



Northwest Chapter



# Seedling

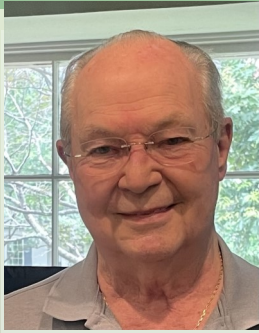
SUMMER 2023

## this quarter...

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- ~ **President's Message**
  - ~ **The Agent's Corner**
  - ~ **Le Tour Des Jardins**
  - ~ **Super Plants 2023**
  - ~ **Rose Center Volunteer Day**
  - ~ **Fall Bulb sale**
  - ~ **NWLA MGs Volunteering**
  - ~ **Events & Things to Do!**
  - ~ **Special Thank You's**
  - ~ **Editorial Notes**
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# President's Mes-



**Spring has sprung, the sun is shining, and spring showers abounding!**

We are beginning to see the resilience or fragility of our landscaping from the winter freeze. Did more of your specimens survive than you thought would? Mine did!

Patience paid off. Hopefully you had the same experience.



I want to take a moment to welcome our new 2023 class of Master Gardeners. This is one of the largest classes we have ever had and they are workers. One, Kerry Friestad, volunteered to take on the publication of the SEEDLING beginning with this issue. Thank you Kerry. Alison Martin was elected as the Class Board Representative and will bring a lot of expertise to the board and The Master Gardeners as a whole. Many of the class members have eagerly been volunteering for many of our projects.

The Spring Plant Sale is in the books with another banner year. Even with the extra effort required because of the thunder storms after getting set-up we all came at the crack of dawn, pulled together, and were ready to go early. Special thanks to John Oswalt, Cindy and John Rowell for their leadership and a Huge Thank you to each and every member that came early and stayed late to make this the biggest Plant Sale ever.

LeTour des Jardins is on the horizon, planning has been under way for months, and our largest event of the year is very close. Every member is needed, and there is something YOU can do to help. contact Debbie Kupperman to find a place to serve. Be sure to get your tickets sold and distributed. It is important to get as many people as possible out to see the great selection of beautiful and unique gardens for this year.

The Rambling Rose project is moving along nicely with a large group of our members diligently working on this very important project to save a large collection of climbing and Rambling roses. Kudos to Larry Williams and Melissa Elrod for keeping this project on track.

It's time for me to stop my rambling. Be sure to check the WEB site [www.nwlamg.weebly.com](http://www.nwlamg.weebly.com) for the latest info available. Take the Survey!

**Stay Cool and watered during the hot summer days and we'd love to see you at the meetings!**

**Ed Durham**

NWLAMG President



## Horticulture in the northwest region.



Summer 2023

### Holy Mole-ly

Dealing with Eastern Moles

The eastern mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*) can be a devastating nuisance to any home landscaper or gardener. Between tunnels making lawns uneven, killing of plants; newly planted annuals or perennials, moles can be a homeowner's nightmare. Most believe that moles feed primarily on the roots of plants and cause them to die. The truth is that mole's feeding on plant material is limited. In fact, the soil disturbance and air pockets moles create around roots that cause plants to dry out and die.

Dealing with pesky wildlife is rarely easy or simple. Effective animal control is typically the result of, a careful study of the life habits of the animal in question. Completely eliminating the problem animal is rarely practical and often requires considerable time and money. Gardeners may have to make modification to how they garden, or what they grow or even where they can grow it in some situations.

The eastern mole occasionally earns the dubious distinction of "nuisance wildlife" when their habits interfere with human activities. They fall into this category because they unintentionally invade landscapes by burrowing in the search for food or travel. Although moles can be beneficial by removing damaging insects and grubs from our lawn and garden spaces, the results from moles can disfigure lawns, and cause damage to flowerbeds, gardens, and lawn root zones.

Moles spend the majority of their time in search of insects, grubs and earthworms, eating approximately 70 to 100 percent of their weight each day. The roots, tubers and bulbs damaged in lawns and gardens are not eaten but are simply a casualty in this carnivorous predator's search for food.

