

**LPMGA
GENERAL MEETING**

January 8th, 12 PM

West Regional Library
501 Old Spanish Trail
Scott

Board Meeting

January 21, 1PM

IRA NELSON

2206 JOHNSTON ST.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2025!

As with the start of every new year, I find myself reflecting on the previous one with gratitude for all the blessings brought. As my first message as president, I'd like to acknowledge and thank all of the past, present, and future board members who have served this organization.

First of all, I want to acknowledge the retiring board members. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to my former mentor and past president Mary Gladney, who has served the past three years with leadership and guidance. Over that tenure Mary has led LPMGA to a solid financial footing and understanding of where we are that we didn't have before. Mary is stepping down from the board but continues the arduous task of newsletter editor.

Other members leaving the board include Paul Manuel, who filled in when needed as recording secretary, and Ed Wilhelm, member-at-large and volunteer extraordinaire. Thank you guys for stepping up when there was a need.

Members who remain for another year include 2024's president Bootsie Durand, who provided exceptional leadership over the past year and will continue to provide direction as past president. Heartfelt gratitude to Yvonne Lanoux who helped straighten out the books and provided timely and accurate reports to the board, and has agreed to continue to do so in 2025. Meagan Stockstill as corresponding secretary will continue to wear the many hats she so capably does, and Rusty Pettijean will continue to interpret the mystery of volunteer hours and prod members to log their efforts.

I'd like to welcome the new board members, starting with the incoming vice president Colette Anzalone. Please give her your assistance during the year by suggesting interesting and timely speakers for our general membership meetings. Kevin Besse has already taken over as recording secretary, due to an injury to Paul, and will continue to do a great job in that position. Sarah West will replace Ed as member-at-large, representing all members on the board.

Finally, I am humbled and grateful to the organization for allowing me to serve as president this year. Please let me know what I can do to make this an even better association than it already is. I also want to challenge everyone to become more involved with the board and administration of the club. We have around 150 very active members involved in the dozens of committees and activities we sponsor, but feel free to give your board members constructive input throughout the year. All board meetings are open to everyone and we welcome your attendance. When 2025 comes around, heighten your involvement by volunteering for one of the board seats that will become open.

Here's to a great and happy new year!

John Hebert

MEETINGS

**2024 LPMGA
General Meetings**
First Wednesday
Monthly
Daytime: 12:00pm
Evening: 6 pm

**2024 LPMGA
Board
Meetings**
1pm on Third
Tuesday

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

JANUARY 8	JANUARY 21
FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 5	MARCH 18
APRIL 2	APRIL 15
MAY 7	MAY 20
JUNE 4	JUNE 17
JULY	JULY
AUGUST 2	AUGUST 15
SEPTEMBER 3	SEPTEMBER 16
OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 21
NOVEMBER 5	NOVEMBER 18
DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 16

NOTICE

Due to some problems securing meeting rooms at the Southside and Main library's, both January and February meetings will be held at the West Regional Library in Scott.

**OMG
APPRECIATION**

It is both a huge surprise and an honor to be recognized as the Outstanding Master Gardener for 2024. I am deeply grateful to the MGs who nominated me and to the OMG selection committee for this recognition and the beautiful iris vase.

I'm thankful that over the years, I've had the opportunity to be involved in projects that I cared about with people I've learned so much from. Serving as Volunteer Coordinator, newsletter editor, being involved with the MG class and our iris plantings have been truly rewarding roles, but the best part has always been the wonderful people I've met and the friendships I cherish. Gardeners are very special people and LPMGA is lucky to have such interesting, talented and devoted volunteers and wonderful Ag Agents.

Thank you again for this recognition. I'm looking forward to the continuation of our iris project in the coming year and wish everyone all the best in 2025.



Louann McClelland-Long

New Goals for A New Year



The New Year is often a time to set goals, serving as an important “beginning” of sorts for new hopes and adventures. This is the perfect time to reflect, reset, and plan for the months ahead. Setting goals at the start of the year gives you a clear direction, helps you stay motivated, and ensures that you’re working towards personal growth.

Before setting new goals, take time to reflect and review the year that’s ending. This reflection provides valuable insights and helps you identify patterns, strengths, and areas for improvement. One professional development lesson that has stuck with me is to create “SMART” goals when planning programs or setting personal aspirations. SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

- Specific: Define exactly what you want to achieve.
- Measurable: Include metrics to track progress.
- Achievable: Challenge yourself, but ensure your goal is realistic.
- Relevant: Align your goals with your long-term values and aspirations.
- Time-bound: Set a deadline to stay focused and motivated.

Focus on a few priorities to increase your chances of success. Ranking your goals also helps you to focus your efforts and have a higher chance of achieving your aspirations. Oftentimes, big goals can feel overwhelming and are therefore abandoned before any meaningful steps are taken. Break these larger goals into smaller, actionable steps.

