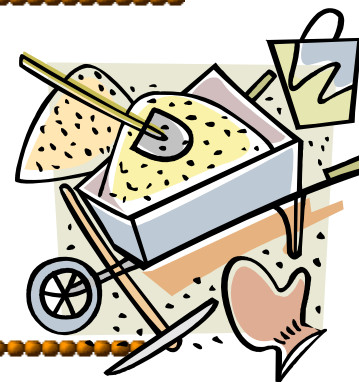


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# The Garden Scoop

## La-Terre Chapter

### Master Gardener Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 2

Fall, 2007

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#### Message from the President ...

I hope everyone is well rested from the lull in volunteering activity this summer. We will be busy, busy this fall. The Junior Master Gardener project is taking off in Amelia. We will be replacing the iris beds at the Tourist Center. Planning for the Bonne Terre Garden Fair has already begun. Along with all of these activities, Habitat for Humanity will be building many houses soon. Work, work, work!!

Although it's a lot of work, the members of this group band together to get the jobs done. We may sweat, but we have fun.

I recently worked with other Master Gardeners in Amelia for a JMG flower bed project. It was such a joy to stand back and watch the students and parents working together to make a beautiful flower bed using the instructions and education we gave them. That is what being a

Master Gardener is all about—teaching and education for a beautiful result! We all worked together to get the project done and even the kids enjoyed themselves.

The Amelia project and how proud I felt reminds me of a vacation I took to Washington D.C. As we were walking through the National Mall to get to the Air & Space Museum, we came across a bench honoring the nation's Master Gardeners. It's nice to know that all of our hard work as Master Gardeners is appreciated nationwide.

In closing, now that our 2007 class graduates are official members of La-Terre, I hope we can all work together to complete all projects with a feeling of satisfaction. Knowing this group, we'll achieve that goal every time.

Sincerely,  
**Cheryl Skinner, President**



## My Neighbor's Garden...

The end of the summer has come and gone and it is time to switch gears as the season is changing. Change is the one constant we all have to deal with in our lives and gardening is no different. As the days begin to get shorter and we have less evening daylight to work with, we will need to be more proficient as to when we garden.

Just like the change of seasons our membership is changing as we welcome 19 new members into the LTMGA fold from the 2007 LMG class. This will bring about more change such as having more members at the meetings and we need to make sure we welcome them in. This is very critical since we have to take more of a leadership role in the 2008 BTGF at Southdown Plantation in Houma on May 3, 2008.

The Louisiana Yards and Neighborhoods program is getting kicked off as the handbook was recently completed. The first goal is to train all LTMGA volunteers using the handbook and educational presentations recently developed. Debbie Robichaux, Mary Samaha, Donna Bucci and Paula King participated in training in July at the Burden Center. An advisory meeting was held in September and we will begin training in October.

### The seven principles of the LYN program are:

1. **Right Plant, Right Place**
2. **Water Efficiently**
3. **Maximize Mulch and Recycle Yard Waste**
4. **Fertilize Effectively**
5. **Manage Yard Pests**
6. **Protect Surface Waters and Wetlands**
7. **Provide for Beneficial Wildlife Habitat**



We will provide training for each principle and hope all LTMGA volunteers will get certified to teach in at least one area. Once trained, we will expect you to provide training in the community on these principles. Our first group to target will be the local garden and civic clubs.

We are working together to modify the Louisiana iris beds at the Terrebonne Tourist center in Gray. Tina Simmons et al will be working with Sharon Alford plus Rusty and Bud McSparrin to renew the beds and make them more manageable plus include an educational program there in April, 2008. I am excited about making this more educational plus including a program open to the public! Tina and a crew of volunteers started working at the Tourist Center on September 19<sup>th</sup>. You can volunteer for this beautification project.



Cheryl Skinner plus several other LMG volunteers have worked with Sonia Clements at JS Aucoin Elementary school in Amelia to implement a Junior Master Gardener program with third-fifth graders. The first project included renovating the entrance in preparation for a USA and Louisiana flag dedication by Senator Butch Gautreaux. Teachers, students, parents plus LMG volunteers made this happen and over 25 volunteers showed up to implement the plan. The next phase will include assisting with in classroom JMG lessons, a school garden plus helping out at the greenhouse. Check with Cheryl or Sandra if you are interested in helping out on this worthy project.

