

LPMGA OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday

October 14, 2015 - 6 p.m.
Lafayette Public Library
301 W. Congress St.

LPMGA BOARD MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2015
IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE
CENTER (INHC)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner—2
- MG Events, Reports, & Announcements—3
- Plantfest—4 & 6
What's for sale???
- Plant Swap—5
- Special guest
Alain Baraton of
Versailles
- What Plant am I? —7
- SGI Activity-cook off—7
- Outstanding MG
- Between the Rows—8
- October Calendar—9

2015 BOARD:

President :
Heather Warner-Finley 2012
Vice President :
Linda Beyt 2013
Recording Secretary:
Jay Ruffin, Jr 2012
Corresponding Secretary:
Carolyn Rink 2013
Treasurer:
Sandra Scheuermann 2012
Member at Large:
Juan Nieto 2006
Prior President:
Babette Werner 2010
Agent/Adviser ;
Gerald Roberts
Volunteer Coordinator:
Mary Ann Armbruster 2010
Newsletter Editor:
Theresa Rohloff 2012—
Janet Ryland 2014

LPMGA October General Meeting

The speaker for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association October 14 meeting is **Felder Rushing**. His topic is "Slow Gardening - Cajun Style" (gardening with all senses, all seasons, and savoring it all). Felder has written thousands of gardening columns in syndicated newspapers, and has had hundreds of articles and photographs published in regional and national garden magazines, including Garden Design, Horticulture, Garden Weekly (an English publication), Landscape Architecture, Better Homes and Gardens, Southern Living, Fine Gardening, Organic Gardening, and The National Geographic. Felder also hosts a weekly MPB radio show called The Gestalt Gardener (<http://www.mpbonline.org/thegestaltgardener/>). Felder Rushing's books include *Tough Plants for Southern Gardens*, *Slow Gardening: A No-Stress Philosophy for All Senses and All Seasons*, *Bottle Trees: ...and the Whimsical Art of Garden Glass*, *Gardening Southern Style*, *Passalong Plants*, and *Louisiana Fruit and Vegetable Book*.

The Master Gardener meeting will be held at the Lafayette Parish Public Library downtown on Lafayette St. at **6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 14**. Seating is limited. Please NOTE: The date for the LPMGA meeting is normally on the first Wednesday of the month. The date has been moved to the second Wednesday for this meeting only.

There will be a reception for Felder Rushing at 5:00 in the small meeting room on the second floor for ACTIVE (2015 dues paid) LPMGA members. Please contact Linda Beyt (lbeyt@att.net or 337-278-1258) if you wish to bring an hors d'oeuvre for the reception.

Plantfest is October 3! See pg.4. for more details and a list of plants that will be for sale.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What's been happening in September? At the September general meeting, we enjoyed a great talk from Dr. Charles Allen about landscaping with native plants. Carolyn Rink reported that we have 190+ active members. The US Census Bureau's estimate for the population of Lafayette Parish in 2014 was 235,644. Active Master Gardeners comprise about 1/1000 of the population of the parish. Our vision for ourselves is: "Growing a vibrant, green, and healthy community through Horticulture Education."

So how can those 1 in 1000 people create a greener, healthier and more vibrant community through Horticulture Education? The answer, of course, is through outreach. Our public gardens, our School Garden Initiative, our Jr. Master Gardeners Program, Ask a Master Gardener, Saturday Garden Talk, 2nd Saturday Class, and our television show all are ways that we reach out with information about healthy, safe and science-based home gardening. And you are doing it. And having fun and learning at the same time. Isn't that cool!

Plans for **PlantFest 2015** are gelling. Our MG plants are looking great, and there will be activities of interest for all, including children's activities sponsored by our intrepid Jr. Master Gardener team. Please contact Sharon Bakay or Juan Nieto if you are interested in volunteering but have not yet done so.

Remember that our October meeting will be held on 14 October, the 2nd Wednesday rather than the 1st, in order to enjoy our distinguished speaker, **Felder Rushing**. I hope to see you there!

