

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

LPMGA GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED

LPMGA Board Meeting
DECEMBER 15
1 PM

IRA NELSON
2206 JOHNSTON ST.

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Dear MG

I will begin by *Wishing you a Very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday*. Hoping you will indulge in a little turkey and dressing spend some quality time with your families and friends and remembering to practice social distancing at the same time. Also, if traveling please Be Safe and watch for other drivers.

My note will be short and to the point so it will be in bullet form that is easier, so with that being said:

- * The board met this past week and it was reported that we have several nominations for Outstanding Master Gardener this year, so after Juan meets with past presidents an announcement will be made at the May social. Congratulations to the nominees!!
- * We received notice of resignations from several MG I would like to thank the Ladies for their service to the MG Association and welcome them back when and if they get to a point to return. Thank You!!!
- * The Demo beds will be getting some new signage soon so I will let you all know when you can go and take a look at the new signs that Gail Wakefield and helper Don Weintritt have been working on.

There will be no December Social or membership meeting.

VERY IMPORTANT END OF YEAR MG HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

- * It is time to pay dues to Debbie Dupuy either by check, cash or Paypal (treasurer@lpmga.org) Note (pay 2021 dues).
- * Annual CODE OF CONDUCT form sign and send to Ellen Garacci
- * **Recording volunteer hours** DEADLINE DECEMBER 15TH. Please do now do not wait till the 15th anything can happen.

Well I did say it would be short and to the point, but packed with a lot of important info that needs to be followed up on as soon as you read this so as not to forget. Thank you for your continued support of the MG and your willingness to give your time to the Association.

Colette

Thanks to everyone who voted for the board continuing to serve.

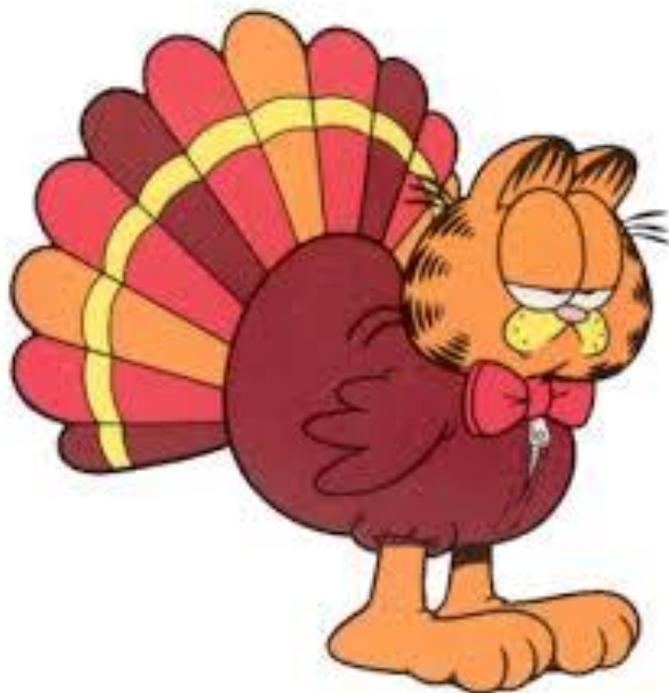
HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND WHAT PLANT AM I

2019 LPMGA
General Meetings
First Wednesday
Monthly
except for July

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

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

NONE DECEMBER 15



HAPPY

THANKSGIVING

WHAT PLANT AM I?

I'm a small, slow-growing, monoecious tree (about 1 foot per year), native to North America, and am found from southern Ontario and south from eastern Texas to northern Florida. I have 1 or more short trunks that are angled or fluted. My roots are shallow and wide spreading.

Depending on growing conditions, I can reach 50" to 60", although 35" is more usual, and can live up to 300 years, according to some reports. I'm found mainly along streams and in ravines and in the understory of hardwood forests. I like moist, rich, deep soils that are acidic. Because my wood is extraordinarily strong, it is used to make furniture, butcher blocks, tool handles, and golf clubs. Many years ago, I was used for cogs in windmills and watermills. Beavers use me to build dams. I'm of limited use commercially because of my small size.

My dull, dark blue-green leaves are 2" to 4 1/2" long, elliptical, and pointed at the tip. They are paler, with hairs on veins below, and turn from orange to red in autumn. Native Americans used them to accelerate healing and stop wounds from bleeding. Before they emerge, tiny catkins appear, which are designed for pollination by the wind. Males are greenish and drooping, 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" long. Females are reddish-green and paired, 1/2" to 3/4" long. I'm difficult to transplant but may be grown from seed, and am almost disease and insect free except for a rare canker or leaf spot.