The link to the news story is:

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news\\_archive/2007/august/headline\\_news/junior+master+gardener+program+takes+root+in+st+mary+parish.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2007/august/headline_news/junior+master+gardener+program+takes+root+in+st+mary+parish.htm)

Now is the time to make sure you have your volunteer and continuing education hours up to date through the on-line program.

Graduates from the 2006 LMG class need to complete their initial 40 hours of volunteer service by **October 2, 2007**. Here is the link to log in your volunteer and continuing education hours:

<http://www2.lsuagcenter.com/LMGServiceLog/User/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fLMGServiceLog%2fUser%2fDefault.aspx>

Check with Cheryl, Judy, or Lois if you are having problems with your hours.

We have many great volunteer projects ongoing plus we need more of you to step up and develop educational presentations using PowerPoint. Let me know if you are interested in learning more about this as soon as possible.



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4<sup>th</sup> Annual La-Terre Master Gardener Banquet held at Envie Restaurant, Thibodaux, LA, in August, 2007. Raymonda Guidroz received the Past President's plaque from incoming President Cheryl Skinner. The guest speaker was Dr. Todd Tarifa, 4-H Regional Coordinator, LSU Ag Center.



**The Garden Scoop**  
**Guest Garden Expert**  
**Mr. Robert Trawick**



**Angel's Trumpets Begin Their Fall Performances**

While deciding what to write about for this newsletter I was struck by the performance of a group of Angel's Trumpets at our office located on St Louis Street downtown as they really had me mesmerized. These Angel's Trumpets, which are yellow-gold and rich pink, look exotic and tropical. What really grabbed my attention is that they have been coming back for years without much attention at all.

The plants, known botanically as *Brugmansia*, originate from Ecuador, but they couldn't look more at home here in Baton Rouge. The most beautiful blooms on Angel's Trumpets easily reach 12 to 18 inches in length, are bell shaped and hang down and without a doubt make a statement in the landscape. There is no doubt that they really complete the tropical section in any garden. Once you have looked at them it's hard to believe these plants are related to tomatoes and peppers.

While this plant is passed from friend to friend, Louisiana garden centers sell quite a few and although they often have a few early blooms, the plants really strut their stuff in late summer and fall. If you are interested in propagating this plant then fall is the time to take cuttings to root. They root easily, and it is not hard to hold small plants over the winter. Rooting hardwood cuttings in water is common. To do this, remove all but one or two pairs of leaves from your cuttings. Place the cuttings in a jar or bucket containing about two inches of water. It is probably not a bad idea to change the water every day. Keep the cuttings out of direct sun, in a warm, filtered light area. When you see white lenticels forming, pot the new plants in a good light soil mix. Do not over water. Rooting in potting soil and air layering, another popular propagation method, are also very easy. Revel in its beauty, but please remember that the plant is extremely poisonous when eaten.

To add Angel's Trumpets to a landscape, choose a site in full to partial sun and plant in well-drained, organic-rich beds. If you wait until next year, plant after the last frost and the soil has warmed. However, you couldn't stumble on better planting opportunities than now through the end of fall.

I normally say that protection from the wind and afternoon sun make for a prettier plant, but there are plenty of terrific displays around that can make me eat those words. Recently, I saw a small tree loaded with blooms in a large container, demonstrating that you can enjoy this plant just about anywhere.

During a dry summer like our summers have become recently, supplemental water may be the most rigorous requirement. Angel's Trumpets only require feeding with light applications of a slow-released, balanced fertilizer about three times during the growing season.

In central Louisiana, the Angel's Trumpets have no problem returning after the winter, but an extremely rare, very hard freeze may be a different story. The plants at my parent's home in central Alabama are always frozen to the ground but come back from the base with vigor every year.

In addition to growing them with plants like bananas, try red coleus like Big Red Judy or Mariposa, as well as the new Maple Sugar hibiscus.

Selections like Grand Marnier, Charles Grimaldi and Frosty Pink are worth searching for.

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**Selection Frosty Pink**



**Selection Charles Grimaldi**



**Selection Grand Marnier**



## Travel Destination for the Master Gardener ...

### Gaylord Opryland , Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN

If you find yourself in the vicinity of Nashville, this is a spot that gardeners will not want to miss. Comprised of nine acres of lush indoor gardens under an atrium, this man-made natural habitat is a sight to behold. After dining or shopping at the many shops contained within the atrium, one can easily discover a hidden nook among the tropical plants and waterfalls. There is also a scenic indoor waterway, the Delta River, which can be navigated by one of the resort's flatboats. A guide will provide a brief tour and share interesting information about the myriad plants and fish that coexist there. And, as an added bonus, there is an 85 foot fountain and three waterfalls, one of which is 44 feet high. This is a great place to relax and enjoy the peacefulness of nature without having to brave the wild! Contact information: Telephone (615) 889-1000; info@gaylordhotels.com.



