

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

April, 2013

NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW & PLANT SALE



The St. Tammany Master Gardeners Association held a fantastic 2 day plant show and sale on March 15 and 16 benefitting the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarship program. Shown above is the ribbon cutting ceremony for the first ever garden art tent to accompany the 35 plant vendors under the big livestock barn. The event was very successful with a total attendance of over 2000 for both days. The weather cooperated with perfect temperatures and lots of sunshine. Gardeners were out in force to prepare for spring planting and to learn about many horticultural activities such as: beekeeping, growing herbs, rose care, mounting bromeliads, basic landscaping, proper use of pesticides, lawn care, best plants for our hot climate, all about azaleas and growing amaryllis from seed. The chairman of the Plant Show committee was Ty Guidroz and co-chairman was Julie Deus. Congratulations to the entire committee for a great job.

Shown above: left to right, our retiring County Agent, Rusty Batty, Lisann Cheaney, Julie Deus, Ty Guidroz, Peggy Goertz, Pam Peltier, Lyn Monteleone and Karla Partridge.

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President's Message

Our association had a very busy March. We bid farewell to our Master Gardener advisor, Rusty Batty, upon the occasion of his retirement on March 30. Our St. Tammany Master Gardener Association will honor Rusty with a retirement party on Friday, April 19; details on this have been sent to members of our association.

Hundreds of happy gardeners from all over south Louisiana joined us at our very successful plant show, held at the Covington Fairgrounds on March 15 and 16. This year's plant show chairperson Ty Guidroz and his co-chair Julie Deus, along with all members of their committee, are to be commended for the great job they did in planning and staging this year's show. Our show truly had something for everyone, from the informative topics covered by our ten speakers to the colorful array of plants and garden art for sale by our wonderful vendors. I think a great deal of thanks should also go to those who have chaired and worked on the Plant Show committee in years past and paved the way for the 2013 show. The efforts of all of our volunteers were amazing. We received many favorable comments from vendors and shoppers. A wrap-up meeting will be held in April and the results reported to the membership. Feedback from our vendors and shoppers will help shape the 2014 show. (Mark your calendars for March 14 and 15, 2014!)

This month we aren't slowing down. Our members will work with Mandeville fourth graders on April 4th under the leadership of Ann Durel at the Otis House, in Fairview Riverside State Park. Two library programs – one at Slidell, one in Abita – will be held for the public. Additional information on these great events is contained in this newsletter. Work days for other projects will also be held, so check the listing of events for dates.

Each year the LSU AgCenter holds an appreciation day for Master Gardeners. See the flyer in this newsletter. You **MUST** reserve a spot in order to attend. Please see instructions on the flyer for registering for this educational and enjoyable event which will be held on Friday, May 10 in Hammond.

Just in case you have some spare plants around your garden (who doesn't?) we will hold our annual Plant Swap at our April meeting. This will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at the barn where we held our plant show. Following a brief business meeting which will begin at 10:00 AM the swapping and sharing will take place. Park around the barn and share your plants out of your vehicle. Please remember to tag your plants so that the recipients can ID them. Happy gardening. Quote for the month: *Gardening requires lots of water—most of it in the form of perspiration.* (from Lou Erickson, an American cartoonist.)



Susie Andres
susieandres@gmail.com

Lawn Maintenance “weeding and feeding”

As I sit down to write this it is Wednesday, the first day of spring. After experiencing a great time with wonderful friends and weather at the plant show, I know we were all inspired to get out and whip our gardens into shape for the spring and summer season. (I know I should have said seasons; but, heck this is southern Louisiana you know we only have two seasons!) It is also the time of year when clients, friends and family ask me “Is it time to put out the weed n feed?” Ok, let out the collective gasp! We Master Gardeners all know that we treat weeding and feeding separately. Keep in mind that for a lot of people the easy way is the only way. At least these folks are willing to do something! If you’ve ever experienced the joy of battling a chronic weed problem, the yard next door is the “breeding ground” and your neighbor’s attitude is “as long as it’s green...” Then you know something, is better than nothing at all. For those people I encourage them to apply weed n feed in late March or early April.