Heather



GERALD'S CORNER

American beautyberry, sometimes confusingly called French mulberry, is a great Louisiana native shrub deserving increased use. The genus is *Callicarpa*, and both native and non-native species of this plant can be found in Louisiana.

You will find American beautyberry on the edges of woodland areas. It is common in several areas of the state and is one of the plants home gardeners and hunters see this time of year and want to know what it is.

The American beautyberry currently is putting on a great display in Louisiana. The common beautyberry that most of us know produces clusters of dark purple berries, while white and pink berry forms are occasionally available in the nursery trade. You may also find some selections with burgundy berries.

These plants have abundant fruit production in fall, creating a true wildlife benefit. And they fit well into a woodland garden setting. Although beautyberry is deciduous, it has three nice seasons of interest.

Plants have small, pink flowers in the leaf axils of paired leaves in the springtime. The flowers are usually inconspicuous unless you really pay weekly attention to your plants. In summer, foliage is rich green and provides a nice background hedge for flowering perennials and other shrubs.

But beautyberry provides a real show in fall. Bright berries are shiny and purple and appear in clusters at the leaf nodes all along the arching stems. The purple berries appear to have a metallic quality when sunlight reflects off them. Quite often the berries persist well into winter, but many times they're consumed by birds and wildlife.

Alba is a white-berried selection of American beautyberry. Berries are shiny, white and stand out in shady garden areas of the landscape. Welch's Pink is a variety with lustrous, blush-pink berries. Varieties with white or pink berries produce slightly fewer berries than the purple forms.

Duet and Summer Storm are variegated varieties of beautyberry. Duet has smaller foliage with green leaves and variable yellow margins. Plants produce very small white berries. Summer Storm is has larger leaves and has more white in the foliage. Variegation of the foliage in both these selections is reliably stable.

American beautyberry grows at least 6-8 feet tall with an equal spread. Many times plants left unpruned will be larger than this. The plant is very winter hardy statewide. Some terminal stem dieback may occur in the coldest winters, but pruning out the dead wood when new growth commences in spring will solve that problem. It is a good practice to prune plants a bit during late winter to early spring to control size and direct growth.

Beautyberry has a loose and open habit. One plant can be attractive, but a grouping of three to five creates a full cluster. The plants cross-pollinate to ensure the fullest fruit production. Beautyberry tolerates dry soil conditions and part shade, but the healthiest plants and best fruit production happen in full sun. Be sure to maintain consistent soil moisture for best performance.

The AgCenter Hammond Research Station has purple, pink and white berry form varieties of the American beautyberry. The variegated varieties are also planted at Hammond, in addition to introduced species, such as the Japanese and Mexican forms of this popular American native. The AgCenter is considering breeding and evaluating additional selections.

Here are some other plants of interest:



The **Mexican Bush Sage** (*Salvia leucantha*) is one of four best fall flowering perennial salvias for Louisiana. This is one of the salvias that folks grew before some of the others became more popular. Plants are hardy statewide and come back from the previous year's planting. Flowers on most varieties are purple. There is a purple-and-white bicolor form and a white form.

These plants generally bloom late summer until the first frost. The Mexican Bush Sage prefers full sun and a well-drained soil. Irrigation requirements are minimal. Plants reach heights of four to five feet by fall when planted in the spring. Butterflies, bees and the other pollinators love this plant!

Firebush, also called the firecracker plant, goes by the scientific name *Hamelia patens*. It is one of our state's top-five plants for butterflies and hummingbirds.



As it starts to bloom in midsummer, flowers will continue through fall. Plants are typically perennial throughout Louisiana. Plant in full sun and in well-drained soil.

Irrigation demands are low once the plant becomes established in the landscape. These plants do well in containers as the foliage make a nice sweeping cascade that can be very attractive.

Any or all of these could be nice plants to add to your landscape.