I provide food for tufted grouses, wild turkeys, pheasants, foxes, and squirrels. White-tailed deer and cottontails eat my leaves and twigs.

Songbirds are attracted to my forked branches and dense crowns for their nests, and for my tasty seeds. I am a larval host for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, the Striped Hair-streak, and the Red Spotted Purple butterflies.

I'm on display at Pinewoods Native Plant Center in Nacogdoches, Texas, and the Crossly Arboretum in Pica-yune, Mississippi.

Do you know what plant I am?

Answer on page 8

THE DEVENPORT REPORT:



Well it has been one heck of a year! I just want to take the time to make a few comments to share with you. Perhaps the main takeaway from this world-wide pandemic is that we should never take anything for granted. I miss handshakes and hugging close friends and family, you know we are Cajuns and that's what we do. We are mostly an older group and are doing what we need to do to stay healthy. This virus is still very active and has hit close to home for many of us. My prayers go out to each and everyone of you that has lost love ones, friends, or acquaintances to Covid-19. Hopefully, there will be a vaccine coming out shortly that will help us to manage the virus and let us get back to what we love-gardening.

Several of our Master Gardener members have been able to keep active by volunteering and adhering to the guidelines LSU AgCenter has required. Those that have not been able to volunteer have been given the opportunity of earning educational hours to make up the difference. The Smithsonian "Garden Talks" series is an excellent way to earn these credits for reporting purposes! Dr. Shield wants all hours reported by December 15, 2020, so if there is a problem it can be addressed before the university goes on holiday break from Christmas to New Years.

With that being said, I would like to wish each and everyone a very safe holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Thanks for all of you,

Dan

TIME TO PAY YOUR LPMGA DUES FOR 2021

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

FOR 2021

\$20 PAYABLE TO LPMGA

MAIL TO DEBIE DUPUY

119 BELLREDGE DRIVE

LAFAYETTE , LA 70506

337-849-1117

LPMGA MEMBERSHIP CARDS READY FOR PICKUP

What a year it has been! No meetings, socials, field trips or fellow master gardening fun! Therefore, a lot of you have not gotten your membership card for this year. However, I do have them in the cottage at the Demo Beds that you are welcome to pick up any Wednesday during propagation.

Remember there are 8 nurseries listed on the back of the card that offer discounts to us. So please try to pick up your card before the year is over and use them

Gail Wakefield

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT DECEMBER 2020

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR
VOLUNTEER AND CE HOURS
BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH IF POSSIBLE**

It's hard to believe, but 2020 is (finally) coming to an end.

This year has presented many challenges for our organization and its members. To help make remaining active or becoming active again easier, required hours have been reduced to a total of 20.

The state requirement for 2020 hours has been reduced to a total of 20 hours.

This total of 20 hours can be made up of any combination of Volunteer hours and/or Continuing Education hours.

There is still time to earn those 20 and if you need help accomplishing or recording hours, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Louann Long (337) 501-7998 or mglouann@gmail.com

If you are having problems recording hours in the system please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

Please record your hours before 11:59pm on December 15th if possible. (You may earn and record hours until 11:59pm December 31st, but LSU technical support will not be available if you encounter a problem.)

Information on any changes regarding required hours for next year (2021) will be sent to our membership as soon as that information is available.

Please remember that hours cannot be recorded retroactively. Hours can only be recorded in the same year that they are earned.

"TOP TEN" VOLUNTEERS

"Top Ten" recognizes the 10 members who have recorded the most hours during the year.

Volunteer and CE are added together for the total hours.

The deadline for "Top Ten" Volunteer hours to be recorded in the online system is 11:59pm November 30th.

2020 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CONTINUING EDUCATION HOUR REPORT

2020 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CONTINUING EDUCATION HOUR REPORT JAN-NOVEMBER 13 2020														
Year To Date Service Hour Totals & Vol Hours Summary Reports	Activity Hours Totals By Details Report													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	To Nov 13	Dec	YTD	
Total Hrs 4070.41	93.7	98.5	12.5	9	8	42	12.5	10	0	0	0		364	
Total Vol Hrs 3076.9	23.5	16.5	17.75	0	0	25.2	0	15.5	15.95	0	4		143.85	
Total CE 993.51	293	181.25	192.5	6.5	5.5	24.5	164.25	106	192.75	166.0	49		1851.50	
Individual Contacts 5457	0	2	4.5	0	0	0	0	0	3.25	0	0		28.75	
Total Contacts 86752	50.5	45.5	48	13	20	14.5	75.5	124	125	29	34.6		543.60	
Mileage 13990.05	18.5	33	23.7	0	0	30	8	3	6	1	0		141.20	
Expenses 1051.50	479.2	376.75	298.95	28.5	33.5	136.2	140.92	262.50	342.95	196.0	87.6		2983.3	
	90.45	98.2	45.78	17.5	4	120.6	260.25	125.05	65.75	72.5	65.25		920.76	

Updated 11/13/2020. The 2020 monthly totals may change throughout the year since hours may be recorded in previous months during the current year.
Chart totals for previous months are not updated monthly.

