



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

A LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS' PUBLICATION

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JUNE/JULY 2010



MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

The June General Meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 2, at the LSU Extension Office.

PROGRAM

The scheduled speaker is Theresa Guidry, who will talk on ULL's Team BeauSoleil and their trip to Washington, D.C.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The June meeting of the LPMGA Executive Board will take place at 1:00 pm on Monday, June 28, at the home of Sharon Bakay.

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LMG WEB SITE

www.lsuagcenter.com

If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in our meetings, please call 337-291-7090.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Amazing Grace

Do you know anyone who is friendly, enthusiastic, generous, and fun?

Does this person have a genuine love for learning new things?

Is this person curious about the natural world and all its gifts and beauty?

Does this person have a little time to devote to sharing what they enjoy with others?

If you have answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, please print out the Master Gardener application at the end of this Newsletter and give it to whoever fits this description. He or she will be warmly welcomed in the LPMGA.

This year's Master Gardener class will be taught during three months of Thursdays, beginning August 19. Anyone who fits the above description can be taught, during those classes, all they need to know to help us fulfill our Mission and strengthen this wonderful organization for many years to come.

There is no single thing that brings people to the LPMGA. We can't begin to guess at which of our friends, family, or acquaintances will eventually strive to take up the cause of supporting and improving the horticultural practices of our community. We have a treasure trove of programs already in place that will fit the unique talents and interests of these new members and help them find a way to share their knowledge. They may even find a way to begin their own new program to enhance and

strengthen our organization. The most important ingredient in this formula is getting the best people involved. That's where you and I come in.

I was recently at a meeting where Grace Eyster was honored, in memoriam, for having been the Pied Piper of the Lafayette Garden Club. At one point, we were asked to stand if Grace had brought us into the Club. When over 20% of us stood, and our eyes met one another, I couldn't help but get goose bumps. This acknowledgement of Grace's impact illustrates the effect that one person can have in enriching the lives of others and in building an organization over the years.

I'll never forget the day I met Grace. She was driving down my street looking for a garage sale when she saw me watering my plants and stopped to talk to me about my yard. I was working full time/over time and raising two kids, so I couldn't take her up on her kind offer the Garden Club. She took my phone number and kept in touch. A couple of years later, I was on the Board of the LGC!

We can't all be as outgoing as Grace, but if we open our eyes, we may find that perfect future Master Gardener crossing our path during the coming weeks. The deadline for applications is June 30. Don't let any opportunity pass. Keep the application on hand and take the time to be just a little like Grace. With any luck, you will one day be thought of with as much love and appreciation as many of us now have for Grace. What a beautiful legacy!

EVENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND

► July General Meeting

The July LPMGA General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 7, at 12:30 pm at the Southside Library. The guest speaker is TBA.

► July Executive Board Meeting

The July meeting of the Executive Board is tentatively scheduled to take place at 1:00 pm on Monday, July 19, at the home of Sharon Bakay.

► June Horticulture Events and Meetings in Louisiana*

June 4

10th Annual Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout
A fundraiser for nursery and landscape research extension activities
LSU Golf Course
\$50 per person
Preregistration required

June 5

Daylily Festival
Magdalen Square
Abbeville
8:30 am —3:00 pm
No admission charge
See flyer on page 9.

June 5

Vegetable Field Day for Homeowners

USDA Sugarcane Experiment Station
Houma
9:00 am—3:00 pm

June 11

Vegetable and Landscape Field Day
LSU AgCenter’s Louisiana Home and Landscape Resource Center (LaHouse)
Baton Rouge
9:00 am—Noon
See article on page 8.

June 19

LPMGA Garden Talk
“Water Smart”
LPMGA Demo Gardens
10:00 am—11:00 am

June 26-27

Orchid Obsession
Acadian Orchid Society Show and Sale
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
No admission charge
Saturday, 10:00 am—5:00 pm; Sunday, 10:00 am—4:00 pm
See flyer and article on page 8.

*Note: As was the case in the June/July 2009 newsletter, no July events are listed in this issue because none deemed appropriate appeared on the LSU AgCenter Calendar by “press” time.



2010 Festival des Fleurs



On Saturday, May 8, LPMGs—manning booths at the Festival—once again showcased the results of their hard work and dedication. Nothing our organization does creates a more positive public image.



Congratulations to everyone who helped—from the first cutting and potting done by the Propagation Team to the closing breakdown and cleanup. You epitomize just what an ideal Master Gardener should be.