Gerald P. Roberts Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator

LSU AgCenter, 1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325, Lafayette, LA 70501

GRoberts@agcenter.lsu.edu, Office (337) 291-7090, Fax (337) 291-7099

EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 LPMGA Meetings:
(First Wednesday
Except in January & July)
Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm

**2015 LPMGA Board
Meetings, 1 pm:**
(Third Monday except for
Jan., Feb., Jul. & Dec.)

OCTOBER 14 (not the 7th!) OCTOBER 19
NOVEMBER 4 NOVEMBER 16
DECEMBER 2 Social DECEMBER 14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Pine Straw pick up is Friday and Saturday, October 30-31, from 8 am to 2 pm, behind the Demo Gardens Shade House. \$7 per bale, cash or check payable to LPMG at pick up. We are sold out so any bales not picked up by 2 pm Saturday will be sold to the next person on the waiting list.

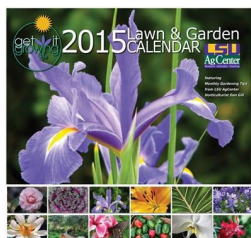
Second Saturday Classes have been canceled for the remainder of this year.

We are accepting orders for **replacement name badges**. LSU asked that we use first and last names only. Cost is \$6.00 each and is to be paid before your order will be submitted. Please send your payment by October 5 to Sandy Scheuermann 305 Keeney Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501 and include the exact spelling of your name and indicate whether you prefer a pin or magnetic backing.

Fall Photos Needed for Website

If you ever wanted to show off your flowers or garden pictures, now is the time! We are looking for great looking pictures to add to our website. Best size 2 to 3 mb, 300dpi, per picture. Would love to get some great fall color photos to be ready for fall. Please send to lmg@kreativetouch.com.

Orders will be taken at the October 14th Master Gardeners meeting for the 2016 LSU "Get it Growing" Garden calendar. The cost per calendar is \$10 for LPMGA members and \$12 to the public. These calendars make excellent



Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts for family, friends, teachers, bridge/pokeno, KrisKringles, and holiday hostesses. Contact Linda Alesi at jalesi@bellsouth.net to reserve calendars if you know you will be unable to attend the meeting.

3rd Saturday Garden Talk

Brock Barker will speak about **Permaculture**.
October 17 at 10 am at the Ira Nelson Demo Beds.

Brock Barker graduated from ULL in horticulture in 2008. He initially focused on annual market vegetable gardening on his farm The Brockoli Patch. After visiting a developed permaculture farm in 2012, Brock was inspired to transform his farm into a beautifully diverse and productive landscape. Today he hosts interns, runs a horticultural therapy program at an addiction recovery center, landscapes, and shares his passion for gardening.



Brock Barker photographed by Lucius Fontenot.

OCT 17	Brock Barker	Permaculture
NOV 21	Juan Nieto	Irrigation

Tune into In the Garden for "Fall Color!"
Guest : the folks at All Season's Nursery
October 1, Noon, AOC

This monthly TV Show broadcasted by AOC Community Media, is targeted to run LIVE, every first Thursday at noon, with reruns each week throughout the month on LUS Channel 3/Cox Channel 15. The show is streamed by computer through AOC One.

Are you up to date posting your education and volunteer hours???

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE

BRING YOUR REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE TO MASTER GARDENER FUNCTIONS!

PLANTFEST 2015

Saturday, October 3, 2015 8am—3 pm

Plantfest is fast approaching--October 3. We have a few volunteer opportunities for those of you who may be missing some **volunteer hours**.

At home ASAP: A volunteer is needed to update our yard signs to reflect our new location.

7:30-11:30 Groundskeeper 2 needed. Not much to do here. People are really good about picking up their own trash, but you may find a piece or two to pick up. And, the trash/recycle bags need to be hauled to the road.

11:30-3:30 Selling water 2 needed Stay in one place with a chair and sell water.

GREATEST NEED: 3:00 Saturday afternoon for teardown.

Remember most of the workers at Plantfest will have been working very hard since Friday morning setting up and then all day Saturday selling. They are **TIRED**. Please come and help clean up. "Many hands make light work."

Contact Sharon Bakay at bakaysharon@hotmail.com to sign up.