Life is oftentimes unpredictable, and it’s okay to pivot your goals as circumstances change. Flexibility is key when adjusting goals or “going with the flow”. Not every goal will go as planned, and that’s okay. Use setbacks as opportunities to learn and grow. Reflect on what went wrong, adjust your approach, but always keep moving forward – or as Dory in Finding Nemo says, “Just keep swimming”.

Goals which may be relevant to us gardeners include:

- Getting outside in nature or the garden more
- Building a new raised bed for a vegetable or flower garden
- Attending a garden symposium
- Joining a new committee in LPMGA
- Planting several new fruit, vegetable or floricultural varieties in your garden
- Stepping outside of our “bubble/comfort zone” to experience something new

The end of the year is an excellent time for reflection on the past and planning for what’s to come. I’m thoroughly impressed with the great work that LPMGA members have done in 2024– and am sure that 2025 will be no different!

-Maddox Miller, LSU AgCenter

2024 Outgoing Message

It has been my honor to serve as president of LPMGA for the past year. When I wrote a president's message for the December newsletter, it hadn't occurred to me that it would be my last message as president. So, I am taking up a little space in this newsletter to thank people who helped make our last year a successful one and for making my job easier. Firstly, thanks to Mary Gladney, Maddox Miller and Charles Hebert for their invaluable advice and guidance.

Secondly, I want to thank our hard-working board of directors. Each member is committed to efficiently handling the organization's business and it was a pleasure to work with them.

During the year we had a couple of key positions become vacant. (Mary Gladney's tireless efforts to refill these some of these positions are noted and appreciated.) Thanks to Paul Manuel, Linda Alesi, Collette Anzalone, Judy Corne, Susan Wilhelm and Anna Gauthier for agreeing to fill in these spots. Thanks to Ed Wilhelm and Marc Wiley for making our home base a better place to work. I want to also express appreciation to Louann McClelland-Long for taking the lead on our two new grants from the Thistlewood Foundation and to the Dans le Jardin committee for making our second event a bigger success than the first one. Thanks to Patricia Soileau for her work on the revised handbook committee and for Meagan Stogsdill for accepting the position of electronic voting coordinator. Many thanks also to Billy Welsh but being such a great "landlord."

Lastly, I want to thank our committee chairs and active members for their continued participation and dedication. There are many people who went well above and beyond their normal obligation and who contributed to a successful 2024; they deserve and have my gratitude, but to name them all, this message would be triple the size.

As a member told me one day at Propagation, "This is my happy place." My sentiments exactly. I feel happy and privileged to be a member of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association.

Bootsie Durand

LPMGA 2024 President

TRANSPLANTING POINSETTIAS

By Mary Gladney

Did you know that you can transplant your Christmas Poinsettia so that it will grow year-round? Well, you can, and they do nicely in our Louisiana climate.

Poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are members of the spurge family, are native to Mexico and Central America rain forest and will do well in our subtropical climate in Louisiana.

When transplanting into the yard there are a few considerations that you will need to pay attention to. Poinsettias can grow to be 10 feet tall and 7 feet wide, so pick the right spot. It must be protected from freezing temperatures and needs full sunlight for a few hours a day. Soil should be acidic with a PH between 5.0 and 7.0. They only need to be fertilized during the growing season.

After you have your plant growing and happy you will want your poinsettia to produce that red leaf that we consider its bloom. Like many plants from tropical rain forest, you must recreate their native environment. In January their dry dormant season starts. The leaves fall off and the plant starts its resting period, and they need water only about every two weeks. Also, at this point they need a longer dark period, at least 12 hours. I have found that planting them where they do not get light from a streetlight or other source during the night works. You can also cover them during this time. Your plant will end its dormant period in early spring, and you can start a normal water pattern again and it can now go back to normal lighting.

That is really all it takes to have a lovely poinsettia growing in your yard. Like tropical orchids and bromeliads our normal climate does the rest of the work for you.



What Is a Master Gardener?

By Vanessa Sam

In 2016 my husband (June) and I participated and graduated from the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Class. After completing our classroom training and volunteer hours we earned the title of Louisiana Master Gardener and a beautiful gold badge. This was a significant milestone for us because both our mothers were avid gardeners and did not know such a title existed. Gardens have always fascinated me, and I drove by a particular garden for over three years before I had the courage to stop and ask for a tour. I was welcomed by the couple and was in awe of their garden. Everything in the yard had a name. Some of the names are the I-10 garden, the Earth Garden, the White House (large greenhouse) Sha Bae Bae (the golf cart) and Jethrine the cat. When introducing myself, one of the first things I mentioned was that I was a master gardener. After several visits, my newfound friend asked, "What does being a master gardener mean?" I quickly answered by telling her all the requirements, volunteer hours and classroom training needed to become a Louisiana Master Gardener. I was positive I answered her question with complete thoroughness but once I arrived home, I began to ponder her question. What does being a master gardener really mean. After several weeks of searching for an answer, this is what I came up with.

