

## LPMGA MAY GENERAL MEETING

## SPRING SOCIAL

5:30 PM WEDNESDAY

MAY 3RD

AT THE HOME OF

LORRAINE ALLAIN

1101 ROSELAWN DR,

LAFAYETTE

## 2017 LPMGA MAY BOARD MEETING

1 PM MONDAY, MAY 22ND

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE CENTER (INHC)

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### 2017 BOARD:

#### President

Charles Turner 2014

#### Vice President

Mary Ann Armbruster 2010

#### Recording Secretary

Rene Prejean 2014

#### Corresponding Secretary

Cindy Wiley 2005

#### Treasurer

Debbie Garrene 2015

#### Member at Large

Lorraine Allain 2013

#### Prior President

Linda Beyt 2012

#### Agent/Adviser

Dan Devenport

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Jay Ruffin, Jr. 2012

#### Newsletter Editor

Theresa Rohloff 2012

## 2017 MASTER GARDENER CLASS APPLICATIONS DEADLINE MAY 31ST

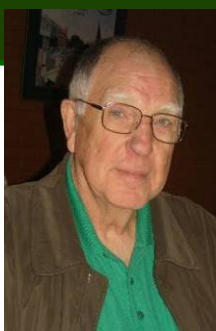
Applications for the 2017 Louisiana Master Gardener Class will be accepted, in-person or by mail, at the LSU AgCenter office in Lafayette.

*The deadline for applications to be received at the office is May 31st.*

Classes are scheduled to take place from 8:45-3pm on Thursdays, beginning on August 10th and ending on November 16th, 2017, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center.

Application forms are available at the LPMGA website [www.lpmga.org](http://www.lpmga.org) and the LSU AgCenter Office 1010 Lafayette Street, Ste 325, Lafayette 70501.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LPMGA President  
Charles Turner

April has been a **very** busy month for LPMGA. Festival des Fleurs Acadiane, Southern Garden Festival, April Garden Talks, Spring Plant Swap and our Plant Sale were just some of our April events. We need to thank all the volunteers who made them the successes they were.

There will be no rest for the Propagation Committee, as they have already begun preparing for Plant Fest.

The Vegetable Garden Committee has been working hard getting the spring plants in the ground. They have a new concept, where each person has a small part to the garden where they can plant what they want, within certain guidelines. We have noticed that this has increased interest in the garden.

Be sure to take some time to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather, and the company of our fellow Master Gardeners, at our Spring Social, May 3rd.

*Charles Turner*

## BIEDENHARN FIELD TRIP



On April 20th, 15 intrepid Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners left on the last field trip for Spring 2017.

After an enjoyable tour of the Landry Winery in West Monroe, a great suggestion from Agent Dan Devenport, the group spent a restful evening at the Courtyard by Marriot.

On Friday they attended the Biedenharn Spring Garden Symposium, where featured speakers included Peggy Martin, Jim Long

of Long Creek Herb Farm, and Brandon Welborn on Floral Design. Of course the group had to check out the Plant Sale, which was described as "excellent." Many of the group stuffed cars full with some of the many interesting and unusual plants offered by vendors such as the LA Tech Greenhouse and Monroe Garden Study League.

A great time was had by all during this finale to the Spring Field Trip Season.

**HEADS UP- A Fall Field Trip survey will be emailed out to our membership shortly. Be sure to vote for your choice of destination, and then sign up to join the fun.**

## EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2017 LPMGA MEETINGS

(First Wednesday  
Except in July)  
Daytime—noon  
Evening—6 pm

MAY 3, 6 pm (Social)

JUNE 7, Noon

AUGUST 2, Noon

SEPTEMBER 6, 6 pm

OCTOBER 4, Noon

NOVEMBER 1, 6 pm

DECEMBER 6, 6 pm  
(Social)

2017 LPMGA  
BOARD MEETINGS

1 pm

(Fourth Monday except for  
July & Dec.)

MAY 22

JUNE 26

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

DECEMBER 18

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Master Gardener Service Hours:

The board has approved service hours for volunteer work performed while helping to revitalize gardens at LARC's Acadian Village 200 Greenleaf Dr.,

Lafayette.

Contact MGs Flo Sizemore or Louann Long for more details or to volunteer for upcoming work days.

