

LPMGA SOCIAL

MAY 5th

5:30 –7:30 pm

Acadian Village

Pavilion

LPMGA Board

Meeting

MAY 18, 1 PM

IRA NELSON

2206 JOHNSTON ST.

♦

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President's Message

Greetings Gardeners!

Well....just about when you think spring has sprung....it turns 45 degrees again! Fortunately all of the plant survivors from the freeze are taking it in stride, and we have a big green-up and bloom-out going on.

We were able to get together for a general meeting for the first time in a long time in March. It was at Acadian Village in their big covered area and it was great to see everyone again! We will be having our May social there too. I'm looking forward to it!

Our plant sale pick-up is April 24 at Ira Nelson from 9 to 2. It looks like we sold just about everything we had, so that will help replenish our depleted coffers. A big thanks is due to our propagation team and their sales support team! They've been working hard to get ready for this including a lot of work propagating our plants, and getting the on-line catalogs and sales systems ready to go. And they will be doing so again almost immediately, to get ready for our fall sale. Their efforts fund most of our other activities and we really appreciate them.

Some of our demo beds are getting new owners and a refresh too. We need more helpers for our orphaned beds! Join up with another person or group of persons and come on out! If you can't come on Wednesday morning, the beds can be worked on at almost any time that is convenient to you. These beds are our face to the public and to our supporters and sponsors in many ways. It's important for them to look nice.

A special invitation goes out to our MG class of 2019. Due to the pandemic they had a hard time getting their certification hours done, but the timing for this has been extended to the end of 2021. We'd love to see you, and have plenty of experienced hands available to help you get started and keep going.

Happy gardening and hope to see you all at our various activities soon!

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

NONE JANUARY 19

NONE FEBRUARY 23

NONE MARCH 16

APRIL 7 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

WHAT PLANT AM I

I'm a large shrub or small tree native to eastern Asia which is widely grown in Zones 9 and 10 in the United States, especially in Florida. My growth rate is moderate. I'm oval to rounded and symmetrical with dense foliage, and am mainly thornless. My beautiful dark green and glossy leaves are used for decorating homes at Christmas time. In March and April, I put forth small white flowers which are fragrant. I may be hybridized with limes, mandarin oranges and other citrus fruits.

But my main reason for cultivation is my fruit. One of my varieties has sweet skin and tart pulp. Another has tart skin and sweet pulp, and a third has sweet pulp and skin. All may be made into jams and marmalade, candied, or preserved with salt. My puree is used in cakes, pies, and other recipes in which citrus fruits are used.

Do you know what plant I am?

***Say your prayers in a garden early, ignoring steadfastly the dew, the birds and flowers, and you will come away overwhelmed by its freshness and joy; go there in order to be overwhelmed. C.S. Lewis**

THE DEVENPORT REPORT:



Do not Ignore Guyed Trees In The Landscape

As gardeners, we plant trees in our yards or landscapes and many times we do not stake or guy them. However, certain conditions often require us to stake or guy the trees to keep them straight and prevent them from blowing over in high winds, especially during hurricane season. Reasons you may want to stake or guy a tree are:

1. They are planted in loose, light weight soils not in heavier clay type soils.
2. They have too much weight or head area for the number of roots they have.
3. They are planted in areas where high winds are prevalent.
4. They are planted in public areas, parks. and schools and could be damaged more easily.

There are many types of guying materials out there and methods of staking. In my nursery, we sold staking kits that included wooden stakes and nylon rope and trunk protection pieces. For many of us, we find things around the house for guying and staking purposes. A roll of wire, old garden hose and 2X4's that we cut the ends into a point are all we need. Turnbuckles are often used on the guying wires that help to facilitate the tightening of the guying wires more easily to help keep the tree straight until it is rooted out. Other staking materials for larger trees can include "tee" posts set straight into the ground, and wires and bark protection are used around the trunk. Wires, ropes, or other materials may be used if they are strong enough to support the tree during wind events. The point of attachment of these materials to the tree usually depends on the branching of the tree and the size of the canopy that should be located between 1/3 and 2/3's of the overall height of the tree. Where this attachment on the tree is determined, it should not cause a bind on the tree or damage the trunk, allowing for future growth and development. Guying materials should always be kept taut on all sides of the tree and should be checked OFTEN, several times during the year. In our area where we get thunderstorms with high winds or high winds associated with tropical storms and hurricanes, you should check your trees immediately after the event. The time to remove staking is when you can push on the trunk of the tree and you do not notice any movement of the roots. Staking materials are generally removed about a year after planting the tree.

