

**LPMGA AUGUST
 GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday
August 3, 2016 - 6 pm
Southside Public Library

**LPMGA BOARD
 MEETING**

1 PM MONDAY,
AUGUST 22, 2016
IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE
CENTER (INHC)

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LMPGA August General Meeting

The speaker for the August Master Gardener meeting is Matthew Herron of the Capital Area Native Plant Society. The meeting will be held Aug. 3 2016 at 6:00 pm at the SOUTH SIDE BRANCH of the Lafayette Parish Library located at 6101 Johnston St. There will also be a “meet and greet” with Dan Devenport, the new LSU Ag center Master Gardener agent, in an adjacent room in the library. Please feel free to bring refreshments for the meet and greet!

The LPMGA fall field trip to Garrison Greenwoods Garden and Showplace and the Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport will take place October 6. The trip is open to the 2016 MG class members and the general membership. The \$65 trip fee is due by September 25.

President's Message



Recently, I spoke with a fellow 2013 Master Gardener who hasn't been involved this year. She said, “I don't know what's going on anymore. I want to get more involved... So check out the list of some of our current projects/committees in this newsletter.

“PlantFest, A Community Garden Fair,” is around the corner- September 24. Rather than have vendors, we will focus on our mission, horticultural education.

Speakers/topics will include:
 Organic vegetable gardening- Marcus Descant
 Native Plants- Bill Fontenot
 Preserving your Fall Harvest- Tiffany Williams, LSUAgCenter
 Fall Perennials- All Season's Nursery
 Bee Keeping- Keith Guidroz, President, Acadiana BeeKeeping Association
 Recycling- Greg Guidroz, Bayou Vermilion District

This year we have permission to use the area behind the Whittington House across from our Demo beds. We are putting up a gate for easy access.

The next Master Gardener General meeting will be at the SOUTHSIDE Library at 6:00. We will have a Meet & Greet to welcome Dan Devenport, our new LSU AgCenter / Master Gardener agent. I know some of you love to show off your famous cake or cookie recipes. Here's your opportunity! Bring any kind of refreshments. We have booked the auditorium for the meeting, and the room across for the Meet & Greet. Yum, yum!

Linda Beyt

AGENT JEREMY'S ADVICE



Crape Myrtles

More varieties and sizes of crape myrtles are available than many people realize. You can choose from well over 100 varieties with more being added each year. Unfortunately, due to demand, only about 10-15 varieties are readily available at garden centers around Louisiana.

Some varieties are great performers in the landscape. They fit smaller landscapes, bloom just as long as the more popular varieties (such as Natchez, Tuscarora and Muskogee) and have disease resistance. But they're just are not widely known to many home gardeners – and in some cases

horticulture industry professionals.

Three great semi-dwarf crape myrtles for consideration are Acoma, Tonto and Sioux. These have smaller mature heights of 12-16 feet and are hybrids that were released from the United States National Arboretum. Acoma is a beautifully shaped variety. The canopy matures to a weeping, umbrella shape on a 12-foot-tall tree. White flowers start appearing in early June in south Louisiana and continue for 70-80 days. In LSU AgCenter studies, powdery mildew, a major disease in crape myrtles, has not been significant. The bark of Acoma crape myrtles exfoliates after five to seven years. Tonto is a semi-dwarf with red flowers. Plants reach 10 to 12 feet tall, although some people have reported heights of 14-15 feet. This variety is more upright-growing than Acoma. Disease resistance is also good for this variety.

Sioux produces hot-pink flowers and is probably slower-growing than Acoma or Tonto. It has a stronger upright, tight-growing growth habit and is a superior bloomer. Sioux has excellent resistance to leaf spot and powdery mildew.

A few other hybrid crape myrtles to try that are not as well-known include Apalachee, Osage, Yuma and Catawba. Apalachee is a nice grower with a loose, upright habit. It matures at 20 feet and has soft lavender blooms. Apalachee has good leaf spot resistance and has cinnamon-orange bark as the tree matures. Osage is a favorite of Southern Living magazine. It's a 15-to-8-foot grower and has delicate light pink flowers with chestnut brown bark. This variety has done very well in terms of disease resistance in previous LSU AgCenter trials. Yuma is spectacular in bloom. After 15 years, plants are 15-16 feet tall. Lavender blooms appear on top of a wide umbrella canopy. The main feature of Catawba is the bloom color – deep purple. The trees are smaller growing, typically about 10 feet tall in Louisiana. They are slow growing. Unfortunately, they have disease susceptibility issues, but the deep purple flowers create consumer interest for this plant.

