

LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

CANCELED

LPMGA Board Meeting

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Propagation Volunteers Back At Work!



Our propagation team is back at work in the demo beds and the green/shade houses. We are practicing safe distancing, wearing our mask and limiting the number of members meeting at any given time. Hopefully we will be able to have a virtual plant sale this fall!

MEETINGS, KUDOS AND WHAT PLANT AM I

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

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

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

Aug. No Meeting	Aug. No Meeting
September 2	September 15
October 7	October 20
November 4	November 17
December Social	December 15

WHAT PLANT AM I?

I'm a tropical evergreen, native to Madagascar and widely distributed in Pacific islands and Zone 10 islands around the world. They're also found in south Florida. Despite my common name, I'm actually more closely related to grasses, orchids, and palms.

Because my thick, stout, stubby trunks don't produce wood, I'm supported by basal brace roots as I get larger. I'm used for erosion control on sand dunes because of these roots. I'm salt-tolerant but cannot tolerate frost. My long narrow leaves grow to 3 feet long and 3 inches wide in a spiral arrangement, with sharp edges. They've been used to make baskets, mats, rope, and thatched roofs because they are water-resistant.

I'm dioecious. My male plants produce fragrant colorful flowers in long spikes. My female plants produce fruits resembling pineapples, changing from green to yellow/orange when ripe. They contain several hundred prism-like sections packed very tightly. Although they are edible, they must be cooked. (cuisinivity.com) Mammals such as squirrels enjoy them.

I can be grown indoors in containers if given 500 or more foot-candles of light for 10 hours per day. Few diseases and no major pests bother me.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 8 for the answer.

KUDOS

Kudos to Wayne Corne, husband of Judy Corne, who graciously repaired garden items in the Children's Bed: Welcome Chair, Patriotic Military License Plates and ABC garden signs. Thank you Wayne!

THE DEVENPORT REPORT:



Yes, the dog days of summer are upon us! Just wanted to let you know of insect pests that enjoy this time of year and what you can do if you encounter them.

The first pest you may be seeing on your plants, both garden and ornamentals is spider mites. I was so proud of my azaleas in the front of my home! They were looking awesome until last week when I noticed something happening to their lower leaves. The leaves had a bleached-out appearance with a little bronze coloration too. The combination told me that spider mites have gotten into my azaleas. I used Malathion (around a 50% emulsifiable concentrate) at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. I made sure I sprayed the underside of the leaves where the mites were located. Spraying plain water on the underside of the leaves with a little pressure can also help to reduce populations.

Ultra fine oil is also recommended but with these high temperatures, I am not sold on using at this time of year in fear of some phytotoxic damage.

My cucumbers have done so well again this year. Guess What? Spider mites have found there way to the vegetable garden. Again, I noticed a bleaching out look in some of the older leaves but this time I was able to detect a small amount of webbing where the leaf meets the petiole of the plant. I though about spraying but decided to remove all the plants from the garden. I had planted two 4" pots of replacement cucumbers and decided that was my best option.

Another pest that likes the hot days of summer is the Southern chinch bug in St. Augustine lawns. Damage appears as circular yellow patches in the lawn that eventually turn dry and crunchy. Leaf blades normally roll up and look like straws. You should look for the insects in the lawn adjacent to the damaged area. This is where the new feeding will be done. Some people use a lemon dish washing liquid mixed in water and pour onto this area to see if the bugs are in their lawns. Bifenthrin insecticide can be used to treat infected lawns.

I have had a couple of phone calls regarding moths flying around lawns and have asked Dr. Ron Strahan if he has had any reports of sod webworms in the state and he has. There are granular insecticides that can be applied through a lawn spreader and watered into the lawn. Bifenthrin is one that I have recommended.



Southern Chinch Bug



Spider Mite

Keep Safe!!