Thank you for helping LPMGA be the wonderful successful organization that it is!

Fun and Fabulous Children's Activities

Food and Refreshments from Local Vendors



PlantFest

MASTER GARDENERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

8 AM – 3 PM

Across from Blackham Coliseum on Coliseum Road
LPMGA Plant Sale and Gardening and Landscape Vendors

Enjoy a Wide Variety of Workshops!

Find a Garden Treasure at the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Plant Sale



Get Expert Garden Advice at the LSU AgCenter Plant Clinic



 For vendor application visit plantfest.org


For more information, please contact
Colette Anzalone • 337-288-0283 • colette@louisiana.edu

Plants that Will Be for Sale at Plantfest:

Bulbs: Crinum amabile, Giant Spider Lily, Habranthus robustus, Argentine Rain Lily, Hymenocallis liriosome, Swamp Lily, Ledbouria socialis, Silver Squill, Lycoris aurea, Yellow Spider Lily, Lycoris radiata, Red Spider Lily, Rhodophila bifida, Oxblood Lily, Zephyranthes candida, White Rain Lily

Tropicals: Aeschynanthus lobbianus, Lipstick Plant, Agave sp (unknown), Aloe saponaria, Flowering Aloe, Alpinia japonica, Peppermint Stick Ginger, Brugmansia suaveolens, Pink Angel Trumpet, Callisia frangrans, False Bromeliad, Canna generalis 'Pink Beauty', Canna generalis 'Pink Sunburst', Colocasia esculenta 'Black Magic', Elephant Ear, Colocasia esculenta 'Fontanesii', Black Stem, Costus barbatus, Red Tower Ginger, Costus darcyii, Variegated Spiral Ginger, Costus fissiligulatis 'African Princess', Pink Spiral Ginger, Costus woodsonii, Dwarf Lipstick Ginger, Curcuma petiolata 'Emperor', Curcuma radiata 'Scarlet Fever', Epiphyllum oxypetalum 'Grande', NBCereus, Hedychium coccineum 'Disney', Hedychium coronarium, White Butterfly Hedychium 'Double Eagle', Hedychium 'Pink Flame', Huernia scheideriana, Red Dragon Cactus, Juanulloa aurantiaca, Gold Finger Plant, Kaempferia rotunda 'Raven', Kalanchoe Gastonis-bonnieri, Donkey Ears, Kalanchoe luciae "Flapjack" Kalanchoe sp., White Kalanchoe, Musa acuminata, Dwarf Cavendish Banana, Musa acuminata, Siam Ruby Banana, Nepenthes sp., Pitcher Plant, Nephrolepis exaltata, Petticoat Fern, Phaius tankervillae, Nun's Orchid, Pteridium aquilinum, Bracken Fern, Rhipsalis ramulosa, Devil's Tongue, Sanseveria trifasciata, Snake Plant, Thalia geniculata, Red Stem, Tricyrtis formosana 'Autumn Glow', Toad Lily, Tricyrtis hirta, Hairy Toad Lily, Tricyrtis lasiocarpa, Amethyst Toad Lily, Xanthosoma atrovirens, 'Blue Giant', Xanthosoma monstrosus, Mickey Mouse Taro, Yucca filamentosa 'Bright Edge', Zingiber malaysianum, Black Ginger

Vines: Antigonon leptopus, Pink Rose of Montana, Natives Aristolochia tomentosa, Woolly Pipevine, Cissus discolor, Rex Begonia Vine, Clerodendrum speciosum, Red Bleeding Heart Vine, Clytostoma callistegioides, Argentine Trumpet Vine, Convalia gladiata, Sword Vine, Manettia cordifolia, Firecracker Vine, Mascagnia macroptera, Yellow Butterfly Vine, Passiflora caerulea, Blue Crown Passion Flower, Passiflora citrina, Yellow Passion Vine,

Continued on Page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS



LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS

PLANT SWAP

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

Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association

FALL PLANT SWAP

Saturday, October 10th 2015

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
Across from Blackham Coliseum on Coliseum Road

Swap sign up starts at 9:00am
Numbers are drawn randomly.