REDUCED REQUIREMENT 2020: 20 hours total of any combination of Volunteer and/or Continuing Education hours are required.

2019 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CONTINUING EDUCATION HOUR REPORT FOR COMPARISON														
Service Hour Totals Report 2019 Total Vol Hrs 11941.60 Avg Ind Vol Hrs 38 Total CE 1906.43 Avg Ind CE 4.48 People Reached 222150 Mileage 57195.98 Expenses 6664.33	Activity Hours Totals By Details Report													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2019 Totals	
	63.5	99.15	109.25	59.50	131.25	18.50	23.50	107.40	170.75	137.25	104	36	1060.05	
	41	32	36	33.25	14.15	17.75	14	50.25	39	34.75	45.50	45	402.65	
	417.75	560.65	568.30	1052.35	657.50	450	359.50	572.95	1330.35	678.25	858.50	312.25	7768.35	
	5.5	0	26.15	20.50	27	0	0	7	14.50	6.25	3	0	109.90	
	44	79.50	114.25	131.95	60	64.75	36	126.50	258.50	634.25	123.75	60	1724.45	
	30.5	49.50	63	94.75	65.25	45	53	159.75	95.25	176.15	29.10	3.95	876.20	
	602.25	802.80	916.95	1342.30	975.15	596	486	1023.85	1998.35	1666.90	1163.85	457.20	11941.60	
	138.05	188.65	162.65	203.50	139	103	25.53	141.25	226.25	308.05	235.50	35	1906.43	

TIME TO COMPLETE AND SIGN YOUR LPMGA "CODE OF CONDUCT FORM"
 YOU SHOULD RETURN THESE TO ELLEN GARACIE

LIFTING THE VEIL ON BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

A SERIES BY BECKY TAYLOR

Nomenclature: the devising or choosing of names for things, especially in a science or other discipline.

The primary function of plant nomenclature is to ensure that a spoken or written plant name leaves no ambiguity concerning which plant the name refers to. It creates a two-part name for each plant. The first name, the genus, is followed by a descriptive name, the species. Together they form the scientific or Latin name of a plant.

Becky wrote a short series of articles breaking down and explaining this process. I enjoyed reading it and hope you will too. I thought it would be fun to run again and bring in some new information to complement Becky's papers. So starting in January we will be featuring several of these articles in the newsletter and hopefully we can have some fun understanding the names of the plants we love. This could prepare us to better inform others on the names of plants. *Mary*



LPMGA member Don Weintritt (2017) submitted this photo of morning dew and sunshine on one of his rose bushes.

They are dancing in the sunshine and look like jewels adorning the leaves.

Thanks Don

WHAT PLANT AM I ANSWER



2

Carpinus
caroliniana:
American
Hornbeam,
Musclewood,
Ironwood,
Blue-beech

3



7

KUDO'S

Theresa Guidry

I would like to recognize Theresa Guidry for kudos for your newsletter.

Lois Manuel and Marcella Peron do not have email. Theresa personally mailed rosters, Code of Conduct forms and stamped envelopes addressed to me. I have already received their signed forms.

I think she is so sweet and did something so special.

Thanks,

Ellen Garacci

THANK YOU ELLEN FOR SHARING THIS ACT OF
KINDNESS AND FELLOWSHIP!

EDIBLES I HAVE GROWN If I can so can you! Nancy Anne Row

We are fortunate to inhabit such a friendly climate for all kinds of plants. I feel that there is nothing that I can eat that I can't also try to propagate. The following are only some of the successful "fruitings", starting with things planted in the ground, followed by fruits that are still in pots until there are enough to maintain an "insurance plant" in a pot.

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) makes a stunning landscape plant. The early Spring flower are bright, vivid orange, followed by the wonderful delicious fruit. My huge tree was grown from a seed from a supermarket fruit. As I understand, the flavor of the fruits can vary widely, so I got lucky with this tree. Unfortunately for us, the pomegranate is a dry-climate Mediterranean plant, so the crop is plentiful in years of severe summer and fall drought, and almost non-existent in other years.

