

**LPMGA GENERAL
MEETING
CANCELLED**

**LPMGA Board
Meeting**
MARCH 16, 1 PM
IRA NELSON
2206 JOHNSTON ST.

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President's Message

Happy March (and Spring)! After a brutally cold February with several hard freezes, I'm sure we are all ready for milder temperatures and a chance to reinvigorate our battered plants and yards. Also in February, the membership voted on a few open board positions. I would like to welcome them as well as all of our continuing board members to the 2021 term. I'm looking forward to working with them to better serve our organization and our membership. I'm really happy with the robust voter turn out we have been having in spite of being limited to electronic balloting! It's great to see everyone adapt and just keep things moving.

If you have something in mind, remember that all members are welcome to attend our board meetings and help us come up with new ideas and improvements for the LPMGA. Or you can send it along with your Member at Large or any other board member to be discussed at the meeting. We are also going to see how we can get the general meetings going again. Perhaps electronically at first.

If you are feeling lonesome for your friends at LMPGA, come on out to one or more of the various volunteer opportunities and mingle around. We have been doing a pretty good job of keeping our masks on and protecting one another. Speaking for myself, I've been attending propagation pretty regularly. A recent antibody test as part of my annual checkup indicates I've never had the COVID virus. So I'm pretty comfortable with our efforts to stay safe. More and more of our eligible members are getting vaccinated so that helps too.

Take care and hope you have a wonderful spring planting season!

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**

NONE JANUARY 19

NONE FEBRUARY 23

NONE MARCH 16

Possible! 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

HELP NEEDED

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**



**SUNSET HERB &
GARDEN FESTIVAL
MAY 1, 2021 8 AM TO 4
PM
240 Marie Street
Sunset LA**

THE DEVENPORT REPORT:



One of the top issues that the Lafayette Parish Advisory Committee has directed me to carry out is to educate the public on the value of hiring licensed horticultural professionals. As master gardeners, you are an extension of the LSU AgCenter and help me by disseminating information to the public. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is the regulatory agency in the state through the Louisiana Horticulture Commission. The three areas that we need to be concerned with are: Landscape Horticulturist, Landscape Architects and Arborists, all of which require the passing of an exam and receiving a license. Licenses are renewed at the beginning of each year.

A licensed Landscape Horticulturist allows one to perform the installation and maintenance of plant materials in residential and commercial establishments. Maintenance practices like trimming small trees and shrubs, fertilizing, and applying mulch would fall under this license. The weeding of a flower bed would not require a license, however, if you use any pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, or herbicides), you will need to get an additional license as a Commercial Applicator's license and specializing in Ornamentals and Turf.

Landscape architects allow the license holder the right to design landscapes with both plants and constructional components and charge a fee for the plan. The test they take is a national test and is difficult to pass on one try. Land development, residential homes, and commercial businesses benefit greatly from the expertise of a licensed Landscape Architect. License holders are required to take continuing education credits annually.

Arborists are also required to take continuing education credit hours as part of their license annually. Licensed Louisiana arborist are also required to maintain liability insurance to work in the state. This insurance helps the homeowner if damage occurs on their property from falling trees or tree limbs.

By not hiring a licensed person, homeowners and businesses are taking a chance that poor installation, design, or maintenance of their property could possibly cause them to lose money. Sometimes what seems to be a great deal by someone performing a service without the proper license can become a nightmare. When that tree falls on your roof or all the plants in your new landscape need to be removed and replaced you realize that your great deal was not that great.

If you go to the LDAF website and click on Louisiana Horticulture Commission, you can go to "license and permit holders" and see who carries a license on a "parish" level. This way, you truly know if that person is current in their licensure. Also, each license holder should have a license number displayed on their vehicles or trailers for you to see clearly that they are licensed.

If you get the opportunity to educate your friends and family about the importance of hiring a licensed horticulturist, you may be saving them money and the likelihood of being totally disappointed in their endeavor.

KUDOS



Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners are a group of talented and interesting individuals. Most are retired now, but if you take the time to get to know them, “Oh the stories they could tell.”