Formal Swap 9:30am
With trading before and after

Bring one rooted and identified plant to enter in the Swap, and as many as you'd like to trade and share.

The more interesting the plant, the interesting the Swap!

The public is always welcome.

For more information, contact
Louann Long at mglouann@gmail.com

Plants that do not find a home will be donated to Habitat For Humanity. If you have "extra" foundation plants/shrubs, please consider bringing them for donation.

Like Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners on FaceBook and visit our website: www.lpmga.org



Versailles Gardener-in-Chief Visits Lafayette



Gardeners in the Lafayette area will soon have the opportunity to hear the most famous gardener since Candide. Thanks to Mayor Joey Durel, Lafayette Consolidated Government, and the International Center, Gardener-in-chief of the park at the Palace of Versailles Alain Baraton will be in Lafayette during the week of November 16 to lend his expertise to those planning the gardens at Central Park – formerly the Horse Farm. He will give a talk at a luncheon to be held at the Petroleum Club on **Tuesday, November 17, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** He has agreed to sign copies of his book, *THE GARDENER OF VERSAILLES: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden*. The public is invited to this luncheon and talk. Tickets cost \$30 and are available through Eventbrite.com.

Monsieur Baraton has been gardener-in-chief of the palace of Versailles since 1982. As host of a popular radio series in France, *La Main Verte* ("green thumb"), he has a large following in France and is perhaps as well known as Voltaire's fictional creation. Plans include conferences with the architects of Central Park, meetings with government officials, and a tour of Lake Martin and Vermilionville to include the Healers' Garden of medicinal plants. For more information, contact Christophe Pilut at the International Center, 291-5474

It's not too late to start those cuttings for the Fall Plant Swap.

The Swap will take place at the Demo Beds on Saturday, October 10th, with sign in and trading starting at 9 a.m. The Formal Swap will begin at 9:30am. We've scheduled the Swap separate to allow our PlantFest volunteers a chance to participate. The Swap is always open to the public, so feel free to share this information with friends. For more information, please contact Louann McClelland-Long mglouann@gmail.com

What Plant Am I?

I'm a native of Argentina and thrive in Zones 7 - 9. I'm usually evergreen, but may brown a bit in cold weather. This browning may be burned off in the spring. My large, dense, mounding, fountain-like clumps range from 8 -12 feet high and wide. I thrive in full sun, in almost any soil and growing conditions. Once established, I require very little fertilizer, or supplemental watering. I'm free of insect pests, and diseases; although insects and rodents may overwinter in my dense clumps. My rate of growth is moderate, but I may be difficult to control once established. I don't send out runners.

My main claim to fame is my large, fluffy, silvery-white or pink panicles which bloom in late summer. These can be used in dried flower arrangements. Spray with hair spray to prevent shedding. In spring, prune my old flowers.

Propagate me by division of my clumps. This may require an axe, as my roots are very tough. Plant me at the same level as I was growing, not too deep, or my crown may rot. Space me at least 8 feet apart to create a privacy screen or barrier. Burglars don't like me because my leaf edges are serrated and very sharp.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 7 for the answer.

PLANTFEST PLANTS FOR SALE—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Vines, continued: *Passiflora* hybrid, 'Lady Margaret', *Passiflora sanguinolenta*, Pink Passion Flower, *Podranea ricaliana*, Pink Trumpet *Senecio confusus*, Mexican Flame Vine, *Thunbergia grandiflora*, Blue Sky Vine