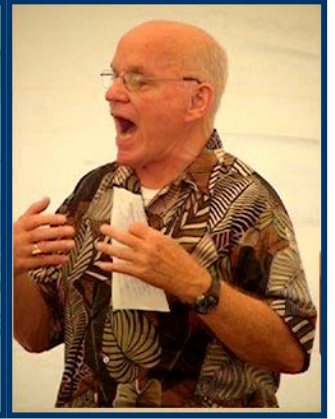
...Carol Naquin



**Garden Tip:** Seed Shaker: When planting small seeds, such as carrots or lettuce seeds, put them in an old salt shaker with holes large enough for the seeds to fall through. You can just shake the seeds down your garden rows.



Master Gardeners celebrate the completion of their landscaping work in front of the 100<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity House on Bon Jovi Blvd in Bayou Blue, LA.



2007 Bonne Terre Garden Fair, May 5, 2007.



## Questions for Lulu the Ladybug...

### Grape Vines:

Are varieties of grapes grown locally self pollinating? I have a friend growing two different varieties of grapes and is concerned that they might cross pollinate. Is there any reason for concern? Don't know varieties; not "muscadines."

Grapevines available to gardeners are self-pollinated or self-fruitful. Tell your friend that he doesn't need to worry.

...Source: Dr .Bobby Fletcher



### Fall Bulbs:

I read something about planting ground cover annuals on top of bulbs. What does this mean? This might work to give me some much needed fall color. Suggestions?

Yes you can over plant an area with low growing cool season annuals once you have planted your bulbs in the ground. Look around at the local garden centers for available varieties of colorful plants such as pansies, alyssum, or small violas like "Johnny Jump Ups". Don't disturb the bulbs in the soil when you plant. Remember to think about the height and color of the bulb blooms so that they will make a pleasing display against the low growing ground cover plants you choose. If you are adventurous, plant bulbs in a large container and over plant with some nice cool season annuals. What a wonderful display you'll have during the winter and into the spring.



... Source: Dan Gill  
[www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

## Travel to a National Meeting...

Donna Bucci attended the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention in Boston in May. She participated in a tour of the historic Mount Auburn Cemetery which was led by one of the Arborists on staff at the cemetery. The cemetery is kept in pristine condition, and has an impressive collection of over 5,500 trees many of which are the oldest and/or largest in Massachusetts. It was begun in 1831 as "America's First Garden Cemetery" and is situated on 173 acres. The cemetery is important both for its historical aspects and for its role as a fine arboretum. Notable figures are interred there such as Julia Ward Howe, poet; Henry Wadsworth

Longfellow, poet; Henry Cabot Lodge, politician; and Oliver Wendell Holmes, author- just to name a few. Participants were also treated to tour 10 "Hidden Gardens" of Beacon Hill, one of the most expensive real estate areas in our country. The hidden landscapes and secret pathways tucked behind the brick facades and shutters of the historic townhouses offered the visitors a rare opportunity to view gardens not usually open to the public. The enclosed pictures are from the "Hidden Gardens" tour.



...Donna Bucci





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**Garden Tip:** Plant Markers- If you like using Popsicle sticks as markers in your garden, paint a coat of clear nail polish over the sticks after writing on them. This will keep the markers weatherproof for the fall and winter.

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### Herbs for the Season...Fennel

Were you one of those kids who loved to snack on those black licorice sticks? Are you an adventurous cook looking for unique flavors? Then I have a treat for you! Try the crispy, crunchy, and slightly sweet to bitter, thinly sliced light green bulb of *Foeniculum vulgare*, fennel, the next time you fix a salad or prepare an Italian or Mediterranean recipe.



Fennel is a perennial and can grow taller than 5 feet to make a stunning and fragrant plant in the garden. It produces chemicals that have strong antioxidant properties and is an excellent source of vitamin C. It may help to reduce

elevated cholesterol levels.

