

2014 Annual Report

Louisiana Master Gardener™ Extension Volunteer Program



IMPORTANCE

Louisiana has an estimated 500,243 home gardens with a projected annual value of more than \$262 million. There are also countless home landscapes requiring maintenance and development that relates to an ever increasing need by consumers for horticulture information, training and timely access to the LSU AgCenter. The Louisiana Master Gardener (LMG) Program provides a network of volunteer support that strengthens and expands the capacity of the LSU AgCenter's Cooperative Extension Service to effectively meet the educational needs of home gardeners in Louisiana. The program follows traditional Master Gardener format patterned after that of most states where volunteers complete the standardized LMG training course and return 40 hours of volunteer service the first year and 20 hours each year thereafter as gardening educators. The Louisiana Master Gardener program is administered and coordinated by LSU AgCenter Extension faculty who provide training and support to Master Gardener volunteer education and service projects that meet local parish needs.

LMG Graduates & Registered Volunteers per LMG Program/2014

LMG Program	Graduates	# Registered Volunteers
Acadiana	16	28
Ascension	12	58
Atchafalaya	0	19
Beauregard	17	37
Cenla	10	54
Darbonne	8	21
EBR	26	203
Feliciania	0	58
Lafayette	19	285
LaTerre	13	58
Livingston	0	12
Natchitoches	6	66
North Central	16	34
North East	0	96
North West	24	214
MGGNO	54	263
Piney Hills	11	145
River Region	0	37
Sabine	6	16
Southwest	1	96
St. Tammany	22	161
Tangipahoa	16	77
Tri-Parish	13	74
Washington	0	42
West Carroll	4	4
Winn	1	19
Totals	291	2177

DYNAMICS

Now in its 20th year, there are 26 Louisiana Master Gardener volunteer training programs encompassing 58 of 64 parishes and representing 96% of Louisiana's population centers. This LSU AgCenter signature program interacts with Habitat for Humanity, garden clubs and foundations, parish beautification programs, local farmers markets, school and community gardening programs, food banks, community and faith based organizations, local master gardener associations, and Master Gardener programs in other states. In 2014, LMG volunteers conducted a variety of educational gardening activities and programs to the public that involved: working with school and 4-H youth, nursing home residents, and home gardeners; answering telephone gardening questions and electronic communications; conducting plant health care clinics, gardening information booths, demonstrations, community and school gardening programs, public presentations, gardening seminars, workshops, pest identification and recommendations, garden shows, plant sales, municipal and community landscape projects; media efforts involving newsletters, publications, cable TV and television broadcasts; partnerships with civic organizations and municipal entities; educational gardening tours; plant trials and evaluation; urban tree protection and preservation; planning, organizing and conducting conference events; and performing on-site consultations.

Volunteer Hours per Activity/2014

Activity	Total Hours
4-H and Other Youth Activities	4,694
Civic and Community Activities	49,850
Extension Activities	3,472
LMG Teaching Activities	14,026
Continuing Education	3,609
Advanced LMG Program	167
Total Volunteer Hours Reported	75,818

IMPACT

The increased need for consumer horticulture information and enhanced accessibility to the LSU AgCenter has proven that highly trained LMG volunteers presenting researched based information are recognized in their community as an important and critical resource for gardening education. In 2014, the Louisiana Master Gardener Program trained 291 new volunteers that increased the active number of LMG volunteers statewide to nearly 2,000. These volunteers donated 75,818 hours of their time to Extension horticulture education. Through the efforts of these volunteers, 3,042,724 residents in Louisiana were provided research-based, consumer horticulture information and training. This volunteer service, equivalent to 40 full-time employees, increased the human capacity of Extension by 21.01% in 2014.

Volunteer Contribution/2014

	Contribution
Louisiana Master Gardeners Trained	291
LMGs Returning from Previous Years	1,886
Active LMGs (Reporting)	2,177
Volunteer Retention	57%
Volunteer Service Hours	75,818
Average Individual LMG Hours	35
Value of Volunteer Hours @ \$21/hr	\$1,516,364.00
Total Volunteer Contacts	3,042,724
Average LMG Contacts	1,398
CEU Hours for 2014	17,029
Average Individual CEU (6 hrs per LMG required)	7.82
LMG Mileage for 2014	436,307
Value of LMG Mileage @ \$.51	\$218,153
Unreimbursed LMG Volunteer Expenses	\$63,249
Total LMG Volunteer Value for 2014	\$1,039,585

LMG Program Impact/5 Year Average

Year	Active Volunteers	Public Contacts	Service Hours	Impact \$
2010	1,736	1,649,687	55,841	1,309,861
2011	1,919	1,645,946	57,665	1,423,548
2012	2,103	5,021,110	70,228	1,845,449
2013	2,077	5,751,819	73,035	1,855,450
2014	1,886	3,042,724	75,818	1,039,585
5 Year Average	1,944	3,422,257	66,517	1,494,778