A gardener is someone who has a passion for growing and nurturing things. They are willing to share their knowledge, including successes and failures. Whenever growing produce they have their community in mind, knowing they will give away a good amount of their harvest. Learning never stops and they are willing to teach others and learn new things. They keep records using photographs or a calendar. I can finally answer her question, "You my dear friends Peggy and Calvin are master gardeners." Thank you for sharing your knowledge and teaching me about your gardening experiences. Thank you for opening your yard, harvest, and hearts to me. May your gardens and your love for nature always abound.

****All pictures are from Peggy and Calvin's Gardening Homestead****



Louisiana's Edible Wild Plants: Foraging in Fall

By: Mandy Hatman

Louisiana's diverse ecosystems offer a bounty of edible wild plants, especially in the fall. However, foraging requires knowledge, caution, and respect for nature. This guide will introduce you to some common edible plants found in Louisiana during autumn, along with important safety considerations.

Safety First: The Golden Rules of Foraging

- Never eat a plant you cannot identify with 100% certainty.
- Learn to identify toxic look-alikes before foraging.
- Forage only in areas free from pesticides and pollutants.
- Harvest sustainably - never take more than you need.
- Be aware of local regulations regarding foraging on public lands.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

- Always obtain permission before foraging on private property.
- In state parks, foraging is generally limited to berries, fruits, and mushrooms for personal consumption.
- Respect the environment - leave no trace and avoid damaging plants.

Common Edible Plants in Louisiana's Fall

Persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*)

- Identification: Look for orange, golf ball-sized fruits on trees with dark, blocky bark.
- Harvest: Fruits are ripe when they're soft and fall easily from the tree.
- Use: Eat raw, or use in puddings, breads, or jams. Unripe fruits are extremely astringent.

Muscadines (*Vitis rotundifolia*)

- Identification: Wild grape with thick skins and large seeds. Look for vines climbing trees.
- Harvest: Ripe fruits are dark purple to black and come off the vine easily.
- Use: Eat fresh, or use for jams, jellies, and wines.

Pecans (*Carya illinoensis*)

- Identification: Large trees with compound leaves. Nuts have a distinctive shape and fall in autumn.
- Harvest: Collect fallen nuts from the ground.
- Use: Eat raw, roasted, or use in baking.

Beautyberries (*Callicarpa americana*)

- Identification: Shrubs with clusters of bright purple berries along the stems.
- Harvest: Berries are ripe in late summer through fall.
- Use: Best used for jams or jellies, not typically eaten raw.

Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)

- Identification: Low-growing plant with small white flowers and oval leaves.
- Harvest: Collect young leaves and stems in cool weather.
- Use: Add to salads or use as a cooked green.

Caution: Toxic Look-alikes

- Pokeweed berries resemble grapes but are toxic.
- Some wild cherry leaves can be toxic when wilted.
- Death cap mushrooms can be mistaken for edible varieties.

Always consult multiple reliable sources and consider taking a class or foraging with an expert before venturing out on your own.

Remember, foraging is not just about free food - it's an opportunity to connect with nature, learn about local ecosystems, and participate in a time-honored tradition. Happy and safe foraging!



Kathy Richards, MaryAnn Armbuster, Kelly Domingue, Tom Cylkowski, and Pat Miller enjoy a night of Jazz music supporting Le Bayou Legendaire.

LPMGA 2025 BOARD



Pictured: Colette Anzalone Vice President,
Yvonne Lanoux Treasurer, Meagan Stodsdill Cor-
responding Secretary, Keven Besse Recording
Secretary and

Bootsie Durand Past President.

Absent: President John Hebert, Volunteer Coordi-
nator Rusty Petitjean, and

Member-At-Large Sarah West



PLATINUM MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

Platinum membership is an acknowledgement in honor of 20 years of volunteer service. LPMGA honored our Platinum Members at this year's Social by paying their Social cost and giving each gift certificates. The members honored are as follows:

Nancy Anne Rowe (2001)

Susan Gosnell (2002)

Andrea Pate (2002)

Genne' Foley (2003)

Ellen Grote (2003)

Christy Adams (2003)

Cheryl Perret (2003)

Kathy Troyanowski (2003)

Chris Butts (2004)

LPMGA CLASS OF 2024



Class Coordinators: Mary Ann Armbruster and Pat Miller

Class Members: Courtney Allis, Amelie Breaux, Erin Bass, Peggy Broussard, Lyndsay Bertrand, Rosemary Carruth, Harriet Castille, Kristen Fox, Christi Disher, Danielle Guidry, Peggy Dronet, Tamie Guilliot, Mandy Hartman, Cathy Landry, Howie Hufford, Kessler Landry, Tarri Judice, Yvonne Mitchell, Chris Ortte, Rachel Thibodeaux, Lucia Rasolomaharavo, Daphne Thomas and Ann Rolke

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JANUARY 2025

**JANUARY 2025 GENERAL MEETING,
 W. REGIONAL LIABRARY, JANUARY 8TH,
 2025**

**BOARD MEETING, IRA NELSON,
 JANUARY 21ST**

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@lpnga.org

The Master Gardener program is a division of the

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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.