Most people want to know the proper way to approach lawn maintenance so here are a few things that I suggest. When it comes to weed control you can apply herbicide year round. First, determine what kind of weed. Second, depending on the time of year, you can apply the recommended herbicide to the entire lawn or just as a spot treatment. Always follow the instructions on the label of the product you have chosen. There are a wide variety of products on the market and the LSU AgCenter web site has a chart of southern weeds and how to control them. If you deal with the weed problems as they emerge then by this time of the year your weed woes are just a memory and you are ready to consider feeding.

There are four types of turf grass commonly used for lawns in southern Louisiana. Turf grasses commonly used are St. Augustine, Centipede, Bermuda and Zoysia. The first thing we must do is determine which type of lawn you have in your landscape. Next I recommend having your soil tested in order to learn the nutritional requirements specific to your lawn. Fertilization requirements for each turf grass are as follows:

St Augustine- likes fertilizer you can fertilize in April, June and early August.

Centipede- not a big fertilizer you can fertilize in April and July (optional)

Zoysia- fertilize April and June

Bermuda- loves fertilizer you can fertilize 3 to 8 times during the growing season.

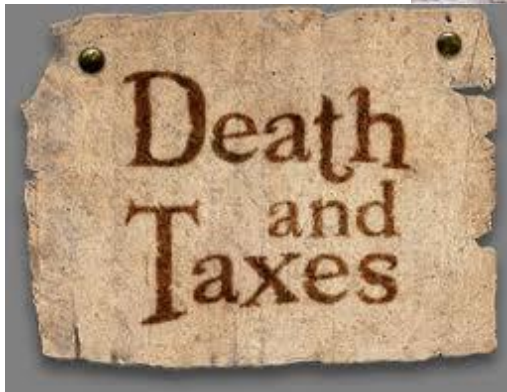
Now you can apply fertilizer according to your turf grass type and soil test recommendations.

So it’s spring. We now can get out there and make our gardens, our lawns, and our total landscape more beautiful and enjoyable. If anyone has questions on lawns and lawn maintenance or would like a copy of the chart of southern weeds and how to control them you can email me at tyguidroz@charter.net. Good luck and enjoy the Spring/Summer season.

Ty Guidroz



Hi Everyone, I was finally able to go outside and garden today. The day started with an hour of uncovering the tender plants and ended with recovering, for the last time I hope, of the tender plants. I started wondering about when the last freeze is going to occur and this led to the land of gardening folklore about the last freeze date in South Louisiana. The story begins with the woolly bear caterpillar with the narrow russet band last fall. He predicted a cold winter. A squirrel stockpiling acorns dropped one and squished the woolly bear, therefore predicting a mild winter. Next, Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early Spring in February and last week he was accused of a botched 2013 prediction. This brought us back to a late last freeze date. Thunder in early February means frost in April on the same days. This should confirm the late last frost date. The hickory nut trees have leafed out but the pecan trees are holding their buds tight. They are giving conflicting information to the local gardeners. There is also the farmers almanac which predicted an early spring. The thick skins of onions and the lingering fall leaves were also inaccurate predictors of an early spring. Thoroughly confused, I remembered there are only two things that are certain, death and taxes. Therefore, by reasonable deduction, April 15th will be the best date to start planting and transplanting. Waiting to get back in the garden, aj



A.J. Heinsz-Bailey
ajjim@hotmail.com

STPMG Programs 2013

Month	Speaker	Topic	Hint	Problem	Share	Hours
January 16 Covington	Sue McGuire - Master Gardener 2012	Pruning Roses	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
February 20 Covington	Jim Campbell – Riverside Camellias	Camellias	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
March 20 Covington	Lee Berry – Bamboo Gardens of Louisiana	Overview of bamboo varieties, planting, maintenance	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
April 9	Field Trip – Burden Center, Baton Rouge	Windrush Gardens, Rural Life Museum, Children's Garden				6
April 17 Covington	No speaker	Spring Plant Swap The Barn	No	No	No	0
May 15 Covington	Scotty May STPS speaker	Scholarship Awards	Yes	Yes	No	0
June 19 Covington	Virginia Bessent Landscape Architect	Rejuvenating an Aging Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
July 17 Covington	TBA		Yes	Yes	Yes	1
August 21 Covington	TBA		Yes	Yes	Yes	1
September 18 Covington	Linda Franzo – MG 2002	Starting an Herb Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
October ?	Field Trip					
October 16 Camp Salmen	No speaker	Fall Plant Swap	No	No	No	0
November 20 Covington	Crystal Lawer	Growing Shitake Mushrooms	Yes	Yes	Yes	
December	No Speaker	Christmas Party				



