

## LPMGA GENERAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 1ST  
NOON-1:30  
CHARLES M BURKE  
ELEMENTARY  
2845 RIDGE RD,  
DUSON**

## **HORSE FARM ANNOUNCEMENT**

At the January 24th Horse Farm Task Force Meeting, Lafayette City -Parish President, Joey Durel, approved that Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association will have a home at the Urban Park to be developed on the site of the Horse Farm. In addition, we can proceed with our plans for the Fall Plant Sale Extravaganza.

Further details will be announced, and questions will be addressed, at the February 1st General Meeting.

Linda Broussard, LPMGA President



HORSE FARM TASK FORCE

## LPMGA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 16TH 1PM AT LEDA  
211 E DEVALCOURT ST.  
All members are welcome to attend the LPMGA Board meetings, please contact Linda Broussard for more details.

## **FEBRUARY MASTER GARDENER MEETING**

We would like to extend a special invitation for you to join us at Charles M. Burke Elementary School for a "School Garden Presentation and Tour". It will be held on Wednesday, February 1 2012, from noon to 1:30pm in the school Science Lab. The school is located at 2845 Ridge Road, in Duson.

The presentation will begin with an overview of the Lafayette School Garden Initiative. It will be followed by individual presentations from the six Lafayette Parish Schools that have implemented the program. There will be an opportunity to ask questions to faculty and students of each school to discover what they have learned through their service and gardening experiences.

It will conclude with a tour of the school garden at Charles M. Burke.

Parking will be available at the first entrance in the grassy area near Ridge Road. Signs will be placed to direct you. Everyone should enter through the main front door and check-in. You will receive a Visitor Pass and be escorted to the meeting.

Charles M. Burke is a NUT FREE SCHOOL. Members assigned to bring food for the meeting must be food which does not contain nuts due to children with allergies.

*(Please check page 3 of this newsletter for a list of members bringing refreshments in February.)*

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Each of the schools is extremely lease to have the opportunity to showcase what they have done and learned through their school garden. If you have an questions, please feel free to contact Charles Hebert at the LSU AgCenter office 291-7090.

Charles Hebert

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With my background in hospitality education, I have given many classes and training sessions in customer service. I was recently preparing for one of those sessions and thought about who our customers are for the LPMGA. Of course our customers are the people who attend our events, plants sales, tour our demonstration gardens, etc, but our most important customers are our members and potential members. Their importance will become more critical as we grow and especially as we move to a new location with expanded services.

Customer or member retention should be our priority. Since 1998 we have had approximately 450 participants on the LPMGA Class and we have retained 158 members or a retention rate of 35 %. Can we do better?

Yes, we can with just a few simple strategies. When today's customers are seeking any service or product they want the following from their server (organization):

1. First customers (members) want to be heard. Engage your members and get to know them personally. Develop a relation with each new customer (member). Customers (members) are in an organization for the socialization.
2. Customers (members) want to be liked and noticed. Remember their name and something personal, allowing you to engage them in a conversation each time you meet.
3. Customers (members) want to work in an environment where they are respected for their contributions. They want to be working in an organization that allows them to be understood and helped to make their best contribution.
4. Customers (members) are attracted to an environment that is relaxed and appealing. Feelings of trust, respect and comfort make them want to stay longer.
5. Finally, a customer (member) wants to be appreciated for contributions on a regular basis.

Linda Vincent Broussard

## GERALD'S CORNER

### PRUNING AND FERTILIZING FRUIT TREES

Based on the increasing number of calls requesting recommendations on the pruning and fertilization of fruit trees, it is evident that many homeowners are enjoying the therapeutic benefits of producing fruits in their back yards, but also want to understand how to prune and fertilize them. February is an ideal month to fertilize and prune; however, there are some LSU AgCenter recommendations that will enhance productive capacity of your trees if they are pruned and fertilized properly.

There are many people that neglect to prune fruit trees annually. Many times it's because they don't understand the type of pruning that is required of specific fruit trees. As a result trees becomes over grown with old, unproductive wood.

I receive many calls from people who ask me, "What are the benefits of pruning fruit trees?"

Pruning fruit trees can be beneficial in a number of ways. First, it improves the health of the tree by pruning out dead, injured, or diseased limbs. It also eases harvest, because pruning can lower the height of the tree. Pruning also contributes to increased flower production on peach and plum trees, which produce blooms on new growth.

Pear and apple trees bear fruit on short growth structures called spurs. These spurs grow very little annually, so excessive pruning on pears and apples is not recommended because removing these spurs can reduce fruit production. Additionally, excessive pruning on apples and pears can lead to a disease called fire blight.

Citrus trees such as oranges, kumquat, Satsuma, or grape fruit required very little if any pruning. For someone who needs to lower the height of their citrus trees, pruning is acceptable. Muscadine should be pruned annually, with each vine being pruned back to two buds.

