

**LPMGA APRIL
 GENERAL MEETING**

APRIL 4— NOON

LAFAYETTE PARISH LIBRARY
 301 W CONGRESS, LAFAYETTE

**2018 LPMGA BOARD
 MEETING**

1 PM MONDAY, APRIL 23

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE CENTER
 (INHC)

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2018 BOARD:

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Vice President

Juan Nieto 2008

Recording Secretary

Patricia Soileau 2000

Corresponding Secretary

Ellen Garacci 2016

Treasurer

Debbie Garrene-Dupuy 2015

Member at Large

Jacob Williams 2016

Prior President

Charles Turner 2014

Volunteer Coordinator

Jay Ruffin, Jr. 2012

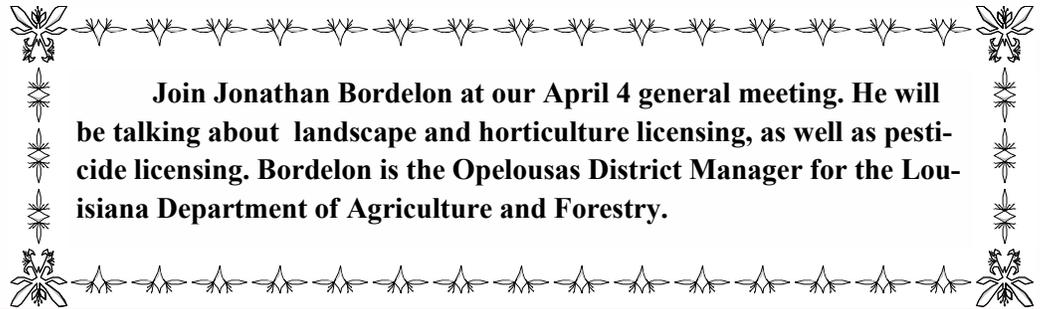
Newsletter Editor

Theresa Rohloff 2012

Agent/Adviser

Dan Devenport

Exercise Best Licensing Practices in Gardening



Join Jonathan Bordelon at our April 4 general meeting. He will be talking about landscape and horticulture licensing, as well as pesticide licensing. Bordelon is the Opelousas District Manager for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

President, MaryAnn Armbruster's message:



This has been the longest spring in recent memory. Normally, as you all know, we have a few glorious spring days, then we go BAM! Right into summer. That's the reason we have such a difficult time growing spinach. This year, however, is marvelous. A nice, long spring – I could have grown spinach this year. Oh, well.

We're about to get busy, really busy! April is packed with activities, many of which allow you to earn volunteer and/or education hours. It starts with our regular meeting on April 4 where you can earn one hour of Continuing Education and Volunteer hours for the time it takes you to travel to and from the library. Next, even though you won't earn any hours, there's Pine Straw pick-up. If you ordered, please remember to pick up between 8 and noon on Saturday April 7. The location will be different, it's a little further back than usual. Look for the signs.

Go to All Seasons Nursery, April 7, and hear LSU Ag-Center agent Dan Devenport talk at 10 a.m. about blackberries. Tuesday, April 10, listen to a lecture on "How to Attract Birds and Butterflies" at the East Library at 6:30 p.m. Contact Anna Gautier by calling (337) 445-3168 at the East Library for more information.

Then we have Festival des Fleurs starting on Saturday April 14. We will be combining our Spring Plant Sale with Festival des Fleurs this year. Our sales booth will be outside and our 'Ask A Master Gardener' booth will be inside. There will also be a number of talks providing CE hours: Roses, Orchids and "Separating a Staghorn Fern". If you haven't signed up to help yet, please do so soon. There are lots of different opportunities, so choose the one that suits you best, and volunteer.

Also on April 14th at 9:30 a.m., there will be 'Ask A Master Gardener' at All Seasons followed by "Care and Growing of Succulents" by Tina Jumonville at 10 a.m.

Next there is Sarah Schoeffler's 'Southern Garden Festival' on April 20 and 21 which benefits Family Promise — a wonderful local charity. Again, there are many opportunities for hours helping Sarah to set up the garden before the days of the dinner and tour. Any time spent prepping the garden beforehand is volunteer time, as are working 'Ask A Master Gardener', the entry table or the children's activities, but serving is not an approved volunteer activity. There will be several speakers providing Continuing Education hours. Contact Sarah to volunteer.