One of our such members since 2015 is Marcella Peron. She can always be found at Festival des Fleurs manning the free tomato plants by the entrance.

Marcella gets her annual volunteer hour requirement by working at Plant Fest, Festival des Fleurs, plant sales, and propagation. Recently she has been at the cottage every Wednesday helping with snacks and information where needed.

Marcella is an army veteran who attended South Carolina State after her discharge. Upon graduation she made a road trip to visit friends in Washington, D.C. and New York. After only a few days in the big city, she realized that she loved it!

Marcella applied for jobs and soon was working in the heart of the city doing maintenance and repairs. She attended trade school with a goal of doing electrical work and later pipe fitting. She worked in many iconic buildings including the World Trade Center and the Empire State Building.

While in New York Marcella lived in a trendy Brooklyn neighborhood and saw many movies being filmed. A favorite Sunday past time was taking a run with her dog over the Brooklyn bridge to have breakfast in the city.

Being a Louisiana native, Marcella came home, where she took the electrician test and became the first woman in this area, perhaps in the state, to become licensed.

Kudos to Marcella. Thank you for your work with LPMGA.

***Call For Entries Get It Growing Gardening Calendar
DEADLINE: March 30, 2021***

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.

MARCH 2021

Plant Identification Workshops

@Allen Acres Bed & Breakfast in Pitkin, LA

Offered Mar. 16-18, Mar. 23-25, and Mar 30 - Apr 1. If you want to learn to recognize many of the herbaceous plants, trees, shrubs, vines, graminoids, and ferns, this is the workshop for you. These workshops are taught by author, botanist and moth enthusiast Dr. Charles Allen. The course includes lectures and fieldtrips, where you can see the plants in their natural environment, as well as labeled specimens in a lab setting. You will be given BRF's (Best Recognizing Features) for each plant with lots of emphasis on leaves plus other facts like use, edibility etc. During the three-day workshop, you will be exposed to more than 200 species of herbaceous plants, trees, shrubs, and vines, graminoids, and ferns plus wetland info. \$300. Accommodations and meals available for additional cost.

[Contact Dr. Allen or register online](#)



I found these newspaper pics from the 2005 Plant Sale. Mark and I had just moved to Lafayette in May 2005 and were thrilled to stumble onto the MG Sale. Thought they'd be fun to share!



Lorapetalum 2008 and 2021. This was a knee high shrub in 2005



Pictures submitted by Theresa Gore. Since they are pictures of old pictures they can not be corrected or changed.

SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight shines on Lois Manuel, master gardener class of 1999.

Lois' late husband, Maurice Manuel Jr, was a dentist who made the Air Force his career. During his service they lived in Japan. He retired as a colonel after 37 years of service, and they moved to Lafayette in 1959. He opened an office here, where he completed his 50 year career as a dentist.

After moving to Lafayette, Lois worked as a nurse at Our Lady of Lourdes. When her career ended there, she helped her husband in his dental office for 10 years.

Lois has been active in Lafayette gardening circle for over 40 years, as a member of the Lafayette Garden Club as well as a master gardener. She and her husband were accredited judges for The American Camellia Society. They were invited to judge in camellia shows all over the South, traveling from Texas to Florida. To become a camellia judge, one must attend workshops and trainings, ultimately being able to identify and grow 75 different camellia species. They were active until about 3 years ago.

Lois confesses that she is not a fan of technology. Instead she relies on her "stacks of books" and still consults with gardeners when asked.

She was recently asked by the UL Alumni Association to identify and photograph the camellias at the Alumni house on Johnston St. She is now in the middle of that process, but she is always available to Lafayette Master Gardeners to answer any questions they may have. Just look her up on the roster..