Becky's Space

When news of the changed, month-later date for Festival de Fleurs first came out I wondered how in the world we'd ever sell *anything* so late in the season. We developed a plan to bring larger plants to the show, some that were well established and could be planted in the May heat. Our thinking proved to be correct as evidenced by the numbers of our buying and browsing customers. Final count, including pre-sale and post-sale, comes in around \$7500. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Reflecting upon this event, and my 16th sale as Propagation Chairman, I remember some of the burdens we have had to overcome:

- Losing AgCenter agents, getting to know new agents
- Key committee members moving away and valued Master Gardeners passing away
- Hurricanes (Lily, Ike, Katrina, Rita, Gustav)
- Hurricane aftermath—rescheduled sales, blown shade cloths, broken glass panes, post-Katrina/Rita food stamp lines on sale day
- Thieves, vandals, and varmints
- Often malfunctioning equipment and irrigation system

And I count our many blessings:

- Extensive horticulture education and hands-on learning
- Unconditional support from the LSU AgCenter
- Shared experiences with fellow MGs—field trips, work days, special events
- The pride in being a Master Gardener
- Enjoying the respect that our association has gained with the public
- Lasting relationships that go beyond the commonality of gardening
- A network of friends ready to help fellow members in need

Now that one party has ended, it's time to prepare for the next...mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 11** for our *Fall Plant Extravaganza*. I have requested the reservation of the barns at the Coliseum so the sale can go on "rain or shine." Given the lateness of Festival, we have one month less to prepare for our Fall Sale and need your help with propagation stock. Don't any of you have some great plant that we've never sold before? Or plenty of our quick-selling "golden oldies" that you can share? If you have cuttings, divisions, please contact me soon.

Again, many thanks and kudos go out to every LPMG who played a part in our great success.

—Becky Taylor



Dear Gladiola

I have heard that so far only 11 candidates have applied for enrollment in the 2010 LPMG class and that we need a lot more than that to help grow our membership. I know that before last year classes usually ran closer to 30, and that we would like to get close to that many in our new class. What can I do to help? Signed: *Concerned Coleus*

Dear *Concerned*,

You are right; we do want to increase our membership at a rate of about 30 a year. Last year's class had less than half that number. We hope that in the first couple of weeks in June—the application deadline is June 30th—you and other members will help recruit a gardening friend or acquaintance. It will help if you just think of yourself as a personal LPMGA ambassador, and contact at least one person that you think would make a good Master Gardener. Fully explain what it is we do, being sure to stress two things: our mission and our wonderful esprit de corps. And be sure to print out and give your contact a copy of the application that you will find in this issue of the newsletter. The form will also be available at the June General Meeting. Remember, we need and are counting on your help!

Perennially yours, *Gladiola*



Earthshare Gardens wishes to thank the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association and several individual Master Gardeners for their kind donation of vegetable and ornamental plants for our spring fundraiser at the Blue Moon last month. Three excellent musical bands donated their talent for the event, which featured the sale of fresh and yummy vegetables from our garden. We also sold plants. Those that did not sell we put into our donation garden.

Thank you all for helping EarthShare Gardens to continue to grow!

—Cheryl Perret,
EarthShare Garden Volunteer

Acadiana Garden Lore

Do you believe that the phases of the moon and astrological signs are important guides when it comes to planting? Ancient lore, perhaps, but many gardeners here in Acadiana and all around the world place a great deal of horticultural faith in such things. The theory is that the lunar phases control the amount and permeability of moisture in the soil, thus it follows, as night the day, that seeds best germinate during the full and new moon periods. And, yes, there is even some scientific evidence supporting this idea.

Not so for the influence of astrological signs. If you are a fan of astrology, you know that the signs of the Zodiac relate to the four elements of antiquity: earth, air, fire, and water. Thus, for example, it is claimed that the best time for starting annual plants is during fertile water sign periods, or, similarly, for starting root crops during fertile earth sign periods. Flowers, of course, especially like the air sign of Libra. But perhaps you knew that.

Maybe, if all else fails, before you plant anything, you should check your horoscope and the disposition of the heavenly bodies. Could it work? There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence to back this notion up. But, hey, it's certainly worth a try.



Decoding Seed Catalogs

Term or Phrase: "Grows more beautiful each passing year."
Decoded: "It will look like road kill within two years."

Glenda Balliviero Wins Top Awards at Festival des Fleurs

At this year's Festival des Fleurs, Glenda Balliviero set a new mark for the number of awards she won in the Horticulture competition. Although she has garnered many Festival awards in the past, she has never won as many as she did this year—including eight of the top ten awards.

Glenda's *Caeslpinia gilliesii* "Yellow Bird of Paradise," pictured on the right, garnered the Award of Horticulture Excellence as the best overall entry of the show.



But in addition to that, Glenda won Awards of Merit in Vines for her *Clematis x jackmanii*, "Lady Jackmanii"; in Decorative Foliage for her Begonia "Purple Curl"; and in Roses for her Rosa "Belinda."

She also won Arboreal Awards in two categories: in shrubs for her *Caeslpinia gilliesii* "Yellow Bird of Paradise," and in Trees, for her *Acer palmatum* "Japanese Maple." And Glenda's Old Garden Roses also took the Collector's Showcase award.