Martha Gruning
mgruning@bellsouth.net

Master Gardener Spring Field Trip to the Burden Center

The Program Committee has selected The Burden Center in Baton Rouge for our spring field trip on April 9. For those of you who are not familiar with the Center, you have a treat in store. For those of you who have visited there before, I understand that many additions and improvements have made the grounds more beautiful than ever.

The day's program will be as follows:

- 7:30 a.m.: depart for Baton Rouge from the Ag Center Office on Florida St.
- 9:00 a.m.: arrive in Baton Rouge
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.: Children's Garden with Dr. KiKi Fontenot
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Rose Garden and Botanical Gardens with Mrs. Wanda Ellis and Mrs. Katie Guitreau
- 11:00 – 12 p.m.: Hayride; Food and Fiber Plots with Mr. Keith Lewis
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.: Lunch [catered by Whole Foods] either in Windrush Gardens or in the Orangerie [if the weather is bad]
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.: Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens with Mrs. Jane Paccamonti

Google "The Burden Center" to read about the history of this lovely spot and the dedication of the Burden Family to making it the paradise that it is today.

For more information go to:

<http://www.treesandtrails.com/history.htm>

and

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Burden/

The cost of the trip will be \$35; this includes the box lunch. Fifty spots are available on the bus. Please send your checks to Martha Gruning, P.O. Box 68, Abita Springs, LA 70420. Remaining seats are now available for guests at \$40/person. Call Martha to let her know you are sending a check and your lunch preference by April 6. Act now! Time is limited

Martha Gruning
985-773-4463.





Louisiana Master Gardener Appreciation Day at Hammond Research Station

**May 10, 2013
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

- Visit our gardens: Sun, Shade, Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden, Crape Myrtle, and new Piney Woods Garden
- Weeds, Disease, & Bugs - Oh my! Bring 'em to the experts!
- Fire Ants in the vegetable garden? We have answers!
- Get It Growing with Dan Gill
- Complimentary lunch served at noon!



Contests with Very Nice Prizes!

Name that Plant Challenge

What's wrong with this plant? Plant Pest ID Game

Contact Susie Andres (susieandres@gmail.com) to register by May 1.



Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond, LA
www.lsuagcenter.com/Hammond



EBR

Master Gardeners'

Spring Plant Sale

April 13 and 14

Sat: 8 am – 2pm  Sun: 1 pm – 4 pm

Burden Center

Essen Lane, near I-10

More than 5000 plants & 200 varieties

Expert Assistance - Bring a Wagon and load it up!

See plant photos - www.mgplantsale.com

Shop early for Mother's Day Presents.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ⊗ <i>Burden rose bushes!</i> | ⊗ <i>verbenas</i> |
| ⊗ <i>amsonias</i> | ⊗ <i>torenia</i> s |
| ⊗ <i>coleus</i> | ⊗ <i>hanging baskets</i> |
| ⊗ <i>cacti & succulents</i> | ⊗ <i>angel trumpets</i> |
| ⊗ <i>daylilies & irises</i> | ⊗ <i>pentas</i> |
| ⊗ <i>bromeliads</i> | ⊗ <i>lantanas</i> |
| ⊗ <i>blueberries & herbs</i> | ⊗ <i>hibiscus and more!!!</i> |

Plant Health Clinic
Children's Activities



St. Tammany Master Gardeners

Presents...

Inviting Butterflies & Hummingbirds to your garden!



Feel free to
Bring your
Lawn Chair!



April 24th at 4:00

Abita Springs Library

71683 Levenson

Abita Springs, LA 70420

For further information call the library at (985) 893-6285



AgCenter schedules vegetable workshops for parents, teachers

Writer: Pamela Hodson at 225-763-3990 [or phodson@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:phodson@agctr.lsu.edu)

BATON ROUGE, La. – The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is holding a series of vegetable workshops on a variety of gardening topics.

