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For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site:

www.lsuagcenter.com

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

August, 2010



Judy Wood demonstrates the “carrot and the stick” approach to logging volunteer hours at the July meeting. Judy is our Volunteer Coordinator and she is very concerned at the number of Master Gardeners who are not recording their hours. There is now a reward for members posting hours above and beyond the minimum requirements. See page 11.

President's Message

Is your membership status in jeopardy?

Only members who have reached and recorded their hours online by 31 December 2010 will be listed in next year's roster as a member of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners Association.

Of the 132 members listed in our 2010 roster, **42** did not record the 2009 volunteer and/or continuing education hours required to be a member.

Some of these 42 will be shocked to find they are in this number. I was very surprised to see some of the names because I know they are very active.

67 – are members who completed and reported the required volunteer and CE hours.

24 - are members of the graduating class of 2009.

91 – is the total number of members in good standing for 2010.

The number of hours master gardeners volunteer is used to justify the master gardener program. The implied value of our volunteer efforts is passed up the line to the LSU AgCenter supervisors, then to government officials and to the general public.

There is a breakdown for each parish based on the total volunteer hours divided by the total number of master gardeners. Our participation hours per volunteer don't reflect our level of activity, especially when compared to other parishes.

There are several possible explanations: 1) members stop recording hours once the minimal number is reached, 2) we are carrying some members who complete far less than the minimal requirement and 3) some members have stopped recording their hours before the minimum has been reached even though they have exceeded the requirement.

A number of the lost 42 are members who have definitely achieved and even surpassed the requirement but are in danger of losing their membership.

Judy Wood is our volunteer web administrator. She will pass around a list of all members and their recorded hours at each meeting. Please check and verify your hours. Judy's email address is jazzwood@charter.net.

Art

folsomart@bellsouth.net (985) 796-5878

Saving Summer Seeds

Rusty Batty

Now that the spring harvest is over and before you begin planning your fall garden, consider saving your summer seed. This is a pretty simple procedure that can be easily accomplished in our down time and retreat from the summer heat. Good quality seed is very important for the quality and quantity of next year's garden. Try these simple tips for seed savings.

- Save only standard (not hybrid) or heirloom seed.
- Choose seed from the healthiest, prettiest, most flavorful, desired plants.
- Choose mature seeds. Get your seed at the end of the season.
- Put the seed of tomatoes, melon, squash or cucumber in a jar of water. Other seed can be obtained by drying seed hull.
- Let seed ferment for 2-4 days. Good seeds will sink. Discard floating pulp and bad seed.
- Spread the good seed on a screen or paper towel to dry.
- Store in a jar or envelope in a cool dry location. Clearly labeled, seed can be kept in a refrigerator for a year or so.

Seed saving is very easy and economical. There are many websites with good seed saving charts including lsuagcenter.com. Following these tips are sure steps to a good seed supply.

Tomato seeds



Squash seeds



Okra seeds



In the Garden with aj

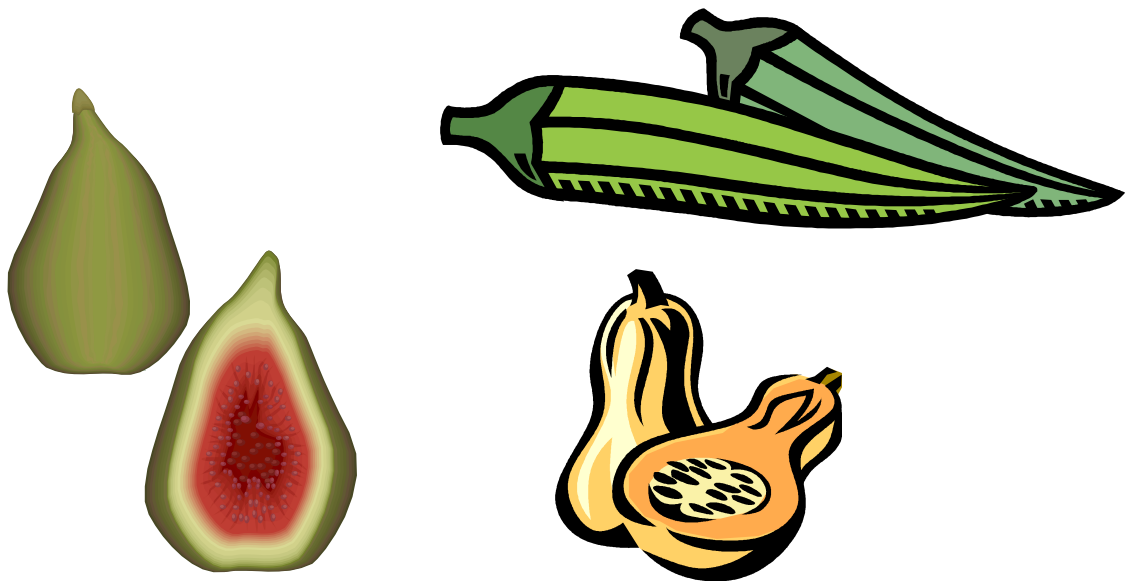
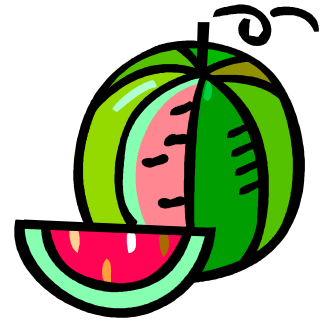
Hi Everyone, The watermelon search was won by a 35 pound orange melon from Varnado. I think I have one red melon left to devour. I was unable to obtain the variety names of the best melons. Their common names were: Ollie Mae, Mr. Thomas', and the lower 2 acres off hwy 16.

