses, fruit trees, bromeliads, orchids, ferns, succulents, roses, and a whole lot more. Master Gardeners are also on site and will present informative presentations with time for a Q&A .

SAVE THE DATE ...APRIL 17, 2021

As we look forward to spring, LPMGA's Propagation Team is looking forward once again to an online plant sale with curbside pickup on Saturday April 17. Our fall plant sale taught us several lessons. We need to make it easier to look through our sales list and order plants. We are working with our Webmaster, Karen Willingham, to improve our online lists and plant presentations. We think we can solve some of the glitches with the software to improve our presentation to our customers.

We also need to improve our marketing and outreach for the sale. That is where the LPMGA membership comes in. Our marketing model could resemble a neural net with each of us being a node with many connections. All of us have multiple gardener contacts and friends. How can we reach out to these groups? If every MG forwarded our plant sale marketing emails and social media posts, we could reach a LOT of people.

Undoubtedly, there are other ways we can get our sale information out to our customers. Do you have any ideas? I am challenging the membership to help us invent new ways to get our sale messages out to the gardening communities. The Prop Team loves that you respond when we ask for cuttings and seeds. What do you think about how to promote our plant sales? Please send your ideas to Heather at redmangrove354@gmail.com or Becky Taylor at btayl@cox.net.

WHAT PLANT AM I

I'm a small deciduous tree, native to the southeastern United States from Virginia, south to Florida, and across to Texas. My status is secure in Georgia and Louisiana, but I'm critically imperiled in Missouri. My zones are 7 to 9 and I am usually 20 by 15 feet in size. My usual habitat is the well-drained soil of bottomland forests in high shade to partial sun. Usual neighbors are water oak, red maple, and bay magnolias. I have a broad oval crown with horizontal branches that have thorns on my young growth. My one year old twigs are dark purple-brown. In spring, I send out delicate parsley-like leaves which turn yellow in the fall. White-tailed deer are fond of my leaves.

Delicate white flowers in clusters, with red anthers, appear along with my foliage. Unfortunately, they are not fragrant. These are followed in fall by small scarlet opaque berries, 1/4 inch in diameter, which persist until after the leaves drop and are only produced by mature trees. They are eaten by birds and small animals. Years ago, they were used by Native American to make an herbal tonic to strengthen the heart. Today they are used in medicines to lower blood pressure.

My warm brown bark is smooth in my youth, flaking as I age to reveal a reddish color. My strong wood was used by Native Americans and European settlers. Plant me even if just for my colors: white, brown, red, yellow, purple-brown, and of course, green.

Do you know what plant I am?



“PRESS RELEASE”
2022 National Convention
March 3 – 6, 2022 Thursday-Sunday
(Mardi Gras is March 1, 2022)

"Le Sentier et Les Jardins Historiques des Azalées de Lafayette"
"Un Mardi Gras de Fleurs"

“Lafayette’s Historic Azalea Trail & Gardens”
"A Floral Mardi Gras"

The Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America (ASA) is pleased to announce that Lafayette, LA will be the host site for the 2022 annual convention of the Azalea Society of America.

The Convention scheduled for March 3 – 6, 2022 (Thursday – Sunday) will include an azalea plant sale (along with other exciting plants), educational speakers, narrated historical tours of the trail and gardens along with much more. Scheduled tours will include the Alexandre Mouton House & Gardens, University Cypress Lake, Lafayette Visitors Center & Grounds, Moncus Park, All Seasons Nursery & Landscaping, Rip Van Winkle Gardens at Jefferson Island and Jungle Gardens at Avery Island. An optional tour on Sunday, March 6th will include Vermilionville Living History & Folk Life Park, lunch at Vermilionville’s La Cuisine de Maman and will give you the opportunity to enjoy the bal du Dimanche (Sunday Dance with Cajun & Creole Music Bands) in the Vermilionville Performance Center and a visit to the Acadiana Cultural Center at Jean Lafitte. Vermilionville Park has a beautiful landscape of azaleas, live oaks, cypress with native garden of healing plants and master craftsman demonstrations.

Azalea enthusiasts come from around the country to attend this annual event. The Azalea Society welcomes membership by anyone interested in azaleas, from all cultures and disciplines. We invite those who wish to learn, and those who know and wish to share their knowledge. The major benefit of membership is association with like-minded gardeners, along with a quarterly 24-page color journal *The Azalean*, and attendance at annual conventions and chapter meetings. This professional informative journal is available to anyone interested in becoming an ASA member; society membership form is available at the <https://www.azaleas.org/joinus/> website. Registration will be online later this year at www.azaleas.org. Lafayette is happy to host this convention and will surely provide a wonderful experience with food and culture and our beautiful springtime landscape attractions.

Coordinators of the Convention:

Dr. Allen Owings, President of Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, aowings64@gmail.com

Mrs. Denise R. Lanclos, Lafayette’s Azalea Trail Chairperson, deniselanclos@cox.net





Enjoy a relaxing stroll through this natural riverside garden. Admission is \$10 at the garden gate. Benefits Family Promise of Acadiana, serving local families experiencing homelessness. The garden has several acres of garden area, with plenty of space to safely maintain social distance and enjoy the beautiful spring trail.