*LPMGA Spring Social May 3rd*

**Wednesday, May 3rd from 5:30-7pm  
at the home of Lorraine Allain  
1101 Roselawn Drive, Lafayette**

## DON'T MISS OUT- Update Your Contact Info

*Moved? Have a new phone or email?*

Send Corresponding Secretary Cindy Wiley your new contact information to have it included in the LPMGA Roster.

Also, remember to update your "Profile" information when you record your volunteer hours at [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

## THE DEVENPORT REPORT

## BOTTLEBRUSH BRANCHES DYING ON YOUR TREES?



Our office has been receiving many calls about branches on their bottlebrush trees dying. This damage was caused by the two days of cold weather we received this past winter. In a normal winter, plants begin to harden-off by being exposed to gradual colder temperature over the winter months. This was an extremely warm winter and plants never hardened-off enough to withstand the lower 20-degree temperatures they were exposed to on those two nights.

If you go out and look at the bark on your bottlebrush trees, you will more than likely find splits in many areas. This damage is causing your branches to yellow and turn brown. You should prune out the dead wood and pamper your trees by watering them when dry and using a water soluble fertilizer once every two weeks according to label directions. This alone may not completely fix the problem and you may need prune your trees back more than you realize. The older wood near the base of the plant may have withstood the colder temperatures and you may notice many sprouts arising from that area. In that case, you may want to prune the plants back and allow your trees to start from there. Remember you have a plant with an extensive root system that was not damaged, these new shoots should grow quickly for you, and you will need to prune and shape your trees accordingly. If you have any questions, you can call your local extension service: Lafayette Parish 291-7090 or Vermilion Parish 898-4335.

*LSU Horticulture Agent Lafayette/Vermilion Dan Devenport*



# Volunteer To Make D.R.E.A.M.S. Come True



D.R.E.A.M.S. Gardening is an 8-week camp where disabled students can learn about gardening and the environment. Each participant will have a helper accompany them. Classes are held on Tuesdays, through May 23 at Ira Nelson from 1:00-2:00pm (excluding May 2nd).

Each Tuesday, students will cover a different topic by using hands-on lessons. Volunteers are needed to help with teaching those lessons.

Volunteers do not have to commit to every class. The program is based on the JMG Program.

If you are interested in helping with the camp, please contact Candy Bienvenu at

[bienvecj1@yahoo.com](mailto:bienvecj1@yahoo.com) or 337-241-9456.

## PROGRAM FOR D.R.E.A.M.S. GARDENING FOR MAY (BASED ON JMG PROGRAM)

**MAY 9, 2017 CLASS 6: MY PLATE**  
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOLS DIETITIAN-CELESTE HAY

**MAY 16, 2017 CLASS 7: LEARNING YOUR ABP'S ANNUALS, BIENNIALS AND PERENNIALS. MAKE A COLLAGE OF ALL THREE TYPES OF PLANTS. VEGETABLES AND HERBS, SOME LIKE IT HOT AND SOME LIKE IT COLD, SEED BANK**

**MAY 23, 2017 CLASS 8: LIFE SKILLS**  
**WHAT ARE YOU LIKE.**

# May Garden Talks

## On Saturday, May 13th, it's a Garden Talk Triple-Header

Join MGs Stacy Lee and Jacob Williams at the Farmers Market at the Horse Farm where Stacy will discuss "Growing Herbs", and Jacob will present "Cooking With Herbs." The Talks will begin at 11am.

The Farmers Market at the Horse Farm is located at 2913 Johnston Street, at Moncus Park in Lafayette.

Across town, MG Tommy Hayes will be at the Home Depot in Broussard, discussing "Soil" at 10 am. The Home Depot is at 213 St. Nazaire Road, next to WalMart.

A speaker is needed for a Talk at All Seasons Nursery at 10am on May 20th.

Contact Juan Nieto or Linda Beyt for more information on our Garden Talks, or to volunteer to help out.



Garden Talks at the  
Farmers Market



Garden Talks earn one hour of Continuing Education



# MAY GARDEN STROLL SCHEDULE

Enjoy the beautiful Spring weather and the company of fellow garden enthusiasts with a stroll around the gardens featured as our May Garden Strolls.

On Saturday, May 6th, from 9am to noon, enjoy the gardens of MG Lisa Boudreaux 214 Louis Drive, Lafayette.

Also on from 9am to noon on May 6th, take a tour of the gardens of Ryan Hornbeck at 425 W. St Joesph, Lafayette.. The Hornbecks grow lavender and other plants that they use for their business Agua De Flora Botanical Perfumery.