Remember when you were a kid some things terrified you and other things were wonderful. Slip and slide is one of these things for me. Tired of arm chair gardening I ventured outside to feed the critters. The first slip was on the wet wood stairs. I heard popping and creaking but did not hit the ground. As I approached the driveway in my rubber boots, I slid into a clay puddle. Still standing I made it to the cow trough area where my boots were sucked off by the muck. A slow motion fall into the slop was inevitable. The stop, drop, and roll method saved the day. I avoided the garden like the plague. Who knows what lurks under all of those weeds and mulch. I finished up with a half gainer at the wild bird feeder and a sliding home run in the chicken pen. I never want to see another water slide.

I am joyously going back to the indoor gardening arena. My first seed order should arrive this week. I received a solar powered dancing daisy named Ophelia Lolita. She is supposed to dance in the sunlight but, since we have not had any sun lately she just sits at the end of the table looking outside with me by her side. Cool weather can't be too far off in the future.

Slippery okra and figs are abundant at this time. Peppers and eggplants are not doing as well as usual due to the weather. Butternut squashes are ripening and sweet potato vines are aggressively covering the landscapes. August is also the time to plant seeds for crops you can enter into the fair. This year I would like to see more crops from our group. Blue ribbons are yours for the growing. Join in the fun.

No more slipping and sliding and not in the garden, aj



Ancient Plants in the Southern Landscape

Gerri Sommers

When is a palm not a palm at all? When the palm is a Sago, one of the most primitive living seed plants, which is a very unusual and popular ornamental in the Southern garden. A rugged trunk, topped with whorled feathery leaves has lead to the common name "Sago Palm", however it is actually related to conifers (pine trees) and Ginkgo trees - all cone bearing plants which trace their origins back to the ancient flora of the early Mesozoic era. Often called "living fossils", Cycads have changed very little in the last 200 million years. Most known cycad genus plant like the Sago palm are slow growing and have an unusual trunk. Sagos are one of the oldest cycads still living today. Sago can grow for a 100 years. They are also commonly referred to as *Cycas revoluta*, King Sago Palm. The Sago Palm is the most propagated and sold cycad in the world. It is seen in almost all botanical gardens, in temperate and tropical locations and in many areas of the world it is heavily promoted commercially as a landscape plant.



Sago Palms have erect, sturdy trunks that are typically about one to two feet in diameter, sometimes wider and can grow into very old specimens with twenty feet of trunk. The leaves are a dark olive green and about three to four feet long when the plants are of a reproductive age. They can be longer if not grown in full sun. Trunks can branch multiple times, thus producing multiple heads of leaves. The trunks are rough and retain the old leaf bases of previous leaves. It is also the norm that plants will produce basal offsets or “suckers” at the base of the main trunk. Thus one gets a cluster of many plants and trunks with time. The petiole or stems of *Cycas revoluta* have small protective barbs or hooks that one must avoid during pruning. An older plant with a well-established trunk will have foliage overhead. Younger plants look like a rosette of leaves coming from a stem near the ground.