Trees/Shrubs: *Abelmoschus moschatus*, Musk Mallow, *Abutilon megapotamicum*, Dwarf Flowering Maple, *Abutilon pictum*, Red Vein Flowering Maple, *Boehmeria nivea*, Ramie, *Callicarpa americana* 'Lactea', White American Beautyberry, *Callicarpa dichotoma*, Chinese Beautyberry, *Clerodendrum ugandense*, Blue Butterfly, *Cuphea cyanea*, Pink Cigar Plant, *Cuphea ignea*, Orange Cigar Plant, *Cuphea macropetala*, Giant Cigar Bush, *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Penny Mac', *Laurus nobilis*, Bay Laurel, *Lonicera fragrantissima*, Winter Honeysuckle, *Malaviscus arboreus*, Pink Turk's Cap, *Malaviscus arboreus penduliflorus*, Giant Turk's Cap, *Punica granatum* 'California Sunset', Pomegranate, *Punica granatum* 'Nana', Dwarf Pomegranate, *Rostrinucula dependens*, Weeping Butterfly Bush, *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa', Curly Willow, *Salvia leucantha*, Mexican Bush Sage, *Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips', *Senna bicapsularis*, Golden Wonder *Spirea prunifolia*, Bridal Wreath, *Thunbergia erecta*, Kings mantle

Perennials: *Asclepias curassavica*, Scarlet Milkweed, *Centranthum intermedium*, Brazilian Buttonflower, *Dendranthema grandiflora*, 'Ryans's Pink', *Dicliptera suberecta*, Hummingbird Plant, *Echinacea* 'White Swan', *Eupatorium* sp, Dwarf Joe Pye Weed, *Hemerocallis* 'Chicago Fire', Daylily, *Ipomoea fistulosa*, Bush Morning Glory, *Juncus effusus*, 'Big Twister', *Justicia brandegeana*, Brown Shrimp Plant, *Justicia brandegeana*, 'Fruit Cocktail' Perennials *Justicia brandegeana*, Red Shrimp, *Justicia brandegeana*, Yellow Shrimp, *Nepeta racemosa*, Catmint, *Odontonema strictum*, Red Firespike, *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind', Switch Grass, *Penstemon digitalis* 'Mystica', *Rudbeckia maxima*, Giant Coneflower, *Ruellia elegans*, Rosy Red Ruellia, *Salvia elegans*, Pineapple Sage, *Salvia involucrata*, Rose Leaf Sage, *Salvia iodantha*, Mexican Fuschia Sage, *Salvia madrensis*, Forsythia Sage, *Salvia splendens* 'Van Houttei', *Saxifraga stolonifera*, Strawberry Begonia, *Scutellaria javanica* 'Veranda', Purple Skullcap, *Sinningia sellovii*, Hardy Gloxinia, *Stokesia laevis*, Stoke's Aster, *Tagetes lucida*, Mexican Tarragon, *Verbena bonariensis*, Tall Verbena, *Veronica spicata*, Blue Veronica

Tender: *Acalypha pendula*, Dwarf Chenille Plant, *Acmella oleracea*, Toothache Plant, *Alternanthera dentata* 'Little Ruby', *Capsicum* 'Black Pearl', *Hypoestes phyllostachya*, Pink Splash, *Iresene herbstii*, Chicken Gizzard, *Persicaria capitata*, Pink Knotweed, *Pilea cadieri*, Aluminum Plant, *Plectranthus amboinicus*, Cuban Oregano, *Pseuderanthemum alatum*, Chocolate Plant, *Strobilanthes dyerianus*, Persian Shield, *Tradescantia pallida* 'Pale Puma', *Tradescantia spathacea*, Oyster Plant

Hibiscus: *Hibiscus* 'Disco Belle', *Hibiscus mutabiis*, Confederate Rose, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'Red Poodle' *Hibiscus syriacus*, Lavender Rose of Sharon/*Althea*, *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Diana', Rose of Sharon/*Althea*

Natives: *Callicarpa americana*, American Beautyberry, *Amorpha canescens*, Lead Plant, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, Buttonbush, *Clinopodium georgianum*, Georgia Savory, *Cornus florida*, Flowering Dogwood, *Crataegus marshalii*, Parsley Hawthorn, *Erythrina herbacea*, Mamou/Coral Bean, *Frangula caroliniana*, Carolina Buckthorn *Hibiscus dascalyx*, Neches River Hibiscus, *Malaviscus arboreus drummondii*, Red Turk's Cap, *Echinacea purpurea*, Purple Coneflower, *Monarda didyma*, Red Bee Balm, *Monarda* sp., Native Bee Balm, *Penstemon tenuis*, Gulf Coast Penstemon
Pycnanthemum muticum, Mountain Mint, *Rhyncospora colorata*, White Star Sedge, *Vernonia altissima*, Tall Ironweed