Figs tree are primarily pruned to keep height at a manageable level in order to make it more convenient when picking ripe figs. If fig trees are not pruned for several years, and most of the production will be in the top of the tree, the tree is a candidate to be pruned to lower the height to 8 – 10 ft.

Fertilization provides the trees with the nutrients needed to make vegetative growth and set a healthy crop of blooms in order to produce a good crop of fruit. Peaches, plum, apples, and pears can be fertilized from mid – February to early March.

Apply 1 pound of 8 – 8 – 8 or 13 – 13 – 13 per year age of the tree to a maximum of 8 pounds. If fertilizing blueberries, remember then are acid loving plants that require an azalea/camellia fertilizer that provides nutrients and maintain an acid pH. For grapes, apply 1 – 2 pounds of 8 – 8 – 8 or 13 – 13 – 13 per vine. Blackberries apply 8 – 8 – 8 or 13 – 13 – 13 at the rate of ½ pound per foot of row in late February and ½ pound of ammonium nitrate in March.

Follow these recommendations from the LSU AgCenter, and you will reap the reward and benefits of producing quality fruit in your own backyard.

Gerald

## LPMGA WEBPAGE

The LPMGA webpage is available at  
[www.lsuagcenter.com.lpmga](http://www.lsuagcenter.com.lpmga)

Current postings include:

2011 and 2012 newsletters

Information on some of our current projects

Available brochures for the Demo Garden beds

Information about the Master Gardener class

New information concerning the LPMGA is always welcome and will be posted as it is received. Please contact Sandy Rhodes at [rhodesb@att.net](mailto:rhodesb@att.net) for further information.

## HELP! LOST IRRIGATION KIT

I cannot find the irrigation kit that was in the cottage on the desk. The kit is a plastic container about 12 inches wide, and 8 inches tall and 6 inches wide. It had little pull-out drawers for the sprinkler head parts, irrigation plugs, hole punchers, etc. If you know where it is please contact Candy Bienvenu  
Thank you in advance for your help.

## What Plant Am I?

Distorting a bit a famous observation made by Shakespeare's Juliet, a weed by any other name might be a treat. Take me, for example. Though much maligned by many as something to be yanked out of well manicured lawns, there are those who are privy to my real value, including little children, who just love to blow on my "puff balls" (pappuses) when they spring from my buds, thereby helping me propagate. I confess that I am not all that pretty, but I am tenacious. I can be mowed to the ground, but I will spring back up from whatever remains of my tap root.

Scientifically, I am known as *Taraxacum officinale*, but everyone knows me by my common name, which, it is said, derives from a French term meaning "lion's tooth." My technical moniker, from the Greek, indicates that I have value as a medicinal plant. And with good reason, because, for hundreds of years, herbalists have used me to treat a range of sicknesses. I have also been used as food, even for making wine and a kind of coffee. And I still find use as a supplement in dietary and vitamin products.

By the way, have you noticed that, despite what Juliet says, these days a lot of roses don't smell all that good; in fact, many don't smell at all? As for me, I continue to thrive, and in many places I am grown commercially.

And now, if you would, show your appreciation by identifying my common name. If need be, check page 8 to make sure you are right.

**EVENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2012 GENERAL MEETINGS**

**FEBRUARY 1ST 12-1:30PM AT CHARLES M BURKE ELEMENTARY** Charles Hebert will present on “School Gardens” and the members will tour the garden at Burke.

**MARCH GENERAL MEETING:** March 7<sup>th</sup> at the South Regional Library from 12 noon - 1:30 pm. The speaker will be CC Richmond. CC is the Louisiana Native Plant Initiative Nursery Manager at McNeese State University’s Louisiana Environmental Research Center. Her topic will be “Our Valuable Wetlands”. Contact Babette Werner [babswerner@aol.com](mailto:babswerner@aol.com) with any questions.

**REFRESHMENTS FOR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS**

We thank all the members who provided refreshments for last year's meetings. In 2012, members will be assigned the duty of providing refreshments beginning in alphabetical order. You are asked to bring food items: ie, appetizers, sandwiches, sweets for approximately 15 people. If a serving utensil is needed, please provide it.

The Social Committee will provide ice, drinks, paper goods and forks. If you are unable to make the meeting, we ask that you send your refreshments with another member or ask someone to bring a food item in your place.

**February Assignment:** Doreen Abadco, Donald Alexander, Sharon Anderson, Sharon Bakay, Mary Beyt, Candy Bienvenu, Diane Bijeaux, Alice Blakewood, Glenda Boudreaux, Ralph Bourque, Anne Breaux, and Chris Butts.

