

**LPMGA FEBRUARY
 GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday

February 3, 2016 - 6 pm
 Lafayette Public Library
 301 W. Congress St.

LPMGA BOARD

MEETING

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner— 2
- MG Events, Reports, & Announcements— 3
- Hibiscus info listing — 4
- What Plant am I? —4
- School Garden Initiative harvest and Jr. Master Gardener camp —5
- Azalea Trail — 6-7
- Between the Rows—8
- February Calendar—9

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LPMGA February General Meeting

The speaker for the February 3 Master Gardener meeting is **MaryAnn Armbruster** and the topic is medicinal plants. The meeting will be held at the downtown branch of the Lafayette Public Library at 6 pm. The public is invited to attend.

Mark your calendars for some exciting upcoming spring events:

Our spring LPMGA Plant Sale will be April 9 with a theme of wild and native.

The 25th anniversary of Festival de Fleurs takes place April 2-3

Southern Garden Festival is scheduled for April 15-16

Louisiana Master Gardener Convention will be May 12-14

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2016 started with a BANG! Great speakers at our meeting; Babette, Heather, and Theresa were so interesting! The greenhouse is cleaned and painted, irrigation has been repaired, and the tables are back in place. And we are propagating! School Gardens are back in session, and the students are starting squash, eggplant, and tomatoes to grow in Acadiana High's greenhouse and they are learning how to plant potatoes, some in laundry baskets. And Cheryl Perret and Cindy Wiley are working hard to re-establish the Azalea Trail.

I feel the Board Retreat was a success. Besides the Executive Board, chairs of different committees were invited. Kyle Love of HDI Consulting Company, our volunteer facilitator, interviewed participants to identify expectations and ideas. As a group we developed Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners goals for 2016.

LPMGA Goals are:

1. Consolidate committees by subject area and find a coordinator for each
2. Financial/Fiscal analysis –profit/loss and additional revenue opportunities (grants, ...)
3. Education development – Increase education opportunities and sponsor workshops; develop goals and evaluate all projects; Messaging/Branding – sharing our Mission and Vision in everything we do

Thanks to all MGs who participated in the Board Retreat and I ask members of the organization for your support and ideas.

Linda Beyt

GERALD'S CORNER

Hello Master Gardeners,

Recently I've been receiving calls and pictures regarding camellia flowers being discolored after opening or some being discolored and only partially opening. On white camellia flowers the flower petals take on a tan to brown color and many fall to the ground. After discussions with Dr. Raj Singh, LSU AgCenter Plant Pathologist, and Director of the Plant Pathology Lab at LSU, we concluded that the majority of the problems were caused by cold injury. However another problem that mimics cold injury is Camellia Flower Blight which is caused by Sclerotinia camelliae which becomes active during cool moist conditions. These conditions are what Dr. Singh refers to as favorable conditions for camellia flower blight. To those of you who had the fortune of sitting through Dr. Singh's plant pathology class as you received classroom instructions to become a certified Master Gardener, you should have recalled that he said in order for infection to take place there are three things that need to be present: favorable conditions, a host, and a pathogen. When camellias are blooming in cool temperatures with abundant moisture, camellia flower blight is highly probable. Camellias growing in shade where moisture is more abundant are more susceptible. The fact that camellia flower blight mimics cold injury may be confusing to home gardeners because of the similar appearance, but remember, if the petals have a slippery, slimy texture then it's camellia flower blight. If the discolored petals have a dry leathery feel then in all likelihood it is cold injury. If it is camellia flower blight all infected flowers that fall to the ground should be picked up and discarded. Some gardeners even picked the infected flowers off the plant and discarded them. If this is not done, the pathogen will overwinter in the old infected flowers and be there to infect the next crop of camellia flowers.