Marsha Bayer

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA'S
HISTORIC
AZALEA TRAIL
Official Azalea City
WWW.AZALEATRIL.ORG

TROLLEY RIDES
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021
HISTORIC AND
GARDEN DISTRICTS

BEAUTIFUL
MUSEUMS, HISTORIC HOMES,
CHURCHES, AND SCHOOLS
RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING
ARTS, AND MUSIC

AZALEA SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF LAFAYETTE

The Azalea Trail Committee would like to announce that Lafayette's Azalea Trail will be partnering with Preservation Alliance of Lafayette in promoting the trail and historic properties. Further beautification efforts will continue as they revitalize the grounds of historic homes and buildings along the historic azalea trail



MR. MCGREGOR'S GARDEN BY LYNN DUBOIS

This demonstration bed is named after Michael McGregor, the Scottish horticulturist/gardening in *The Tail Of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrice Potter. It is part of the children's garden.

My goal at first was to get lots of beautiful vegetables growing healthily within a few weeks span of time. To do this I decided to do three things I had never done in a vegetable garden before.

1. Transplant vegetables from various established gardens and compost bins.
2. Buy root crops from Saturday morning Farmers Markets to transplant.
3. Start seeds in seed trays.

It was an experiment to say the least, but it worked!

The collards and tabasco plant came from my own garden, and the cilantro came from a friends compost bin. From Saturday farmers market I purchased my root crops: radish, carrots and turnips. I chose plants with lots of roots and the tops were still green. All root crops were soaked in water for 24 hours prior to my planting them. All the plants suffered transplant shock, so I cut them down to about 1/2 size and they all survived. For the first time I seeded my own spinach plants in trays. Finally, I purchased several types of lettuce, including mizuna lettuce, and ornamental kale.

Green cabbage is okay, red cabbage did not make a head. But it is still there! The mizuna is doing great. Of the three lettuce types the red is doing fine, the Romain is going to head and the third lettuce turned out to be dinosaur kale.

The ornamental kale is the only thing I use chemicals on, it is not for consumption.

My spring garden goals are to plant more plants from seeds and having lots of colorful vegetables in my bed. Thus far I have purchased these colorful seeds to plant: Red Giant Mustard, Early Wonder Beets, Martian Jewel Sweet Corn, and Cayenne Blend Pepper Chile.

I want to add some perennials and I would welcome your suggestions. **ALL SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!**

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT

Hope everyone is enjoying the new year and is looking forward to wonderful Spring. A very sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support and participation during these challenging times. Let's hope that we're back to normal soon.

I've been in contact with our State Louisiana Master Gardener Coordinator about the issues with our recording system and problems our members had with recording hours in 2021.

The IT department is currently working to identify recording problems and their source. They are monitoring the system and working on updates. Your patience while the system is being worked on is greatly appreciated. Please continue to record your hours online, but I would strongly suggest that MGs also keep a written record of their hours.

So far there are no changes to the reduced Volunteer/CE 20-hour requirement. If there are any updates the membership will be notified as soon as possible. The 20 hours may be made up of any combination of CE and/or Volunteer hours.

If you experience any problems recording hours, or have any questions about the recording system or your hours, please contact Louann Long at mglouann@gmail.com or (337) 501-799.

When you finish logging your hours remember to log out of the site! Not logging off could cause the system to not recognize your submission.

2021 Service Hour Totals	2021 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CE HOUR REPORT FEB 1-FEB 22			
	Activity Hours Totals By Details Report	Jan	Feb	YTD
Total Hrs 373.95				
Total Vol Hrs 262.20	4H & Other Youth Activities	0	0	0
Total CE Hrs 111.75	Attending Bus/Admin Meetings	6.25	2	8.25
Ind Contacts 330	Civic & Community	112.70	76.75	206.95
Total Contacts 1867	Continuing Education	8	0	8
Mileage 2221.6	Extension Activities	29	8	37
Expenses 1598.80	LMG Teaching Activities	2	0	2
	CE Totals Vol Hrs Summary Report	79.25	29.5	111.75
	Volunteer Totals Vol Hrs Summary Report	157.95	86.75	262.20

Updated 2/22/2021. 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.