The workshops will provide information to help parents and teachers establish and maintain a vegetable garden.

“Gardens at school or home provide environments for effective learning,” said LSU AgCenter gardening specialist Kiki Fontenot. “The workshops will provide gardening basics that parents or teachers can use to plant seeds of knowledge in children.”

“The workshops will include hands-on activities, and everyone attending will be getting their hands dirty while learning basic principles of gardening that can be applied in the home or school garden,” director of education at the Botanic Gardens Kyle Huffstickler said.

The workshop dates and topics include:

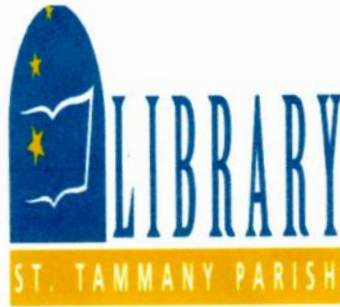
- April 11 – Starting and growing your own vegetable transplants.
- June 13 – What is a weed, what is a plant?
- August 8 – Insect identification.
- October 10 – Is it ready to harvest/eat?
- November 14 – Preparing your fresh vegetables.

All workshops will be held at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, located at 4560 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge from 6 p.m. until 7 pm. There is no charge for admission, but registration is required by contacting Huffstickler at 225-763-3990.

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Kyle Huffstickler can be reached at 225-763-3990 or khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu

KiKi Fontenot can be reached at 225-578-2417 or kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu



got herbs?

Fifth Annual Spring Herb Festival
Tuesday, April 23, 2013 * 4 to 7 PM
Slidell Library Herb Garden
555 Robert Boulevard, Slidell

Presentations

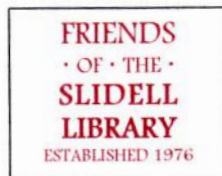
4:15 – 5:00 “HERBS – What/Where/When/How”
Presented by panel of St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners

5:30 – 6:15 “Totally Herbal Tomatoes”
Presented by Linda Franzo of The Passionate Platter

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon featuring children’s activities; herbal food/beverage tastings; information on harvesting, planting and saving seeds.

- ❖ **Guided Tours of the Slidell Library Herb Gardens**
- ❖ **Community vendors will sell herb plants**

**Free
Admission**



**No Pets
Allowed**

The Spring Herb Festival is one of several educational events sponsored by the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners, a program offered by the LSU AgCenter, and the Friends of the Slidell Library.

Slidell Library Herb Committee Update

On a sunny but chilly day in March The Slidell Library Herb Committee, under the direction of Chair June Taffaro and Co-chair Camille Schwandt, was hard at work prepping gardens. Master Gardeners maintain several herb beds and raised plantings of a variety of perennials at the Robert Boulevard site which is one of our ongoing projects. The members of this committee met to do a bit of spring cleaning in the library garden. Weeds were pulled, plants were retagged and staked, and mulch and fertilizer were spread. Committee members received instructions on operating the irrigation system installed by library maintenance worker. Once the gardening was finished the group met to plan this year's spring herb fest. This year's theme is **"got herbs?"**.

The committee will meet again at the Slidell Library on Wednesday, April 3, at 1:00 PM to hear a presentation by Donna on "Culinary Herbs". Following the presentation there will be another Spring Herb Festival planning meeting. All are welcome to attend Donna's program.

The Spring Herb Festival will help educate participants about adding herbs when planting this year. The Festival will be held on the grounds of the Slidell Library, 555 Robert Boulevard, on Tuesday, April, 23rd from 4 -7 PM. This will be the 5th Annual Festival offered free to the public. Any one interested in herbs will find something new at this year's event. Children will have their own activity, guided tours of the Herb Garden will be given and there will be herbal food and beverage sampling.

Presentations will include "What/Where/When/How" which will be a panel discussion by St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners at 4:15. Linda Franzo, of The Passionate Platter, will demonstrate "Totally Herbal Tomatoes" at 5:30 which will include a tasting of her tomatoes and herbs dish. Local vendors will offer herbs for sale and The Friends of Slidell Library will hold a used book sale.

Free parking is available on North Blvd. Please note that dogs are not allowed unless they are service dogs. For further questions, call the LSU Ag Center office at 985-875-2635.