If you have any questions, please contact LPMGA Vice President Babette Werner [babswerner@aol.com](mailto:babswerner@aol.com)

**2012 LPMGA BOARD MEETINGS**

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 1PM AT LEDA 211 EAST DEVALCOURT ST, LAFAYETTE. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT LINDA BROUSSARD FOR MORE DETAILS.

THURSDAY, FEB 16	MONDAY, AUG 20
MONDAY, MAR 19	MONDAY, SEP 17
MONDAY, APR 16	MONDAY, OCT 22
MONDAY, MAY 14	MONDAY, NOV 19
MONDAY, JUNE 18	MONDAY, DEC 17
JULY NO MEETING	

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS WILL NO LONGER BE INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is now being posted on our Webpage and our FaceBook. To respect the privacy of our members, home and cell numbers will no longer be included in the newsletter. Office numbers and email addresses will be included, if supplied.

All contact information can be found in the LPMGA Roster. If you need a copy of the Roster, please contact Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Giglio [giglideb1@cox.net](mailto:giglideb1@cox.net).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**LPMGA SPEAKER’S BUREAU SPRING SYMPOSIUM**  
8am-12 pm March 24th  
Featured speaker will be Dan Gill Details to follow in March newsletter

**2012 SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
Lake Charles March 23-25 [www.gardenfest.org](http://www.gardenfest.org)

**SPRING PLANT SALE EXTRAVAGANZA**  
April 14th Festival des Fleurs Blackham Coliseum

**2012 SOUTHERN REGIONAL MG CONFERENCE**  
May 1-4 in Natchez, MS. Registration \$155. Visit [www.regonline.com](http://www.regonline.com) or [www.msucares.com/lawn/mastergardener/2012conference](http://www.msucares.com/lawn/mastergardener/2012conference) for more information and registrations forms.

**LPMGA PLANT SWAP  
SATURDAY MAY 19TH**

Get those cuttings rooted! The LPMGA Plant Swap will be held as the May Garden Talk. Informal trading will begin at 8:30am with the formal Swap starting at 9am. A discussion of the plants at the Swap, and a question and answer session will follow. Remember that the more interesting plant that you bring, the interesting the Swap! Don’t forget to bring plants that you have extras of for the Freebie table.

Plants that don’t find a home will be given to Habitat for Humanity.

**2012 LOUISIANA MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE**

October 24-26 L’auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles. Hosted by the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners. Registration \$150, hotel conference rate \$99. [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) for more information

**“DIAGNOSTICS FOR MASTER GARDENERS”  
ONLINE TRAINING COURSE**

An on-line training program is available to MGs interested in enhancing their diagnostic skills. Information about the “Introduction To Diagnostics For Master Gardeners” course can be found at the Louisiana Master Gardener webpage. There is a \$10 fee, and a 10-week time limit for completion of the course.



**DON'T FORGET TO  
RECORD YOUR  
FEBRUARY  
VOLUNTEER HOURS!**

**LSU AgCenter Website [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)**  
If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in our meetings, please call 337-291-7090  
**Please note: All meeting and event dates, times, and locations are subject to change.**

# 2011 Volunteer Hour Totals

The hours listed in the 2011 LPMGA Volunteer Hours table (on right) reflect a very active organization with a wide variety of projects. As LPMGA members, we should be proud of what we have accomplished over the past year. The pull-down menu on the LSU AgCenter website, has been developed to accommodate MG programs statewide. The list of categories on the website includes some programs that LPMGA does not currently participate in, or use to record our hours.

The hours listed in the table are as recorded by our members, with some hours that have been recorded in the incorrect categories. For example, LPMGA members record our Continuing Education hours in the separate "Continuing Education" pull-down menu on the website.

An email, with Volunteer Hour Total tables for the past three years, will be sent to members in February. With these totals, members will be able to see where our hours have been recorded over a period of several years.

## The Importance of LMG Reporting Rene' Schmit

Reporting volunteer service hours may be one of the least favorite tasks performed by Master Gardeners but it is an important and necessary function of the state LMG program. One of the key aspects as to why Master Gardeners are required to regularly report volunteer hours is to meet the program policies for certification, and designate an active participation as it relates to liability coverage for volunteers and the LSU AgCenter.

Hours and activity information submitted by volunteers into the LMG reporting site provides a current and historical record of participation. This information is especially helpful to Extension Master Gardener program coordinators for determining annual certification status and award selections of volunteers, and for generating efficient program reports that relate the effectiveness of Master Gardener volunteer outreach efforts.

Volunteer reports can have an important impact on current and future funding for the LSU AgCenter and potential support is more easily attained when significant efforts and impacts of high priority programs can be proven. Quantifying time invested by Master Gardener volunteers and the number of people reached through educational activities provides important measures that demonstrate to stakeholders the worth and value of the Louisiana Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

The reporting of volunteer hours extends well beyond that of simply being a policy requirement. It serves and represents an important and critical contribution to the overall success and continued support of the LSU AgCenter's Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program and mission.