LSU AgAgent Dan Devenport

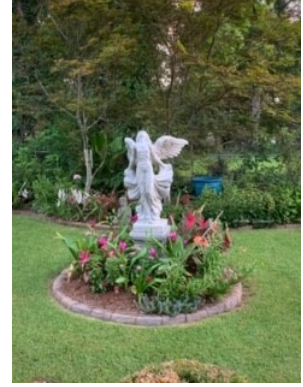


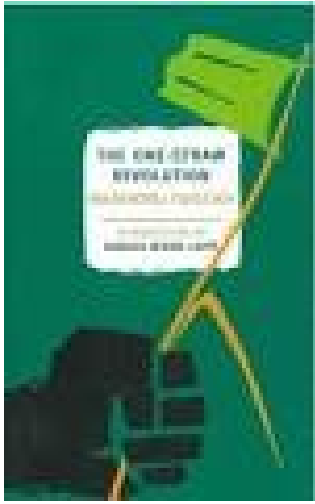
The propagation team donated 5 flats of native tickseed, *Coreopsis tinctoria*, to the **Atelier de la Nature** between Cecilia and Arnaudville in June. Atelier de la Nature is a social enterprise whose mission is to educate the public about art, science, and food with respect to nature and ecosystems. Brandon and Aurore Ballengee started with 9 acres of farmland which they are restoring to its pre-European habitat type. Our donation will help vegetate the prairie habitat on the property.

Brandon and Victor Ballengee and Heather Warner-Finley at Atelier de la Nature.



MANY THANKS TO
MAY VIDACOVICH
FOR SHARING
MORE PHOTO'S OF
HER AMAZING
GARDEN!





One Straw Revolution, An Introduction to Natural Farming By Manasobu Fukuoma

Since we of the Vermilionville Healer's Garden Committee are all about natural medicine and honoring our ancestors by gardening more or less the way they would have done it, the book *One-Straw Revolution* is right up our alley. Japanese author Manasobu Fukuoma's revolutionary farming techniques draw from revered agricultural traditions that were developed over centuries, but here he takes ancient all-natural agricultural methods to a new level. Fukuoma called his intriguing, sustainable way of farming the "do-nothing" method which eliminates

the use of pesticides, fertilizer, chemicals of any kind, tillage, weeding, and perhaps most significant of all, wasteful effort! The author, a trained scientist who died in 2008, laments, "There is no time in modern agriculture for a farmer to write a poem or compose a song." This fascinating book is just as relevant now as it was when it was first published in 1978. You may never run the family farm, but you will love this revolutionary and at times surprisingly witty book!

—Mary Perrin



Peggy Tracy submitted these pictures of the pond area in Points Of View subdivision. Peggy has been part of planting and caring for these plants.

The azeleas are "George Tabor" and the Pickerel Weed is doing well in the pond.

They are doing their part to keep Native Plants in our landscape.



Quarantine Life on the Bristol U-Pick Blueberry Farm

At the beginning of the year, we moved our family to acreage in the southern part of Sunset, with a beautiful pond, 11 acres, mature mayhem, paw paw, and persimmon trees, and 35 enormous blueberry bushes that used to form an orchard. We couldn't even begin to understand the amount of work it was going to take to bring the place back to life, but with quarantine upon us, we realized we just so happened to have the time. It's been a fun journey going from Winter to Spring to Summer here and identifying with my children all of the fruit trees and native plants on the property here. Every bloom was a discovery that sparked curiosity.

When quarantine hit, amidst a panic of not already having the house landscaped (oh, the horror!) I started packets and packets of seeds, and quarantine garden emerged with thousands of sunflowers, zinnias, celosia, tithonia, herbs, and vegetables. I trained jasmine up anything that happened to look vertical, bought 20 propagated fig varieties from a fig lover in Arnaudville and started a row of fig trees in newly cleared pasture.

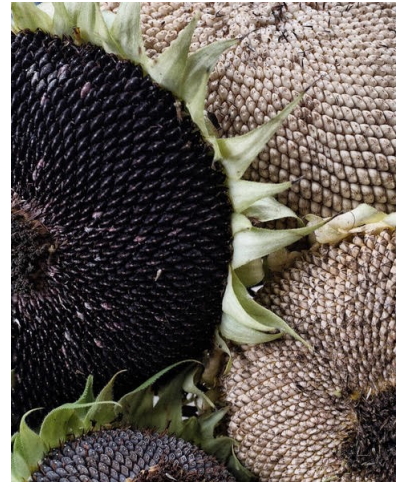
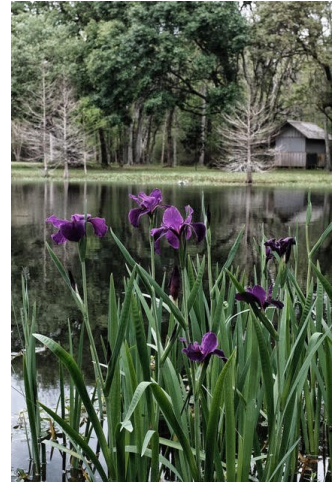
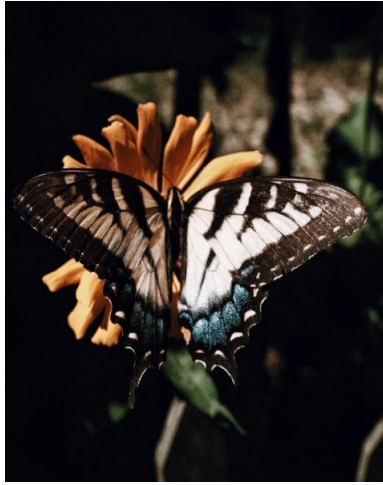
During the blueberry season we were picking everyday, 30 lbs a day average - we baked pies, froze gallons of blueberries and gave them away to any passing human we could find. During the last hoorah of berry picking, we made blueberry wine, still aging in the pantry. It seems that when quarantine gives you blueberries, the only rational thing is to make some booze.