I'm also receiving numerous calls from home gardeners regarding a high number of broccoli plants that are bolting or as old gardeners say, going to flower and seed. We see this occurring when these plants are repeatedly exposed to warm temperatures, which is common with late season broccoli. If you recall we've had several periods of above normal temperatures and since I'm getting calls from all across Lafayette and surrounding parishes it's safe to conclude that the warm weather patterns are to blame. Bolting is actually a survival mechanism in certain plants, where by if the temperature ranges are higher than what the plant has been genetically programmed to handle, the plant feels threatened and tries to produce the next generation by flowering, followed by seed production. Some research indicates that to some degree as a gardener these plants can be mulched or watered to keep the roots cool which may minimize bolting. However, I'm not sure if that has been proven! All cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, turnips, kale, cabbage and several others, are susceptible to bolting!!

One of the most serious diseases of cruciferous crops worldwide is Black Rot caused by the bacterium Xanthomonas campestris. If the pathogen is present in seeds or transplants, and favorable conditions develop such as wind and rain producing splashing water, it is highly likely that infection will take place. Many gardeners have called and sent pictures of browning of the leaves of broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower within the last month. They should remember the rainy weather pattern we've been having and continuing to have. The infection usually begins on the leaf margins where the pathogen enters the plant through natural openings in the leaf or through insect wounds. The leaves begin to take on a tan to brown V shaped lesion in its early stages and progressively moves downward from the leaf margin to consume an increasingly larger area of the leaves of these vegetables. This causes plants to sometimes die prematurely, remain small, or lowers the quality of the vegetables produced. Symptoms are sometimes confused with nutritional problems. In the very early stages of development, infected leaves can be removed and applications of copper fungicide can be made to slow the spread of Black Rot.

Check out these pictures of camellia flowers with cold injury, bolting/flowering of broccoli, and black rot of broccoli and cabbage and broccoli:



Gerald P. Roberts

Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator
LSU AgCenter

Happy Gardening!!

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EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD 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.)
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FEBRUARY 3, 6 pm	FEBRUARY 22
MARCH 2, Noon	MARCH 28
APRIL 6, 6 pm	APRIL 25
MAY 4, 6 pm (Social)	MAY 23
JUNE 1, Noon	JUNE 27
JULY No meeting	JULY No Meeting
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

BE FRIENDLY!

Our Facebook Page serves two important purposes: First, it advances our Mission of Helping the AgCenter provide science-based gardening information to the public. Second, it serves the membership by sharing information about events. You can help by:

1. "Liking" the Lafayette Master Gardener Facebook Page;
2. "Following" the page in your Newsfeed; and
3. Frequently "Liking", "Commenting" and "Sharing" posts.

Note that Non Profits such as ours cannot rely on paid promotions. The free, easy and effective way to offer our posts is by generating lots of activity. The more Likes, Comments and Shares you provide, the more our posts get out to the public. Therefore, you and all members are a vital part of this process and its success.

Also, please take pictures at Meetings, Garden Talks, Field Trips, and other Master Gardener events. Then just text them to Stacy Lee.

Thanks for being Friendly on Facebook!
Stacey Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Schoeffler wants to know if you planted trees on Saturday, January 30th at Acadiana Park off Alexander Drive near the Nature Station at 8 a.m.? She was hoping for lots of friends with their shovels!

March Master Gardener Meeting From Cindy Wiley: Some of you heard me speak at the last meeting about revitalizing the old Azalea Trail in Lafayette and that I had filled out an application for Lafayette to be considered an Azalea City by the Azalea Society of America. I got a call from Buddy Lee of Encore Azaleas yesterday saying that Lafayette has been approved for the status of "Azalea City." Buddy Lee will present Parish President Joel Robideaux with the Azalea City Proclamation at our noon meeting on Wednesday, March 2. Hope to see you there for this special occasion!

More 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 pictures to be ready for spring. Please send to lmg@kreativetouch.com.



3rd Saturday Garden Talk

Mary Ann Armbruster presents at both the February meeting AND at the 3rd Saturday Garden Talk. Plan to be at the Demo Beds at 10 a.m. to glean a wealth of information that can improve your gardening success!