Nancy Berulis and
Susie Andres



2012 MG Honors Award Volunteers



Volunteer	Class	Volunteer	Class
ARNOULT, SANDRA	2009	MANGER, CINDY	2009
BALLANCO, GERARD	2009	MCDONALD, NANCY	2011
BORDELON, YVONNE	2000	MONTELEONE, LYN	2010
BOUCHER, LESLIE	2011	MOORE, BARBARA	2008
CROSS, JAMES	2009	MOORE, ISABELLE	2007
DEUS, JULIE	2009	MUNN, NANCIE	2009
DICHARRY, DONNA	2008	NOLAN, DEBORAH	2011
FRANZO, LINDA	2002	PARTRIDGE, KARLA	2010
GAGLIANO, JOAN	2006	PAULSELL, J. CHRISTINE	2009
GILBERT, ANN	2010	PELTIER, MARY	2010
GOERTZ, PEGGY	2010	PERICONE, PETE	2008
GOODWIN, KAPPY	2010	QUINN, DIANNE	2011
GREMILLION, EILEEN	2011	ROSE, BETTY	2001
GRUNING, MARTHA	2007	ROSE, WENDELL	2004
GUIDROZ, TYRUS	2010	ROUSSEL, JANICE	2002
GUIDRY, KATHLEEN	2010	ROWE, LINDA	2009
HANSON, KAY	2011	ROWE, PAMELA	2009
HEINSZ-BAILEY, AJ	2000	RUSSELL, MONA	2012
HINKLEY, GAIL	2010	SCHERER, HAROLD	2011
HOLBROOK, LONNIE	2004	SCOTT, ART	2008
HOWLAND, DONNA	2009	SPANO, GLENDA	2003
JENKS, MARY	2011	STANGA, BILLIE	2011
JOHNSON, RUTHANNE	2009	STELLINGWORTH, CHRISTINE	2003
KNIGHT, MITCHELL	2008	STOLTZ, JILL	2011
KOEPP, SUSIE	2010	TAFFARO, JUNE	2001
LANDECHE, LESLIE	2003	THIER, L. ANNETTE	2008
LEFEVRE, DONALD	2008	THIGPEN, FRANCES	2004
L'HOSTE, SUSAN	2010	WAGUESPACK, YVETTE	2011
LITZENBERGER, DEBORA	2008	WENDLE, LINDA	2011
LIVELY, JANEY	2008	WOOD, JUDITH	2007

All of the above listed members earned at least 50 volunteer hours in 2012. Not all are shown in the above photo. Our Association totaled 5729 hours of volunteer service and 2063 education hour in 2012. Congratulations to all!

Scenes from the 2013 Northshore Garden Show



ST TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS

MARCH 7th BOARD MEETING

The March board meeting of the STPMGs was held in Mandeville at the Causeway branch of the St. Tammany library on 3/7/13. Susie called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Julie motioned that we accept the board minutes from February as presented in the Gardengoer. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Pam gave the treasurer's report. A considerable amount of time was spent on the budget for 2013. Each item on the budget was discussed to determine if last year's amount was sufficient, under, or over budget. A number of changes were made and certain items were grouped together to be presented to the general membership at the March meeting.

Martha discussed having teachers and/or horticultural or agricultural specialists come to a meeting for background information on the various university studies included in our scholarship requirements. Also, the scholarship committee could describe to the membership how word about the scholarship is being circulated. Other meeting programs will include a speaker on "Aging Gardens".

PLANT SHOW: Ty said visors are on the way for the volunteers at the plant show. Pam said each vendor would be wearing a tag. Julie bought 3 magnetic signs and rented 85 chairs and 26 tables.

SPRING SEMINAR: Profits were \$835. A discussion followed on a donation to the church since we used their building. Committee thought \$400 was a reasonable donation.

Debora needs someone to write an article in the Gardengoer in place of Rusty. Ty volunteered to do one on turf grass for this month.

Martha has been researching computers and pointers for the organization. She will research further and present findings at the March general meeting and call for a membership vote.