Altogether, Glenda won 33 Blue Ribbons from her 35 entries, an amazing achievement that earned her the Festival's Sweepstakes Award.

According to Glenda, it "was truly a great feeling to have achieved so much." She says that she treats her plants "with great love as though they are my children," and of that there can be no doubt. Congratulations, Glenda. You do both yourself and the LPMGA much honor.

LPMGA Garden Talk "Water Smart"

Tips and facts on watering your garden using recommended Best Management Practices

Saturday, June 19
10:00 — 11:00 AM
at the Demo Gardens

Also on site
Ask a Master Gardener

JUNE AND JULY PLANTINGS

JUNE & JULY PLANTINGS

Aphids and Spider Mites and Whiteflies ... Oh, My!

The month of June is a great time to enjoy the fruits of your labors in your garden; unfortunately, many pests feel the same way, and as the weather gets warmer, insect pests become more active.



Hot, dry weather is spider mite weather. Look for leaves that are stippled with tiny white spots. Horticultural Oils (fish, petroleum, or plant based) suffocate pests and should all be helpful in controlling them, but read the label for information about which plants are safe to use oil on.

If using a chemical control, remember that mites are arachnids and have different body chemistry than an insect. They require miticides or controls specifically developed to deal with mites. Kelthane, clofentezine, etoxazole, chlorenapyr, or growth inhibitors such as hexthiazor will help manage populations.

The Homoptera order, including aphids, scale insects, whiteflies, and leafhoppers, also begins to become a problem as weather warms. These are sucking insects that can transmit plant diseases.



Aphids can be seen in groups at stem joints or on the undersides of leaves, and infestations can also be identified by the sooty mold and honey dew left by them. They may cause curling of leaves and damage in young growth and affect crops. Using insecticidal soap or ultrafine oil, and introducing natural predators such as anoles (the familiar green lizards also known as the American chameleon), ladybugs, lacewings, and praying mantes, are some of the least toxic ways to deal with aphids. Small infestations can be managed by wiping off the aphids with a baby wipe or using a blast of water, but if you use these methods, you must monitor your plants as aphids are quick to return. Beauveria bassiana microbial fungi can be introduced to infect and destroy the

host. Malathion, pyrethins, bifenthrin, acetamiprid will help control aphids. Again, follow all instructions on the label. You may need to reapply pesticides.



The aphids cousins, Psyllids, leafhoppers, and large tree-hopper populations, can be controlled with malathion, acephate, or spinosad. Read the label for information on proper use and about repeating the application.

White flies are small flying insects that can carry plant diseases. Some create large amounts of honeydew. They are prolific and difficult to control. Reflective surfaces such as foil or old CDs can be hung in the garden to discourage whiteflies. Insecticidal oils, yellow sticky tape traps, removal of infested plant material, or hand vacuuming the whiteflies (freeze the vacuum bag for 24 hours and dispose) can all help manage the pest population. Helpful insecticides include malathion, which, applied three times with a four to six day gap between applications, effectively manages whiteflies. Acephate, pyrethrins, piperonyl butoxide, and endosulfan also perform well. Greenhouse whiteflies can be dealt with using an introduced parasite: Encarsia Formosa or the growth regulator kinoprene.

Be an informed consumer and a steward of the environment when using any pest management method.

Properly identify the pest before you purchase a control so that you are dealing with the pest by using the correct product, method, and application.

Before purchasing or using any control, including chemicals and oils **READ THE LABEL**. You must follow precautionary information and all application, timing, safety, and storage techniques. Check labels for information about use on fruits and vegetables, especially the application-to-harvest and residual period; also, look for a list of plants not recommended for treatment. Check the label for information on sensitive plants. In particular, note that oils can harm hibiscus, juniper, impatiens, some roses, and maples.

Educate yourself, follow recommendations, be persistent and vigilant, and you will be spending less time dealing with summer pests and more time enjoying your garden.

The Poetaster

from "June"

Now summer is in flower and natures hum
 Is never silent round her sultry bloom
 Insects as small as dust are never done
 Wi' glittering dance and reeling in the sun
 And green wood fly and blossom haunting
 bee
 Are never weary of their melody
 Round field hedge now flowers in full glory
 twine
 Large bindweed bells wild hop and streak
 woodbine
 That lift athirst their slender throated flowers
 Agape for dew falls and for honey showers
 These round each bush in sweet disorder run
 And spread their wild hues to the sultry sun.

—John Clare



What Plant Am I?

Below is an excerpt from "Summer Bulbs Can Enhance Gardens," an article by Dan Gill that can be read online by visiting the LSU AgCenter Web site.

"A number of outstanding summer bulbs are available for Louisiana. One of the best-known and most popular is the _____, which is grown for its colorful foliage rather than flowers. You can buy _____ bulbs now and plant them directly into the garden. You also may plant pre-sprouted bulbs that are available at many local nurseries. Unless you need growth immediately, the unsprouted bulbs are generally a better buy. _____ foliage is present from April through October, and the colorful, bold leaves combine well with other shade-loving plants."