From Theresa Gore: The list of mail order Hibiscus nurseries from the handout at her presentation, Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, at the Master Gardener general meeting in January:

Matt Martindale. FL Highest quality, large plants. HibiscusPlace.com

Curt Sinclair. FL Less expensive, smaller plants. ExoticHibiscus.com

Randy and Annelle Cox. FL Small plants but award-winning varieties. AffordableHibiscus.com

Charlie Black. CA Most variety. HiddenValleyHibiscus.com

Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society, Lafayette. AcadianaHibiscus.com

Meets first Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Ira Nelson Hort Center. Membership includes free plant for joining, drawings for plants at each meeting, private tour of Dupont Nurseries in February, discounted price at Festival des Fleurs in March/April and at chapter's annual sale at Cathedral Carmel in May.

InternationalHibiscusSociety.org

*Click on Nomenclature, then
Cultivar Research, then All Cultivars*

Gives you an alphabetical list of tens of thousands of rosa-sinensis, pictures, parents, hybridizers, everything!



Theresa's Hibiscus —
Shades of Autumn

What Plant Am I?

Native to Mexico, Central and South America, I am a vine which produces edible tubers. Found in the produce section of the grocery, I range from five (5) to eight (8) inches in diameter, and may weigh from 1/2 pound to six (6) pounds or more. I have been cultivated by all Mesoamericancivilizations for many hundreds of years. Spaniards brought me to the Philippines in the 17th century, and then to South East Asia and China. I was used as a staple on ships because I stored well, could be eaten raw, and quenched thirst.

My vine can reach four (4) to five (5) feet if supported by a trellis. My flowers, which can be blue or white, should be removed to promote the growth of my roots. Plant my pre-soaked seeds inside or in a greenhouse for eight weeks before the last frost, then outside in moist, well-drained soil. I need nine months of warm temperatures for my plants to develop my tubers, which usually produce four or five tubers per plant. All of my parts except my tubers are poisonous, producing rotenone. They must be peeled before eating.

I am a marvel of nutrition. I contain folate, riboflavin, pyridoxin, pantothenic acid, and thiamin, and the minerals magnesium, copper, iron and manganese. My sweet flavor comes from oligofructose inulin, a prebiotic, which may help prevent colon cancer. I can be eaten raw in salads and mixed with chili powder, salt and lime juice. Also, slice and stir-fry me as you would a water chestnut. I am 85 to 90 percent water. I am low in cholesterol and sodium, and contain no fat. I am high in Vitamin C, dietary fiber and potassium.

Along with tangerines, sugar cane and peanuts, I am used in "Day of the Dead" celebrations on November 1st. Many recipes using me can be found at the website ALLRecipes.com.

Do you know what plant I am?

See page 7 for the answer

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS / SCHOOL GARDEN INITIATIVE



Judice Middle school harvesting their carrots. Their teacher Lisa Kaelin made vegetable soup for the class using their broccoli , purple cauliflower and carrots.



What's up, Doc?

STM students harvested cabbage. The students and teachers made cabbage rolls with their produce and donated the extra to families.



Camp for a Week

Junior Master Gardeners will hold its second camp this March. The dates will take place March 28 through April 1, 2016 from 9 a.m. - 1p.m. This will be our first week long camp for grades 3 - 5, as well as our first graduating Junior Master Gardener class.! We will be sending emails out with the schedule, price, a call for recycled supplies and most importantly a call to volunteers to teach at the camp! We can not do this program without you! COME AND JOIN THE FUN!



The Azalea Trail

Lafayette, Louisiana



AZALEAS: ENCORE!

Scenic Lafayette proudly announces the return of the historic Lafayette Azalea Trail!!

The trail started as a beautification project by the Chamber of Commerce in the 1930's and with the hard work and dedication of the Lafayette Garden Club, it became a great success and a cherished annual pilgrimage for locals and tourists. A 1940's post-war report estimated that 40,000 people visited the trail in one year! Eventually, the trail wound its way through 22 miles of Lafayette's loveliest neighborhoods and was a top 20 tourist destination according to Southern Living Magazine.

Mass plantings of azaleas along the trail are more than 50 years old and produce stunning displays, usually peaking from mid-March to mid-April. Traditionally, a self-guided driving trail, *our* revised map suggests loops for walking and biking for a more interactive experience. An official Azalea Day kickoff on March 19, 2016 promises more fun and surprises for the whole family.