Rene' G. Schmit  
Interim State Coordinator for Louisiana Master Gardeners

TOTAL LPMGA VOLUNTEER HOURS 2011	
LPMGA PROGRAM NAME	HOURS AS RECORDED
4H & JMG PROGRAM	47.00
ADVANCED LMG PROGRAM <i>Not available through LPMGA at this time</i>	62.00
ANSWER EMAIL	17.50
ANSWER TELEPHONE CALLS	531.00
CIVIC & COMMUNITY EVENT ( <i>HERB FESTIVAL</i> )	204.25
CIVIC & COMMUNITY LANDSCAPING	446.75
COMMUNITY GARDENS ( <i>VERMILIONVILLE</i> )	207.50
COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDENS	14.00
CONTINUING EDUCATION	6.00
DEMONSTRATION GARDENS & FIELD DAY	861.70
EDUCATIONAL GARDENING PROGRAMS	93.65
FNP GARDENING PROJECT ( <i>FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM</i> )	135.50
GARDEN SHOW	12.00
GARDEN TOUR	92.00
GREENHOUSE	371.00
GROUP PRESENTATION/SPEAKER'S BUREAU	160.00
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	59.00
HOME VISIT	25.00
HORTICULTURAL THERAPY	24.00
LMG CLASS-INSTRUCTION & ORGANIZATION	268.75
LMG NEWSLETTER	194.50
LMG PARISH PROGRAM ( <i>BOARD, COMMITTEE, GENERAL MEETINGS</i> )	952.75
MASS MEDIA	284.75
PHONE BANK ( <i>CALLING VOLUNTEERS WITHOUT EMAIL</i> )	3.00
PLANT SALE ( <i>PROPAGATION</i> )	2613.25
PLANT-A-ROW & FOOD BANK	2.50
PROGRAM MAINTENANCE	7.00
SCHOOL GARDENS K-12	602.50
SCHOOL PROGRAMS K-12	35.00
WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	18.00
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>8351.85</b>

**THE BOG GARDEN IS IN NEED OF ATTENTION**

If you are interested in helping to revamp and bring back this area, please contact Judy Corne. Together we will study the current plants, decide what is appropriate for this area and find out what else can be added to this garden.

**PUBLICITY**

If you are interested in writing articles for the Publicity Committee on events you attend, please contact Christine Guillory at chguillory@yahoo.com for more information.

**CREATING A NEW SQUARE FOOT GARDEN**

Sign up to revamp the bed adjacent to the shade house, and help prepare the area for a new life as a Square Foot Demo Garden and improved Bog Garden. Digging out and clearing the bed will also improve drainage to avoid flooding in, and around, the Shade House. A workday is planned for Friday, February 10th from 8am-Noon. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February General Meeting, or contact Theresa Guidry by February 8th.

**GARDEN STROLL ORGANIZER NEEDED**

MG Monica Boutte has done a fabulous job arranging all of the Garden Strolls that our members have enjoyed over the past two years. Her intention, when she started the Stroll, was to invite fellow MGs into our gardens to share ideas, learn from each other, and to enjoy spending some time together. It has become a popular way for MGs to share their garden designs, plant choices, see old friends, and make new ones.

Unfortunately, Monica will not be able to continue organizing the Strolls, and is looking for a new Organizer to keep the Strolls going. Setting up the Stroll is not difficult, in fact, arranging the strolls can be done from your home. It's a great way to find your special niche, meet other MGs, and continue an activity that enriches LPMGA and benefits our members in so many ways.

If you are interested in becoming involved with these fun and educational get-togethers, contact Louann Long at louannmc@aol.com or Monica Boutte at the.bouttes@lusfiber.net for more details.

**"Ask A Master Gardener" Is Looking For Volunteers**

Often during the year, Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners are asked to be present at community events and provide a "help desk" promoting the services that we offer. We offer educational information, provide demonstrations, promote the MG course, and host a question and answer table.

Examples of these events are: My Southern Garden Tour, Avec Souci Garden Tour, Sunset Herb Festival, Abbeville Daylily Festival. These are all fun events with lots of opportunity to visit with other passionate gardeners as yourself. We try to schedule volunteers in pairs, and all time is recordable as volunteer hours.

You will be providing literature and answering questions (don't worry if you don't know the answer off hand, we can take messages, find the answer and call them back). Soil samples will also be received. Supplies and reference materials will be provided. The Ask A Master Gardener Program Goal is "to develop a visible and mobile reference desk providing general information about the master gardener program and more importantly a horticultural trouble shooter giving research based information on plant pathology and entomology problems as well as recommendations of best management practices (BMPs)."

