

**LPMGA JUNE  
 GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday**  
**June 1, 2016 - 12:30 pm**  
**Downtown Public Library**

**LPMGA BOARD**

**MEETING**

**1 PM MONDAY,**  
**JUNE 27, 2016**  
**IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE**  
**CENTER (INHC)**

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**2016 BOARD:**

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**Linda Beyt 2013**  
**Vice President:**  
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**Gerald Roberts**  
**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
**Mary Ann Armbruster 2010**  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Theresa Rohloff 2012**

The speakers for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association **June meeting** will be members of the school gardening program. Please see page 3 for more details about the speakers. The meeting will be held at the Lafayette Parish Public Library downtown at 301 West Congress St. on June 1, 2016 at 12:30 pm. (please note slight change from the scheduled time of noon!) The meeting takes place in the auditorium on the second floor. The meeting is open to the public.

**President's Message**



I just returned from the State Master Gardener Convention in New Orleans. Great speakers: Doug Tallamy, Dan Gill, Margie Jenkins, Buddy Lee, Charles Allen, William Welch; our very own Tina Jumonville did an excellent session on "GMOs, How, Why, Fact, and Fiction."

I would like to congratulate our new Advanced Master Gardeners: John Fontane, Louann McClelland-Long, Scott Reed, Heather Warner-Finley, MaryAnn Armbruster, Jamie Hurst, Juan Nieto, Babette Werner, Theresa Gore, and Tina Jumonville. It took a lot of hard work and

dedication to complete this certification, and we should be very proud of them.

I would also like to congratulate Peggy Voorhies on her reaching Sustaining Member status. She was a member of the second graduating class (1999), and has been invaluable member ever since. Peggy was the producer of the Gardener's Gazette for several years, chairperson for the 2007 convention and co-chair of the fundraising party, liaison for Festival de Fleurs, a host for the AOC program, "In the Garden," since 2011, and a tropical plant expert and speaker.

What makes our organization so great are the members and their efforts to make a difference in our community. In lieu of written committee reports, I would like committee chairs to share their projects and activities by either writing an article for the newsletter or presenting at the general meeting what your committee has done/is planning to do. Please sign up for a month for the newsletter or a month for the general meeting. Your report should be a short paragraph or a presentation about 3 minutes (include pictures if possible). I submitted the Garden Stroll Committee Report this month as an example. Last month, Becky Taylor and MaryAnn Armbruster shared newsletter reports. Candy Bienvenu is doing a short report on Jr. Master Camp at the June meeting. Send your request for a month, August, September, October, November, or December and let me know if it is a newsletter or a short program to [lbeyt@att.net](mailto:lbeyt@att.net).

Have a great summer!  
 Linda

## AGENT JEREMY'S ADVICE



About this time of the year, homeowners begin calling the LSU AgCenter wondering what the little galls are that are growing on pecan leaves. A common saying that County Agents hear is “I have a disease on my pecan tree and how do I fix it?” Well, it is not a disease but a tiny insect that wreaks havoc on pecan leaves; this tiny insect is called the pecan phylloxera.

Homeowners will first notice the galls, or knots, which appear on the leaf veins, leaf rachises and the current season’s shoot growth. These galls are caused by the feeding of small aphid-like insects known as the pecan phylloxera. During some years, the galls may be extremely numerous, covering the entire tree which gives the twigs a knotty appearance.

High infestation levels of this insect cause current season’s shoots to become deformed, reducing their rate of growth. In some cases, severe infestations can lead to dieback of the current season’s shoots. Galls also can form on the nuts, causing nut deformity and premature nut loss. Galls formed by pecan phylloxera are an alternate host for larvae of the hickory shuckworm.

If you have had galls on your pecans in the past, you will likely have them again, and the only way to break the cycle is to control the insects. Pecan phylloxera overwinters on pecan trees in the crevices and cracks of the bark. When the buds begin to swell in early spring, the insects emerge to start feeding on the new buds and small foliage. As the pecan phylloxera feeds, a gall will form and engulf the insect. This is the only phase of the insect’s life cycle that will cause a gall to form, so it is here that homeowners must control the insect to stop gall formation.