Growing of *Cycas revoluta* is not difficult if simple rules are followed. First, *do* give ample root depth by picking a pot or container that is deep, preferably a pot 16 inches deep or more (a smaller container can be used when the plant is small). It is quicker and easier to grow *Cycas revoluta* in the ground as opposed to a container. In general, Sago Palms need sun to grow well. In coastal areas, it is best to plant them in full sun. In more interior locations or desert localities, they still prefer good sun or at least part day sun. Growing the Sago Palm in the shade typically gives one lanky, stretched-out leaves that are weak. If in too much shade, this species can actually just stall and do nothing (such as refusing to throw any new leaves).

Continued on page 6

The Sago Palm can be grown inside the house near a bright window. Like other cycads, they do not want to be over-watered. Let the soil dry out a bit before watering. Try to avoid overhead watering; this may cause rot and possibly total decay of the plant. The soil mix should be quick draining. The plants are quite cold hardy and can tolerate temperatures below 20° F. Overall, it is an available species that is quite versatile and easy to grow. It is usually free from pests but can occasionally get into problems with scale or mealybug, which should be treated. Fertilizing with a balanced tropical fertilizer with microelements will usually suffice.



Sagos typically throw a new set of leaves (as shown in the center photo) during the spring or summer. The photo on the left shows a male Sago cone while the picture on the right demonstrates a female cone.



SMH Rehab Garden Update ~ Leslie Landeche

Since last writing in the *Gardengoer*, several volunteers have come on board and brought new energy to the Rehab Garden, and we have been hard at work over the last couple of months “rehabbing” the garden. Many of the container plants have been pruned, divided, repotted and some tossed. After collecting a number of plants (some from our homes), a sale was held in May. It raised some much needed funds for the garden. More importantly, it gave the volunteers an opportunity to meet a number of staff and educate them about the Master Gardeners and our project at the hospital.



We’ve met and spent time with a number of patients, staff, and family and friends of patients. It has been wonderful to hear how much the garden has been enjoyed by others. We’ve heard how the patients enjoy watching the birds that visit the garden – Keith Knight has gone the extra mile to see that we have good bird feeders and seed to keep the birds coming back.

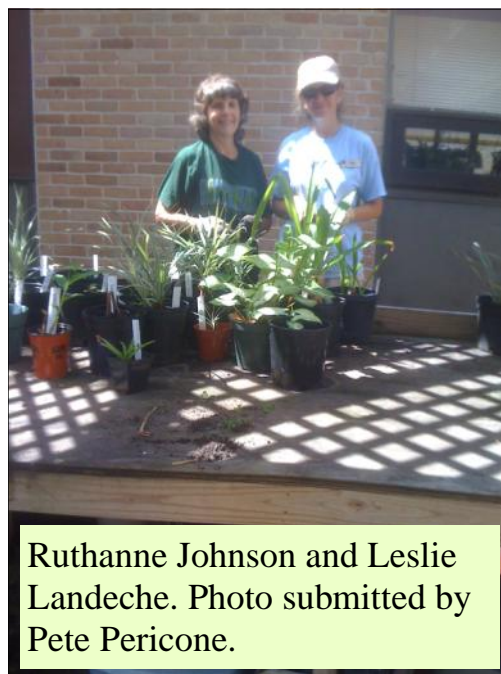
A number of patients have very limited mobility and are not able to make it outside to enjoy the garden. Instead, we were told that they listen through their hospital room windows to our chatter as we work.



Continued on page 8

The small garden that I once called “the jungle” has mostly been dug up and cleaned out. The photo below on the left is one that I took about two years ago! We have saved some plants to put back. Others have been or will be sold. The picture on the right was taken after the cold winter and several hard-working Master Gardeners hit the area. We have a few ideas and are trying to develop a design for the garden. If drawing and/or planning are your strengths, we especially need your help!

Many thanks to Ruthanne Johnson, Keith Knight, Pat Hedges and Pete Pericone for all you have done. If you’d like to join us for some rehabilitation of your own, please call Leslie Landeche at 985-639-9963 or send an email to rocknlou@bellsouth.net.



Ruthanne Johnson and Leslie Landeche. Photo submitted by Pete Pericone.

July Meeting Recap



Donna Howland won a door prize of impatiens.



Barbara Blaga won a door prize of impatiens.