A couple of older, heirloom-type varieties historically important in Louisiana are the hard-to-find varieties Near East and Griffin Pink (also called Griffin Weeping Pink and Griffith Pink). Many Near East are planted around south Louisiana. Most are 30-40 years old, and many are older. Ten-foot-tall plants have irregular branching and soft pink flowers. Griffin Pink has medium to dark pink flowers. This variety originated at Aldridge Nursery in Texas. The plant canopy is lovely, with an umbrella shape possible with proper pruning. Both of these varieties are not produced by many growers and are becoming harder to locate in the nursery trade.

Consider some of these lesser-known crape myrtles in your landscape. Summer is a great time to observe crape myrtles, look at blooms and pick out your favorites for planting next winter. Whether you are looking for a certain color, a certain height, a certain style, there are many different options when it comes to crape myrtles. By selecting one that fits your needs, you are sure to benefit from what all crape myrtles have to offer.

For more information on the above topic, contact the LSU AgCenter at 788-8821 or email me at jphebert@agcenter.lsu.edu

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 LPMGA Meetings: (First Wednesday Except in July) Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm	2016 LPMGA Board Meetings, 1 pm: (Fourth Monday except for July & Dec.)
AUGUST 3, 6 pm	AUGUST 22
SEPTEMBER 7, Noon	SEPTEMBER 26
OCTOBER 5, 6 pm	OCTOBER 24
NOVEMBER 2, Noon	NOVEMBER 28
DECEMBER 7, 6 pm (Social)	DECEMBER 12

New Lafayette County Agent

Dan Devenport, Horticulture County Agent in Vermilion Parish has been reassigned and will be domiciled in Lafayette Parish. He has an excellent record of dedicated service and educational experiences. His educational background includes a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from USL and a M.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from Cornell University. Mr. Devenport maintains licenses in landscape contractor/horticulture services, commercial pesticide applicator as well as certifications in demonstration & research, general standards, WPS Trainer. He and his wife previously owned and operated a nursery/landscape company for twenty-one years in Abbeville.

Dan will be working three days a week in Lafayette Parish and continue to work two days a week in Vermilion Parish, at least on an interim basis.

Fall Seed Swap

The Fall Seed Swap will coincide with Plantfest, 9 am—noon on September 24 at Ira Nelson. It’s not too early to start saving seeds for the FALL SEED EXCHANGE. Bring as many different seeds as you like—it’s even trade. DON’T FORGET TO BAG ‘EM AND TAG ‘EM. ALL SEEDS AND BULBS MUST BE IDENTIFIED. Please label with type, variety, color, germination hints or any other helpful information. There will be small bags and labels available for you to use at the Seed Exchange table. The more interesting the seed, the more interesting the Exchange! Seeds that do not find a home will be donated to School Garden Initiative, Jr. Master Gardeners or LPMGA. Please consider bringing seeds-especially veggies-to donate. The public is always welcome. For more information, or to include a seed request, contact Louann Long at mglouann@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

The Healing Traditions of Acadiana lecture series continues with a lecture by traiteur Allen Simon, “Healing, Humor and History” on August 27 at 11 am at Vermilionville. Simon comes from a family of healers. His father, Claude Simon, Sr., became a traiteur at the astonishing age of eight by teaching himself passages from the Bible that referenced healing. Allen's brother, Claude Jr., is also a traiteur; Allen himself became one as well in the year 2000. He has what is commonly known as "healing hands," meaning that his hands get warm when he is in the process of doing a treatment. That, too, is a family trait. Entrance is free but donations are accepted.

Plantfest is September 24, 8 am—1 pm, Ira Nelson Demo beds.

The 2016 Master Gardener Appreciation Day will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016 9am—2 pm at the Hammond Research Station.

Master Gardener Email Addresses

Thanks to Karen Willingham for creating email addresses for the board, the website and the newsletter.

Position	Email
President	president@lpmga.org
Vice President	vicepresident@lpmga.org
Past President	pastpresident@lpmga.org
Corresponding Secretary	correspondingsecretary@lpmga.org
Recording Secretary	recordingsecretary@lpmga.org
Volunteer Coordinator	volunteercoordinator@lpmga.org
Member At Large	memberatlarge@lpmga.org
Newsletter	newsletter@lpmga.org
Treasurer	treasurer@lpmga.org
Webmaster	webmaster@lpmga.org

SCHOOL GARDEN VIDEO

Lights! Camera! Action! The Lafayette Parish School Garden Initiative went "Hollywood" in early June at L.Leo Judice Elementary in Scott. As part of the national garden grant, the Lafayette parish SGI was invited to participate in the making of a promotional video featuring school gardens. Staff from the National 4-H office in Washington, D.C. flew to Baton Rouge to join staff from the LSU Ag Center, to travel to Scott, La.