Seven schools participated in the School Garden Initiative Program's annual Training Day, September 15. Student groups prepared lessons on topics such as composting, insects, and food chains. They took turns teaching those lessons to their peers. Thanks to Charles Burke Elementary for hosting the event, and for letting us tour their wonderful school garden. November 14, SGI holds its Cuisine du Jardin Cook-off. Students use vegetables from their school gardens. Louisiana Gardener magazine features the cook-off in its current issue! Please contact Mary Kramer if you have questions or would like to volunteer.



OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER AWARD

An Outstanding Master Gardener award will be presented at the December social to a Lafayette Parish Master Gardener for her/his contribution to the Master Gardener program. The deadline for your nomination is October 1. The form was in the September newsletter and is also in our handbook section labeled FORMS on pages 58-59. Mail your completed form to Babette Werner, 342 W. Martial Ave. Lafayette, LA 70508 or deliver to 1010 Lafayette, Ste. 325, Lafayette 70501.

WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Cortaderia selloana (if I'm silver)
Or Cortaderia "Rubra" (if I'm pink)
also called pampas grass.



BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



Hi again. Well, this last month just flew by. I didn't get half of the things done that I wanted to do. I hope your garden is in better shape than mine. It is getting a little more comfortable to work in the yard and I'm looking forward to it getting even cooler – NOT cold, mind you, but a little cooler I could stand.

Now that it is getting a little cooler we can take advantage of it to begin planting our fall garden in earnest.

If you hurry you can plant beets, Chinese cabbage and collards until early October. Starting mid-October you can plant broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, onion and leeks (from seed, not sets) During the entire month of October plant carrots, celery (from seed), Swiss chard, garlic (yea!), kohlrabi, mustard greens, radish, shallot, spinach, turnips, and peas.

The Ag Center recommends Creole and Italian strains of garlic for our area, and if you want to plant giant types, choose Elephant or Tahiti. I gave fairly thorough details about planting garlic last year, so if you've forgotten, just refer to last year's column.

It's time for peas. I love peas, but I find the English type a lot of hassle. You throw away more than you eat when you shell them. The answer of course, is snap peas. With snap peas, you get the sweet pea and eat the shell, too. The recommended varieties are Sugar Snap, Sugar Ann and Sugar Daddy. Other options are snow peas. With these you eat the shell, but before the pea develops much. The recommended varieties are Mammoth Melting Sugar and Oregon Sugar Pod II. I've grown both of these with excellent results. If you like shell peas try using Thomas Laxton, Little Marvel, Knight, Laxton's Progress, Progress #9, Early Frosty or Wando. Even if the variety indicates that no trellis is needed, you should still trellis your peas. It makes them easier to harvest and helps to keep the pods straighter and cleaner.

To get optimal production from peas you should always inoculate the seed. I know that you all remember that peas are legumes and that legumes fix nitrogen, but you may not realize (I didn't until I started working on this column) that each legume species requires a specific species and strain of rhizobium to perform optimally. The purchased inoculum provides the proper rhizobia microbes that help the pea plant to operate more effectively. Rhizobia and legumes form a symbiotic relationship. The microbe invades the cells of the root hairs and multiplies in the outer tissues of the root. The plant treats it as a foreign body and creates tissue to encapsulate the microbes, creating the nodule. The plant provides the microbes with carbohydrates that it produces via photosynthesis, and the microbes uphold their end of the bargain by taking atmospheric nitrogen and converting it to ammonia, which can be used by the plant. The nodule is like a little ammonia factory just sitting there on the root.