Randy Aultman discussed landscape design. The basic elements of landscape design are color, texture, rhythm, scale, balance and contrast.

Sign Proposal at the July Meeting Keith Knight

To enhance and help promote the LSU Master Garden program, I proposed that our organization purchase 10 exterior signs made of aluminum D-bond showing the following:

La. Master Gardener icon with shovel, tools & leaves next to
La. Master gardener Project then the
LSU Ag center logo (colors are purple, gold green)

I proposed two sizes:

12" X 18"

18" X 24"

The smaller sign could be displayed at sites like the Slidell Library herb garden.

Three of the larger signs at SMH Rehab garden, Lacombe Butterfly garden & Otis House Butterfly garden.

The extra signs would be located in Rusty's office and used as needed.

By majority vote, this proposal was approved. The signs should be ready in about 2 weeks.



Reward for posting fifty or more volunteer hours in 2010

The vast majority of St. Tammany members post only the necessary hours to meet the membership requirements and then no more. They do not want to be bothered with the hassle and there is no incentive as far as they are concerned. Unfortunately, this does not reflect how active St. Tammany Parish is as an organization. We look very poorly on the annual 2009 state report.

St. Tammany averaged 26 volunteer hours while the state average was 38. The averages for other parishes were East Baton Rouge - 56; Greater New Orleans - 53; Lafayette - 58; La Terre - 49; Northwest - 39; Piney Hills - 35. Of the 21 parishes reporting St. Tammany ranked in the middle with ten parishes having a greater average, three parishes at 26, and eight parishes having a lower average.

St. Tammany ranks fourth in the number of trained MGs and third in the number of returning MGs from previous years.

So what do we need to do to encourage members to report/record their hours?

After much research, asking for a blog on the LSU MG web to learn what other parishes do to reward their MG's who go above and beyond it is recommended that a brick inscribed with the LA MG logo, St. Tammany Parish, Exemplary Service, 2010 be awarded. The total cost of each brick is \$22.50 which includes shipping.

A motion approved by the membership at the July 21 meeting states "In 2010 STPMG will award a brick with the LA MG logo honoring exemplary service to those members who have completed and recorded fifty or more volunteer hours and their necessary education hours. Hours must be posted to the LSU Ag site by December 31, 2010."

Members could put the brick in their garden or use it as a paper weight. It would be a thank you and recognition of the extra effort.

In 2009 twenty-two members would have received the recognition if we had the program. There were probably another twenty, at least, who did the work but did not report.

For those of us who are really devoted to the MG program and want it to succeed, recognition seems frivolous. But many of us need the carrot to complete the job and record the hours.

Sandy Arnoult is Chairperson of the Rewards Committee.

Submitted by:
Judy Wood

Editor's note: The MG Logo will look like the writing on the right, black inscription on grey stone.



St. Tammany Master Gardener's Tomato Survey Spring 2010

Jerry Ballanco

Some gardeners did not report in all columns so the numbers across do not always add up. Asterisk in the comment field indicates some comment on that variety. Some general comments are at the very end of the document.

Variety **	# plants	Yield	Taste Poor Fair Good GG (good-great)Great	Would you grow again?	Comments
Aunt Ruby's gre	1				
Black Krim	2		GG(1)	Y(1)	*
Brandywine red	4	F(1) G(2)	P(1) F(1) GG(2)	N(1) Y(3)	
Beefmaster	3	G(3)	F(3)	PN(3)	*
Better Boy	2	P(2)	F(2)	N(2)	
Celebrity	2	G(2)	F(2)	M(2)	*
Cherokee Purple	4	P(1) F(1) G(2)	P(1) G(1) GG(2)	N(1) Y(3)	
Creole	4	G(4)	G(4)	Y(4)	
Early Girl	2	G	F(2)	M(2)	*
Early wonder	2	G	F(2)	M(2)	*
Fantastic	2	G	G(2)	PY(2)	*
Golden Bison	2	G		Y(2)	*
German Johnson					
Green Zebra	4	G	GG(4)	Y(4)	*
Giant Belgium	6	P(1) G(4)	P(1) GG(4)	N (1) Y(4)	*
Money Maker	3	P(1) F(1)	F(2)	PN(1) Y(1)	
Park Hbrid	2	G	G(2)	Y	
Roma	4	F(3)	P(2) F(1)	N(1) PN(1)	
Russian potato	2	P(1)	G(1)	Y(1)	
Rutgers	1	F	F	PN	
San Maryano	2	P(1) G(1)	P(1) F(1)	N(1) PN(1)	
Sweet Tangerine	1				
Super Tasty LSU	2				
White Wonder	2	F(1)	G(1)	Y(1)	*
Yellow Pear LS	2				
Cherry					
Coyote	3		F(1) G(2)	Y(3)	
Red Currant					
Husky Cherry 1TT	4	G(4)	G(4)	Y(4)	
Jelly Bean	4	P(3) G(1)	P(3) Great(1)	N(3) Y(1)	
Red cherry	2	G(1)	Great(1)	Y(2)	*
Sun Gold	2	G(1)	Great(2)	Y(2)	
Sun Sugar	2	P(1) G(1)	Great(2)	Y(2)	*
Supersweet 100	3	F(1) G(1)	F(1) G(1)	Y(2)	
Sweet Baby girl	4	P(1) G(2)	G(3)	Y(3)	
Container					
Better Boy	4	P(4)	G(4)	Y(4)	SQ
Better Bush	2	G(2)	Great	Y(2)	*
Fantastic	1	P	Great	Y	SQ
Husky Cherry (1 TT)	4	G(4)	G(4)	Y(4)	