Filming started at 7:00 AM, under direction of Cindy Dupre and principal, Mia Lemaire. The students were filmed working in their school garden and preparing a salsa dish with their garden vegetables. They were joined in the food preparation area by Alexis Cole, Avoyelles Parish State Food and Fitness Board and Xavier Bell, LSU Collegiate 4-H. The filming concluded at noon with lunch for all participants.

The video, filmed by a crew from Florida, is expected to be finished in August. It will be distributed on line through National 4-H, throughout the country, to promote the school garden program.

We will be looking forward to the video "release" and viewing in the months to come.



SCHOOL GARDEN INITIATIVE

School Garden Initiative Program Underway



The hot days of summer are bringing an end to our summer gardens. However the School Garden Initiative is "gearing up" for the initiation of Fall gardens in several Lafayette Parish schools. Volunteer Master Gardeners will soon be sharing knowledge on garden safety and garden planning and planting with Lafayette Parish students and teachers.

If you are looking for an opportunity to earn volunteer hours, you may be interested in helping the SGI MG's with some of the following garden tasks:

- Join Juan Nieto and his "crew" in helping to "set up" a garden at our new schools. This will involve laying weed cloth and delivering black buckets for teachers and students to use in their Fall gardens. Time commitment will be approximately one day per garden, in August. Dates and times to be announced.
- Attending the SGI training in September. At this meeting the students from each SGI school will provide garden training to their fellow students and teachers, and tour the garden at Charles Burke Elementary. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, serve lunch, and assist students throughout the day. Time commitment is one school day.
- Assist with "On Cuisine du Jardin", the school garden Cook-Off in January. Sherlyn Larrison and Candy Bienvenu will serve as chairmen of this event, They will need MG assistance with registration, manning educational exhibits and other tasks. Please contact them if you are interested in assisting. Time commitment is a Saturday from 9:00 AM - 12 noon.
- Serving as a "team" teacher at a scheduled School Garden Meeting. Master Gardeners have developed 6 lesson plans and PowerPoint (optional) presentations for the monthly SGI meetings. Volunteers are needed to teach one 20- minute lesson, at one or two, schools during the month. Lesson topics include; identifying good and bad bugs in the garden, growing organic, and selecting plants for fall and spring gardens. The lesson plans and PowerPoint presentations will be available to view on the Master Gardener website soon. Time commitment can be 4-5 hours to prepare for the lesson and attend the meeting.
- If you are interested in "blogging", SGI is developing a "Google" blog site between MG's and teachers to help identify and solve garden problems. We are looking for several MG's to follow and offer suggestions for common garden problems.
- Want to learn more? Consider "shadowing" a Master Gardener at a school near you! Attend a monthly meeting or work alongside a Master Gardener in the school garden. It's always fun!

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities please contact Mary Kramer, Candy Bienvenu, Sherlyn Larrison or Charles Hebert.

MG PROJECTS AND COMMITTEES

Master Gardener Projects/Committees:

- 1) Propagation & Demonstration Gardens- Meets Wednesday 8-12; come the time you can. (Becky Taylor)
- 2) Vermilionville Medicinal Demonstration Garden- Meets Monday mornings. (MaryAnn Armbruster)
- 3) School Garden Initiative- Mary Kramer has just sent a list of volunteer possibilities; the number of schools in the program depend upon the number of MGs who volunteer
- 4) New Hope Community Development of Acadiana- Help at-risk kids garden. The kids are broken up into small groups with another adult to monitor. You can have fun teaching them gardening during planting and growing seasons in the spring and fall. (Linda Beyt)
- 5) Garden Talk Committee- You don't even have to talk! We have a list of expert speakers. Just help organize it! (Linda Beyt)
- 6) Jr. Master Gardener- Help Candy Bienvenu with the camp.
- 7) Speaker's Bureau- You can do this at home! If an organization needs a speaker, you call an expert (we have a list) and set it up. (Linda Beyt)
- 8) Garden Stroll- No sweat here, except when you are outside. Just get great gardeners to allow MGs to stroll their garden, or be a hostess and bring water or cookies. (Cindy Wiley)
- 9) Class Mentoring- Class is about to be in session August 11. Help the MGITs to feel welcome. (Cindy Jensen/ Delores Champagne)
- 10) Ask a Master Gardener- Talk to Jan Vining or Heather Finley! You know more than you think!
- 11) Horticultural Hints- Help Nick Long bundle the hints and deliver some to stores close to you.
- 12) Work at the Plantfest! (Becky Taylor)

What Plant Am I?