On Saturday, May 20th, from 9am to 11am, we are invited to view Melissa Fournet's gardens, 104 Kensington Dr, Lafayette.

More Garden Strolls have been lined up for the coming months, and details will be emailed to our members.

If you are interested in hosting a Garden Stroll, or in volunteering to help organize them, the Garden Stroll Committee is meeting at the home of Cindy Wiley on Tuesday, May 2nd at 10am. Contact Cindy for more information.



## *New Accomodations Available For The Fairy Folk*

*"It is frightfully difficult to know much about the fairies, and almost the only thing for certain is that there are fairies wherever there are children." J M Barrie*

Thanks to Cindy Jensen and her hard working crew, the Demo Bed Fairies will have a new place to call home.

## Gardening Online

### Online Resources For Gardening Information

With the heat of summer fast approaching, many of us will be spending time sipping a cold drink at the computer, searching for our next favorite plant, sources for specific seeds, or information on what ever our individual interests or needs may be. There is a vast amount of sites for gardeners, here are a few to check out:

The National Tropical Botanical Garden is a non-profit network of gardens and preserves in Hawaii and Florida. Their mission includes goals of conservation, research and education. The searchable Herbarium has information on plants in the collection.

[www.ntbg.org](http://www.ntbg.org)

PlantNative has a handy, very basic list for residential or commercial landscapers describing varieties of native trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses and ferns. The list is by region, and can help with identifying natives by common and their botanical names.

[www.plantnative.org](http://www.plantnative.org)

## AZALEA TRAIL A Beautiful Redux



*Scenic Lafayette would like to say thank our Master Gardener volunteers and all those who made Azalea Trail Day a huge success.*

*To learn more about the history and future, of the trail, and how you can get involved  
Visit [sceniclafayette.com](http://sceniclafayette.com)*

## AVEC SOUCI

Thanks to all those who attended Avec Souci's Garden Tours. The money raised from the tours helps to fund several local charities.

A very special thank you to all the Master Gardeners who volunteered to help at the homes being toured, and who helped make the Demo Beds shine.

Photos Courtesy Avec Souci



MGs Anita Petitjean, Jeanell Menard with Paula Dronet



Home of Marshall Monier



MGs Ellen Garacci and Yvette Nevitt

MG Denise Chapman and June Deballion on tour



## RIDGE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR

Students involved with the School Garden at Ridge Elementary enjoyed a sweet treat, tasting some of the strawberries they planted in November. They picked a few ripe ones as we were touring the garden after our School Garden Initiative meeting.



These fourth graders are in their first year with the SGI program. In the 2 photos to the right, the student ambassadors are shown cleaning the garden after the freeze in January. Because of the location of their garden (somewhat protected by buildings) the garden survived the freeze better than we thought it would.

Dean Kopfler and Mary Waguespack



I'm a tree/fruit native to parts of South and

## What Plant Am I?

Southeast Asia, well suited to tropical low-lands. My fruit is the largest tree-born fruit and can weigh up to 80 pounds, with a length of 35 inches and 20 inches in diameter. Each tree can produce from 100 to 200 fruits per year.

I am widely cultivated, and popular throughout tropical regions of the world, and I am the national fruit of Bangladesh. I have been cultivated in India for 6000 years. All parts of me are used: fruit, which can be eaten fresh, dried and ground into powder for curries, or cooked as a sweet dessert.

The raw flesh of my fruit smells like mango, bananas, and pineapple, and is a rich source of Vitamin B6, with lesser amounts of Vitamin C and Potassium.

I require minimal pruning. Twigs bearing fruit must be cut or twisted down to the trunk to induce fruit for the next season. When my fruit is green or unripe, it has an entirely different consistency, which some say tastes like pulled pork.

My wood is used for making furniture, musical instruments, and for carving statues.

Do you know what Plant I am?

*See Page 6 for the Answer*

## Blooms To View

## BLOOMS ARE BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER

This time of year there are hundreds of places celebrating the Spring, and awaiting the Summer, bloom season. Listed here are a few local and nearby places to view nature at its best.

Contact information is provided to verify hours and days, check what's in bloom, and to see what events are coming up.