**Very few gardeners prune tomatoes; most grow in the ground, not containers. Some of the same tomato varieties were grown both in the ground and in containers. At least two gardeners used drip irrigation. Most gardeners used cages, stakes, or a combination; there did not appear to be any differences in stake vs cage. One gardener had very poor experience with topsy-turvy. For some gardeners, it was a poor year for tomatoes, for some, it was at least average.

Comments:

Beefmaster: large, tasty beefsteak with raised yellow shoulders. Foliage relatively sparse resulting in some sun scald. Often a thick central core. Lots of waste

Better Bush: cage

Blight resistant (reported by 1 gardener): Sweet baby girl, Red cherry, White Wonder, Black Krim, and Giant Belgium

Celebrity: beautiful, juicy, often large, firm, fairly productive determinate tomatoes. Taste is OK. Fantastic tastes better but produces fruit that is more medium size (if you do not prune). Celebrity is bigger and prettier, Fantastic tastes better.

Creole (1 gardener) : W0267-205; V057111 was best tasting creole and had best yield.

Early girl is a very productive plant with small (tennis ball size) tomatoes that taste pretty good. It sets fruit for a pretty long time. Early wonder is a pink version with similar taste but has a tendency to crack. The color of the early wonder is nice.

Golden Bison: Tennis ball size, prolific production, very pretty to look at yellow/golden tomato. By itself, it is not too tasty but, on advice from Tori at Del Porto's, putting this low acid tomato on a tomato sandwich with mayonnaise and salt results in a delicious treat. In salads, it fits in fine and adds great color.

Green Zebra: a small, citrusy tasting, pretty, striped tomato is great in salads. It is nice to look at and adds zest. Very productive plant.

Giant Belgium: Beefsteak style, pink, very tasty but easily catfaces, and splits. May have a big core if the shoulders rise too high but they are not seen as frequently as in Beefmaster.

Sun Sugar: Mid size cherry that is golden and is my all time favorite sweet tomato. It is truly an extraordinary tasting fruit.

In one garden, still hanging on by 7/14 :

Some green at the ends and are twisted around the posts.

- sweet baby girl
- brandy wine
- super sweet 100
- sun gold
- cherokee purple
- white wonder
- black krim
- giant belgium

Report from the By-laws Committee as directed by the motion at the June 16 meeting
Judy Wood

The survey tool was emailed to the membership two separate times and included in the July issue of the **Gardengoer**.

Forty-five members participated in the survey. One member wrote that she has never attended a meeting and therefore did not wish to respond to the survey. That means we heard from forty-six members. This is at least half of the active members of the organization.

Of the survey's responses, thirty-seven responded electronically, six by hard copy, and two surveys via the telephone.

A summary of the data is attached. A summary of the comments to Question 8 follows. (If you would like to receive a full copy of the comments, email Judy Wood at jazzwood@charter.net) Only questions 2 and 7 received forty-five responses. The remainder of the questions were not answered by everyone so that is why the totals do not add to 45.

For the questions where the responses required a ranking, the sum number of ranking numbers was divided by the number of respondents that ranked that category. This gives an average rank. On the report they are in order from most important to least important.