I'm a cold-hardy perennial, a native of Southeast Europe and West Asia. My cousins include mustard, wasabi, broccoli and cabbage.

I was known in Egypt in 1500 BC, and am depicted in a mural in Pompeii. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson mentioned me in garden accounts. I thrive in full sun, and am a perennial in Zones 2 to 9, an annual in other zones.

I need a long growing season, and a winter cold enough to force me into dormancy. My roots must not be water-logged, and can be harvested one year after planting.

In Spring or fall, cut off 1/3 to 1/2 of the top of my root. Dig a 12 inch hole, shovel in some compost, plant my root at a 45 degree angle, with the top of the cutting 2 inches below the soil line. Mulch well. Water once a week in dry spells. Remove suckers when plant is 8 inches. If more than 1 root is planted, space 30 inches apart. To control spread, remove entire root. Don't till where the root was, and don't put root in your compost bin. My main pest is the cabbage worm, which is the larva of Pieris rapae. The adults are white butterflies with black spots on the wings.

My main use is culinary. To make a sauce, peel a 3 to 4 inch section of my root, cut into chunks, and place in a blender or food processor, with 1/4 cup of cold water and a bit of ice. Grind. For a mild sauce, add rice wine or white wine vinegar immediately. For a stronger sauce, wait 2 to 3 minutes to add the vinegar.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 9 for the answer

GARDEN STROLL REPORT

The LPMGA enjoyed three garden strolls in June! These are photos from the garden stroll at Mary Beyt's house.



BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



Well, summer is almost over, but the heat isn't gone yet. It's still too hot to want to work much outdoors, but those plants still need attention. The answer is dawn and dusk, when it feels at least a tiny bit more tolerable, but that brings us to the problem

of mosquitoes. No one wants to be bitten, especially with the possibility of disease transmission, so please, remember the insect repellent when you do go out.

The heat-set tomatoes should be producing well and the fall-planted crops should be starting up. My blueberries produced beautifully this year for the first time. I have 13 plants set along one side of the drive. I did have 14, but I went out one day in June and found a plant lying on the driveway. I later found a broccoli plant pulled up, too. I also found a full-sized, but not ripened tomato pulled off the plant and just left lying on the ground. Who/what pulled them out? Your guess is as good as mine. I'm thinking about a trail camera. 😊 Anyway, my intention is to develop a hedge along that side, but they are not large enough yet, the plants range from one to three years old, so I'm making use of the space between them by filling in with tomatoes, peppers, bush beans and flowers to draw pollinators. This seems to be working well. I have gotten good production from the berries and the other plants, and the flowers make it look nice.

What to plant now? If you get it done by the early part of August, you can plant cantaloupe, okra, Southern peas, bell pepper (transplants only, it's too late for seed), summer squash, tomato transplants (same story, too late for seed) and watermelon. Starting mid-month, you can plant snap bean (bush or pole), beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, lettuces and Irish potatoes. You can plant lima beans, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, collard, cucumber, mustard, pumpkin, rutabaga, shallot and turnip during the entire month of August. You can also plant seeds for your own transplants for next month.

This late in the year many crops benefit from setting out transplants rather than starting them from seed out in the garden. So if you want to try - and have the space and the time to care from them - you should give it a go. It's really rather easy; give it a try, but first, you need pots.

While there are many **plant pots and holders** on the market, in my mind the easiest on the plant is a pot that allows you to simply put the whole thing in the ground without disturbing the roots when you do plant it outdoors. So that means a peat pot that you purchase, or a paper pot that you make yourself. Yes, you can make pots yourself that cost little to nothing and work just as well as the peat pots that you buy. If you Google "making pots from newspaper" you will find many, many options, from simple folded constructs like origami, to more complicated ones using wood with nuts and bolts as templates. You can make square pots or round pots in any size you might need or want - as long as they are smallish, you can't make great big ones this way - but then you don't need large pots to start seeds. You only want to put one or two seeds per pot. The whole point is to not disturb the roots when you finally plant the pot into the garden, and you achieve that by planting the whole pot. In fact, if you do plant two seeds, you may want to remove one of the plants before setting the pot in the ground. Instead of pulling the smaller/weaker plant out, simply cut it off at ground level. This removes the plant you don't want and prevents disturbing the roots of the plant that you do want. The roots of the cut off plant will simply decay in place, providing nutrition for the plant that is left.

