

LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

CANCELED

LPMGA Board Meeting

CANCELED

WHAT'S INSIDE

LMGA STAGED REOPENING PLAN

COVID 19

MESSAGE FROM DAN DEVENPORT

Our office has received the following guidelines from state Master Gardener Coordinator, Dr. Sara Shields, regarding future Master Gardener activities. These guidelines are subject to change at anytime based on the Governor's decision and the LSU AgCenter's directives.

It is our responsibility to make sure that each of us do our part as we work together in a gradual, staged reopening process focused on the health of our everyone. Everyone has a role to play in limiting the spread of the virus and keeping our health care system from becoming overwhelmed.

Volunteer guidelines for activity include:

- Remain at home if you are not feeling well or have a fever.
- Governor's guidelines for individuals 65 and older or with compromised immune systems say "safer at home" in Phases 1 and 2.
- Groups meeting indoors are limited to 25 individuals, with sanitation and social distancing measures implemented for the safety of all. Volunteer organization or individuals to supply sanitization and cleaning products to be used for events.
- Groups working outdoors together or receiving instructions should be 25 or fewer people, all spaced 6 feet apart or more.
- Volunteers may work individually, keeping 6 feet or more apart from others in the garden.
- Encourage use of face masks or other personal protective devices as a way of decreasing transmission rates.
- Hosts and participants should wear face coverings, with participants expected to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Frequently clean high-touch areas, including door handles, restroom surfaces, handrails, tools, etc. Individuals should be encouraged to bring and use their own gardening tools and equipment; shared tools and equipment should be cleaned after each use. It is recommended that no food be served.
- Plant sales activities should consider online ordering and offering curbside pickup. Doing so limits the number of individuals (volunteers and customers) in any one area.
- Actively monitor where COVID-19 is circulating. Advise participants in advance that if they have any symptoms or feel unwell, they should not attend.

The specific plan of action that will need to be followed for us to move forward as an organization in our activities is detailed below. Activities will need to get a prior approval by the Lafayette Master Gardener Board and the LSU AgCenter Administration, before it can take place. A spreadsheet is being created to begin in July and likewise subsequent months afterwards that will record requests for activity with the following information needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| i. Date | vii. Name of Meeting |
| ii. Reoccurrence of event | viii. Number of participants |
| iii. Time | ix. Location |
| iv. Event Coordinator | vii. Name of Meeting |
| v. Cell contact | viii. Number of participants |
| vi. Email address | ix. Location |

Continued on next page

COVID-19 REOPENING CONTINUED

Committee chairs must submit a request for an approval of an activity/event by sending an email request with all of the above information to Colette Anzalone Colette.anzalone1@louisiana.edu. Once Colette receives the request, she will record it in a spreadsheet and the event will need approval from the board and our administration before can be advertised.

Any meeting that is being conducted under the name of the LSU AgCenter needs to be included and **approved for liability coverage of the event!**

Prior approval of activity/each event will also be required for *each* event! This prior approval will have a minimal two week in advance notice of the event. It should be submitted by Friday two weeks prior in advance. Three to four weeks notification is recommended to have time to notify members by appointment.

Once an event is approved, the event coordinator will receive the log sheets from Colette Anzalone that members must complete for that event. Traceability is the reason for this step and that we are strictly following the capacity requirements. Completed log sheets should be sent to Patricia Soileau at pbsgardens@aol.com and a copy to me, Dan Devenport ddevenport@agcenter.lsu.edu within a week following the event.

The Covid-19 pre-screening questions included on the log sheet that members will verify as a participate and answer NO to are as follows in order to participate are as follows:

1. Have you, or anyone in your home, had close exposure to a person confirmed or under investigation for COVID-19, or someone with a respiratory illness within the past 14 days? Close contact for exposures is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a person (without the proper PPE) suspected or confirmed with a case of COVID-19 for greater than 15 minutes.
2. Do you currently have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, or at least two of the following: fever chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?
3. Have you traveled internationally within the last 14 days?

Please note that meetings using virtual technology may still be the best option at this time and Charles Hebert and I do not mind assisting.



Social distancing Guidelines MUST be followed and enforced. Please realize that the entire program could be shut down, if procedures are not enforced. The LPMGA Board, UL Lafayette Staff and/or LSU AgCenter Staff has full oversight of monitoring approved activities.