When controlling moles, traps and poisons are considered the most effective methods. Choker type or harpoon type traps can be set in active runways to kill moles as they travel in search of food. To determine if the tunnel is active simply collapse it by walking over the tunnel in the early morning and then come back shortly after to see which tunnels have been rebuilt. This is where traps should be placed. These traps will need to be checked and reset if triggers falsely or if multiple moles are in the area.

Poisons are also a very effective method, with many products available to choose from. A note of caution should be taken when using any bait type poisons, as unintended targets such as pets can consume these baits. Controlling the food source with chemicals can sometimes be the safest approach. Applying a granular insecticide to a lawn to reduce the number of grubs and other food sources will cause the moles to travel elsewhere for food thus leaving your lawn and gardens alone.

These produces and traps can be found at local garden centers and nurseries or at large retail outlets and big box stores. For more information on moles or questions, please contact your local LSU AgCenter County Agent.

Mark A Wilson

LSU AgCenter NW Regional Horticulture

# Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners



## 2023 *Le Tour des Jardins* Garden Tour

Saturday, June 3, 9:30 am until 4:30 pm

Sunday, June 4, 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm

### Advance Tickets

Cash or Check - \$10 | Credit Card - \$15

Available at select Citizens National Banks

Or by calling Master Gardeners at 318-408-0984

Or go to [www.nwlamg.weebly.com](http://www.nwlamg.weebly.com)

Tickets \$15 day of Tour at all gardens

Proceeds to benefit projects of the  
NWLA Master Gardeners

Scan this QR Code



to purchase tickets

# LeTour des Jardins 2023

June 3rd and 4th

## NEED TICKETS? You can buy HERE:

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so everyone please help to get the word out (posters are available) and sell your tickets! There are yard signs available to post the week of the sale.

FOR MORE INFO <https://nwlmg.weebly.com/le-tour-des-jardins.html> .

Volunteers and cases of bottled water donations needed. Please contact Debbie Kuperman to help out.



SNEAK PEAK at the GARDENS or for more details click [HERE](#)

Gardens open at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday.

**A Garden Bazaar will be held during the tour at the Red River Research Station, and while there, enjoy a tour of the Super Plant Garden ( Opens at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday)**





## 2023 Super Plants Announced by LSU



Peggy Martin Rose

Blue Daze and Blue My Mind Evolvulus



Cinnamon Girl Distylium



By Johnny Morgan

(03/09/23) HAMMOND, La. — The LSU AgCenter has announced the release of five Louisiana Super Plants for the 2023 growing season.

The spring 2023 selection is the **Peggy Martin Rose**. Known as the Katrina rose, it was found surviving in Plaquemines Parish after Hurricane Katrina. With its unique story, this rose will forever be connected to Louisiana's horticultural history. With countless gorgeous pink flowers, Peggy Martin is a prolific bloomer.

Like most roses, it grows best in full sun and well drained soils. This is a vigorous, climbing rose with cascading branches that bring a unique look to the landscape. The climbing habit makes this a great choice for fences, trellises and railings, especially because the rose produces a relatively low number of thorns. Pruning is more form-specific than other roses. Cane thinning and shaping should be done to ensure proper growth.

The summer 2023 selections are two Evolvulus varieties: **Blue My Mind** and **Blue Daze**.

Evolvulus Blue My Mind is a perfect warm-season border plant or groundcover. It also can work as a spiller plant for containers and baskets. The amazing, bright blue flowers are unbeatable in the landscape, and the plants handle the Louisiana heat with ease.

A tried-and-true favorite of the landscape industry, Blue Daze is rightfully being added as a Louisiana Super Plant in 2023. This heat-loving, drought-tolerant, blue-flowering staple is an excellent choice as a groundcover or border plant. Plant in a mass for a mat of blue against a silvery-green background. An easy way to tell these apart from the Blue My Mind cultivar is that the flowers are slightly less lobed.