Initially that gall will be green but most people do not notice it because it blends into the foliage of the tree. In May when newly developed insects are ready to emerge, the galls will dry up, turn black and crack open to let the insects out.

Controlling insects on large pecan trees is no easy task and for some, it is impossible, and most homeowners will just have to live with it. The problem is delivering an insecticide up into a tall tree. Even farmers with good spray equipment have trouble because it takes a lot of pressure to move water straight up. If you have small trees, it is possible to get coverage, but timing is crucial to success. You want to apply an insecticide when you have ½ inch of bud growth. That is harder than it sounds because each tree has buds at different stages and you even see differences on the same tree. I think that you will find the insects are present when there is something for them to feed on. You can spray with Malathion, Lorsban or Provado. I would make a second spray a week after the first one if you had galls last year. This will help with the variation in green up.

Again, many homeowners are just now noticing the effects of this insect and treatment is too late to control the galls. By carefully inspecting the trees in early spring, appropriate timing of insecticides can be administered if proper equipment is available. As the buds begin to break open and the leaves begin to unroll, insecticides can then be applied. By doing so, this will help in the reduction of the galls that are formed on the leaves by the pecan phylloxera.

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.)
JUNE 1, 12:30 pm	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

**June General Meeting**

The Master Gardener General Meeting will be held June 1, at **12:30** at the downtown library. The program will be several short presentations.

Mindy Prados, chef for Joey’s, will discuss the School Garden Initiative Program from a chef’s point of view. Mindy is originally from St. Martinville, and received her chef training at the Lafayette Regional Community College Culinary School. She worked previously at the Ritz Carlton in New Orleans and Whole Foods in Colorado. She has been the Chef for the SGI Program at L. Leo Judice for the past two years, teaching kids about cooking and nutrition using foods that they grew. She will also sample out the chili recipe that the students cooked for the Cook-off. L. Leo Judice fifth grade students will help serve the dish.

There will also be an Awards Ceremony for the Advanced Master Gardener Certification. Being presented are: John Fontane, Louann McClelland-Long, Scott Reed, Heather Warner-Finley, MaryAnn Armbruster, Jamie Hurst, Juan Nieto, Babette Werner, Theresa Gore, and Tina Jumonville.

Finally, Candy Bienvenu will share highlights from the Spring Jr. Master Gardener Camp.

The **after meeting social** will be held at Anthoni’s Italian Café in the Oil Center. The address is 1118 Coolidge St.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Looking for Leaders**

You are likely getting pretty jaded about upcoming state and national elections by now. But I want to remind you that LPMGA will also be having an election in November and I hope you aren’t jaded about leadership for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners. Next November we will be electing 4 new board members: Member-at-Large, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. We will formally nominate candidates at the October meeting, and vote at the November meeting. It’s important to all of us to have people with vision and good judgment in these positions. The nominating committee consists of Heather Warner-Finley, Juan Nieto, and Tinker Dugas. If you would like to know what’s involved, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Heather Warner-Finley ([redmangrove354@gmail.com](mailto:redmangrove354@gmail.com) or 501.9261).

**Advanced Master Gardeners**

LPMGA members received their Advanced Master Gardeners Certification at the State Master Gardener Convention on May 12. Pictured are: MaryAnn Armbruster, Jamie Hurst, Juan Nieto, Theresa Gore, and Tina Jumonville. Also receiving the award are John Fontane, Louann McClelland-Long, Scott Reed, Heather Warner-Finley, and Babette Werner.



## REMEMBERING MG 2011 DONALD “AL” ALEXANDER



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our dear friend and fellow Master Gardener Donald “Al” Alexander on April 12, 2016.

