

Can You Dig It?



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What's Up With Can You Dig It!

Welcome to 2020 Master Gardeners! I can't wait to see what this new year will bring us!

The year has started off with lots of rain so our ground will be nice and soft for our spring plantings. Are you getting your beds ready? I know I've been thinking about what enhancements I want to do this year.

First thing up for PHLMG's is Buds & Blooms this February 29th. Tell all your friends about the great time they will have! It's not only fun but informative as well. This year the raffle is for a gorgeous bench slider. More that worth the cost of a ticket! Looking for a great turnout. This event is the way Master Gardener's give back. All the proceeds for this event is used for 4H activities and scholarships!

Next up is the PHLMG Plant Sale. Thanks to Ron Killingsworth of Plantation Point we have a hundred Louisiana Irises to offer the public! Several of our Master Gardeners have been babysitting these lovelies for this occasion. Coupled with the other plants MG's contributed, this sale should be a huge success!

We are planning to have a Master Gardeners Class for 2020. This year it will be an evening class. So begin telling all your gardener friends. This will be one of the best opportunities to learn so much about different aspects of gardening for so little. The class will be in June. Deadline to register is in May. Class size will be limited so interested persons should not wait. Applications will be available at all Master Gardeners events. If you have questions, contact Marjorie Thomas or John Monzingo.

Have something that you can share with other garden clubs and Master Gardeners? Remember to add your name to our PHLMG Speakers Bureau!

So grab your garden gloves, trowels and spades cause **YOU CAN DIG IT!**

Submitted by Wanda Medlock-Smith

Piney Hills Chapter
Louisiana Master
Gardeners
Refreshment
Committee 1st Qtr

FEBRUARY

Linda Berry, Genie
Burkhalter, Mary Ann &
Bud Perryman, Kelly
Williams

MARCH

Elaine Burns, Glenda
Collums, Sue Ranger,
Carolyn Rinehart

APRIL

Charlotte Jones,
Charlotte Martin, Richard
White, Linda Wilson

The PHLMG
refreshment committee
assist in making the
regular meeting even
more worth attending.
Together they provide
meal to members who
otherwise would miss
dinnertime. It is a valued
part of each meeting for
members and guest
alike!



First Quarter of the Year Gardening Tips

Helpful tips for late winter
heading toward the spring
that will give you a headstart
in your garden!

JANUARY

Flipping through seed catalogs that arrive in the dead of winter is fun for most gardeners! This month order seeds of warm – season annuals and vegetables, but make sure what you order is appropriate for our climate.

This month plant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, collards, garden peas, Irish potatoes, kale, lettuce, leeks, rutabagas, Swiss chard and turnips. In the greenhouse or under lights indoors, you can plant seeds of tomatoes, peppers and eggplants.

If the cold damages your hibiscus, angel trumpet or other woody tropicals, wait until spring to prune. Then look for new growth and then cut plant back appropriately.

FEBRUARY

February is a good time to think ahead if you're planning on having caladiums in your yard

This spring. Locate the caladium tubers you have had in storage since last October. Plant them indoors to give them a head start. Start them in flats or pots of potting soil that you keep evenly moist in a warm, out-of-the-way area. The tubers should begin to sprout in a few weeks. Once they sprout, move the containers to a sunny window, greenhouse, hotbed or shady area outside (if days are in the 70s and night in the 60s). Plant the tubers, whether pre-sprouted or not, in mid April.

Louisiana irises, calla lilies and Easter lilies are actively growing this time of year, Be sure to fertilize them. You can fertilize shade trees and fruit trees, too.

This is a good month either to plant or transplant roses and other hardy shrubs. If you're planting bare-root roses, be sure to do it now.

MARCH

Fertilize roses now to encourage vigorous growth and abundant spring and early summer blooming.

Hardy trees and shrubs are best planted in the landscape by the end of this month. Find out the mature size of trees and shrubs before planting. Don't plant trees and shrubs that will become too large for the location. To give your trees the best start, it's recommended you plant them in their final location. However, if the location isn't ready or you're not sure where to plant them long-term, you can start in a protected area with worked-up soil, such as a garden. After one or two years, simply transplant them to the permanent home when the trees are dormant.

Start looking for Louisiana Super Plants in nurseries this month, too.



Houseplant Health Crisis

Wouldn't it be nice if our houseplants could tell us what is wrong? It's easy to miss signals a plant gives to let you know it's not happy.

When most gardeners see a wilting plant, they assume it needs more water. It might, but it also might be too wet. To prevent these things from happening, instead of watering on a rigid schedule, learn to read the situation. In low light, plants need less water since they grow less vigorously. If the heat is on and the air is dry, your plant may need more water. But once air-conditioning season is here, cut back on the water as cool, humid air will reduce the loss of moisture through the cells of the leaves.

PROBLEM: UNDERWATERED

Does It Feel Dry? Check the soil surface before watering by sticking your finger into the pot – for most plants it should feel dry between the first and second knuckle.

Does it Feel Heavy? Lift the pot. The drier the plant, the lighter the soil. Skip watering if it seems weighty and check in a few days.

Does It Look Wet? Check the drainage tray to make sure the plant isn't standing in water more than a half hour after you water. This makes it easy to see and dump excess water.

Will It Recover? If a plant is wilting because it's too dry, it will rehydrate with a thorough watering. If soil is pulling away from the side, soak the root ball for half hour. A dehydrated plant will recover with some yellowing leaves. They won't turn green again so trim.

PROBLEM: OVERWATERED

Are The Leaves Yellowed? Older leaves will turn yellow first when a plant is overwatered. Yellowed leaves can also be damaged roots that can't absorb nutrients.