The fall 2023 selection is **Cinnamon Girl Distylium**, which is about as low-maintenance as you can get for a well-formed evergreen shrub. Cinnamon Girl distylium is a great choice for landscapers, businesses and municipalities that need a clean look without the hassle of constant maintenance.

Cinnamon Girl gets its name from the crimson-colored new growth, which slowly reverts to blue-green. It keeps a nice, dense shape with minimal pruning and can handle nearly any growing conditions, with equal performance in sun or shade. There can be minimal late winter damage on new growth during hard freezes, but there are no long-term issues. Inconspicuous flowers are an added bonus in the spring for those who look closely.

The lagniappe addition to this group of Louisiana Super Plants is the Suncredible Saturn sunflower. Two years ago, Suncredible Yellow was inducted into the program. It's just as prolific and vigorous as Yellow, but it comes with an extra splash of color in the form of a red-orange ring around the center.



The Louisiana Super Plant program is an LSU AgCenter educational and marketing campaign that highlights tough and beautiful plants that perform well throughout the state of Louisiana. Each spring and fall, AgCenter horticulturists announce the Louisiana Super Plants selections for that year. Louisiana Super Plants have a proven record with many years of reliable performance in Louisiana landscapes or have gone through several years of university evaluations and observations. Look for these plants at local nurseries.

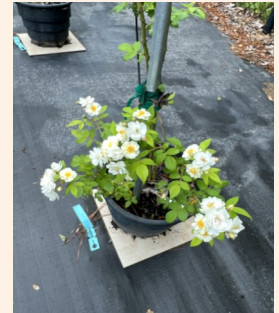
\*All photos are courtesy of the LSU AgCenter

# American Rose Center Rambling Rose



What a fun day! Many volunteers came out to help pull the few weeds, hook up the climbing roses to water and place stakes in them so they can begin to climb. I had never worked with irrigation tubing before, but I was surprised how easy it was to punch the hole in the tube and insert the valve. Full disclosure, I always want to set up my potted containers on drip tubing but I have been intimidated to try. After just an hour of volunteering, I feel much more confident that I can do this at home as well — and the company was fantastic!

Many thanks to Larry Williams & Melissa Elrod for their hard work on this project. As well as all past and future volunteers.



Seagull

Leontine Gervais



Wartburg



Wartburg close up



Rene Andre



## 2023 Fall Bulb Sale

Please mark your calendar for the **2023 NWLAMG Fall Bulb Sale**. The Bulb Sale will be Saturday, October 28. We will set up on Friday, October 27. The location is the Red River Research Station.

The Bulb Committee will greatly appreciate it if you (or your friends and relatives) have bulbs or plants to donate to the sale. If you plan to make a bulb donation:

1. Please mark the location of your bulbs now—type of bulb, color, and approximate number of bulbs you will be able to donate.
2. Let the green foliage die down and turn brown. The green foliage absorbs sunlight which provides energy that the bulbs use to create new blooms.
3. Around September 15, please carefully dig the bulbs, brush off excess soil, discard any soft or damaged bulbs, and place the bulbs in a warm dry location to cure. Please don't place the bulbs in direct sunlight or a damp location.
4. Closer to date of sale, the Committee will let everyone know where they can bring donations.
5. Other donated plants will be needed for the Bulb Sale. For example, if you plan to thin your Bearded Irises this summer because they aren't blooming very well, the Committee would be happy to have your extra iris rhizomes for the Bulb Sale. Large clumps of daylilies are fairly easy to divide. Please write the name and color on each pot or container.
6. Please provide a color picture of the bulbs and plants you plan to donate. You can send pictures and details in an email or send a message to Linda Jones or Lynn Brown. This will help the Committee keep track of donations and get donations ready for the sale. Please contact Linda Jones ([linjojones@hotmail.com](mailto:linjojones@hotmail.com)) or Lynn Brown ([lynncbrown247@att.net](mailto:lynncbrown247@att.net)) if you have questions or if you will need assistance digging your bulbs.

Thank you.