You should have no trouble filling in the blanks. Right? One word will do. If you aren't sure what that word is, check the next page.

LPMG Honor Roll

Norisah Marti, a 2002 graduate, having logged 54 volunteer hours in April, is our latest honoree. She is the former Hummingbird Garden chair, and she currently works on the propagation team every Wednesday. She also serves as the "on call" contact person.

Norisah brings us firsthand knowledge of exotic tropicals from her native Malaysia and happily shares it with her colleagues. In addition, she has introduced many MGs to the art of training tender vines on bamboo teepees. She has also treated them to her persimmon dessert rolls, a delight she provides every Wednesday morning. It is rumored that this breakfast treat is free of calories and represents every food group. Congratulations, Norisah.

Note: As a result of action taken by the Board at its May meeting, future honorees will be selected on the basis of their total number of accumulated volunteer hours at the time the figures are checked. The honoree will be the member with the most total hours who has not previously been named.

—Barbara Sorenson

LOUISIANA SUPER PLANTS PROGRAM

On Friday, May 8, the Hammond Research Station kicked off its 2010 *Garden Stroll*—the largest herbaceous ornamental plant trial exhibit in Louisiana. Lafayette was well represented among the many LMGs invited to the event, with about a dozen of our LPMGA members participating. MGs spent the half day strolling freely through what felt like miles and miles of flower beds and rows, dazzled by the new cutting-edge flower varieties, comparing notes and voting on their favorites. On site were LSU experts to answer questions on pesticides, pathology, and entomology.

The day also included a talk by Dan Gill, who introduced LMGs to the renovated *Louisiana Super Plants* initiative, a large scale LSU program to get their "must have" trial plants into local retail nurseries. Twice a year, 3-5 plants—whether cutting-edge new varieties or tried-and-true standard classics—will be selected and promoted by LSU as "super plants" to have in our landscapes. To be included in *Louisiana Super Plants*, the plants must be able to thrive predictably and consistently anywhere in the State, withstanding our unique Louisiana weather, temperatures, insects, and the like. This program is a direct response to consumers, who every year want to purchase the LSU new releases but complain that they cannot find anyone selling them. The initiative includes promotional and educational displays to be set up in garden centers throughout the State, identifying the Louisiana Super Plants for that season, with colorful photos showing the plants in bloom with detailed growing and cultivating instructions. LSU has also designed and is marketing a *Louisiana Super Plants* logo to be placed on every designated

container for identification.

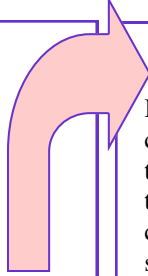
Dan Gill is asking the help of the LMGs statewide to promote and educate the public on the *Louisiana Super Plants* campaign.

—Marie Hebert



LPMGs at the Hammond Research Station

ORCHID OBSESSION



Acadian Orchid Society
2010 Orchid Show and Sale



Saturday, June 26th from 10-5
Sunday, June 27th from 10-4

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
2206 Johnston Street
Lafayette, LA

About the Orchard Show and Sale

If you have never been to the Acadian Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale, put a couple of hours aside to join us this year—on either Saturday or Sunday, June 26 or 27, at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. Even if you are not a crazed obsessive, an orchid show is quite a treat for the senses, so do give it a whirl. We promise you will enjoy it.

In addition to our own Acadian Orchid Society's exhibits, a number of other societies will set up exhibits, including groups from New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houma (Terrebonne Parish), Alexandria, and Monroe. We, of course, also participate in their shows. There are usually a half-dozen vendors with not only orchids, but potting materials, baskets, hangers, books, food, and chemicals, to name just some of the items. There are usually plants available for raffle, and we make sure winners receive their won plants even if they are out-of-towners. Our members also hang around to answer questions and encourage addiction.

I've been growing orchids for probably 20 years, and at every show I still see plants that either I've never heard of or, even if I have heard of them, never seen. Thus the show is always both fun and educational, allowing visitors to see what others in our area are able to grow. It always promotes a great, well-maybe-I-can-do-it-too feeling.

Our Society usually sets up a display at Festival des Fleurs, and we talk to everyone who comes by. It seems that almost every person in town has an orchid or two, so I have come to believe that there must be some chemical imbalance that makes you tip over into the lunatic side of orchid growing!

Anyway, it is fun to go and look at the many thrilling and exotic flowers at our annual show. I would highly recommend that everyone come to the show and get an orchid or two—or maybe lots of them!