Last, for the month of April at least, is the Plant Swap on Saturday April 28 which will start about 8 am. at Moncus Park, aka the Horse Farm. The formal drawing will start at 9 a.m. and informal swapping will continue until everything is gone or 11 a.m.— whichever occurs first. Dig roots, start cuttings, collect seeds, bring whatever you have. Someone will want it. I love the Plant Swaps. Louann and her crew do a marvelous job organizing (it is sort of like herding cats) and I always go home feeling rich – without spending a penny.

That's it for April. Enjoy these great activities and opportunities to obtain new plants. Sign up to volunteer and sit down to learn and obtain CE hours. You could get at least half of your volunteer hours and four or five of your CE hours in April if you want to. Opportunities abound. Take advantage of them.

Good Gardening

Mary Armbruster

EVENTS, REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 LPMGA Meetings:
(First Wednesday
Except in July)
Daytime—noon/Evening—6 pm

2018 LPMGA Board Meetings
1 pm:
(Fourth Monday
except for July & Dec.)

APRIL 4, Noon	APRIL 23
MAY 2, 6 pm (Social)	MAY 21
JUNE 6, Noon	JUNE 25
AUGUST 1, 6 pm	AUGUST 27
SEPTEMBER 5, Noon	SEPTEMBER 24
OCTOBER 3, 6 pm	OCTOBER 22
NOVEMBER 7, Noon	NOVEMBER 26
DECEMBER 5, 6 pm (Social)	DECEMBER 17

ANNOUNCEMENTS !
BE A MG MENTOR
 PLAN TO STAY AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING
 APRIL 4 AND LEARN THE PERKS AND DETAILS
WANTED!
 Help with the
HTTP://LPMGA WEBSITE
 Please contact Karen at
webmaster@lpmga.org

**PICK UP YOUR MEMBERSHIP
 CARDS & GET THE DISCOUNTS
 AFFORDED ACTIVE MEMBERS**

THE DEVENPORT REPORT



Patience- This is probably one of the hardest virtues for someone to achieve, especially when it comes to dealing with plants and hard freezes. Almost everyone in Acadiana has had some type of freeze injury to plants in their landscapes. Many of you have already pulled up some of the brown plants that were injured but maybe you should have had a little more patience and given the plants a chance to recover on their own. If your budget allows you to move along faster than Mother Nature, that is okay but for many patience is your key.

I was at a home yesterday, the client's fire bush was brown, and he had pulled back all the mulch away and wanted me to take a closer look. At first, I thought the plant was dead but as I got down on my knees and looked closer, I saw evidence of small reddish leaves coming up at the base of one of the branches. You need to remember that the roots of plants benefited from the warm soil temperature and received little to no damage from the cold. That being said, all the stored food in the root system will be going into those buds that survived the cold and the plant will take off and begin to fill in the space it once occupied last year.

The citrus in your yard follow the same trend. Have patience and wait to see if any small buds begin to appear on the trunk and branches of your trees, then prune the dead wood above the new growth.

Some palm trees may not send up a new spear leaf until August or September so remember to practice Patience!

LSU Agent Dan Devenport

What Plant is this?

I am an ornamental/culinary grass native to Asia. Grow me in Zone 8 or warmer, in full sun. Don't let my roots dry out. I can be grown in the ground but may die back in winter. In the ground, plant me 24 inches apart in rich, well-drained soil amended with compost or manure or clip me down to a few inches and plant me in a pot in good potting soil, and bring me indoors for the winter. Place me in a south-facing window and water me sparingly because I go semi-dormant. I can grow to 6 feet, so if I'm in a pot outdoors, I may tip over without support. You may also store me in a cool, dark place like a basement.