Lynn Brown and Linda Jones

Check out more at:

[Fall Bulb Sale - Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners \(weebly.com\)](http://www.fallbulbsale.com)

# Blueberry-Basil Limeade

A dressed up summer thirst quencher



## Ingredients

- 1 c. sugar
- 3 large sprigs fresh basil, plus leaves for garnish
- 1 1/2 c. fresh lime juice (from about 12 limes)
- 1 6-ounce container blueberries

## Directions

1 Heat the sugar and 1 cup water in a small saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar has dissolved. Add 3 sprigs basil, remove from the heat and let steep 30 minutes. Strain into a pitcher, discarding the basil. Stir in the lime juice and 4 cups cold water; chill at least 4 hours or until ready to serve.

2 Add the blueberries to the pitcher. Pour into ice-filled glasses and garnish with basil leaves.

## Staying Hydrated

As the heat and humidity levels rise, it cannot be stressed enough to stay hydrated. Hydration begins a few days before, so once you get even slightly dehydrated you are behind and need to catch up. For many of us, plain water just doesn't appeal to us, so try the recipe above and if that one doesn't appeal to you, there are many recipes that can be found online to help liven up that water. I incorporate electrolyte mixes into my water or juice to replenish those I've sweat out. You can find these online and even in the drink aisle at your local grocery store. Keep in mind that good hydration requires daily habit of drinking plenty of fluids and is not something that can be done a few hours before. And ladies...and men too, being well hydrated keeps you feeling more energetic and makes your skin look great too! Aim to drink an 8oz glass every hour and cool instead of ice cold makes it so much easier to gulp it down fast.

## Upcoming Events in the Ark-La-Tex

**May 20, 9am-3pm** - Trails and Trellises, A Garden Tour by Piney Hills Master Gardeners - Minden, LA  
See Flyer Below for more information

**May 27th, 10am** - Louisiana Super Plants, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

**June 3-4, 2023** - Northwest Louisiana Master Gardener Le Tour des Jardins. The gardens have been selected and will be magnificent so put the dates on your calendar! The vendor chair is looking for vendors to be set up at the Red River Research Station once again. Contact Lynn Poole at marlyn@bellsouth.net for more information.

June 24th, 10am - Louisiana Natives, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

July 29, 10am - Summer Potting Party, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

August 26th, 10am - Getting to Know Your Soil, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

September 30th, 10am - Planting in the Fall, Akins Nursery, 5901 E. Kings Highway, Shreveport

October 7, 2023, DeSoto Plant Swap at the LSU AgCenter - DeSoto Parish Extension Office  
More information tbd

### DON'T FORGET ABOUT COMMITTEE

Please go to the Communicate page which is a drop down on About Us.

Scroll just under Mark's picture and locate the Committee Survey

We are asking all NWLA master gardeners to fill out the survey in order to better organize our committees for communication purposes.

1. Click on all committees that you are a member of or would really like to join.
2. You may also choose to add that you would like to work as a cashier or tally writer. (Write cashier or Talley)
3. Include your name...it is required to complete the survey.

This information will be compiled and shared with committee directors.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Melissa Elrod

## A Special Thank You to NWLAMG

The NWLAMG received thank you letters from the Caddo 4-H Foundation for supporting them and helping to send members to a 4-H Summer Camp. In October 2022 Mary Catherine Gooze sent a thank you note for the Magnificent Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow shrub the NWLAMG sent to her husband Jerry's memorial service. Margie Caplis thanked the NWLAMG for sending a plant for a memorial service for her husband, Joe. The thank you notes are shared below. Just a reminder that the NWLAMG is a great organization- one that we can be proud of for its support to our families and communities.

### Caddo 4-H Foundation

2408 E. 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Shreveport, LA 71105  
(318) 226-6805

April 13, 2023

Dear Northwest Louisiana Master Gardener Board,

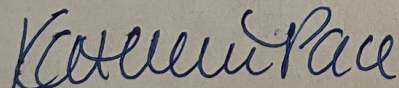
The Caddo 4-H Foundation appreciates the support the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners provide for our Caddo 4-H youth.