—Nancy Anne Rowe

LSU AgCenter Field Day at LaHouse

The LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Home and Landscape Resource Center (LaHouse) will hold a sustainable vegetable and landscape field day Friday, June 11, in Baton Rouge. Margaret Pierce, LaHouse coordinator, said the field day will provide a morning of information on sustainable home vegetable gardening and ornamental landscaping. The field day will offer attendees an opportunity to learn about improved yields while serving as good stewards of the environment, she explained.

“LSU AgCenter horticulture specialists will be on hand, conducting tours of the vegetable gardens and the landscape features of LaHouse,” Pierce said. “It also will be a chance to ask experts questions on issues you're facing in your lawn and garden.” Tours and discussions will be held in 30-minute sessions from 9:00 am through noon.

A 30-minute session on sustainable home vegetable gardening will be presented by Kathryn “Kiki” Fontenot, Carl Motsenbocker, Stephen Crnko, and Natalie Levy. It will be conducted at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 am. A session on environmentally friendly landscaping will be presented by Dan Gill and Brian LeBlanc at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 am.

Answer:
CALADIUM



“Garden writing is often very tame, a real waste when you think how opinionated, inquisitive, irreverent, and lascivious gardeners themselves tend to be. Nobody talks much about the muscular limbs, dark, swollen buds, strip-tease trees and unholy beauty that have made us all slaves of the Goddess Flora.”

—Ketzell Levine



Daylily Festival & GARDEN SHOW

Plants & Flowers
 DAYLILIES | PLUMERIAS
 HIBISCUS | BROMELIADS
 RARE | UNUSUAL

Garden Supplies
 Garden Tools
 Patio Items | Birdhouses
 Plant Swap | Food Booths
 Master Gardeners
 Education Tent

GUEST SPEAKERS
 In the Cultural Center

9:30AM William D. Adams
 The Southern Kitchen
 Garden, author and retired
 Texas Extension Agent

10:30AM Marcelle Bievenue
 Preparing a Garden Feast,
 author and chef

SATURDAY | JUNE 5 | 8:30AM-3PM
MAGDALEN SQUARE | ABBEVILLE

Presented by Abbeville-Vermillion Chamber of Commerce
 Abbeville Main Street ♦ LSU Ag Center ♦ Sponsored by Gulf
 Coast Bank ♦ City of Abbeville ♦ Lafayette Master Gardeners
 For Info Call 337-893-2491 ♦ Inclement Weather Cecil J.
 McCrory Building, 1105 Port Street

Highlights from the Hammond Research Station Field Trip

During the Hammond Research Station Field Trip on May 8, Dan Gill introduced the *Louisiana Super Plants* program, which identifies plants that do well throughout Louisiana (not just North or South Louisiana). Some of these plants are old and some are new. These plants will be identified in commercial nurseries as “Louisiana Super Plants,” so the consumer can select them for home gardening. The program will roll out in the fall of 2010, with these three cool season plants: “Amazon” Dianthus, “Camelot’ Foxglove,” and “Shi Shi Gashira” Camellia. Every spring and fall, the program will identify plants for selection for warm and cool seasons.

The Garden Stroll portion of the day was led by Dr. Allen Owings, who showed us the best of the best of the plants being grown at the Research Station. These are a few he highlighted for us:

A rose in the “Carefree” series named “Marvel” has a striking pink/peach full flower. Another Carefree rose named “Spirit” is red with a white center. Like the “Knock Out,” Carefrees are considered continuous bloomers, need no deadheading, no spraying, and no special care. They do need a bit more down-time between blooms than Knock Outs, but should still bloom 7-8 times per year.

Another favorite rose is called “Traviata,” which is a hybrid tea. It also needs no spraying or special care, and blooms 4-5 times a year with only 2-3 weeks between flushes.

Although the Amazon Dianthus is a winner for winter gardening, it still looked fantastic during the heat of this field trip. Favorites of the group were Amazon “Neon Cherry” and “Sweet Red with White Eye.”

Equally striking was a more summer-friendly dianthus series called “Bouquet.” When cut back, they will re-bloom during June or even July! The “Elation” and “Telstar” series also last into the heat of the summer. Dianthus Bouquet “Rose Magic” won a top-performer award for warm season bedding plants in the Research Station’s Landscape Trials, and Bouquet “Purple” is noted as the best performer for heat and humidity.

Verbena “Princess,” like “Homestead,” is winter hardy and has excellent spring and fall blooms. Heliotrope “Scentropia Dark Blue” also blooms throughout the summer.

Dr. Owings could not say enough about Cleome “Senorita Rosalita,” which has no spines, and blooms from April until frost. It also attracts butterflies.

Some of the Callibrachos are also favorites of Dr. Owings. Like their close relatives, the Petunias, they can be planted in either September/October or February/March, but they bloom 2-3 weeks longer into the summer. As for petunias, he likes the “Sanguna” series, which he compares in looks and performance to the “Wave” series.

The “Serena” series of Angelonia is hardy to 25 degrees and blooms from April to first frost. Its seed has won in landscape summer performance trials for three years in a row.