The problem you run into is when you do not check your trees after planting them. Many people leave the staking materials on the trees too long, and that is when damage occurs. Recently, I received a call from someone that found out the hard way that she did not look after her tree as well as she could have. Below is a photo of the bark of the tree where wire was pulled out of the bark and this is what was left behind.



It is difficult to know how or even if this tree will heal. Some reports say that if only half of the circumference is affected, the tree usually makes it. Wires cut the flow of water and food in the plant and the tops of the trees often drop leaves and eventually the whole top dies out. Another issue is that this point is weakened, and a strong wind can easily cause the top of the tree to break at that point.

Below are a couple of things that when attached tightly around the bark of a plant, over time can do the same amount of damage to your plant as wire.

So, be careful and observe your trees and shrubbery in the landscape to help prevent damage that may be irreversible.



Dan Devenport

KUDOS

HEATHER WARNER-FINLEY

Neither rain nor freeze nor sleet nor quarantine will stay this Master Gardener from the swift completion of her appointed duties. (With apologies to the USPS.) This certainly does sum up the past year for our intrepid Propagation Chairman. Always calm and optimistic, she has made the tough calls and gotten us through a year of ups and downs and then some more downs to reach our intended goal: TWO successful online plant sales.

Heather is a member of the MG class in 2012, has been a professor of Introductory Plant Science at ULL, completed the Advanced Master Gardener Program, is active in the Acadiana Native Plant Project (ANPP), and is a member of the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association. In addition to representing LPMGA in the community, Bill and Heather also found time to build a house. Whew!

Thanks, from all of us, Heather Warner-Finley. JOB WELL DONE!

SUNSET HERB AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

MAY 1 2021

8 AM TO 4 PM

<http://www.sunsetherbfestival.com/>

The *Sunset Garden Club* has continued to impress garden enthusiasts with a wide selection of plants and herbs for over twenty years through the [Annual Celebration of Herbs & Gardens](#) in Sunset, Louisiana. The event is a great opportunity to step outside with your kids, friends, or even spend an afternoon with Mom and Dad. Vendors specialize in a variety of plants and can answer your questions about growing and cultivation. These include hibiscus, grasses, fruit trees, bromeliads, orchids, ferns, succulents, roses, and a whole lot more. Master Gardeners are also on site and will present informative presentations with time for a Q&A .

CONGRATULATIONS FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO LPMGA

Each member has made considerable contributions to the club in those 20 years. Rosemary is a constant at propagation and helps with the gardens weekly. Jeanell has been a member of the board, served on a number of advisory committees, worked in propagation (she developed the Ornamental Grass Bed), and much more. Patricia was class coordinator for a number of years and served on the board a number of years. All of these ladies have contributed more than I can list. They were presented with a gift basket.



Rosemary Funk

NOT SHOW PATRICIA
SOILEAU



Jeanell Menard

WHAT PLANT AM I



Fortunella : Kumquat

Note: The two most common varieties in the U.S. are Nagami (*Fortunella margarita*) and Meiwa (*Fortunella crassifolia*).

THE RUSTY TRIKE BY BECKY TAYLOR

There's a place in my garden I've named "Poison Ivy Hill" because that's mainly what grows there. A high berm under oak trees, not much thrives except for this noxious weed and wild honeysuckle, along with a nice stand of spiderwort and a glorious Lonicera fragrantissima that has found it's rightful home after three previous failures. Perched among this wildness is a rusty tricycle, handlebars askew as if a child had just jumped off after being called in to supper.

The tricycle is one of my favorite pieces of garden art, partly because it was given to me by my niece Dawn, who happened upon a garage sale where this totally useless child's toy was offered. She refused to pay the \$5 price but said if the lady wanted to give it away she knew somebody who would like it. Striking a bargain (free) she carted the trike back from her home in Austin, Texas for me. I was especially touched by her gift because, while I love Dawn as I know she does me, we were never particularly close (she is a little too wild according to my narrow, conservative views on child-rearing, and me a little too structured for her free-spirit.)

That rusty old trike gets more dilapidated each year as it sits on Poison Ivy Hill, but I hope to never get rid of it. It testifies to the strength of our ties to family; it stands as a memorial of the children I raised; and it whispers the hope of grandchildren to come. Just as the poison ivy twists over and under the wheel spokes and the wild honeysuckle tendrils wrap the handlebars, so too is my life intertwined with that rusty trike.