2020 Year To Date Service Hour Totals Reports	FOR COMPARISON: 2020 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CONTINUING EDUCATION HOUR REPORT JAN 1-DECEMBER 31 2020													
	REDUCED REQUIREMENT 2020: 20 hours total of any combination of Volunteer and/or Continuing Education hours were required.													
Activity Hours Totals By Details Report	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	
Total Hrs 7583.31	93.7	98.5	12.5	9	8	42	12.5	10	0	0	0	3	409	
Total Vol Hrs 5533.15	23.5	16.5	17.75	0	0	25.2	0	15.5	15.95	0	4	90.75	240.6	
Total CE Hrs 2050.16	293	181.25	192.5	6.5	5.5	24.5	164.25	106	192.75	166.0	49	435.5	3543.75	
Individual Contacts 7780	0	2	4.5	0	0	0	0	0	3.25	0	0	0	32.75	
Total Contacts 99485	50.5	45.5	48	13	20	14.5	75.5	124	125	29	34.6	201.5	1064.6	
Mileage 22967.15	18.5	33	23.7	0	0	30	8	3	6	1	0	5	238.45	
Expenses 1612.50	479.2	376.75	298.95	28.5	33.5	136.2	140.92	262.50	342.95	196.0	87.6	735.75	5533.15	
	90.45	98.2	45.78	17.5	4	120.6	260.25	125.05	65.75	72.5	65.25	418.40	2050.16	



LPMGA 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A VERY INTERESTING OFFER !

The Livestock show has come and gone from Blackham Coliseum, but left behind an interesting opportunity for those of you who have a need for FREE compost.

The show uses wood shavings and hay as a bedding material for the livestock. They now have a bit of a pile of manure, wood shavings and hay all mixed together.

They have reached out to the LPMGA to see if anyone would be interested in taking some of the raw compost off their hands. They will provide a loader and load it on YOUR trailer or truck bed for you to take home,

The contact is Stan Dutile. If interested please **call 337-654-2642** to let him know you would like to participate in this compost give a way. If they get enough people who indicate an interest, they will set up a date and time for you to go by and pickup the compost. YOU MUST CALL SOON, as they will dispose of it another way if we are not interested.

Blackham Coliseum is located at 2330 Johnston Street.

Opportunity For Volunteer Hours

Ira Nelson Horticultural Center needs help from time to time at their greenhouses. Billy and Christy take care of most of what needs to be done around the greenhouses, but there is just so much to do!

I am helping right now in the orchid greenhouse repotting their sizable collection of orchids. I would like to have all orchids repotted before the March LSHR MEETING. To achieve this I need at least one more pair of hands. This is a safe, calm, pleasant working environment.

There will be future need for help dividing other collections and repotting the plants. They would like a small handful of folks willing to assist them when these projects arise.

I have received the OK from the LPMGA Board to allow this project to receive volunteer hours for work done at the greenhouses.

If you are interested please contact Mary Gladney at 337-278-7668 or email me at mgladney@cox.net.

MESSAGE FROM JUAN NIETO



Greetings Fellow Master Gardeners

Just wanted to say thanks for voting for the board members, We can now get back to work on some issues that need addressing. Thank you Louann for staying and helping us, as well as the rest of the board. Congrats to our new President. I also wanted to mention that I have taken my first vaccine. The process at the Heymann was highly organized. I will take my second shot at the beginning of March.

At the greenhouse we have taken a soil sample on the perennial bed before turning the ground over and adding some Happy Gro compost to it. We are waiting on the soil analysis before doing anything else. Our group has been working on putting together a list of plant for the bed. We still have to straighten out the bricks around the bed and try to wash and paint that side of the greenhouse. All this came to a halt due to the cold weather. We look forward to seeing you in the near future. In the meantime please stay safe. jfn2854@gmail.com text 337 290-1451

Juan Nieto



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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MARCH CALENDER

- LPMGA Board Meeting **March 16th**, Ira Nelson
- Blueberry Festival, March 6 2021
213 Park Dr., Covington
- March 6, 2021 Azalea Trail Trolley Rides
- Shadows arts and Craft Fair
March 6 to October 2, 2021
Saturdays
317 E. Main Street New Iberia
- **LPMGA VIRTUAL PLANT SALE APRIL 17TH**
- Lafayette Garden Club Show April 17 Ira Nelson Horticultural Center
- 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:

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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.