April 10, 2021, 9 am to 2 pm

3502 E Simcoe St, Lafayette, LA 70501-6541, United States

LPMGA Class of 2021 NEEDS YOU

MGIT Class Coordinator: Seeking a member to be the co-chair of the 2021 MGIT class with the intent of taking the Class Coordinator position the following year. You will shadow the Class Coordinator and learn all aspects of the position. You must be organized, have and can use WORD, Excel, and email, have a cell phone for last minute speaker calls, ability to communicate in front of a group of people. If you are interested, please contact Babette Werner, babsvwerner@aol.com, and I will email the job description to you. This is a fun and rewarding position. You meet and work with eager, enthusiast gardeners and community members

50 PEOPLE ALLOWED AT PROGATION TO WORK.....OH
MY!

We can now have up to 50 volunteers at our propagation workday. Fifty would be a lot of people, but it's good to feel that our world can open up a little bit. Mask and distancing will be required. Kudos to you, Propagation Team, for sticking with the CDC guidelines about masks and distancing. All that is starting to pay off. Mask and distancing are still required.

WHAT PLANT AM I ANSWER



Crataegus
marshallii :
Parsley
Hawthorn



**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spring has sprung and at last it's time to get together.

Hope to see you at the April General Meeting at the

Acadian Village Pavilion

200 Greenleaf Drive, Lafayette,

Wednesday, April 7th at noon.

There is room to social distance on the pavilion benches,
or feel free to bring your own chair.

We have confirmation from our State MG Coordinator, Sara Shields, that the reduced requirement of

20 total recorded hours will continue for 2021.

These 20 hours can be **all** Volunteer hours or **all** Continuing Education hours

OR

any combination of Volunteer **and** Continuing Education hours totaling 20.

And speaking of hours...

There have been fewer reports of members not being able to record hours so far this year. While the issues with the online system are being addressed, continue to record your hours online, but please also keep a written record of your hours.

Activities keep (safely) opening up

Propagation (Chair Heather Warner-Finley), the Demo Beds (Chair Gail Wakefield), Vermilionville Medicinal Garden (Chair Mary Perrin) are currently working and the LARC Vegetable Garden (Chair Charles Schrader) should be back planting soon. Please contact the Chairs for details and to volunteer..

If you have questions, need ideas for performing your hours or need more information, please contact Louann McClelland-Long mglouann@gmail.com or (337) 501-7998

2021 Service Hour Totals YTD	2021 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CE HOUR REPORT MAR 1-MAR 22				
	Activity Hours Totals By Details Report	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD
Total Hrs	719.7				
Total Vol Hrs	527.20				
Total CE Hrs	192.5				
Ind Contacts	730				
Total Contacts	4415				
Mileage	3281.10				
Expenses	1734.79				
	CE Totals	79.25	29.5	44.5	192.5
	Vol Hrs Summary Report	157.95	86.75	176	527.2

Updated 3/22/2021. The 2021 monthly totals may change throughout the year since hours may be recorded or edited in previous months during the current year. Chart totals for previous months are not updated monthly.

MESSAGE FROM JUAN NIETO

Greetings Fellow Master Gardeners,

April 7th! Go ahead and save the date, the meeting will take place at noon at the pavilion in Acadian Village. It is big enough that we can continue to practice social distancing. You will be required to wear a mask unless those restrictions are lifted. As soon as i know all the details , i will send out another email. Thank you for all you do. stay safe! Juan Nieto (VP) text to 290-1451 or jfn2854@gmail.com



Lafayette Garden Club presents *A Disney Spectacular*, an NGC Small-Standard Flower show at the ULL Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston St. Lafayette, LA on Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 8am – 2pm.

The show is free and open to the public. LGC is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc., and LGCF District III.

After picking up your plants at the Master Gardener virtual plant sale, swing by and see the Flower Show!

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APRIL CALENDER

- **LPMGA Board Meeting April 20th, Ira Nelson**
- **LPMGA General Meeting, April 7th, Pavilion at Acadian Village, 200 Greenleaf Drive, Laf.**
- **Southern Garden Stroll April 10, 3502 E Simco.**
- **LPMGA VIRTUAL PLANT SALE APRIL 17TH**
- **Lafayette Garden Club Show April 17 Ira Nelson Horticultural Center**
- **Snowmageddon April 24th, Shreveport**
- **Sunset Herb and Garden Festival May 1, 2021.**
- **Daylily Festival & Garden Show June 5, 2021 Abbeville**

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:

Editor Mary Gladney newsletter@lpmga.org
 The Master Gardener program is a division of the
 Louisiana Cooperative Extension Agency
 1010 Lafayette Street/Suite 325,
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
 Telephone (337) 291-7090 Fax (337) 291-7099
 The AgCenter website is www.lsuagcenter.com

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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.