If used for cooking, start harvesting me when I'm 12 inches tall and my stem bases are at least 1/2 inch thick. Cut my stalks at ground level or hand-pull entire stalks. You want to get the entire swollen base, which resembles a scallion or green onion. The edible portion is near the bottom of the stalk. Peel the outer fibrous layer to expose the white, reedy part. To make slicing easier, crush the stem base with the flat blade of a knife. The heart of the stalk is soft and easily sliced, and may be used in stir-fries, salads, sauces and soup. Cut off the grassy leaves of the stalk carefully, because the edges may be sharp. They can be added to tea or a soup base (tom kah kai) in Thai or Vietnamese dishes.

Propagate me by seed or division. Use a sharp spade or ax to separate my clumps. They're tough. Since I contain citronella oil, I repel mosquitoes. Indoors, I might attract spider mites.

Do you know what plant I am?

**MEET AT MAIN BRANCH LIBRARY - DOWNTOWN
 APRIL FOURTH AT NOON
 STAY AFTER AND LEARN ABOUT MENTORING
 MENTORS ARE NEEDED
 for
 MASTER GARDENERS IN TRAINING**

**EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE: BRING YOUR REUSABLE
 WATER BOTTLE TO MASTER GARDENER FUNCTIONS!**



SOUTHERN GARDEN FESTIVAL

3502 E. Simcoe | Harold & Sarah Schoeffler Gardens

APRIL 20 | 6-8 P.M.

Dining & Dancing Under the Stars

Dinner, live music, dancing and silent auction in the garden.

Featuring Special Guest Karen Olson, National Founder of Family Promise

\$75/person or \$100/couple, includes entry to Saturday activities.

Call 233-3447 for reservations.

APRIL 21 | 9 A.M.-5 P.M.

Southern Garden Festival

Garden tour, refreshments in the Garden Room, live musical performances, art, bayou boat tours, Master Gardener presentations, exhibits, the Fairies and more.

\$10 at the garden gate.

Visit Facebook or FamilyPromiseAcadiana.org for the full schedule.

Benefits Family Promise of Acadiana, a nonprofit coalition helping families without homes reach & sustain their independence.



Condolences

Eleanor Henry, widow of Major David C. Henry passed away on February 28. Both she and her late husband were Lafayette Master Gardeners. He died December 13, 2013.

Condolences to Master Gardener sisters Yvette Nevitt, Denise Chapman and Nannette Reagor whose father, Dr. Kenneth LaFleur, died February 27.

Condolences to Master Gardener Andrea Pate whose mother, Muriel Porta Cofer passed away March 10.

Mark Your Calendars

LOUISIANA 2018 SPRING PLANT SWAP



An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS

SPRING PLANT SWAP

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
AT THE HORSE FARM MONCUS PARK
2913 JOHNSTON STREET, LAFAYETTE

OPEN TRADING 8AM TO 11AM

- ◆ Get there early for the best selection.
- ◆ Bring as many different plants, bulbs or seeds as you'd like to trade before and after the Formal Swap
- ◆ Label with variety, color, planting hints or any other helpful info

FORMAL SWAP 9:00AM

- ◆ Numbers are drawn randomly
- ◆ Bring one plant for the Formal Table Swap at 9am- it's a 1-to-1 trade.
- ◆ The more interesting the plant, the more interesting the swap!
- ◆ Remember that all plants need to be identified

Plants, Cuttings & Seeds That Have Been Requested

Lizard Tail, Devils Spine/Devils Backbone; Mock English Dogwood/ Mock Orange-Philadelphus; Popcorn Spiraea; Begonias; Crocosmia-Red; Byzantine Gladiolus; Heirloom Rose Cuttings-For MG Project; Container Roses; Jewels Of Opar; Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow; Cleome; Blue LA Iris; Rick Rack/Fish Tail Cactus, Minnie Pearl Phlox, Voodoo Lily, Grandiosa Lily, Red Texas Sage, Texas Star-any color, Althea-White or Dark Pink, Dragon Wing Begonias, Lycoris-Spider Lilies-Red or White, Rain Lilies-Zephyranthes, Double White Crepe Myrtles, Daylilies-Any, Passion Flowers, Balloon Flowers, Chinese Lanterns, Plumeria Cuttings-Any, Hibiscus-any-especially hardy, Dutchmans Pipe, Dwarf Red Bananas, Silverbells-small trees, Vitex-esp white, Figs-Any for this area, Night Blooming Cereus-esp white, White Agapanthus, Banana Magnolia, Wahoo/Strawberry Bush, Butterfly Matchweed-Phyla nodiflora, Willow-Salix caroliniana, Mexican Milkweed-Asclepias, Angel Trumpets-Any color especially Double Purple or Double White, Devils Trumpets-Any color especially White, Purple and Double Purple; Nuns Orchid; Sassafras Trees, Lenten Rose/Helleborus-any; Candelabra Plant-Euphorbia; Orange Tree-For this area