Dawn, now a happily married mother, tells me with her gift that our gardens are our histories. I once heard someone say, "Our souls are in the soil." And our gardens are the mirrors that project our souls to others. Whatever glories we achieve through our plantings are merely reminders of our past, reflections of our present and promises of our future. *That*, my friends, is why we garden.



Here is the first bloom of one of the varieties of Louisiana irises provided for my new "native prairie bed" by Urban Naturalist Marcus Descant. He installed the bed in my west-facing front yard in January 2019. As with this cultivar, most of the irises did not bloom until this year. The bed is a space that receives a lot of harsh afternoon sun and extremes of wet and dry, often in succession. I had not had much success with previous attempts to plant there, so I was a little skeptical, but the native species he recommended, which include loads of irises, blanket flower and echinacea, as well as rattlesnake master, bee balm, rosin weed, swamp milkweed and gaura. These are now a flourishing haven for bees and butterflies. Yeah, natives—particularly for those trouble spots in your yard.

Submitted by Amanda LaFleur

Outstanding Master Gardeners



Judy Corne (left) and Gail Wakefield (right) were chosen as our Outstanding Master Gardeners for 2020.

These ladies were recognized for their contributions that were above and beyond normal leadership. Their positive attributes include dependability, enthusiasm and cooperation. They add strength and have made many unselfish contributions to the LPMGA program.

With so many of our members exhibiting these positive qualities the committee had a very tough time picking just one!



This is a picture of Aesulus Pavia, Red Buckeye, that is located at the LPMGA demo beds.

This shrub, with its red flowers and umbrella-like foliage, is a popular ornamental that flowers in just a few years when grown from seed. **The seeds and young foliage are poisonous to livestock.** The roots contain soap-forming compounds **and** have been used for washing clothes.

As with many other red, tubular flowers, the flowers of red buckeye are frequented by hummingbirds. Although the seeds and foliage are not eaten by many animals, the shrub itself is a valuable part of low, moist ecosystems and provides cover for birds and other animals.

Q?: WHERE DID MASTER GARDENERS COME FROM?

BY BARBARA MCCONNELL

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION, AND SO IT WAS WITH THE IDEA OF THE MASTER GARDENERS (MG). SOME OF YOU MANY REMEMBER HOW IT CAME TO BE FROM YOUR CLASSES THAT YOU TOOK THAT FIRST YEAR OF MG ORIENTATION, AND THIS IS A SHORT REFRESHER.

IT'S 1972 IN KING AND PIERCE COUNTIES, WASHINGTON STATE, THE EPICENTER OF THE CITIES OF SEATTLE, TACOMA, AND BELLEVUE AND THINGS ARE STARTING TO HOP WITH RAPID URBAN GROWTH AND AN INTEREST IN GARDENING IN A VERY PRODUCTIVE AND AGRICULTURAL STATE. COUNTY AGENTS OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY (WSU) EXTENSION SERVICE, BILL SCHEER AND DAVID GIBBY, FOR THE PAST YEAR WERE GETTING AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CALLS ON WHAT TO DO IN THE PUBLIC'S YARDS. THE MORE THEY GOT INFORMATION OUT TO THE PUBLIC BY WAY OF MASS MEDIA: TV, MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS, THE MORE INTEREST THEY AROUSED.

HOW WERE THEY GOING TO HANDLE THE VOLUME OF CALLS? ONE IDEA THAT GOT BATTED AROUND WAS TRAINED VOLUNTEERS, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY REJECTED BY WSU. SO THE TWO AGENTS ORGANIZED A TRIAL PUBLIC CLINIC AT THE TACOMA MALL, AND NAMED THEIR EXPERT GARDENING SPECIALISTS "GARTENMEISTERS," OR IN GERMAN, MASTER GARDENERS. THE RESULTS OF THEIR IDEA TOOK OFF WITH 600 INITIAL INQUIRIES, WITH A TRAINED CLASS OF PROBABLY 200 VOLUNTEERS. THE REST IS EXCITING!

MY COUSIN, JUDY REPP BATTIN, WHO HAS BEEN IN FAMILY AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, KNEW BILL SCHEER PERSONALLY. "HE WAS A BIG GUY PHYSICALLY, VERY ACTIVE AND YOUNG AT HEART. BUT HE WAS HUMBLE AND EASY TO TALK TO- EVERYONE LOVED HIM. HE WAS SO KNOWLEDGEABLE AND GOOD AT GETTING PEOPLE ORGANIZED. I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH GOOD THINGS ABOUT HIM."