Is Plant Wilting? Some plants wilt from too much water because the roots can't take up nutrients. It will still be shiny and green, with older leaves turning yellow.

Root Rot? A plant standing in excess water may have root rot. Roots rotting away may have stems that are mushy and black.

Will It Recover? Overwatering is harder to cure. Dump excess water. If roots are rotted, it may be too late. If some are healthy, trim mushy roots, wash off water logged soil and re-pot.

2020 Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners Elected Officers

Meet your 2020 Elected Officers:

President

Marjorie Thomas

Vice President

Wanda Medlock-Smith

Secretary

Tracie Wilder

Treasurer

Emmett Jones

Historian/Parliamentarian

Linda Berry

Members –At-Large

Val Corley and Susan Scroggins

Volunteer Coordinator

Glenda Collums

Local MG Coordinator

John Monzingo

This Month's Q&A Gardening Grows

Q: I found a bag of daffodil bulbs I forgot to get in the ground this fall. Can I plant them in the spring?

There might be hope if the bulbs aren't dried up. Bury the bulbs in pots of soil the same depth you'd plant in the ground, water, and place near a sunny window. Within a few weeks, you should see shoots. Plants may or may not flower. Allow the foliage to get as much light as possible and in mid April, plant the bulbs outside.

Your odds aren't as good as the usual regimen of planting outside in fall after they have chilled over winter, but at least you've giving them a shot.

“A Year in the Life of a Rose”

American Rose Center's Green Thumb Educational Series



Date: Saturday, February 15

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Klima Rose Hall, The American Rose Center
8877 Jefferson Paige Road, Shreveport, LA

Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public

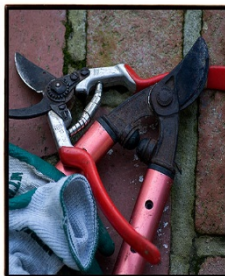
Schedule: 9:00 – 10:15 **Connie Reeve, Speaker**

Connie is a member of the Shreveport Bossier Rose Society, Consulting Rosarian for the area, and a Master Gardener. Her program will guide the novice and experienced gardener through a calendar year of caring for roses in the home garden. During the program she will demonstrate the use of many helpful tools and products

that she uses in her personal rose garden of 75 roses.

10:15-12:00 Pruning of Roses

Attendees will be allowed to practice pruning of roses under the guidance of rose society members. Long sleeve shirts or long gloves along with pruning shears would be helpful for those who want to help prune the roses in the front of Klima Rose Hall.



OWINGS' ORNAMENTAL SHORT COURSE

Coming Soon to Cities Near You!

10 hours of horticulture education in the area of ornamental plants, cultural practices and other interesting landscape topics. Intended for experienced/knowledgeable home gardeners, master gardeners and any interested industry professionals. Instructor: Dr. Allen Owings, Horticulture Professor Emeritus, LSU AgCenter. Dr. Owings also serves as senior horticulturist at Bracy's Nursery, Amite, LA and horticulturist at Clegg's Nursery, Baton Rouge, LA.



January 30 & 31 - Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, Lafayette, LA

February 20 & 21 - Truck Crops Research Station, Crystal Springs, MS

March 19 and 20 – Randle T. Moore Center, Shreveport, LA

9 am until 2 pm daily

Topics

Landscape Roses – Care and Considerations

The Newest of the New Shrubs and Similar Plants

Mis Information, Mistakes and Disasters in Home Gardening Recommendations

Products from the Garden Center Shelf (Show and Tell)

Facts and Info on Louisiana Super Plants (and Mississippi Medallions)

Dogwoods – The Problems, Concerns and Alternatives

Azaleas and Crape Myrtles – Care and Information

Much More!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Location Attending _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ *E-mail* _____

___ *Master Gardener* ___ *Experienced Home Gardener* ___ *Industry*

\$100/person. \$150 husband/wife team. Checks payable to Allen Owings. Mail to Post Office Box 910, Robert, LA 70455. Registration is LIMITED at each site (due to seating). BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH and SNACKS. Handouts provided. Questions – Allen Owings at 225.603.8096; aowings64@gmail.com.

Attendance must be confirmed prior to the event. No on-site registration. A portion of proceeds will be contributed to the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research.



Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners

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Upcoming Events

- **Feb 20- Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners Regular Meeting**

Regular meeting PHLMG at 6:00pm Webster Parish Extension Office. Buds & Blooms Preparation.

- **Feb 29 – Buds & Blooms First at United Methodist Church**

Guest Speaker this year is Dr. Bill Welch, Professor and Landscape Horticultrist with Texas A&M Univ. presenting “Perennials for Louisiana Gardens”, Dr. Ralph Singh, Assoc. Professor and Director of Plant Diagnostic Center at LSU presenting “ Plant CSI- Death by Disease”, and Mariah Simoneaux, Professor of Agriculture & Nature Resources at LSU presenting “ What’s Bugging You- Controlling Insects in Your Lawn/ Garden”. Please join us for wonderful food, fun and door prizes plus a raffle! 9am – noon, registration begins at 8:30am Cost \$15.00. This is a PHLMG fundraiser for the 4H Garden Contest.

- **Mar 7 – Annual Jonquil Jubilee, Gibsland, LA**

- **Mar 26- Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners Regular Meeting**

Regular meeting PHLMG at 6:00pm Webster Parish Extension Office. Plant sale preparation!

Remember to bring your plants to meeting.

- **Mar 28- PHLMG Annual Plant Sale**

Put on your aprons! The annual plant sale held on the Extension Office Grounds is our fundraiser for the PHLMG. Starts at 9:00am.