If you are interested in this easy and flexible opportunity to earn your volunteer hours please contact Jeanell Menard at menardrjti@aol.com

**A TOUR THROUGH MY SOUTHERN GARDEN**

Punch in these dates for "A Tour Through My Southern Garden", a tour in the gardens of Sarah and Harold Schoeffler on April 20, 21, and 22. Sat. the 21st, MGs set up the "Ask A Master Gardener" table and share great information through their "Speakers Bureau". MGs give out information about "How to be a Master Gardener", and lead tours discussing the perennials, butterfly plants, and unusual plants in the garden. These are all ways of earning LPMGA Volunteer Hours.

Then there's that troop of friends of the garden who come way ahead of date to help put in all those annuals. The day of the tour (with no hours earned, but lots of fun gained) volunteers serve coffee/beignets, tea/scones in the outdoor Garden Room.

Enjoy the music, boat rides, artisans and a beautiful time in the gardens. Contact Bonnie Bannerman as Sarah's volunteer coordinator Bonnie Bannerman at bannermanb@bellsouth.net or Sarah at cadistyle@aol.com

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS YOUR HELP TO LANDSCAPE ITS 80TH HOME**

Lafayette Habitat for Humanity is in its 20th year in the Lafayette area, and will be dedicating its 80<sup>th</sup> home soon. Lafayette Master Gardeners work with the new homeowners to add landscape to their home. To many homeowners, this is a new experience.

Habitat is fortunate to have so many Master Gardeners donating time and plants to a great cause.

The next landscaping Habitat date is Saturday, February 25, at 96 E Gilman Road, the home on Ronnisha and Eugene. Ronnisha loves PURPLE! A fun challenge!

Contact JoAnn Pugh if you are interested.

**CREATIVE TEAM NEEDED TO DEVELOPE STATE CONFERENCE DISPLAY**

This is a great opportunity for new Master Gardeners to get involved with an important, and fun, project. We will be creating a tabletop display promoting LPMGA for the October 24-26 State Conference in Lake Charles. All ideas are welcome.

To join the team, or for more details contact Louann McClelland-Long

**MENTOR THE 2012 MASTER GARDENER IN TRAINING CLASS**

*The Mentor Committee (formerly Les Copains du Jardin) is looking for fun and friendly folks!*

This committee works to assist Patricia Soileaux and Gerald Roberts with the Master Gardener In Training class.

Mentors help facilitate a feeling of welcome to our organization, and find ways to be of assistance to the new class members. We do this through networking, socials, general interaction, and being available to answer questions and give advice.

If you're interested in joining the Mentor Committee, please email Anita Petitjean apetitjean@cox.net



# BECKY'S SPACE

Sustainability.....A Sound Approach to Gardening and to Life

When I applied for sustaining membership in our LPMGA my only thought was that I would no longer be required to log in volunteer hours. And it has been a nice year of not worrying about those monthly recordings. Guilt-free, I continued to participate in LPMGA activities as usual, but didn't have the spectre of "LOGGING HOURS" hanging over my head. I must admit that 2011 was nice, no extra computer duties with logging in, but the more I thought about it, I realized what a disservice I was doing to my association, and to the AgCenter, by not recording my volunteer hours. Regardless of the hours I put in, Becky Taylor and her efforts ceased to exist on paper.

We know that cumulative totals of MG hours are used by our AgCenter officials, lobbyists, and others of influence to keep the legislature from chopping even more from already fragile budgets. Logging of hours is critical to their efforts.

Looking at the many definitions of "sustaining" was an eye-opener:

*To support, hold or bear up  
To strengthen or support*

*To affirm the validity  
To keep in existence*

*The long term maintenance of  
responsibility*

Nowhere did I find the definition of sustaining or sustainability as "free pass".

Sustainability embodies stewardship and social responsibility, whether in gardening or in membership. Sustainability is important in making sure that we have and will continue to have what we will need to continue our programs. Sustainability means to support, such as a foundation that *sustains* a superstructure. Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future.

After being illuminated by all of the above, I throw down a challenge:

To the General Membership – stick with us, stay active, and work toward becoming a Sustaining Member

To Sustaining Members – embrace your responsibility to support the spirit, vitality, and mission of our association by continuing your dedicated activity and by logging your hours.

To the Executive Board – put your minds together to come up with alternative, creative and rewarding perks for our very valuable current and future Sustaining Members.

I have read, "When a farm is not sustainable, it places stress on the community of which it is a part." Are we Sustaining Members doing more harm than good by enjoying the guilty pleasures of our title?

*-Becky Taylor*

## A Message From Your Volunteer Coordinator



Have you recorded your January hours? Call or email me if you have any questions about recording hours. I will be happy to help you, and if I don't know the answer, I'll find it!