This survey gives lots of food for thought. It demonstrates the strong interest in the organization by the membership. Let's use the information to improve what we presently have.

This survey is a product of the work of the whole committee, countless emails, a little sweat, and hopefully, no tears. Special thanks to the two Pams – Pam Keating for bringing the concern to the membership and Pam Twardzik who challenged us to think out of the box.

By-laws Committee – Mary Ann Brannan, Rodney Cross, Chere Currault, Pam Keating, Isabelle Moore, Betty Rose, Deborah Turton, Pam Twardzik, and Judy Wood.

Summary of responses to Question 8: If you do not attend monthly meetings on a regular basis, please provide comments or suggestions that would help improve your attendance.

Shorten and better manage the time during the meeting; stick to the agenda

Discussions should be limited with Yes/No vote or referred to a committee.

Reports should be limited in length and a summary posted in the Gardengoer

Educational programs are essential and in some cases determine if a member will attend or not.

More educational programs at the meetings

Do not have an educational program at each meeting.

Spend a portion of the meeting on the garden problem of the month.

We need to concentrate on the dissemination of gardening information.

Alternate time, day of the week, and location of meetings. Hold some meetings in Eastern St. Tammany.

Some members need to have a greater sense of decorum during the meetings.

Hold field trips in cooler months.

Continued on page 15

STPMG Membership Survey Results

July 2010

1. Are you comfortable with the present way STPMG handles business and would you like for it to remain that way? Yes **28** No **13**
2. What would be the ideal length of a monthly Master Gardener membership meeting including the speaker/education program?
 1 hour **7** 1 ½ hour **24** 2 hours **13** Other **1**
3. Rank, or order of importance to you – 1 being most important, 8 being least important- these agenda items that are included in monthly general membership meetings:

Educational programs	2.1
County Agent Comments	3
New business discussions	4.3
Officer's reports	4.4
Project coordinator reports	4.4
Committee chair reports	4.6
Unfinished business discussions	5.1
Other: Gardening forum, Speaker presentation	
4. Rank, in order of importance to you- 1 being most important, 9 being the least important- the special meetings and functions of the association.

Northshore Plant Sale	1.5
Annual Field Trip	3.0
Plant Swap	3.9
Scholarship Awards	4.3
Officer Nominations	5.6
Christmas Party	5.6
Officer Elections	5.7
New Officer Presentations	6.7
Tomato Tasting Awards	7.1
5. Current by-laws indicate that business must be conducted at least three times yearly by the general membership. Please indicate how often business should be conducted in conjunction with membership meetings.

Monthly`	10	Every other month	7
Quarterly	13	Three times a year	13
6. Current by-laws indicate that "the Board of Directors shall manage the business/affairs of the Association". What business should the Board conduct on a routine basis?

Financial obligations that are under a given monetary threshold	33
Emergency decisions that cannot wait for a general membership vote.	38
Monthly budget and financial review	37
Review monthly reports from committee chairman and provide guidance as required	31
Screen all new business requests and ideas prior to inclusion on a meeting agenda	25
7. As a general rule, how many monthly meetings do you attend on an average annual basis?

10-12 times	17	7-9 times	8
4-6 times	13	1-3 times	7

New Master Gardener Class

The MG Class of 2010 will begin on August 10. The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-12. Thirty people were chosen to be in the class, so space will be very limited. If you want to attend a class meeting, notify the AgCenter office 5 days before the class you wish to attend.

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Training 2010

(All Classes are Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
Aug 10	Registration & Get Acquainted	Mr. Rusty Batty
12	Intro into Botany/Propagation	Ms. Annie Coco
17	Soils & Soil Test Interpretations	Mr. Miles Brashier
19	Insect Management	Dr. Natalie Hummel
24	Pest and Pesticide Safety	Ms. Karen Nix
26	Plant Disease Management & Diagnostics	Dr. Don Ferrin
31	Weed Management	Dr. Ron Strahan
Sept 2	Lawn & Turfgrasses	Dr. Jeff Beasley
7	NO CLASS	
9	Small Fruit & Nuts	Dr. David Himelrick
14	Perennials and Herbs	Ms. Peggy Cox
16	Organic Gardening/Vegetables	Mr. Harry Schexnayder
21	Ornamentals/Landscape Design	Dr. Allen Owings
23	Tour of Burdens / Windrush Garden	Dr. C. P. Hegwood
28	NO CLASS (St. Tammany Parish Fair)	
30	NO CLASS (St. Tammany Parish Fair)	
Oct 5	Urban Trees	Mr. Barton Joffrion
7	Class Project Show and Tell	
12	Native Plantings	Ms. Yvonne Bordelon
14	Tour of Hammond Research Station	Dr. Regina Bracy
19	Forestry/Urban Wildlife	Dr. Mike Dunn/Dr. Don Reed
21	Tour of St. Tammany	Steltz and Mizell's Nursery
26	Final Exam	
28	Graduation - 10:00am	Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Jr.

