

2015 Annual Report

Louisiana Master Gardener™ Extension Volunteer Program



IMPORTANCE

Louisiana has an estimated 628,747 home gardens with a projected annual value of more than \$330 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/2015

LMG Program	Graduates	# Registered Volunteers
Acadiana	9	37
Ascension	11	67
Atchafalaya	0	19
Beauregard	14	51
Cenla	0	53
Darbonne	6	26
Delta	0	14
EBR	30	231
Feliciana	1	59
Lafayette	19	304
LaTerre	13	69
Livingston	9	21
Natchitoches	0	66
North Central	1	34
North East	18	114
North West	33	247
MGGNO	26	288
Piney Hills	4	149
River Region	0	37
Sabine	0	16
Southwest	4	100
St. Tammany	34	191
Tangipahoa	17	90
Tri-Parish	7	81
Washington	11	53
West Carroll	0	4
Winn	1	20
Totals	268	2441

DYNAMICS

Now in its 21st year, there are 27 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 2015, 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/2015

Activity	Total Hours
4-H and Other Youth Activities	4,911
Civic and Community Activities	47,432
Extension Activities	11,160
LMG Teaching Activities	6,145
Continuing Education	751
Meetings – Business and Administrative	9,822
Total Volunteer Hours Reported	80,221

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 2015, the Louisiana Master Gardener Program trained 268 new volunteers that increased the active number of LMG volunteers statewide to over 2,000. These volunteers donated 80,221 hours of their time to Extension horticulture education. Through the efforts of these volunteers, 2,196,966 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 2015.

Volunteer Contribution/2015

	Contribution
Louisiana Master Gardeners Trained	268
LMGs Returning from Previous Years	2,173
Active LMGs (Reporting)	2,441
Volunteer Retention	66%
Volunteer Service Hours	80,221
Average Individual LMG Hours	33
Value of Volunteer Hours @ \$21/hr	\$1,684,653.00
Total Volunteer Contacts	2,196,966
Average LMG Contacts	2,953
CEU Hours for 2015	18,363
Average Individual CEU (6 hrs per LMG required)	7.52
LMG Mileage for 2015	458,954
Value of LMG Mileage @ \$.51	\$234,066
Unreimbursed LMG Volunteer Expenses	\$65,326
Total LMG Volunteer Value for 2015	\$1,984,045

LMG Program Impact/5 Year Average

Year	Active Volunteers	Public Contacts	Service Hours	Impact \$
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
2015	2,441	2,196,966	80,221	1,984,045
5 Year Average	2,085	3,531,713	71,393	1,629,615