Judy met with the new class to see what improvements they thought might be needed in the instructions and background information they received as perspective new members. It was suggested that the next class have a mentoring program in place even before classes start. It was also mentioned that a list showing which members are experts in the various fields would be helpful to all members.

It was suggested that someone attend the parish council meetings to make them aware of the MG presence in the community. Judy said that instead of attending the meetings (which might go unnoticed) if someone would instead involve them in our activities- invite them to attend our community programs-and acknowledge them when in attendance it would better serve our organization. Susie offered to send letters to the council and mayor, about the plant show.

Susie requested looking for new ways to increase exposure to the public about the scholarships and to review the present procedures with the scholarship committee. Discussion also needs to continue to determine if students already in college should also be eligible. Pam suggested space be allowed at the plant show to advertise the scholarships. It needs to be published in the newspaper also, with a list of the fields of study that qualify. Half of the proceeds of the plant show usually go to the scholarship fund.

It was decided to skip the July board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary



STPMG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

3/20/13

The March meeting of the STPMGs was held at the National Guard Armory in Covington on 3/20/13. Seventy-seven members were in attendance. President Susie Andres called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Rusty gave the invocation. Susie led the pledge.

Nancy Berulis gave the March garden hint. She bought an inexpensive photo album from Walmart to hold all her seed packets. The album pages were about the same size as the seed packets and made it easy to slip in, keep them neat and easy to find when needed. She even suggested using a couple of recycled moisture absorber packets somewhere in the album if you are worried about any moisture problems.

Martha Grunning introduced our program speaker, Lee Barry from Bamboo Gardens. Lee gave a very enjoyable and informational talk on bamboo and owns the largest bamboo nursery in Louisiana up in the Mt. Hermon area. He explained the differences between the running and the clumping bamboos and gave a beautiful slide presentation on the different varieties and sizes of bamboo.

Lee confirmed that it is indeed difficult to trim back mature bamboo (extremely difficult!!!) but it is fairly easy to stop the new growth if necessary. He said as the new growth emerges from the ground it has the consistency of celery and can be easily knocked off with your foot. The trick is to know exactly where you want bamboo to be and never let it get out of hand. Mature bamboo can be anywhere from 24 feet to 80 feet tall depending on the variety.

Rusty said his replacement has not been found yet. He promised to keep in touch with us and help us when he can. He also said to check out the April LA Gardener to see a feature on our very own Karla Partridge.

A motion was made by Donna Dicharry to accept the February minutes as presented in the Gardengoer. Eileen Gremillion seconded. Motion carried.

Pam presented the treasurer's report giving the present balance in each account. Expenses for the Plant show are still coming in so these were not the final figures. She also presented the budget for 2013 and explained some changes and consolidations from last year's budget. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Martha said 30 people have signed up for the field trip to Baton Rouge. Programs include Scotty May to speak on the scholarships in May. Other future programs include "aging gardens" and "growing mushrooms".

Nancy gave a wrap-up on the very successful Spring Seminar and confirmed a profit of \$800 on the event. She thanked everyone for the immense amount of participation and cooperation.

Ty gave a report on the Plant Show. He said final figures are not quite completed but the turn-out was great and the vendors and participants seemed to be well pleased. Things went very smoothly and, for that, he thanked the volunteers

Donna Dicharry said the Slidell Herb Fest will be on 4/23/13 at the Slidell Library and will include food, speakers, tours and crafts.

Martha announced that the Abita Library will have their event on 4/24 from 4 to 5:30 and will highlight hummingbirds and butterflies.

The Otis House event will be on 4/4 for the children and will support the information they are learning for the LEAP testing.

Kay announced there will be a work detail at the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Butterfly Garden (Lacombe) on 4/4 also. Starts at 9:00 am.

Martha has been gathering information and prices on a laptop, headphones, and laser pointers for the MGs to use when having educational programs and presentations. Donna Dicharry motioned that we allow up to \$1000 to purchase this equipment needed for presentations. Seconded by Lonnie Holbrook. Motion carried.