When the paper is wet, the plant roots are able to penetrate the paper easily. One thing to remember though, you **MUST** cover the 'pot' entirely when planting it in the garden. Never leave the top rim of the pot sticking out of the

Between the Rows continued on Next Page:

Between the Rows continued:

ground and into the air making it much harder for the poor plant to survive and making more watering work for you. If there is extra paper up above ground level when you have the plant where you want it, just tear or cut that extra paper off before finishing. In fact, I find it easier to simply cut/tear the paper off at the soil level before planting. You want the edge while using it as a pot because it holds water better. If you fill the soil all the way to the top of the pot, that makes it very hard to water, but when planting, you no longer need the lip, so just tear it off. It's very easy to do when it's wet.

The only other thing you need is a waterproof tray to put the pots in while the seeds are sprouting and growing indoors. These homemade pots are fine for their intended use, but they won't hold up to extensive handling, so put them in a tray and handle the tray, not the individual pots. Also don't use odd things like old calendar pages, their fibers are too short, making them prone to falling apart. Use the papers indicated in the instructions and you should have no trouble.

There are a number of other things you can use for starter pots that involve reusing, repurposing other items, like, egg cartons, paper towel or toilet paper tubes, individual serving yogurt containers, paper coffee cups, I'm sure there are others. All of these help by reducing waste, or at least by reusing. The same holds true for the trays. You can reuse carry-out containers, or use kitchen baking pans or trays lined with plastic to keep them from rusting, or the Rubbermaid/Sterilite type storage container or its lid, the list goes on. Give it a try and let me know how it works.

The seeds that you want to plant now for setting out in six to eight weeks are: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, celery, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion and spinach. Of course, you can plant all of these seeds directly in the garden, but some lend themselves to seedlings more than others. Some seedlings are very delicate, like onions. The seedlings are tiny and take quite a while to develop into a sturdy plant that will withstand heavy rain and crusted soil. Growing them indoors allows the seedling to grow strong without the stresses of heat, rain, etc. that they would be subjected to when grown outdoors. Then, when they are six to eight weeks old, making them four to six inches in height, you can set their pots out into the garden and they should grow extra well from then on. Lettuces and spinach are others that may benefit from being grown indoors for the first part of their life. They are so sensitive to heat that growing them indoors in air conditioning will help to prevent their becoming bitter or bolting early.

Tomatoes! The varieties of tomato recommended by the Ag Center are as follows: Indeterminate varieties: Better Boy (N), Big Beef (AAS, N), Champion (N), Jet Star, Pink Girl, Sun Gold, Terrific (N); Determinate varieties: Bella Rosa (TSWV), BHN 981 and BHN 876, Carolina Gold, Celebrity (AAS, N), Crista (N, TSWV), Floralina (TSWV), Mountain Fresh Plus (N), Mountain Spring; Heat Tolerant: Florida 91, Heatwave II, Phoenix, Solar Set, Sun Leaper, Sun Master, Solar Fire, Talladega (TSWV); Others: Cupid (SPECK, TSWV, grape type), Juliet (AAS, EB, LB, grape type), Muriel Roma (N, SPECK, TSWV, Roma type), Picus Roma (TSWV, Roma type), Small Fry (AAS, N, cherry type), Sweet Million (cherry type), Sun Gold Cherry (cherry type). As a reminder, here's what the letters after the names stand for: EB=Early Blight; LB=Late Blight; SPECK=Bacterial Speck; TSWV=Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus; N=Nematode Resistant; AAS=All America Selection.

Until next time,
Good Gardening!

WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Amoracia rusticana: Horseradish

PS: I make a great Shrimp Remoulade



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

LPMGA Calendar August 2016

- August 3: General Meeting, 6pm, Southside Public Library
- August 22: LPMGA Board meeting, Ira Nelson Center, 1 p.m.
- August 27: Healing Traditions of Acadiana, 11 am, traiteur Allen Simon
- September 24: PlantFest and Seed Swap
- September 30: Master Gardener Appreciation Day, 9am—2pm, Hammond
- October 6: LMPGA Fall Field Trip to Shreveport



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

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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.