Your health and safety are our top priority as we move forward with this process. We continue to be inspired by your dedication and resilience through this challenge. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact a LPMGA Board member, Dan Devenport or Charles Hebert with any questions. We will get through this together

Sincerely,

Dan Devenport

Dan Devenport Associate County Agent, Horticulture

2020 LPMGA VOLUNTEER/CONTINUING EDUCATION HOUR REPORT JAN-JUNE 15TH 2020														
Year To Date Service Hour Totals Report AS OF JUNE 15	Activity Hours Totals By Details Report	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun 15	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Total Hrs 1830.08	4H & Other Youth Activities	93.7	98.5	12.5	9	8	4							278.20
Total Vol Hrs 1504.4	Attending Bus/Admin Meetings	23.5	16.5	17.75	0	0	20							81.75
Total CE 325.68	Civic & Community	293	181.25	192.5	6.5	5.5	13.5							870.25
Individual Contacts 1800	Continuing Education	0	2	4.5	0	0	0							15.5
Total Contacts 26611	Extension Activities	50.5	45.5	48	13	20	3							182
Mileage 9598.20	LMG Teaching Activities	18.5	33	23.7	0	0	0							76.70
Expenses \$737.50	Volunteer Activities Totals													
	Volunteer Hours Summary Report	479.2	376.75	298.95	28.5	33.5	40.5							1504.4
	Continuing Education Totals													
	Volunteer Hours Summary Report	90.45	98.2	45.78	17.5	4	34.25							325.68

Updated 6/19/2020. The 2020 monthly totals may change throughout the year since hours may be recorded in previous months during the year.

Chart totals for previous months are not updated monthly.

The Year To Date total reflects all hours recorded in 2020 thus far. The AgCenter currently places a value of \$10/hr for each recorded hour.

The 2021 Annual Report will be sent to the membership when available.

2020 Volunteer Hours Update: Please Note Changes

Sent to Dan Devenport by Sara Shields Louisiana Master Gardener State Coordinator

With the current level of uncertainty that surrounds us pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and reopening efforts, the LMG State Office is altering the guidelines for LMG certification (2019 trainees) and recertification (active LMG volunteers). The following sections address the changes pertaining to the two separate groups.

For 2019 LMG class trainees who have not yet completed the initial 40 volunteer hours:

The time frame for attaining certification is extended until **2021**.

Certification is a two-phase process – classroom training and the initial 40 volunteer hours. Traditionally, trainees have one year to become a certified LMG volunteer.

For 2019 trainees, this time frame would have ended in 2020, but has been extended for one full calendar year.

Since trainings start and end throughout the year, please submit clarification questions regarding the specific time frame extension with your local LMG coordinator.

For 2019 LMG class trainees who have completed their 40 volunteer hours:

You are now recognized as a “certified” LMG volunteer. You are not required to report any additional hours for the 2020 calendar year. However, reporting all volunteer time, including extra time, is graciously appreciated. Individuals in this category will begin working on their recertification hours in 2021.

For certified LMG volunteers, the total number of hours for this year has been reduced based on discussion with other Extension MG coordinators. Instead of 26 hours (20 volunteer service and 6 continuing education), the new total is 20 hours in any combination. This can be 20 hours of continuing education or a mix of volunteer service and continuing education.

So, what are some ways you can earn these hours given the COVID-19 pandemic?

Continuing Education – Computer Based:

Horticulture webinars (I have been sharing options on the LMG webpage as I learn about them)

A short word of caution is to take information presented from other parts of the country with a grain of salt. We may not share the same growing seasons or plant material, so please be mindful.

Viewing Horticulture Hints, local LMG association newsletters, etc. electronically

Continuing Education – No Electronics Needed!

Reviewing information in LMG Handbook and LSU AgCenter to learn more about a particular topic

Reviewing horticulture books, magazine articles, newsletter and newspaper articles, and other reference materials.

Volunteer Service Hours Already Earned:

Remember, any volunteer service hours completed prior to the pandemic should be counted. This includes:

Preparing for Horticulture Seminars and Gardening Workshops

Preparation for plant sales (planting seeds, propagation efforts during this calendar year, etc.)

Plant Sales (a few associations were able to host their sale prior to the government shutdown)

Technology-based Volunteer Service Opportunities:

Compiling research and information on a horticulture topic and assembling that information into a presentation or newsletter article to be given at a later date.

This could stem from a webinar you viewed. If you think other MGs would benefit from the information, write up a summary of the webinar.

Virtual LMG meetings with educational topic included

Virtual horticulture-related or LSU AgCenter advisory committees

Virtual community advisory committees (representing local LMG program).

Creating horticulture garden and how-to videos and posting on local LMG Facebook Page

Creating horticulture videos and posting to YouTube for sharing on LSU AgCenter webpage and Facebook page for local Extension office (this will require coordination between several individuals).