Al was a gifted musician and nationally recognized artist. He was known locally for his portraits, several of which grace the Alumni Center of University of Louisiana at Lafayette; commissioned paintings at several local churches; posters for many local events; New Orleans Jazz Fest bandanas and from serving as principal illustrator for the Lafayette African American History Parade. He also designed the proposed Master Gardener license plate.

Al was a member of the 2011 Master Gardener class, which he took with his wife, Master Gardener Cheryl Crow. After graduating, Al became involved with propagation.

Al’s warmth, kindness and appreciation of the beauty of nature were infectious. His many friends in LPMGA will remember him for his love of all plants, with a special fondness for gingers. He never failed to find room for just one more garden treasure, providing a loving home to them in his lush garden.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Al is better for it. He will be deeply missed by his fellow Master Gardeners. Our sincerest condolences go out to Cheryl, Al’s family and his many friends. -Louann McClelland-Long

## GARDEN STROLL COMMITTEE REPORT



The Garden Stroll at Dr. Richard Howes was a huge success, with about 20 people attending. Dr. Howes is an avid gardener. His home has a lush, tropical feel to it. His gardens include collections of favorites: palms, Japanese maples, fruit trees, stag horns (started from cutting in 1975), Formosa flowering cherries, and stately 200 year old live oaks. The delightful pool area has paths that lead off to gardens on the 3 acre property.

Garden Strolls for June include the homes of May Vidacovich and Mary Beyt. Both are avid gardeners who use Master Gardener-propagated plants into their landscape.

May’s gardens include over 100 varieties of stunning Japanese maples, roses intertwined with clematis, Oriental lilies, abutilon, hibiscus and ginger. If you haven’t been to May’s before, or even if you have, it is an incredible experience. It will be held Saturday, June 11, from 9-11. Her address is 201 Grossie Dr.

Mary’s gardens reflect her passion for art, using an artist’s eye for color, texture, patterns. Her gardens are like her paintings, thoughtfully designed and beautiful. This will indeed be a great stroll and learning experience! Mary’s garden stroll is Thursday, June 16, from 9-11. Her address is 126 Girard Woods Dr.

Remember, a Garden Stroll can be counted as one hour of education. What a fun way to learn! Master Gardeners can bring one guest.

PLANT SWAP

Photos from the May Plant Swap



**ACADIANA ROSE SOCIETY**

**June is Busting Out All Over – Ask Rose Society Members!**

**By: Theresa Rohloff**

June brings to mind weddings and roses. According to Rose Society President, Juan Nieto, roses had a “second big bloom” just recently. Nieto became the Acadiana Rose Society president in January of this year, but he has been a member and a noted rose expert for years. When the American Rose Society center in Shreveport got a call about a Lafayette rose garden in distress, they contacted him to come to the rescue in 2012. There were 36 roses in “real bad shape and dying.” The grower had suffered an ill-fated accident that left her unable to tend them.

Since then, the garden has become a rose lover’s ecstasy. Now 212 esthetically beautiful and healthy roses grow and bloom in brilliant colors and wide variety: 148 modern roses, 40 English garden roses and 24 other varieties including miniatures, old roses and others.

“Certain roses were contributed by Dr. Fell, who now spends part of his year in Indiana.” Nieto said, “I learned a lot by working with Doc. Robert Fell for five years.” Asked about the Rose Society, Nieto shares, “Anyone can join our rose society. We meet every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center classroom. We have several Consulting Rosarians,” he adds.

Ira Nelson is located at 2602 Johnston Street. The Acadiana Rose Society is an Affiliate of the American Rose Society. For more information, call Juan Nieto, 290-1451 or BJ Abshire, 981-4473.