I am in the process of developing a "cheatsheet" to assist you in making your selections when recording your hours on the LSU AgCenter Website. Please email your suggestions and questions to Anita Petitjean, at [apetitjean@cox.net](mailto:apetitjean@cox.net)

### Some Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteer Hours

#### HOW AND WHEN DO I RECORD TRAVEL TIME?

Travel time is recorded in the same category as the volunteer program you are traveling to. When you record your ours, simply add your travel time to your volunteer time. (Example: I travel for 15 minutes to volunteer at the Spring Plant Sale. I volunteer for 3 hours at the Sale. I record 3.25 volunteer hours in the "Plant Sale" category.)

#### CAN I RECORD MY TRAVEL TIME TO GENERAL MEETINGS?

Unfortunately, you cannot. Attending the General Meeting does not count as Volunteer Hours. The monthly General Meetings, Garden Talks, and other LPMGA educational presentations that you may attend are counted as Continuing Education hours. Please do not record travel time to them.

#### DO I COUNT ATTENDING GENERAL MEETINGS AS CONTINUING EDUCATION OR VOLUNTEER HOURS?

If you are volunteering to help at the , you may count your time volunteering as volunteer hours, otherwise, the meetings count as one hour of Continuing Education. Please do not record time spent doing food preparation for the meeting as Volunteer Hours.

#### I VOLUNTEERED FOR 1 HOUR AND 20 MINUTES-HOW DO I RECORD THE TOTAL? DO I ROUND UP?

Please record your hours in 15-minute increments (15=.25, 30=.50, 45=.75). Round up to the nearest 15-minutes. (Example: Volunteering for one hour and 25 minutes would be recorded as 1.5 volunteer hours.)

#### I VOLUNTEERED FOR A TREE PLANTING HOSTED BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN LPMGA, CAN I COUNT THOSE HOURS AS LPMGA VOLUNTEER HOURS?

LPMGA does work with other groups in the community, however, the project would need to be approved by the LPMGA Board BEFORE you perform those hours, so that your volunteer hours can be counted as LPMGA volunteer hours. If you are not sure if the project has been approved by LPMGA, contact your Volunteer Coordinator. If you have a project in mind, submit it to the Board for consideration for approval before volunteering. Your Volunteer Coordinator or Member-At-Large can help you do this.

*If you have any questions that you would like included in future newsletter issues, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Anita Petitjean.*

# January Garden Talk

## ANDREA PATE ON "ROSES"



If you wanted to know anything about Roses, the January Garden Talk was the place to be. Andrea Pate, (MG 2002), gave practical advice and shared her vast catalog of knowledge and experience with a crowd of Rose loving Master Gardeners and members of the community. Her pruning demonstration made her Talk come to life as she described, and then demonstrated, pruning techniques and tips.

Andrea, and her "Dream Team" of fellow Rose Experts Juan Nieto and Janice Eaton, held the crowd's attention through a brief rain storm, (and move to the Cottage) and provided some very helpful tips:



Start out healthy, and you'll remain healthy. Prune to improve the growth habit of the plant, to control the size of the plant, and for the health of the plant. Pruning helps to improve air circulation, and that helps to battle spider mites. Removing old canes encourages new ones to grow.

Remove anything brown, dried out, or spindly. Cut until you see "good (white) wood".

Prune 1/3 around Valentine's Day, and then in August for a Fall flush of blooms.

Prune from the bottom of the plant, working up.

Always leave at least two sets of 5 leaves.

Cut canes off as close to the bud unions as possible ( Clip suckers as close to the root as possible.

Remove "crossover" canes.

Smaller than a pencil? Take it off!

Leave a minimum of 3 to 5 canes.

More pruning means bigger Roses, but less blooms. Less pruning means more blooms, but smaller ones.

Allow the rose to grow 2 years to develop the root system, this will help ensure a healthier plant.

Hold pruners correctly (hold scissors pointing upward). Bypass cutting blade should be on top, "crusher" on bottom, blade on the part of the plant you're going to keep. Cut highest point of cut outward, cut at a 45 degree angle, inside to outside.

Cut above nodes. The node is a swelling where a leaf or bud will come out. Nodes are best left on the outside of the cane so that they grow outward and promote air circulation.

After pruning, spray with dormant oil to stop fungus and powdery mildew, but do not use oil in the heat of summer.

Gypsum helps to break up compacted or heavy soil and helps with drainage. No need to work it in, and it doesn't raise the pH.

Epsom Salts can drop the pH, be careful how much you use.



Don't get "scissor happy" and get a tetanus shot.

Clean out your beds to fight fungus and diseases. Blow out leaves with a blower set on low, or use a shop vac to suck up the leaves and debris. Use clean tools to avoid spreading disease.

Andrea suggests a visit to the American Rose Society website ([www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org)) which has a wealth of information about pruning, varieties, and many other Rose related topics.