The Lafayette Azalea Trail starts with a colorful floral display alongside water features and a boardwalk at the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Center, where one can pick up a trail map. The Jefferson Street route features native cypress trees and Encore azaleas for a shaded walk through the heart of Lafayette and into the historic Sterling Grove subdivision. The main spine of the trail is St. Mary Boulevard with large, vibrant displays throughout the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and in the charming neighborhoods on each end. The Bendel Gardens and West Bayou Parkway subdivision loops feature a show of both azaleas and large beautiful homes.

In French Louisiana there is a term used to describe *wanting more*: "encore"! A term, ironically, that was coined a few years ago by a Louisiana hybridizer to describe his new variety of repeat blooming Encore azaleas!

Whether driving, biking or walking the historic Lafayette Azalea Trail, you're sure to be delighted!

To learn more about the grassroots effort to revitalize the trail, Azalea Day activities or to donate funds to promote public plantings, visit www.facebook.com/sceniclafayette and www.scenic.org/sceniclafayette or email us at sceniclafayette@gmail.com. See the Azalea Trail map on the next page.



The Azalea Trail

Lafayette, Louisiana



- Points of Interest**
- Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission
1400 NW Evangeline Thoroughway
 - Lafayette Regional Airport
 - Alexandre Mouton House / Lafayette Museum
1122 Lafayette St
 - 1** Downtown Lafayette
 - 2** University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 - 3** Girard Park
 - 4** Lafayette Central Park at the Horse Farm
 - 5** Vermillionville Historic Village / Acadian Cultural Center / Henry Heyman Park
- Trail Loops**
- A** Sterling Loop
 - B** St. Streets/Myrtle Loop
 - C** Bendel Gardens Loop
 - D** Mall Loop
 - E** Future Freetown Loop
- Trail Corridors**
- F** St. Mary Boulevard
 - G** Jefferson Street
 - H** Coolidge Street

WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

Pachyrhizus erosus: Jicama

Also called:
Mexican yam bean
Mexican turnip



BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



We're getting to the end of winter now. Soon spring will be here and we can start complaining about the hot weather again. February is the last 'winter' month. After this, 'warm' will be more common and more consistent. It's not that we haven't had warm during the winter months, but it was neither consistent nor common. I, for one, am looking forward to the warm.

Starting now until mid-February you can plant broccoli, Chinese cabbage, carrots and cauliflower, after mid-month, plant snap beans and sweet corn. All month long you can plant beets, Swiss chard, mustard greens, Irish potatoes, radishes and turnips out in the open garden, but eggplant, pepper and tomato seeds need protection. Plant these indoors, in the greenhouse or in the cold frame. (If you need a review of cold frames, refer to Between the Rows for February 2015 on the Master Gardener website.) It's still too cold to plant these warm-weather-lovers outdoors. They need warmth, so if you want transplants when the weather gets warm, plant those seeds in a protected area now and baby them until it's time to set them out.

Let's review the reasons to grow your own transplants: 1. More variety: you can never get the variety of commercial transplants that you can find in seeds; 2. Control: you know what you put into the transplants, no pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, if you don't want them; and, 3. You have the transplants you want when you want them. No waiting for the growers to get them to the nursery.

Speaking about variety, you know that eating a colorful diet is healthier for you, right? Well, you can start eating that colorful diet by choosing more colorful varieties when choosing seeds. Take cauliflower, for example, white is good. It's loaded with nutrients – just look what you get in a one cup serving!

	Amt. per cup	DV
Vitamin	46.4 mg	77
Vitamin K	16.0 mg	20
Thiamin	0.1 mg	4
Riboflavin	0.1 mg	4
Niacin	0.5 mg	3
Vitamin B6	0.2 mg	11
Folate	57.0 mg	14
Pantothenic Acid	0.7 mg	7

That's a pretty potent nutrition package, especially considering it also provides 10% of daily fiber and does it in only 25 calories with a low glycemic index. That means it doesn't cause your blood sugar to shoot up.