—Stacy Lee

Festival des Fleurs Photo Contest Winners

There were a total of 44 entries in the Garden Photo Contest at Festival des Fleurs. Congratulations to the following winners:

- Adult Flower**
 1st—Robert Raggio
 2nd—Theresa Adams
 3rd—Chere Coen
 HM— Ann Stevens

- Adult Horticulture**
 1st — Ronald Olivier
 2nd—Roxy Blanton
 3rd—Marcia Hunt
 HM—Laticia Babineaux

- Student Flower**
 1st—Allyson Beduze
 2nd—Danielle Blazek
 3rd—Jonathan Adams
 HM—Spencer Perry

- Student Horticulture**
 1st—Dylan Nails
 2nd—Madison Chandler



Citrus Roundup

Will my citrus trees survive these hot, humid, rainless days ahead? Will I?

Fortunately, at least some parts of the Lafayette area have recently received some scattered showers. The showers will make some of our trees and flowering plants happy, but that is not always enough. During these hot summer months, you should check the soil moisture several inches from the surface and water as necessary. A slow, steady drip irrigation is preferred over a rapid watering.

But, DO NOT overwater!

To help keep the citrus trees healthy and free of unwanted snails and other pests, keep the area free of weeds and grass. Also, if you lost citrus during the recent freeze, or want to add to



your collection, there are options that work well for citrus in the Lafayette area. For example, one citrus you might try cultivating is the Rangpur lime (*Citrus × limonia*), also known as *lemandarin*.

The Rangpur is not a true lime but a cross between the lemon (*Citrus limon*) and mandarin (*C. reticulata*) or the lemon and one of the mandarin's previous crosses. Rangpur is more cold hardy (zones 8 to 11) than lemons or limes. The tree is fast growing (matures at 15 to 20 ft), with spreading branches that have a limited number of small thorns. Fragrant flowers are edged with purple. The orange skin is easy to peel; the deep reddish-orange flesh is juicy, resembling mandarins; the taste is acidic lime and the juice and leaves make a good substitute for kaffir limes in Asian cooking.

The Rangpur bears abundantly from the late fall through winter, and produces best in full sun and moist, well-drained soil. If you decide to plant a Rangpur, as with other citrus, plant it no deeper than the plant was set in its container, and water the entire root area deeply about once a week. When the tree is young, prune unwanted growth. Prune the mature tree to remove dead or diseased branches; also, give it 1 to 1-1/2 pounds of nitrogen a year, split into four applications throughout the year, or apply 1 pound once six to eight weeks before bloom.

—Carole Gaubert
LPMG Citrus Expert

Please



SHARE YOUR BOUNTY WITH FOOD BANK DONATIONS

If you have an over abundance of oranges, too many tomatoes, or you're swimming in string beans, please donate your extra produce to the Foodnet food bank. Your excess eggplant or squash can help provide a meal for a hungry family. Foodnet welcomes large or small donations of vegetables and fruits, and your generosity will help local families in need. Call for drop off details: Foodnet, 217 Surrey Street, Lafayette, LA 70501 (337) 232-3663

Children's Program at Festival des Fleurs a Great Success

More than 100 children participated in the Children's Program sponsored by the Lafayette Garden Club and conducted by Glenda Balliviero, Garden Club Member and Master Gardener. Thanks to Anita and Steve from the last LPMG Class who gave assistance when needed to accommodate the many interested children.

The children and their parents were very excited about the Cajun Grass Babies which were being made as a fun gardening project. The purpose was to teach the children the concept of seeds needing soil, water, and sun light in order to grow. The grass babies actually sprout their hair in about 4 days and are lots of fun to watch grow daily.

Many adults wanted to join in the fun, and Glenda apologizes for not being able to accommodate them. They had prepared to have projects for 60 and twice had to send to purchase more supplies as the response was overwhelming.





2010 MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

The 2010 State Conference in West Monroe, April 29-May 1, was attended by nearly 150 MGs representing all areas of Louisiana. Hosted by a seamless pairing of the Northeast and North Central Louisiana Master Gardener Associations, it was a perfect example of what great things can happen when MGs work together. Sign in was a breeze. ID tags had a list of the scheduled breakouts, tee shirts were ready and waiting, and great canvas carry alls were thoughtfully filled with programs, catalogs, and information on the local area.

Organization and attention to detail were obvious from the start. The hard work of the NELMGA, NCLMGA, all the volunteers, Steve Hotard, LSU AgCenter, and the wonderful staff at the Convention Center was only overshadowed by their warmth and “Northern” hospitality.

Thursday, after a warm welcome from LSU AgCenter’s Bobby Fletcher; Harold Bounds, the Conference co-chair; and Dave Norris, the mayor of West Monroe, attendees enjoyed the first of many delicious meals and opportunities to socialize, and do a little shopping, with fellow Louisiana MGs.