The bulbs, seed, stalks, and leaves of this plant are edible and have a delicate licorice or anise flavor. This is a member of the Family: Umbelliferae and related to parsley, carrots, and dill. Since it can cross-pollinate with dill, be careful not to place them close together in the garden.

The internet is a good source for fennel recipes. Check out the video of chef Dani Spies preparing a citrus fennel salad at:

<http://video.yahoo.com/video/play?vid167687>.

Fennel seeds that are found in the spice anise are from the sweet fennel variety. The sweet variety can be found in herbal formulas and aromatherapy.



...Shep Templet



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Cultivate lasting friendships.  
Sow seeds of kindness.  
Listen to sage advice.  
Don't let little things bug you.  
Be outstanding in your field.  
Take thyme for yourself.  
No Vining!



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## Flower Power..... Candelabra Bush

### *Cassia alata* / CANDLESTICK / CANDELABRA BUSH

This plant is also known as: Candlestick Cassia, Empress Candle Plant, Candelabra Bush, Ringworm Tree

Plants have handsome foliage and grow rapidly in full sun on a wide range of soils, and may reach a height of 10 feet with an equal spread (most I grew were about 6' high and wide). It is a tropical plant and can only be grown outside year round in the warmer zones of 9 - 11, where they become huge specimens. In colder zones they are best treated as an annual.



They grow easily from seed, and mature quickly and they flower in the late summer, early fall of their first year with the most awesome display of fall color you'll ever want to see! Large, bright yellow flowers resembling (surprise!) candelabras persist from late summer to frost - you really have to see these to believe how beautiful they are! Grow as a specimen plant or as a hedge that will draw the attention of everyone that passes! Even before these plants dazzle you with their blooms, you'll be amazed at their leaves (which are easily the size of a man's hand!), which fold up at night like a prayer plant! This is really cool to watch in the evenings!

Pinching new growth increases branching, creating a fuller canopy, which produces more flowers. These plants are best ignored rather than pampered for the most blooms! Do not provide supplemental water or fertilizer after they are established in your garden except in extreme drought conditions.

Cassias are host plants for the yellow sulphur butterfly caterpillars; it's a must-have in your butterfly garden!

Leaves or sap are used to treat fungal infections such as ringworm. They contain a fungicide, chrysophanic acid. Because of its anti-fungal properties, it is a common ingredient in soaps, shampoos and lotions in the Philippines. The effectiveness of this plant against skin diseases is confirmed by modern scientific studies. In Africa the boiled leaves are used to treat high-blood pressure. In South America, besides skin diseases, it is also used to treat a wide range of ailments from stomach problems, fever, asthma to snake bite!

**A wonderful addition to any garden!**

**...Shirley Huggins**



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## From a Gardener's Kitchen...

### Butternut Squash Soup

2-4 Butternut squash  
3 inch piece of andouille  
1 c. chopped onions  
½ c. chopped red pepper  
1 T. minced garlic  
Chicken Stock  
Half and Half [fat free]  
Sour cream  
Salt and Pepper to taste  
Sour Cream garnish  
Chives  
Sliced Almonds [Accent seasoned]



#### Directions:

1. Cut 2-4 butternut squash in half; discard seeds.
2. Coat a large cookie sheet with olive oil. Place squash, cut side down, on cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees until squash is tender [ fork can be inserted easily]. Scoop out the pulp.
3. Mince about a 3 inch piece of andouille. Sauté andouille in large Dutch oven.
4. Add a C. of chopped onions, ½ c. chopped red pepper, and 1 T. of minced garlic Sauté until soft but not brown.
5. Puree pulp in processor with enough canned chicken stock[prefer organic, low sodium broth] to make the processing possible.
6. Puree the andouille and vegetables in the same manner.
7. Add all pureed mixture to Dutch oven.
8. Season to taste with salt and white pepper [ may use low sodium seasoning mixture]
9. Add enough fat free Half and Half or cream to give the mixture a soupy consistency that you like.

Garnish the plated soup with a dollop of sour cream, Accent seasoned, sliced almonds, and a sprinkle of chives.  
Enjoy!!!!

**Recipe... Martha South**  
**Friend of a Master Gardener**





**A La-Terre Master Gardener  
Work Day redoing the iris beds  
at the Tourist Center in Gray, LA**





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La-Terre Masters Gardeners are partnering with students at J.S. Aucoin Elementary School in Amelia, LA, on developing a Junior Master Gardener Program. Their first project was a flower bed at the front of the school.