Bitter Melon (*Momordica charantia*) is a fairly common local vine, revered for centuries for its medicinal value. Many of the recommendations of the *traiteurs* have been proved valid by recent research. This plant reseeds itself readily, and everywhere, but is easy to control. This year, I tried some store-bought seeds for the Thai White variety, which are much larger but equally terrible-tasting. This fruit is best used in a fairly strong-tasting, savory dish: chili, spaghetti or marinara sauce, or a spicy stir-fry.

Starfruit (*Averrhoa carambola*) was also grown from a supermarket fruit. This makes a very attractive landscape plant with graceful, delicate foliage. It survives a mild winter just fine, but is killed to the ground by severe freezes. It has always returned. Grocery store fruit cannot compare to home-grown; these fruits are huge and very tasty and sweet.

Tamarillo (*Cyphomandra* or *Solanum betacea*) makes a very large herbaceous perennial, preyed upon by aphids and mealybugs, but also an attractive and very tropical looking plant. I did not get to opportunity to try the fruit (which I understand is very tasty eaten fresh or in a salsa or salad) because my (future ex) husband thought the Bermuda grass under it needed a shot of Roundup plus. I will be more fortunate next year, I've hidden the herbicides.

Papaya (*Carica papaya*) is an absolutely beautiful landscape plant, worth growing simply for its tropical beauty. I'm not sure these fruits will get a chance to ripen unless we have a very late winter. A Papaya in the ground will grow to 8-10 feet in only a few months. A Papaya in a pot will have a hard time topping 4 feet. A truly gorgeous plant. These trees generally bloom male or female—the female flowers are single and quite large, while the males grow on a long raceme. However, seeds of self-fruitful Papayas are available now. One is called Solo.

Surinam Cherry (*Eugenia uniflora*) has been thriving in ground in full sun for several years. The fruits are similar in size to Bing Cherries, but have a very different taste. An attractive ornamental plant in any small space, and attractive to butterflies and bees.

Naranjillo (*Solanum quitoense*) also self-seeds, and is an eye-catching garden plant. I would describe it as looking like an S&M eggplant, with the leaves, top and bottom, and stems covered in long thorns. The fruit is fuzzy, and kind of laborious to clean, but makes a tasty daiquiri combined with other fruits.



LPMGA COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: PROPAGATION AND DEMO BEDS



As part of a monthly feature in the newsletter we will have updates on the LPMGA committees, to remind the membership of what each does and what they mean to our organization and community.

This month we are featuring Heather Warner-Finley, committee chair of propagation, and Becky Taylor, who after many years as head of propagation is now a worker bee; and Gail Wakefield the chairperson of our Demo beds at

Ira Nelson.

HISTORY: In 1999 when Becky started working in propagation it was located at the Ira Nelson Center itself, they only had a d 20'X20' space in the shade house with a bench in the center. In 2003 when UL gifted to LPMGA the current location Becky signed on as chairperson and she said, "it was nothing more than a grassy parking lot!" She has been instrumental in the design and planning of the beds as they appear now.

Her mom was a florist and Becky comes from a family of plant people. "The plants draw us to them, not the other way around. How many times have you JUST KNOWN you had to have that plant-it is drawing you in," Becky explained.

Heather Warner-Finley is retired from a career with Wildlife and Fisheries. She took over propagation from Becky in 2016, when Becky found out that Heather could speak "Latin." Propagation meets every Wednesday morning.

Gail Wakefield is a retired teacher, and she feels the demo beds and propagation are a teaching stage for the MG and the public. "It is one of the best learning and teaching labs there is," she said. Gail took over the beds in 2012 and believes it has been a great journey. The Demo beds need volunteers: the Formal Garden bed needs a chairperson, Lynn Dubois is taking over Mr. McGregor's vegetable garden and needs help; the Tropical Bed needs workers too. If interested contact Gail [337-288-8058](tel:337-288-8058) or gailwak@cox.net.

All three woman agree that we need to select plants that grow well in our area, are not sold at the big box stores, and sell well at our sales. Our plant sales fund our organization, programs in our community and keep the LPMGA alive.

Gail and Becky are working on changing from paper brochures in the gardens to using a QR code. You use your phone to scan the QR code that takes you to our webpage with a description of bed and the plants in it.

Heather stated when she drops by the demo gardens, "I see people sitting and enjoying the butterflies, plants and gardens, sitting in silence just enjoying their day."

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DECEMBER CALENDAR

2020 Virtual LMG Appreciation Day December 9th and 10th

LPMGA Board Meeting December 15th

Record your volunteer and service hours before December 15, 2020

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.