The April meeting will be at the barn instead of the Armory because of the plant swap.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary



Lee Barry, shown above, spoke at the March meeting. His website, www.bamboogardensla.com, has a tremendous amount of information. Plus, there are some fantastic photos of the bamboos he offers. Clicking on the photos will produce a very nice view. He schedules sales appointments 8am - 3pm, Monday through Saturday. Lee stresses he is a working farm and nursery and not a public park. "We work **by appointment** to provide individualized time to our customers, helping them to better understand their options and choices." He said, "Most everything that I said is available for review on our web site, and if you can't find what you're looking for, gimme' a call!" (985) 795-2300 voice or (985) 795-8300 fax He added, "There are printable driving directions & a map available on my web site. We are in an unusual place on the edge of zip codes / townships and GPS frequently leads folks astray. My directions and map will bring you right to us."

Calendar of Events

April, 2013	
3	Slidell Herb Committee meeting at the Library Meeting Room at 1:00 pm. Donna Dicharry will give a presentation on “Culinary Herbs”. A planning meeting for the upcoming Spring Herb Festival, “got herbs”, will follow the presentation. <i>See pages 11 & 12.</i>
4	Covington Garden Club Flower Show, Christ Episcopal Parish House, 120 S. New Hampshire St. Horticulture and flower designs are on display at 1:00 pm, following judging from the National Garden Club, Inc. Call Donna Moran 985-951-7480 for more information.
4	Otis House, “Into the Garden” school program. Volunteers should arrive before 8:30. Fairview Riverside State Park. Contact Ann Durel at adurel@bellsouth.net .
4	Lacombe Butterfly Garden work day at SELA National Wildlife Refuge. Work begins at 9 am. Bring your tools. Water will be provided. Contact Kay Hanson at hansonpk@bellsouth.net or 985-882-4308 (h) or 985-640-7287 (c) for more info.
4	MG Board Meeting at the Causeway Blvd branch library in the Kmart shopping center. 10 am. Contact Susie Andres at susieandres@gmail.com to be put on the agenda.
9	Field trip to Burden Center. Bus leaves at 7:30. Spots now open for guests at \$40 each. Contact Martha Gruning quickly to save a spot. <i>See page 6.</i>
13 & 14	East Baton Rouge “Spring Plant Sale”. <i>See page 8 for more info.</i>
17	MG Plant Swap under the barn at the Fairgrounds. 10:00-12:00. Bring seeds, cuttings, seedlings or mature plants that you’d like to share with your fellow MGs.
19	Retirement party for Rusty at 4pm. Details are in your inbox! Contact Susie Andres at susieandres@gmail.com with any questions.
23	“Got Herbs”, the Spring Herb Festival is held on the grounds of the Slidell Library on Robert Rd. Set up starts at 1 PM, the Festival runs from 4-7 PM. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact the Herb Festival Chairman, Donna DiCharry at dmd1001@bellsouth.net <i>See page 11.</i>
24	“Inviting Butterflies and Hummingbirds to your garden!”, a presentation by the Abita Library Project Committee. Starts at 4 pm at 71683 Levenson, Abita Springs,. Bring a lawn chair. <i>See page 9.</i>
May, 2013	
10	Master Gardener Appreciation Day at the Hammond Research Station. 9-3. Register with Susie Andres before May 1. <i>See page 7 for more info.</i>
15	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. This is the annual Scholarship Meeting in which the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Memorial Scholarship will be awarded. Scotty May will be our speaker. More info to come.
June, 2013	
19	Monthly Meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am –noon. Virginia Bessent will speak on landscape architecture.

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Notes From the Editor:

Hi MGs,

I'm amazed at how busy our organization will be in April. I almost ran out of room on the Calendar. If you didn't earn your required hours during the Northshore Garden Show, there are plenty of opportunities to get those hours this month..

There is no article from Rusty this month since he is retired as of April 1. Thanks to Ty Guidroz for stepping in with a great article on lawn care. If anyone would like to volunteer to write an article for the May newsletter and earn volunteer hours at the same time, please contact me. A seasonal topic would be nice but it is not a requirement. Thanks also to Paul Andres for helping with the MG meeting photos this month!!

Please come out for Rusty's big goodbye party on the 19th. He has been a friend and mentor to us all. Rusty will be greatly missed! Contact any of the Board members for details.

Be sure to post your hours at least once a month. Here is the link:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/Reporting+Volunteer+Hours/

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THE GARDENGOER

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. TAMMANY MASTER
GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

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