*Juan Nieto*



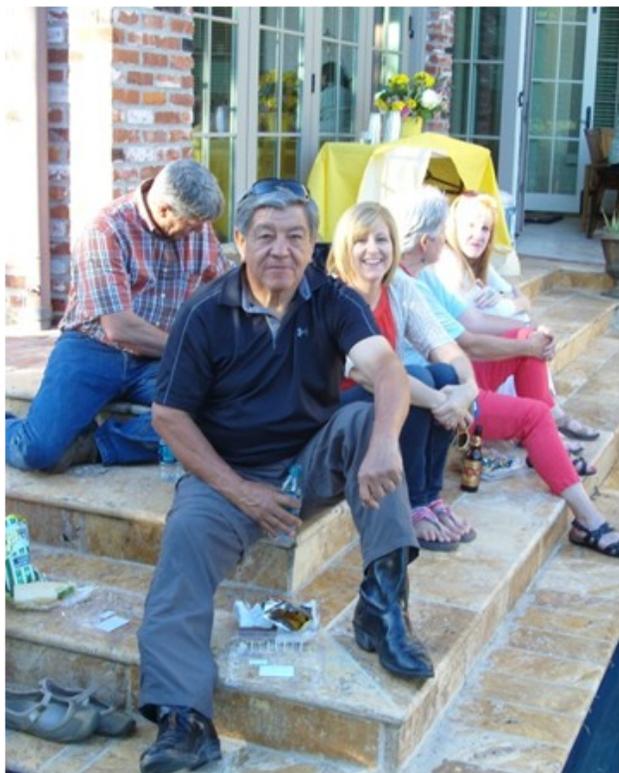
*A rare green rose*



*Abraham Darby (Left)*

## Spring Master Gardener Social

Thank You, Ruth! We appreciate you sharing your home with us! It was great fun!



See More Photos of Social on Next Page

## What Plant Am I?

I am a perennial succulent evergreen, native to Mexico and the southwestern United States. I am found in Arizona, California, Louisiana, Texas, and have been introduced to other states with warm deserts and high plains. Dry, harsh environments, full sun, and rocky to sandy soils are my preferred homes. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center recommends me as a native.

My large rosette cluster has leaves that radiate from a central basal crown. Each leaf is 3 to 6 feet long, with sharp prickly edges. They are thick and heavy, gray, smooth, and up-curved. The tips of my leaves have a sharp point, which has been used as a needle. When I am about 10 years old, I send up a stalk which can be as much as 20 feet tall. It bears heavy clusters of 3 to 4 inch greenish-yellow flowers. My fruit is brown with a flat disk seed enclosed in a capsule.

I am usually hardy down to temperatures in the teens, but my leaves may suffer damage which will persist until they are replaced by new ones. After I bloom, I send out offshoots which can be removed and planted. Then I die.

Hummers and insects drink my nectar, birds eat my seeds, and I provide a protective habitat for small animals. My fiber is used to make rope and coarse cloth, and to embroider leather. My sap is distilled to make tequila. My heart can be eaten when baked, and my seeds ground into a flour to make bread. Sap from my cut flower stems is used as a syrup, or distilled to make mescal. I have many medicinal properties.

**Do you know what plant I am?  
See page 8 for the answer**

# Spring Master Gardener Social



## WHAT PLANT AM I? ANSWER:

*Agave americana*: Century Plant

You can find this century plant (photo at right) in Lafayette at a corner home at the junction of Thompson Dr. and Luce Dr. (this is off Ole Colony Road which connects Ambassador Caffery to Westgate ... just north of the Dulles intersection and the strip center where Winn Dixie used to be)



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# LPMGA Calendar June & July 2016

- June 1: General Meeting, 12:30pm, Downtown Public Library
- June 11: Garden Stroll, 9-11, 201 Grossie Drive
- June 16: Garden Stroll, 9-11, 126 Girard Woods Drive
- June 18: Healing Traditions of Acadiana, 11 am, herbalist Lanier Cordell
- June 18: Garden Fest, LSU AgCenter Botanical Gardens, Baton Rouge, 7:30 am—1pm
- June 27: LPMGA Board meeting, Ira Nelson Center, 1 p.m.



*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](mailto: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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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.