For more info, contact Louann Long plantswap@lpmga.org or mglouann@gmail.com
Plants that do not find a home will be donated to Habitat For Humanity or LPMGA.
If you have "extra" foundation plants/shrubs, please consider bringing them to donate to H4H



For all those MGIT who still are looking for hours, this is a good opportunity to get one volunteer hour as well as an educational hour by listening to the speaker. Festival des Fleurs is around the corner and I have plenty of time slots open to help with the Ask a Master Gardener Table.

Jfnieto1@netzero.net 337 290-1451 Juan Nieto

ASK A MASTER GARDENER TABLE

LOCATION	DATE		VOLUNTEER	TIME	SPEAKER(S)	TIME
ALL SEASONS	APR 14	1	TINA JUMONVILLE	9:30-10:30 AM	SUCCULENTS	10 AM
FESTIVAL DES FLEURS	APR 14	1	JUAN NIETO	9:00—10:00 AM	ROSES	
BLACKHAM		2				
2330 JOHNSTON STREET		3	MARY GLADNEY/ JACOB WILLIAMS	10:00-11:00 AM	ORCHID BASICS	
		4				
		5	MAY VIDACOVICH	NOON—2:00 PM	SEPARATING STAG-HORN FERNS	
		6				
		7	BECKY TAYLOR / THERESE SCHUMAKER	2:00— 4:00 PM	SUCCULENTS	
		8				
SOUTHERN GARDEN FESTIVAL	APR 21	1				
		2				
ALL SEASONS	MAY 12	1	COLETTE ANZALONE	9: 00 A.M	MARK SIMON / BEE	10 AM
		2			KEEPING	
		3				

What Plant Am I?
ANSWER:
Cymbopogon citratus:
Lemon Grass





Festival des Fleurs, the main fundraiser for Ira Nelson Horticultural Center, is selling raffle tickets for a drawing to be held Saturday April 14, 2018. There are \$5 and \$2 tickets. Tickets can be purchased from any festival member or you can contact Billy Welsh, with Ira Nelson at 337-482-5339, or Cindy Risinger- Johnson 337-250-1243.

First prize with the \$5 ticket is a 4 piece Wicker Patio Furniture Conversion Set with cushions and coffee table. These can be viewed at festivaldesfleurs.org. The second and third prizes are a Container Garden from Girouard's and a Lion Fountain. For the \$2 tickets there are a number of smaller items. The drawing will be at 3:30 PM and you do not need to be present to win. However, please be close to a phone at that time so they can notify you.

Festival des Fleurs, Lafayette's premier Garden Show and Sale, marks its 27th year with over 100 garden-related vendors expected. The event provides education outreach and resources for the the enhancement of horticulture in Acadiana and also supports the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center funding.

Local gardening groups, of which the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener members are counted, host information kiosks where garden techniques are shared with attendees.

Find for sale native plants, flowering shrubs, annuals, perennials, daylilies, roses, hibiscus, pass along plants, orchids, herbs and many more varieties of plants and flowers, in addition to gardening items such as pottery, garden iron-work, wooden garden features, hanging baskets, tools, supplies, books, bird feeders and much more. Activities are planned to inspire generations of area gardeners, both young and old.

As attendees leave they are reminded to pick up their free plant to take home and enjoy. The event begins at 8 am and lasts until 4 pm.

How to Grow and Care for Succulents

Just down the road from the Blackham Coliseum where Festival des Fleurs will be a flurry of activity, Lafayette Master Gardener Tina Jumonville will be making her appearance and presentation at All Season's Nursery (2974 Johnston Street). This is another opportunity to add some education hours to your Master Gardener requirements.