I never write articles, and have missed participating in MG events this year, so I just wanted to share!

-Sophe Probst MG 2018

Pictures on next page

Pictures Of Bristol U-Pick Blueberry Farm



WHAT PLANT AM I ANSWER



³
PANDANUS
UTILIS:
Screw Pine



NEW NATIVE PLANT RECOGNITION: LOUISIANA CERTIFIED HABITAT PROGRAM



WE'RE ALL PROBABLY TRYING TO INCORPORATE MORE NATIVE PLANTS INTO OUR GARDENS AND YARDS ON SOME LEVEL, AND THIS IS A WAY TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO DO SO. THIS INITIATIVE IS THE BRAINCHILD OF THE LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (LNPS) AND "ANY PROPERTY FROM THE SMALLEST CITY GARDEN TO RURAL ACREAGE IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY," ACCORDING TO BRIAN EARLY, PRESIDENT OF LNPS. <https://lnps.org/louisiana-certified-habitat>

THERE IS MUCH HABITAT LOSS IN LOUISIANA PRAIRIES, FORESTS AND WETLANDS DUE MAINLY TO THE HAND OF MAN, WHICH HAS MADE CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY EVEN MORE DESIRABLE.

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THIS DESIGNATION, YOU MUST PASS A CHECKLIST OF GOOD LAND STEWARDSHIP CRITERIA, AS WELL AS HARBOR A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF NATIVE PLANTS. THERE ARE THREE LEVELS: BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD.

NATIVE PLANTS CAN OFTEN MAKE GARDENING MUCH EASIER BECAUSE THEY ARE ADAPTED TO THE AREA IN WHICH THEY GROW ALREADY, AND THUS DON'T NEED THE SPECIAL ATTENTION, EXPENSE, WATERING, CARE, ETC. THAT IMPORTED PLANTINGS OFTEN NEED. AND THEY CAN BE SO BEAUTIFUL!

THESE PLANTS ARE CRUCIAL RESOURCES FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE, AND FOR THE MIGRATORY BIRDS THAT PASS TO AND FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND PROVIDE FOOD, COVER, AND BREEDING HABITAT FOR ALL.

This program will be administered by LNPS and its partners including the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans <https://npi-gno.org/>, and Acadiana Native Plant Project <https://greauxnative.org/>

Applications can be obtained at the LNPS website and the application fee is \$45, which includes an attractive yard sign reminiscent of the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat sign.

(TAKEN FROM *PROLANDSCAPER MAGAZINE* ONLINE 6/26/20, AND FACEBOOK LNPS POSTING 7/9/20)

BARBARA McCONNELL

(APPLICATION ATTACHED TO NEWSLETTER)



Theresa Gore shared this picture of her amazing Natchez Crepe Myrtles.



And talk about habitat reduction, instead of mowing all of our public highways, how about leaving some areas for native flowers. And farmers, don't forget to leave buffers for plants and wildlife. I never have enough milkweed to go around for my monarch butterfly caterpillars. I often have to transport them to wherever there is enough milkweed leaves for them to feast on, before they transform into a chrysalis, and then finally into a butterfly! Barbara McConnell

Thank you Marcus Descant, The Urban Naturalist

Oops threw away the good stuff!

Dumpster diving with The Masked Gardener, aka Don Weintritt!



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**Here's wishing
 for an opening
 up in
 September!**

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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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 the LSU AgCenter 291-7090

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