### FEBRUARY GARDEN TALK "SQUARE FOOT GARDENING"

With Theresa Guidry

Saturday, February 25th 10:00 am at the Demo Gardens.  
Please Note this is on the Fourth Saturday of the month.

### MARCH GARDEN TALK

"Fig Factor" March 24th at 10am

Planting, pruning, varieties, and a grafting demo with Mark Simon. Please Note this is on the Fourth Saturday of the month.

Ask A Master Gardener will also be there to answer your gardening questions

# Garden Tipsters

## GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH

Need a potting bench? Use a worn out gas barbecue stand. Remove the lid, burner, and gas lines, and make the iron grates into a work surface. The side wings will hold small tools, bags of potting mix, and extra pots store easily on the lower shelf. The whole thing is on wheels, making it easy to move around.

Lois Manuel



Share your gardening knowledge with all of us by submitting your tip to the newsletter at [louannmc@aol.com](mailto:louannmc@aol.com)

# Meet the Class of 2011

The new class members were randomly divided into groups and assigned MG mentors who were charged with helping them meet members, educate them about MG programs, and help them participate in projects in their areas of interest. Each group chose a flower as their group name.

Each MGIT answered a brief questionnaire about themselves and why they wanted to become a Master Gardener. Of course, a food question was included in the mix. Each month we will feature another group from the 2011 Master Gardener Class.

Look for them at meetings, activities, and events, and make sure to make them feel welcome! This month we would like to introduce you to

## The Hibiscus Group

This delightful group of gardeners is comprised of:



**MARIE JONES** is originally from England. She came to Lafayette to be with someone special. Her family is located throughout the world. Her favorite plant is the orchid, and she wants to become a Master Gardener in order to learn more about growing flowers.

**KIM GREESON** is a native of New Mexico, and came to Lafayette for the warmer climate and colorful plants. Her favorite plant is Bougainvillea, and she registered for the Master Gardener class due to an interest in growing her own food.

**DOREEN ABADO** is a native of the Philippines, who moved to Lafayette due to work. She currently works as an anesthesiologist. Doreen's favorite plants include fruit trees, specifically persimmon and peach. She has enrolled in the Master Gardener Training class due to her great interest in growing flowers and fruit.

**TINKER DUGAS** is originally from Houma, LA. She is a retired teacher who came to Lafayette due to her husband's job. She is the mother of 2, and grandmother of 2. Tinker's favorite plant is Althea. She wants to become a Master Gardener in order to learn more about plants, and to meet new people.



**SHERLYN LARSON** Sherlyn is a native of Arkansas, and came to Lafayette to be with family. She is married with 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren. Sherlyn is a retired Family Practice physician who loves roses and ferns. She enrolled in the Master Gardener training program to learn more about landscaping. She loves working in her yard, and finds it very therapeutic and relaxing.

**BETH SHEA** is a native of Lafayette. She is married, and works as a Physical Therapist. Her favorite plant is Bougainvillea. Beth wants to become a Master Gardener in order to learn more about flowers and vegetables, and wants to help to make Lafayette a more beautiful city. She is also looking forward to meeting people who share similar interests.



**A BELATED  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO THE  
NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAY GIRLS!**

**WHAT PLANT AM I?**

**ANSWER:**

**I AM A  
DANDELION**



# The Herb Garden

*The pleasures of growing and using herbs*

**PEPPERMINT** *Mentha piperita*

**“Smell is a potent wizard that transplants us across thousands of miles and all the years we have lived.” Helen Keller**

Peppermint is an herb that I always have growing in my yard. I let it spread rampantly because I love the way it releases its strong pungent smell when I walk on it or run the mower over it. I also grow it to use the fresh leaves when making healing salve (for itching) and for making teas.

Peppermint is native to England and Europe. When the colonists came to the New World they drank mint tea for pleasure, not only because it tasted good, but also because it wasn't taxed. Dried leaves have been found in Egyptian pyramids. In English folklore, finding a flowering mint plant on Midsummer's Day brought eternal happiness. In French folklore, carrying a bouquet of mint and St. John's Wort protected you from wicked spirits. In Italian folklore, using peppermint helped to protect children from sickness and silk worms from evil spells. Peppermint has been valued as a symbol of wisdom and virtue and as a magical plant for passion and love. Pat and Jon Bourdo state in [The Language of Herbs and Flowers](#) that peppermint represents warmth of feeling.