Don't fertilize with nitrogen when planting inoculated legumes. It has been shown to be counter-productive. When plants have sufficient nitrogen they either don't fix as much, or not at all. So don't waste money by paying for inoculant, then letting it sit doing nothing because you also paid for nitrogen fertilizer. Added potassium and phosphorus fertilizers can increase the number and size of nodules, as well as the overall amount of nitrogen fixed.

You can purchase inoculum at most seed stores and nurseries and probably at big box stores as well. Treat the package carefully, because it contains live microbes; these tiny members of the micro-herd are susceptible to UV light and heat, which will kill the rhizobia. Also keep the contents of the package dry until ready to use it, then follow the label directions carefully. Your peas (and other legumes) will thank you. Once your crop is growing and starting to produce peas, you will have to pick every three to four days to keep the plant producing and the quality high. Take care, especially if you're new to picking peas. It's pretty much a two-handed operation. If you just yank on the pod you're liable to wind up with the entire plant in your hand – roots and all. These plants are not terribly deep rooted and can be pulled up with little effort. So, using both hands, hold the plant with one hand just behind the pod and pick the pod off with the other. Keeping the quality of the crop is another concern. Peas are a little like corn in that as soon as the pea comes off the vine, the sugar begins to turn to starch. Chilling is the answer to maintaining the quality. Chill the peas as soon as possible, this will keep the quality high for a few days. Store them, unwashed, in a perforated bag or unsealed container. You want air to circulate. They can also be blanched for one to two minutes, immediately chilled in ice water, dried, then bagged and frozen for up to six months.

If you planted carrots last month, it's about time to side dress them. You should side dress with 30 to 50 pounds of nitrogen per 100 foot row. Do this three to four weeks after planting and again three weeks after the first application. As the carrots come up and develop, the tops of the root may be seen slightly above the soil level. If you notice this, pull soil up over the roots to shade them and prevent greening of the shoulders. This is a very undesirable trait, but a little soil, a little shade and no more problem. Don't you just love it when the 'fix' is this easy?

I want to mention a little bit more about onions – as if you didn't get enough last month ! I know it's hard to space those tiny seeds with 2- 4 inches between them, but the greater the space, the larger the bulb will be, so make yourself leave what looks like wasted space. You will be rewarded with larger onions when you harvest.

I also failed to mention green onions last time. The recommended varieties are Emerald Isle and Evergreen Bunching. These are not just regular onions that haven't formed bulbs yet. These are technically called scallions, and they never make bulbs. The nicest thing about scallions for the home gardener is that they are perennials. Yes, I said perennials. If you plant a group of them, or even just one, and leave it alone, it will form a clump. You can harvest a few as needed and just leave the rest alone. If the clump gets too big, divide it like you would any clumping perennial. It makes a great pass-along plant, too. If you're starting these from seed, plant the seed ½ to 1 inch apart from mid-October through early November.

I think these ideas should keep you busy for a while, so until next time,

Happy Gardening.

innovate . educate . improve lives
for the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site at 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 OCTOBER 2015

October 1st: Deadline for Outstanding Master Gardener Award Nominations
October 3rd: Plantfest! @“Cabbage Patch” 350 Coliseum Road, Lafayette: 8-3 PM
Volunteers will be needed to set up Oct 2 and close out after 3. Contact Sharon at bakaysharon@hotmail.com
October 8th: LPMGA Fall Field Trip to Bellingrath Gardens, 7am—8 pm
October 10th: Plant Swap, sign in 9am, Ira Neson Demo Beds
October 14th: General Meeting, Felder Rushing, 6 pm Downtown Public Library
October 17th: Third Saturday Garden Talk, Brock Barker “Permaculture” 10 am
October 23-34: Southern Garden Symposium, St. Francisville
November 17: Talk by Alain Baraton, Gardener of Versailles, 11-1 Petroleum Club



Food for our Friends



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:

Theresa Rohloff thescottherald@aol.com Please include:

“MG NEWSLETTER” in your subject bar.

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

1010 Lafayette Street/Suite 325,
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
Telephone (337) 291-7090
fax (337) 291-7099

The Web site 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 Cooperating

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
337-291-7090

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