### Hodges Gardens State Park

1000 Hodges Loop Florien LA (800) 354-3523

### Gardens of the American Rose Society Education Center

8877 Jefferson Paige Rd Shreveport LA (318) 938-5534

### Louisiana State Arboretum

4213 Chicot Park Rd Ville Platte LA (337) 363-6289

### Cohn Arboretum

Baton Rouge (225) 775-6289

### RW Norton Art Gallery and Gardens

4747 Creswell Shreveport LA (318) 865-4201

### Victoria Park Rose Gardens

404 Crestlawn Dr Lafayette LA (337) 984-4324

### New Iberia Rose Garden

148 Main St New Iberia (337) 367-1552

### Botanical Gardens City Park

1 Palm Dr New Orleans  
[www.garden.neworleanscitypark.org](http://www.garden.neworleanscitypark.org) (504) 483-9386

### LSU Research Center

21549 Old Covington Hwy  
Regina Bracy (985) 543-4125 [rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rbracy@agcenter.lsu.edu)

### LSU Hilltop Arboretum

11855 Highland Rd Baton Rouge (225) 767-6916

[www.brec.org](http://www.brec.org) or [www.hilltop.lsu.edu](http://www.hilltop.lsu.edu)

### LSU Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens

4650 Essen Lane Baton Rouge (225) 765-2437



# GOING GREEN Organic Gardening 101

## MAKING COMPOST TEA

One of the most useful organic products for your garden is compost tea. It is a fertilizer, fungicide, and insecticide all rolled into one. It can be used as a foliar fertilizer spray or as a soil drench. Although it is called compost tea, the ingredients can include a lot more than compost. Molasses, seaweed, and fish emulsion fertilizer are often used in addition to compost. Homemade compost is preferred, but bagged cotton burr compost (not the acidified version) or earthworm castings can be substituted.

To make compost tea all you need to do is steep the compost in a bucket of water for 1-2 days. A good rule of thumb is to fill your container, whatever size you have, about one half full with compost, and then fill it up with water. You should use rainwater or de-chlorinated water so you don't kill the good microorganisms in the tea before you start. Next, add 2 ounces each of unsulphured organic molasses, liquid seaweed, or fish emulsion to the mixture (for a 5 gallon container). Molasses provides food for microorganisms and is a source of carbon, sulfur, and potash. The seaweed will also help control spider mites and whiteflies. The fish emulsion is a source of protein that increases the fungal activity in the tea. Aeration via an aquarium air stone is suggested by some, but you can stir the bucket several times a day to keep oxygen in the mixture. Aeration encourages more beneficial bacteria and fungi in the mixture.

When the time is up, strain out the compost using cheesecloth or your old pantyhose. How much to dilute the tea depends on what kind of compost you used. You can use 1 part compost tea to 4 to 10 parts water. Put it in your sprayer, and spray your plants. Or you can dilute it the same way, and drench the soil around your plants in the garden or in pots.

Use this mixture monthly and you should see great results in your garden. If nothing else, you will increase the bioactivity in your soil, and encourage healthy plants and soil. Happy gardening!

Credit to Howard Garrett (The Dirt Doctor) and his book, Texas Gardening the Natural Way.

Jeanne Plaisance, EarthShare Garden

Reprinted by request



## Thanks!

Thanks to Past and Present  
Propagation Princesses, Becky  
Taylor and Heather Warner-  
Finley, for leading us once again  
to a very successful plant sale.

*The Propagation Team*

## THANKS FDF VOLUNTEERS

A very special thank to all the Master  
Gardener volunteers for all their hard work  
helping to make Festival des Fleurs  
Acadiane a success.



## Team Cindy At Festival Des Fleurs



How many Cindys does it take to make Team Cindy?  
Cindy Hamilton, Cindy Risinger, Cindy Wiley, Cindy  
Walton all worked the same booth at Festival des Fleurs.

## What Plant Am? Answer

I'm Artocarpus  
heterophyllus: Jack Fruit



# Watering Wisely

## Creating and Using Ollas

An olla (pronounced oy-ya) is an unglazed pot that is buried under ground in garden areas and then filled with water to create a watering system for plant roots. The water seeps through the porous clay material and keeps the surrounding area, and roots, moist. Ollas have been used since ancient times as refrigeration units. An unglazed pot is filled with water and hung up. As the water permeates the clay pot it evaporates, creating a cool container for milk and other foods.

No water is lost to evaporation or overwatering by using an underground olla. Since plants are not being sprayed, there is less chance of disease or fungal growth because the plant itself remains dry.

Ollas may be purchased from online retailers, but making one is relatively simple.

Purchase an unglazed clay pot and tray. Check to make sure the tray fits closely around the top of the pot.