****Classes are subject to change without prior notification****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening Presentation

I will present a 1 hour presentation entitled Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening three times: Aug 11 – 3:00- 4:00 at the Folsom library; Same day but 6:30 – 7:30 at the Causeway Branch Library; and August 14 10:30 – 11:30 at the Slidell Library. A power point presentation accompanies the talk. Handouts will be available.

If you have never eaten lettuce, peas, cauliflower, or broccoli freshly picked from your garden, bitten into a carrot just pulled, eaten a home grown tomato in November, or gathered a mess of greens to go with some fried fish and cornbread, you are due for a treat.

This talk is about the practical aspects of growing vegetables in the fall and winter with discussion of both frost sensitive and frost/freeze tolerant vegetables. The opportunities are enticing: lettuce, beans, peas, broccoli, broccoli rabe, collards, mustard, Swiss chard, spinach, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, carrots, beets, leeks, and onions. The effort required to get a great crop is surprisingly small and, generally, so is the space required compared to spring and summer crops. Maybe you can pick up some pointers about getting started, keeping the crop fed and healthy, and appropriate methods and time for harvesting. There's even a suggestion or two about preserving the harvest and dealing with crop residues. Hope to see you there.

Jerry Ballanco



Slidell Herb Garden News

The Slidell Library Herb Garden Master Gardener volunteers will be holding an herb gathering/presentation on Wednesday, August 11 at 1 pm at the Slidell Library meeting room. Judy Wood will give a talk and demonstrate the use of lemon grass for cooking. Also, Judy has arranged for Sharon Murphy to speak on the healing uses of one or so herbs, perhaps including lemon grass. Sharon has been extensively involved with the various uses of many herbs over the past 25 years and was a co-founder of the Northshore Herb Society. This gathering will educate those interested in the many uses of herbs. Presentations are planned bimonthly (even numbered months). Each time, one Master Gardener will pick an herb and educate/demonstrate its use.

We are inviting all Master Gardeners to this August presentation. We are also inviting the Friends of the Library and perhaps others.

Our first Fall Herb Festival is scheduled for September 28 from 4 to 7 pm at the Slidell Library.

Master Gardeners not currently involved with the Slidell Library Herb Garden and wish to get involved should contact:



Betty Rose 985-863-3418 bettyrose@charter.net

Plants for the Master Gardener Booth

MG's,

Now is the time to start cuttings of plants for the Plant Sale in March. I've had good luck with hydrangeas, Mexican firebush, salvia, and lantana. The plants can start root systems and not be as affected by the winter weather. You will have to put them in a greenhouse or put them in Ziploc bags during the winter. And If you start enough, you can have some for the Plant Swap in October!!



Volunteer Hours

Master Gardeners!! I was asked to write an article to encourage you to post your volunteer hours on the LSU website. I sat down to go over the list of volunteer hours Judy Woods provided to me. Then I looked over my Master Gardener Directory and lo and behold I was just flabbergasted!! Of the 146 people listed in the Directory, only 69 people had posted volunteer hours. 64 people had no hours posted!!! And I know that some of these no posters are committee chairman and some have been to meetings!! People, get your big girl/boy panties on get those hours posted!!! (And I don't know what happened to the other 13 people in the Directory!)

Seriously, if you don't know how to go to the website, I'll be glad to help you or I can do it for you!! Judy Wood and Pam Twardzik are planning a help session for posting your volunteer hours. More info later.

Thanks, and get those hours in!!

Pam Keating

Membership Chairman

JAMES JASON HOLBROOK, SR.