*We are excited to announce that we have almost 60 Caddo 4-H members going to 4-H summer camp, May 22-25, 2023. Your sponsorship helps to offset expenses for some of the youth who, without your assistance, cannot afford the opportunity to go to camp.*

*Please make your check payable to Caddo 4-H Foundation, Attn: 4-H Summer Camp. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 226-6805.*

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,



Katherine Pace  
Caddo Parish  
4-H Youth Development

To all of my Gardening friends  
and family @ NWARTS,

Thank you for remembering  
me and my family at this time.  
I know we will enjoy the  
plant you sent and think of you  
and you for many years to come.

Love

Margie Caplis

10/16/22

Dear Master Gardeners,

Thank you for the lovely  
& "Magnificent Yesterday, Today, and  
Tomorrow" flowering shrub  
you brought for my husband,  
Jerry's memorial. It is beautiful  
and I am so grateful for your  
love + support.

Very sincerely,

Mary Catherine Gosa '05

# Events & Things to Do!

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## You-Pick-it Farms & Farm Stands:

**Ed Lester Farms, Open Mon-Sat, 8:00am-5:00pm.** Awesome place! Featured in *Southern Living Magazine*.

1165 US-84 Coushatta, LA 71019 (318.932.4298)  
Subscribe to their newsletter for all the latest info!  
[edlesterfarms.com](http://edlesterfarms.com)



**Shuqualak Blueberry Farm, Open 7-days a week, 7:00am-7:00pm.**

Old fashioned family fun! Be sure to get a blueberry popsicle!  
232 Shuqualak Farms Rd., Frierson, LA 71027 (318.797.8273)  
[Check out their Facebook page.](#)



**Me and McGee Market** located just outside of North Little Rock, AR  
10409 Hwy 70 North Little Rock, AR. (501.355.6222)

Tues-Fri (10-5), Sat (9-4), Sun (11-4)  
So much more than an ordinary farm stand!  
Check out their website and Facebook page.

[meandmcgeemarket.com](http://meandmcgeemarket.com)

Be sure to sign up for their newsletter.

P. Allen Smith did a wonderful YouTube video tour of this place...link is on the site.



web-

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For an awesome list of markets and you-pick-it farms visit: [louisianatravel.com](http://louisianatravel.com)

Search for "pick-your-own farms" or use this rather lengthy link. :)

[louisianatravel.com/articles/visit-Louisiana's-pick-your-own-farms](http://louisianatravel.com/articles/visit-Louisiana's-pick-your-own-farms)



Stay connected via Instagram, Facebook and our  
Website, [nwlamg.weebly.com](http://nwlamg.weebly.com),  
for event announcements.

## Local Classes and Workshops 2022

*approved for MG education hours\**

**Akins Nursery**, 5901 E Kings Hwy Shreveport, LA

Garden Education Series\* – Free

Classes held on the last Saturday of the month at 10:00 am

*Please reserve your spot:* 318.868.2701 or **akinsnursery.com**

Participants receive 10% off purchases the day of class.

(sign up for their newsletter)

## Needing Master Gardener Hours?

Visit our website for up-to-date information on committees and projects that you can participate in.

**nwlamg.weebly.com**

## Volunteers needed for the Master Gardener Hotline

Connecting with the community is one of our most important functions as Master Gardeners, please remember to sign up for phone duty to answer gardening questions from the public.

*Mondays 8-12 · Tuesdays 9-12 · Wednesdays 1-4 · Thursdays & Fridays 10-1*

Email Mark Wilson

**MAWilson@agcenter.lsu.edu** or Melissa Elrod **melissa532@aol.com**

# Community Supporters



Crew Masters, LLC



# Thank You!

## Editorial Notes-

I am very new to NWLAMG and to the various ways NWLAMG gives back to the community. I just want to encourage everyone to check out the website often and don't be afraid to volunteer—I have made some new sweet friends while volunteering and I look forward to meeting you all while doing it! See you out there.



**Kerry Friestad**  
NWLA MG &  
Seedling Editor  
kfriestad@comcast.net



Seedling is the newsletter of the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners  
An Affiliate of LSU Ag Center  
lsuagcenter.com