After Opening Remarks from NELAMG President Billy Albritton, Friday’s Keynote speaker, “perennial” favorite Dan Gill took the stage presenting on “Outstanding Old and New Perennials for Louisiana.” Dan discussed the landscaping benefits of using new, lesser known, and some old favorite perennials such as “Early Bird Gold” Rudbekia, Jewels of Opar “Limon” and “Kingwood Gold”, ornamental sweet potatoes “Illusion Emerald Lace” and a new, heavy blooming sweet potato with lavender, morning glory-type flowers, being released by LSU in the near future. Harlequin Glory Bower, the “Peanut Butter Plant,” was a crowd favorite. With foliage that smells like peanut butter, decorative seed pods, a variegated variety, and a 6-week bloom period, Clerodendrum trichotomum was jotted down in many notebooks as a must have, but keep in mind that, according to Dan, it spreads like crazy.



The wide variety of Friday breakouts, and those on Saturday, showed how much thought had been put into addressing the diverse interests of Louisiana Master Gardeners. Choices throughout the weekend included Winemaking, Propagation, Grafting Workshops (pictured with attendee Juan Nieto), Butterfly Gardening, Plants in History and Religion, Watering Techniques, Community Gardens, Flower Arranging, and many more.

Mid-Day Keynote Speaker, Jenny Rose Carey, Director of the Landscape Arboretum at Temple University Ambler, gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on “Women in Horticulture.” A witty and educational look at the “herstory” of women in horticulture, their role in popularizing garden styles, and their impact on gardening designs in the United States. The presentation featured period photos and beautiful antique “Magic Lantern” images of period gardens, women as home farmers, and long skirted Victorian ladies engaged in the genteel art of using explosives to remove tree stumps.

The Saturday evening Fish Fry, scheduled for nearby Kiroli Park, was relocated to the Convention Center due to weather concerns. Again, great food, great company, and great live music after dinner made for a fun evening and another chance to get to know other MGs.

Joe Lamp’l, author, columnist, and host of several PBS and DIY network shows including the new PBS series *Growing a Greener World*, was the Saturday morning Keynote Speaker. His thoughtful presentation “Not Your Grandmother’s Garden—The New Face of Gardening in the 21st Century” featured the positive impact community gardening, organic gardening, and cooperative gardening has on local communities, families, and economies. After a humorous, and fascinating, tale of two college students and the earth worm casting business they started, Joe discussed a national renewed interest in home gardening, the popularity and importance of “going green,” and promised to continue to promote Master Gardener programs.



Sadly, all good things have to come to an end, and after the final breakouts and wrap up, group photos, hugs and handshakes, the LPMGs gathered their doorprizes, complementary azaleas, carryalls filled with notes and handouts, and prepared for the drive home...or maybe back to West Monroe’s antique row.

Thanks everyone for a great time; hope we can do it again soon.

—Louann McClelland-Long

Beneficial Herbs

As promised in last month's newsletter, here is the breakdown on herbs covered in Cindy Sharpston's "Kitchen Companions: Herbs Make Good Neighbors in the Kitchen Garden." Much of the text, as indicated by the quotation marks, comes directly from her text.

Whether you plan to start an herb garden, use herbs only as companion plants in a vegetable bed, or just grow a few in pots for kitchen seasoning, this list should be a useful guide for choosing what to plant.