Jim passed away on July 4, 2010. He enjoyed attending STPMG meetings with his wife, Lonnie, and was very pleased with how welcome everyone made him feel. A Post Everlasting Ceremony will be held at The American Legion Hall Post 185 at noon Saturday, August 14. The American Legion Hall is located at 1680 St. Ann Place, Slidell, LA (behind the K.C. Hall on West Hall St.). His wife, Lonnie, a 2004 MG graduate, invites all of the Master Gardeners to attend this ceremony.



AGENDA for August 18, 2010 General Meeting

1-Call to order & report quorum present

2-Opening ceremonies

3- Program – Turf Management and Horticultural Sprays – Dolph Denley

4- Comments by Rusty (County Agent/ MG Adviser)

5-Minutes from previous meeting

6-Officer's reports

- President – Art Scott
- Vice President – Glenda Nanz
- Treasurer – Dianne Ramirez

7-Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – Dianne Ramirez
- Bylaws Committee – recommendations from survey – Judy Wood

8-Project Coordinator Reports

- Tomato tasting results – AJ Heinsz-Bailey

9- Unfinished business

10- New Business

11- Announcements

12- Adjournment

Yearly Planner STPMG

- January:** -planning meeting for Northshore Garden Show
- February:** -planning meeting for Northshore Garden Show
-spring garden seminar arranged by the graduating class
- March:** -annual Northshore Garden Show
- April:** -plant swap – in barn, in place of regular meeting
-annual Spring Herb Festival at Slidell Library
-spring field trip – Program Committee
-annual tree school on south shore – free
- May:** -award scholarship (s) – Scholarship Committee
-Hammond Research Station annual tour
- June:** -tomato tasting – Program Committee
- July:** -appoint nominating committee - President
- August:** -sharing herb knowledge at the Slidell Library
-begin planning for Christmas Party– Hospitality Committee
- September:** -fall Herb Festival at Slidell Library
-report of nominating committee
-fall gardening seminar??
- October:** -elections
-fall field trip – Program Committee
-plant swap
- November:** -begin planning for Northshore Garden Show – especially the
vendor committee and publicity committee
-finalize plans for the Christmas Party
- December:** -annual Christmas party – Hospitality Committee

If you have any additions or suggestions for the yearly planner, please contact Art Scott at folsomart@bellsouth.net or call 985-796-5878.

August, 2010

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| 11 | Slidell Library Herb Committee will hold an Herb Gathering at the Slidell Library meeting room at 1:00 pm. Judy Wood will discuss lemon grass. Sharon Murphy will also speak on herbs. |
| 11 | Fall and Winter Vegetable Seminar by Jerry Ballanco, 3-4 at the Folsom Library, 6:30-7:00 at the Causeway Branch Library. |
| 14 | Fall and Winter Vegetable Seminar by Jerry Ballanco 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Slidell Library. |
| 18 | 10 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg.
Speaker: Dolph Denley, turf management and horticultural sprays |

September, 2010

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|----|---|
| 15 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg.. Nominating Committee presents the slate of officers for 2011. Speaker: Suzanne Sloane, Bromeliads. Tour of her garden in Beau Chene after the meeting. Bromeliads will be in bloom. |
| 28 | Fall Herb Festival at the Slidell Library Herb Garden, 1-4 p.m. |

October, 2010

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| 20 | 10:00 a.m. Plant Swap at the Fairgrounds Barn. No speaker. |
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November, 2010

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| 17 | 10:00 a.m. Plant Swap at the Fairgrounds Barn
Speaker: Todd Ellefion, Windmill Nursery, Folsom. |
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December, 2010

Christmas Party. Plans are being made. Stay tuned for updates.
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STMGA Directory

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Notes from the Editor:

The hottest days of the year are upon us and most of us have retreated to indoor gardening for awhile. There are two “cool” gardening events coming up, Jerry’s Fall & Winter Vegetable talks at the libraries around the parish and the Herb Gathering at the Slidell Library. Take advantage of these “gardening in the air conditioning” activities! Next month is the Slidell Library Fall Herb Festival. That means fall is just around the corner and we can get back into the garden.

*Consider this your **official reminder** to log onto the LSU AgCenter website to post your volunteer hours and continuing education hours. There are too many people not posting their hours and fulfilling their obligations as a Master Gardener. Those not in compliance by the end of the year will be facing consequences, so be forewarned. Here is a direct link to the page to post your hours:*

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

Be sure to come check out the meetings. Changes inspired by the results of the membership survey are being implemented.

Debora Litzenberger

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THE GARDENGOER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. TAMMANY MASTER
GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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