Place the tray on the top of the pot, over the opening, and seal around the pot with caulk or silicone sealant.

Let dry. Fill with water to check for leaks. Reseal if needed, let dry.

Bury the olla upside down with the tray at the bottom and the drainage hole up. Bury the pot so that the hole is at the soil surface. Fill the pot with water (Use taller pots for plants with deep roots, shorter pots for plants with shallow roots.)

Another option is to use two pots of the same size, seal the drain hole of one with caulk and a piece of tile or flat rock, seal the pots together to form a "jar" and bury with the open drain hole up.

After filling the olla, cover the opening with a flat rock, golf ball, or a decorative ball to keep mosquitoes and other critters out. Check the water level every week, and refill as needed.



## It's Not Always About Plants...

Our MGs had an opportunity to prove they are stewards of nature in all its forms as we gathered to set up for our recent plant sale. Imagine our surprise as we sat in the cottage to discuss logistics when a **DUCK** strolled

in followed by six baby chicks (ducklets?!). Efforts ensued to get the duck out of the cottage (since we all know what birds do when confined ...can you say *POOP*?) Momma flew out but we were left with the dilemma of the ducklets hidden in the closet amongst the garden paraphernalia. We finally got them out of the cottage with the hopes they would find their momma. Unfortunately they scattered and we were left with the task of herding them much like trying to gather BBs in a moving boxcar. After almost an hour of chasing the frantic chicks, who repelled our frantic efforts to save them, they were captured (Juan on his knees under the ligustrums is unfortunately lost to history since we have no pics) and placed in one of our box planters with the hopes that Momma Duck would find them. Momma returned, having heard the chirps of her babies, and we were able to get two of the chicks returned to her before they waddled down the driveway and disappeared. The remaining four baby ducks were in safe care, under cover and with our added water. Several hours later MGs spotted Momma behind the shade house and released the four remaining babies who quickly raced to rejoin their family. Time for set up was lost, but for a higher objective. Great job guys!

*-Becky Taylor*

## LARC'S ACADIAN VILLAGE PROJECT



Master Gardener volunteers have become involved with the revitalization of the gardens at LARC's Acadian Village, and Volunteer Hours have been approved.

If you would like to help bring back the garden, are interested in Native Plants, Historic Gardens, Azaleas, Heirloom Roses or just want to get your hands in the dirt, please contact Flo Sizemore or Louann Long for more information on Volunteer opportunities. Planning, fundraising and plant donations will be ongoing through the Summer, with a major work day planned for the Fall. For more info on scheduled work days, or to get involved with planning, please contact MGs Flo Sizemore or Louann Long



for the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site at [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)



LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325  
Lafayette, LA 70501-6884

## LPMGA CALENDAR MAY 2017

- May 3: LPMGA Spring Social 5:30pm Home of Lorraine Allain  
May 6: Sunset Herb and Garden Festival Sunset, LA 9-4pm  
May 6: Garden Stroll 9-Noon Home of Lisa Boudreau  
May 6: Garden Stroll 9-Noon Home of Ryan Hornbeck  
May 13: Garden Talk Broussard Home Depot 10am Tommy Hayes "Soil"  
May 13: Garden Talk Horse Farm 11am Stacy Lee & Jacob Williams "Herbs"  
May 13: New Orleans Botanical Garden Plant Sale (504) 483-9471  
May 20: Garden Stroll 9-11 Home of Melissa Fournet  
May 20: Garden Talk All Seasons Nursery Topic TBD  
May 22: LPMGA Board Meeting-1pm Ira Nelson Horticulture Center  
May 31: Deadline for MG Class Applications  
June 3: Daylily Festival Abbeville  
June 7: LPMGA General Meeting Downtown Library Noon  
June 26: LPMGA Board Meeting-1pm Ira Nelson Horticulture Center

*Please note that there are no General or Board meetings in July*

*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 Theresa Rohloff [newsletter@lpmga.org](mailto:newsletter@lpmga.org)

LPMGA Website: [www.lpmga.org](http://www.lpmga.org)

Like Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners on Facebook

The Master Gardener program is a division of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Agency and can be contacted at:

1010 Lafayette Street/Suite 325, Lafayette, LA 70501

Telephone (337) 291-7090 Fax (337) 291-7099

The Web site is [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://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 at 337-291-7090

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

**EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE-BRING YOUR REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE TO MASTER GARDENER FUNCTIONS!**