- **Basil** (*Ocimum basilicum*)—repels flies and mosquitoes; smells good in pots
- **Borage** (*Borago officinalis*)—"provides potassium calcium and other natural minerals to the soil;" acts as an insect trap while attracting pollinating bees; gives neighboring plants a boost of immunity to ward off insects and diseases; reseeds
- **Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*)—"discourages Japanese beetles and squirrels when planted near bird feeders"
- **German chamomile** (*Matricaria recutita*)—"Considered the plants' physician in the garden keeping all nearby neighbors healthy. Attracts hoverflies and parasitic wasps."
- **Catmint** (*Nepeta mussinii*)—"interplant with arugula or any crop where flea beetles do damage"
- **Catnip** (*Nepeta cataria*)—"smothers weeds; provides food and shelter for helpful Insects; may attract cats
- **Cilantro** (*Coriandrum sativum*)—"repels aphids from nearby plants"; refuses to grow well near fennel
- **Comfrey** (*Symphytum officinale*)—"high in calcium, potassium, and phosphorus. Place leaves between garden plants for soil building mulch that keeps weeds down. Use as an accelerator in compost and fertilizer tea for the neighborhood."
- **Dandelion** (*Taraxacum officinale*)—"Natural humus producer. Dead roots are channels for earthworms. Early spring flowers provide nectar for ladybugs. Harvest before it seeds."
- **Dill** (*Anethum graveolens*)—host plant for butterflies; attracts lady beetles
- **Fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*)—"unsociable plant"; host plant for swallowtail butterfly
- **Garlic** (*Allium*)—"Loves to live near roses, repels Japanese beetles, aphids, weevils, fruit tree borers, codling moths, spider mites. May prevent leaf curl on peach trees; discourages blackspot. Is reported to improve flavor and taste of raspberries. "Accumulates sulfur, a naturally occurring fungicide that may help prevent disease in plant neighbors.
- **Garlic Chives** (*Allium tuberosum*)—"Gets along famously with fruit trees, deters Japanese Beetles."
- **Hyssop** (*Hyssopus officinalis*) and (*Agastache foeniculum*)—"Lure for cabbage butterflies. Bees love it; repels many pesky insects."
- **Lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*)—"Attracts lacewings, honeybees and other beneficial insects. Repels fleas and moths."
- **Lemon Balm** (*Melissa officinalis*)—use like an insecticide by sprinkling crushed dried leaves on vegetables to deter insects
- **Mint** (*Mentha piperita*)—"Repels cabbage moth, mice, flea beetles, ants. Keeps aphids off nearby plants. Peppermint planted in and near shrubs discourages red ants. Attracts and shelters beneficial insects. (Containing invasive mint in a pot is always a good idea.)"
- **Marjoram** (*Origanum majorana*)—Peace and health to all plants that live near this herb.
- **Mexican marigold** (*Tagetes lucida*)—"Deters weeds, discourages nematodes. Attracts hover flies."
- **Nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*)—"Repels aphids, squash bugs, white fly, striped pumpkin beetles and wooly aphids. Trap plant for insects to feed on and lay insects. Likes to live near fruit trees. May be an indicator of lime deficiency (pH imbalance) if aphids appear on leaves."
- **Oregano** (*Origanum vulgare*)—good with cole crops
- **Parsley** (*Petroselinum crispum*)—host plant for black swallowtail butterfly
- **Purple Coneflower** (*Echinacea*)—"Invites beneficial wasps, flies, spiders, praying mantis," and other beneficial insects to the garden
- **Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)—trailing varieties planted in borders kill slugs. Sharp needles are tough on their bellies.
- **Sage** (*Salvia officinalis*)—discourages ticks, carrot flies, and cabbage moths
- **Santolina** (*Chamaecyparissus*)—either gray or green shelters predatory beetles; sometimes called Lavender cotton
- **Summer Savory** (*Satureja hortensis*)—improves beans' flavor and growth; onions enjoy as companion
- **Thyme** (*Thymus vulgaris*)—"Good anywhere in the garden accentuating aromatic qualities of other plants and herbs. Kills bacteria, dispels beetles. Beneficial honeybees can't resist."
- **Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)—"Super hero in the garden. Secretions from the roots give disease immunity to surrounding plants while intensifying fragrance and flavor of nearby herbs." (Invasive—contain in a pot.)

Bonne chance with your herbs!

—Sharon Bakay



Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association



LPMGA CLASS APPLICATION

Please mail, deliver, or fax this application (no money) to:
Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Association—Class Application
1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 325
Lafayette, LA 70501
APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 30TH

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information:

Work: _____ Home: _____

Cell: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

To be completed by candidate:

1. List any current or previous horticulture or gardening experience.

2. Are you employed? ____ Full time ____ Part Time ____ Retired ____ N/A

3. Previous or Present Occupation? _____

4. Hobbies, Talents, or Interests?

5. Have you previously applied to attend this training? ____ Yes ____ No

6. Do you have any medical condition(s) that may require accommodations for your participation or completion of Master Gardener activities and requirements?

7. List days and times you can most likely volunteer, 8:00 am—8:00 pm:

****You are expected to attend all classes. A signed Letter of Commitment will be requested with payment upon acceptance in the LPMGA program.**

Membership and participation in activities and events are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, veteran status, or disability.


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LMG Calendar and Day Planner
for

June
2010



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
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		1	2 LPMGA General Meeting LSU AgCenter Extension Office 5:30 pm	3 LPMGA AOC Program "Get It Growing" Noon	4	5 EarthShare Volunteer Day 9:00 am - Noon Daylily Festival Abbeville
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 LPMGA Executive Board Meeting FLAG DAY 	15	16	17	18	19 LPMGA Garden Talk "Water Smart" 10:00—11:00 am Demo Gardens
20 Father's Day 	21	22	23	24	25	26 Acadian Orchid Society Show & Sale Ira Nelson Center 10:00 am—5:00 pm
27 Acadian Orchid Society Show & Sale Ira Nelson Center 10:00 am—4:00 pm	28	29	30			

LSU AGRICULTURAL CENTER
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Lafayette, LA 70501-6884

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Gardener's Gazette is issued to all members of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners' Program. Members are encouraged to submit news, educational features, and photographs. Unless otherwise announced, the deadline for all submissions is the 24th of the month for publication in the next month's issue. Please send items to the editor or co-editor:

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