Volunteer Service Opportunities Without Using Technology:

Current LMG projects are approved as of the latest Louisiana Master Gardener Coronavirus Guideline Update (June 4, 2020)

Compiling research and information from print materials to assemble presentation or newsletter article

Propagating plant material for upcoming plant sale (fall or next spring)

Caring for current plant sale inventory until sale can safely be held.

REDUCTION IN REQUIRED HOURS FOR 2020 AND VOLUNTEER/CE OPPORTUNITIES

Twenty Is Plenty

FOR MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE:

To remain Active in 2021, you will need to record a total of 20 hours in 2020.

These 20 hours can be any combination of Volunteer and CE,
or can be 20 CE OR 20 Volunteer hours.

The additional requirements of paying annual dues for 2021 and signing and submitting the Code Of Conduct will still apply.

FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN INACTIVE IN 2020:

To return to Active status for 2021 you will need to record a total of 20 hours in 2020.

These 20 hours can be any combination of Volunteer and CE hours,
or can be 20 CE OR 20 Volunteer hours.

The additional requirements of paying annual dues for 2021 and signing and submitting the Code Of Conduct will still apply.

FOR 2019 MASTER GARDENER CLASS MEMBERS:

To meet the state requirement to become a Certified Master Gardener, you will still have to record 40 hours of Volunteer work. However, you will have an additional year (2020 plus 2021) to perform these hours. You will retain any volunteer hours you recorded in 2019, any you record in 2020 and have until December 31st of 2021 to achieve the 40 hour total.

If you have already achieved and recorded your 40 hours...

Congratulations, you are now a Certified Louisiana Master Gardener.

In 2021, you will begin to record 20 Volunteer hours and 6 Continuing Education hours to remain Active. In 2021 the additional requirements of paying annual dues and signing and submitting the Code Of Conduct will apply.

If you are a graduate of the 2019 Master Gardener class and have already recorded your 40 Volunteer hours, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Louann McClelland-Long for your name badge and certificate at:
mglouann@gmail.com

LMGA YOUTUBE VIDEOS AN EASY WAY TO EARN CE

With the change in volunteer hour requirements for 2020 now is the best time to take advantage of our YouTube channel for your Continuing Ed!

The LPMGA channel has over 20 hours of videos including both our current Get Growing! garden talk series with the Lafayette Public Library, the speaker from our January meetings, and an archive of the LPMGA AOC channel show 'In the Garden' with topics ranging from popular plants like hibiscus and roses, to irrigation, organic gardening, lawn care, and many more!

Please remember to "Like" our videos and "Subscribe" to our channel so you'll be notified of new videos while helping our channel to grow!

www.tinyurl.com/LPMGAYoutube

If you would like to earn volunteer hours and put together a presentation on a topic, or deliver a presentation for the channel, please contact Meagan Stogsdill at imgmeagan@gmail.com for more information. Videos can be made at home and you do not have to appear on screen.



LET'S TALK! GARDENS!

Free Webinars
Thursdays 12:00 - 1:00pm EST

Turn your thumb green! Join Smithsonian Gardens' horticulturists for a series of free webinars on gardening basics and tips.

June 18	Making Homes for Native Bees	August 6	Garden Photography Tips
June 25	Top 20 Native Shrubs for Sun and Shade	August 13	Early Garden Photography: Glass Lantern Slides
July 2	Simple Summer Herbs	August 20	Selecting and Planting Fall Bulbs
July 9	Monarch Waystations for Any Size Garden	August 27	Planting Fall Vegetable
July 16	Make an Exuberant Container	Sept. 3	Understanding Plant Stress Signals: Abiotic Factors
July 23	Designing a Garden-Foliage First		
July 30	Creating Compost		

Visit gardens.si.edu for more details about these free webinars. Each earns 1 hour of CE.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

One Search: Hundreds of Cooperative Extension Sites
Easy search access to resources provided by your Land-Grant institutions.

This service allows you to search the resources provided by your Cooperative Extension Service using a [Google Custom Search Engine](https://impact.extension.org/search/) that includes many of the Cooperative Extension web sites provided by your Land-Grant institutions.

<https://impact.extension.org/search/>

The eXtension Foundation is a member-based nonprofit established by Extension Directors and Administrators nationwide. eXtension is embedded in the U.S. Cooperative Extension System and serves on Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP).

Search Webinar or other topics for online CE opportunities

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for the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com

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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@lpmga.org
The Master Gardener program is a division of the
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The AgCenter website is www.lsuagcenter.com

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.