**Medicinal and Other Uses:**

Of all the essential oils derived from herbs, peppermint ranks among the highest in importance. Peppermint oil is often used in the manufacture of perfumery, soap, chewing gum, toothpaste, medicines and the liqueur, crème-de-menthe. Oil of peppermint contains menthol which is an antiseptic and anesthetic. Chewing a few peppermint leaves is thought to relieve a toothache. Indigestion and cold and flu sufferers can find some relief by drinking peppermint tea. However, peppermint tea can cause insomnia and is best avoided at bedtime. Peppermint is said to help relieve sinusitis, asthma, bronchitis, sore throats, headache and vertigo. It is also used for mental alertness. For weary or motion sick travelers, keep a few cotton balls saturated with peppermint oil in a plastic bag. Remove a cotton ball from the bag for a few minutes to refresh the air in your vehicle on a long trip or if you're getting tired. Remember that lavender calms and peppermint energizes. Peppermint oil should be used in moderation and avoid giving it to young children).

**Culinary Uses:**

Only the top 3 to 5 leaves of each branch should be used for cooking. Often the lower leaves are too pungent, and the oils too strong, for culinary use. To make an herb sugar with peppermint, add a few leaves to ½ c. granulated sugar. Blend on high in blender until herb and sugar are one. This is very nice for teas.

**Hot Peppermint Tea:** Steep 2-3 leaves per cup of boiling water in a covered, non metallic cup or pot for 10 minutes. If you're making just one cup, cover it with the saucer while it steeps. You can also enhance store bought tea by adding a few leaves.

**Minted Iced Tea:** 6-8 sprigs of fresh peppermint (or almost any mint will do) and 4 c. water. Wash the mint, and then liquefy it in the blender with the water. Let stand 30 minutes; strain. Sweeten and enjoy.

**Growing Peppermint:**

Peppermint is an herb that can become very invasive. If you don't want it to take over, plant it in container, put a barrier underneath the soil, or trim it regularly. Peppermint is a hybrid mint, a cross between water mint and spearmint. It is a perennial herb growing 1'-3' with ovate, smooth leaves on stalks often longer than that of other mints. Little, reddish-violet flowers on spikes appear July-September. Peppermint plants are created by divisions and cuttings. It prefers rich, moist soil with sun to partial shade. Snip leaves anytime. To harvest large amounts, cut plants at their base before blooming begins. It is best to harvest in the morning when the oils are strongest. The first year's crop is thought to be the most aromatic and valuable. If your peppermint seems to be losing its strong smell, it has probably intermingled with other mints in your garden or has been in the same spot for several growing seasons. It might be time to replant. Peppermint will attract bees and other beneficial insects to your garden. It repels ants, aphids and cabbage fly. Cabbage, broccoli and kale will be enhanced if peppermint is planted nearby. However, you should not grow parsley or chamomile near mint. If you are new to mints,

I suggest you save a spot in your garden for peppermint. It's a beautiful herb with so many wonderful uses.

*Beth Shea*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MG SANDRA CRESWELL

Keep Abbeville Beautiful (KAB) was recently named Outstanding Affiliate (population over 10,000) by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the state's nonprofit organization dedicated to litter reduction and community improvement.

Under the leadership of Lafayette Master Gardener Sandra Creswell, the affiliate was chosen for having shown exceptional creativity and diversity of programming, as well as community engagement and leadership qualities.

KAB was recognized for creating a parishwide recycling program which has given the Parish landfill longer life, saved tax dollars, reduced energy consumption, and provides ongoing educational programs to educate the public on the importance of recycling and protecting the environment.

Persons interested in joining KAB, or needing more information about recycling, can contact Sandra Creswell.

## GET IT GROWING

February 2nd's program will be both fascinating and filled with useful information. Our guest will be Tyler T. Cochran, Director of the Acadiana Food Circle ([www.acadianafoodcircle.org](http://www.acadianafoodcircle.org)).

The AFC Mission is to Connect local consumers to local producers and educate the public on healthy, local food choices.

AFC has the first draft ready of a local foods directory - listings of seasonal produce as well as places to find these foods - farmers' markets, producer/vendors, etc.

This is a great concept and information that we need to have at our fingertips. Buy local, know your grower, some are organic, all are certainly fresh. We are looking forward to the show.

Tyler will be accompanied by Manny Aguello, AFC's farm-to-table advisory panel chef. Chef Aguello is the chef at Jolie's, a local farm-to-table restaurant.

*There is no longer an "Acadiana Open Channel".*

*The name is now AOC Community Media - new location, new logo, much other newness.*

*Our January program streamed LIVE and is also archived to be enjoyed at will on the ustream site:*

[www.ustream.tv/channel/get-it-growing](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/get-it-growing)

*The show will air live at noon on the first Thursday of each month. Dates for repeat airings will be listed when available.*

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>			1 LPMGA General Meeting Charles M. Burke Elementary Noon	2 AOC Get It Growing Program Noon Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 LPMGA Board Meeting 1pm at LEDA	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21 Mardi Gras	22	23	24	25 Garden Talk 10am Demo Beds Square Foot Gardening
26	27	28	29			



*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 24th of each month for publication in the next month's issue.

Please send items to the editor:  
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 louannmclong@gmail.com

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