When you eat purple cauliflower, however, you get all of the benefits of white cauliflower plus a number of extra goodies. One of those extras is anthocyanins. Anthocyanins are the reason it's purple and not only does it make the flower bud pretty, they can help to lower your risk of Type 2 diabetes, prevent heart disease and eye problems, improve brain function, and help to control your weight. Anthocyanins are also antimicrobial and eliminate many types of environmental pollutants. It's also a super antioxidant that can work for up to three days reducing free radicals, unlike most antioxidants that work once and are then broken down.

Another super health benefit found in purple cauliflower is glucoraphanins. These are the compounds in cruciferous vegetables, like broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and kale that provide their anti-cancer benefit. The glucoraphanin is broken down into a compound called sulforaphane that is absorbed in the intestine then modified in the liver to actually produce the anti-cancer compound, which causes the cancer cell to self-destruct without harming healthy cells. How's that for super-duper high powered nutrition? One note, though, to gain maximum benefit you should eat your purple cauliflower raw. That's just one example of better nutrition through choosing colors. So when you're choosing your seed varieties, choose color whenever you can.

The Ag Center recommends the following varieties of bush beans: Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, powdery mildew resistant (PM), Derby, an All American Selection (AAS), Festina, Lynx, Magnum, Provider, downy mildew resistant (DM, PM), Roma II, Royal Burgundy (think anthocyanins again), Strike and Valentino. For pole beans the recommendations are: Blue Lake, Kentucky blue (AAS), Kentucky Wonder 191, McCaslin, Rattlesnake (striped) and Yardlong Asparagus Bean (one of my absolute favorites; it's never failed me). For the various types of sweet corn, the recommendations are: of the Sweet varieties, try Gold Queen, Merit, Seneca Horizon (bicolor, BC), or Silver Queen; of the Supersweet varieties, try Golden Queen and Honey 'N Pearl (AAS, BC); of the Sugar Enhanced (SE) varieties, try Ambrosia, Avalon, Bodacious, Delectable, Honey Select (AAS), Incredible, Lancelot (BC), Miracle, Precious Gem (BC) or White Out.

Don't forget to fertilize. For snap beans, add 2 to 3 pounds of 8-24-24 or 2 to 5 pounds of 8-8-8 per 100 feet of row before planting. For beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, rutabagas and kohlrabi, add 6 to 7 pounds of 8-8-8 or 4 to 5 pounds of 8-24-24 before planting, then side dress 3 to 4 weeks after planting. For cabbage, collards, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower, add 5 to 6 pounds of 8-8-8 or 3 to 4 pounds of 8-24-24 before planting, then side dress 3 to 4 weeks after planting, then again in another 2 to 3 weeks.

That's about it for February. Talk with you again next month. Until then,
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
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LPMGA Calendar FEBRUARY 2016

- February 3rd: General Master Gardener Meeting, Main Library at 6 p.m.
- February 9th: Happy Mardi Gras!
- February 14th: Happy Valentine's Day! (*Flowers are okay for Lent*)
- February 15th: President's Day!
- February 22nd: LPMGA Board meeting, Ira Nelson Center, 1 p.m.
- March 19th: Azalea Day Kickoff
- March 28th-April 1st: Jr Master Gardener Camp
- April 2nd-3rd: Festival de Fleurs
- April 9th : Spring LPMGA plant sale
- April 15th-16th: Southern Garden Festival
- May 12th-14th: Louisiana Master Gardener Convention



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:

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Lafayette, Louisiana 70501
Telephone (337) 291-7090
fax (337) 291-7099

The Web site is www.lsuagcenter.com

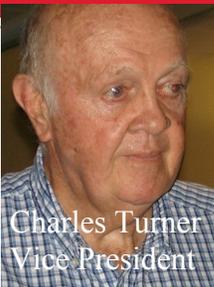
The Louisiana cooperative extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana Governing Bodies, Southern University, and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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.



Charles Turner
Vice President



Azalea Trail
Planner



Jay Ruffin
Recording
Secretary



Rose Expert —
Juan Nieto