"Ask a Master Gardener will be onsite from 9:30 am until Tina begins her succulent presentation at 10 am. For those interested in caring for these interesting plants that hate wet feet, you may want to slide on over to All Seasons for the talk.



On behalf of the Scenic Lafayette "Azalea Trail Revitalization Project," Master Gardener Cindy Wiley and I would like to thank the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association for the constant support and encouragement. Your participation in our public azalea plantings, azalea trail inventory and the yearly trail event each March, has affected the planting of almost 700 new azaleas along the trail and preservation of hundred's others. In the early part of the 20th century, it was reported that over 40,000 people from all over the United States traveled to Lafayette to drive the colorful azalea landscape of our city. In the 80's Southern Living Magazine listed Lafayette's Azalea Trail as a "Top 20 Tourist Destination." In 2016, the Azalea Society of

America designated Lafayette as an "Azalea City," one of very few in America.

We just ended our 3rd annual Classic Car Cruise and Seersucker Bike Ride designed for trail enjoyment and to raise awareness about the value we feel these colorful flowers bring to our city. The newest member of our committee, Lafayette Tourism Center volunteer Denise Lanclos, reminded us recently that during our springtime, tourists from the northern states travel to Louisiana to enjoy our swamps, our food and our beautiful landscape.

Because azaleas put on such a great show, are fairly easy to maintain and bring such joy, Scenic Lafayette feels the effort to showcase the azalea, especially the large showy Southern Indica type, is worth the effort.

We have two major public plantings on our radar. Both would be in partnership with other organizations. Our next Azalea Trail Day event will likely be the 1st, maybe 2nd weekend of March, 2019. We will keep you posted.

Thank you again for your support! We love LPMGA!



Cheryl Broussard Perret, Scenic Lafayette Board of Directors and Master Gardener



Green T Lindon enjoys Cole Slaw from their Harvest



Sherlyn Bellard provides us more photos of the continuing fruits of Green T Lindon first graders' successful cabbage harvest. She writes, "Green T. Lindon students finished the last of their big cabbage harvest with a Cole slaw that they loved!"



LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325
Lafayette, LA 70501-6884



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LPMGA Calendar April 2018

APRIL 4 —GENERAL MEETING, LAFAYETTE MAIN LIBRARY, 301 W CONGRESS—DOWNTOWN, NOON

APRIL 7 — PINE STRAW PU AT 8 AM UNTIL NOON. FOLLOW DIRECTIONAL SIGNS FROM IRA NELSON

APRIL 7 — DAN DEVENPORT PRESENTATION ABOUT BLACKBERRIES AT ALL SEASON 10 A.M.

APRIL 10— ATTRACTING BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES LECTURE, AT THE EAST REGIONAL LIBRARY,
YOUNGSVILLE, 6:30 PM (CALL 337 445-3168)

APRIL 14 — ASK A MASTER GARDENER 9:30 AM TINA JUMONVILLE, CARING AND GROWING SUCCU-
LENTS @ ALL SEASONS NURSERY 10 A.M.

APRIL 14—ASK A MASTER GARDENER, FESTIVAL DES FLEURS, INSIDE BLACKHAM 8AM—4PM
FESTIVAL DES FLEURS, BLACKHAM COLISEUM, 2330 JOHNSTON STREET,
MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE OUTSIDE BLACKHAM! 8 AM—4 PM

APRIL 20— DINING & DANCING UNDER THE STARS, SOUTHERN GARDEN FESTIVAL,
6-8 PM (SEE PAGE 4)

APRIL 21 — SOUTHERN GARDEN FESTIVAL, ON THE GROUNDS OF 3502 E. SIMCOE,
9 AM—5 PM

APRIL 23— BOARD MEETING, IRA NELSON CENTER, 1 PM

APRIL 28—PLANT SWAP, HORSEFARM/MONCUS PARK, 2913 JOHNSTON STREET,
8-11 AM, "FORMAL SWAP" @ 9 AM

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 newsletter@lpmga.org

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 the LSU AgCenter at 337-291-7090

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