THE PROGRAM HAS SPREAD SINCE THEN TO ALL 50 STATES AND SOME OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCES. IT CAME TO BATON ROUGE AND LOUISIANA IN 1994 AS PART OF THE LSU AGCENTER LOUISIANA COOP EXTENSION SERVICE, AND IS IN 90% OF ITS PARISHES NOW. IT HAS TRAINED 3500 MG'S WHO PROVIDED 84,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS, AND AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF \$2.5 MILLION.

LAFAYETTE BEGAN IN 1998 AND HAS THE ONLY MG DEMO GARDENS IN THE STATE AND OFFERS TWO MAJOR PLANT SHOWS A YEAR. PROUDLY MG VOLUNTEERS TEACH AND TRAIN AT SCHOOLS, SPEAK TO CIVIC GROUPS AND PROVIDE ADVICE AT GARDEN CENTERS & SHOWS.

SOURCES: SARA SHIELDS AND DAN DEVENPORT, LSU AGCENTER; A PAPER BY GIBBY & SCHEER; INTERVIEW JUDY BATTIN.

MG-LAFAYETTE, LA

	2018	2019	2020
#TRAINED	29	29	0
VOL. HRS.	9971	11,968	5544
CE HRS.	1651	2033	2060

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT FOR MAY

The reduced hour requirement is in place for 2021. This means that you need to record a minimum of 20 total hours to remain active. These can be ALL Volunteer hours or ALL Continuing Education hours OR they can be any combination of Volunteer hours AND Continuing Education hours that total 20. Members of the 2019 MG Class that have not earned their 40 hours have until the end of 2021 to do so. Please remember that Sustaining Members need to record at least the minimum of 20 hours to remain active in 2022.

Some ideas for Continuing Education hours:

1. The 2021 International Master Gardeners Conference September 12 and September 17 Hosted by the Norfolk (Virginia) Master Gardeners, Bedford Extension Master Gardeners, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program. The Conference will be held as a 5-day virtual event this year. Conference presentations and other events will be scheduled for each day. Visit www.internationalmastergardener.com for fees, event schedules, topics, workshops, speakers and to register. After you register, you will receive instructions to set up an account which will allow you to join sessions and virtual tours, to access handouts and to view recorded sessions after the event.

Louisiana Gardener Magazine is no longer publishing monthly editions, but has archived their collection of magazines online.

Visit www.louisianagardener.com to view past issues.

Also, visit our YouTube channel for educational videos. Each video counts as 30 minutes of CE www.youtube.com/c/LafayetteParishMasterGardeners

Contact Meagan Stogsdill if you are interested in **recording educational videos** for the YouTube channel and Instagram. Videos might feature a favorite plant, a new gardening technique you are using, You do not have to appear in the video. Reach Meagan at: imgmeagan@gmail.com for more information.

Some ideas for Volunteer hours:

Contact Charles Schrader to volunteer to help with the **LARC Vegetable Garden**.

Contact Gail Wakefield for information about helping in the **Demo Beds or to volunteer to Chair or Co-Chair a Demo Bed**.

Write an article for the newsletter. Share information about gardening events or activities, photos of interest to our members and your gardening experiences. Contact Editor Mary Gladney for details and to submit materi-

2021 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/COUNTINUING EDUCATION HOUR REPORT APRIL 1-APRIL 23						
2021 Service Hour Totals YTD	Activity Hours Totals By Details Report	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Total Hrs 1226.70	4H & Other Youth Activities	0	0	0	0	6
Total Vol Hrs 935.20	Attending Bus/Admin Meetings	6.25	2	0	25	91.75
Total CE Hrs 291.50	Civic & Community	112.70	76.75	164	133	734.95
Ind Contacts 1308	Continuing Education	8	0	0	6	14
Total Contacts 9151	Extension Activities	29	8	0	3	60.5
Mileage 4654.70	LMG Teaching Activities	2	0	12	2.5	28
Expenses 1974.76	CE Totals	79.25	29.5	44.5	65.75	291.5
	Volunteer Totals	157.95	86.75	176	169.5	935.20

Updated 3/23/2021. 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.

LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
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MAY CALENDER

- LPMGA Spring Social May 5th,
- LPMGA Board Meeting May 18th, Ira Nelson
- Pavilion at Acadian Village, 200 Greenleaf Drive, Laf.
- Snowmageddon April 24th, Shreveport
- 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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The Louisiana cooperative extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana Governing Bodies, Southern University, and the United States Department of Agriculture A State Partner in the Cooperative Extension System.

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.