

LOUISIANA



**Master
Gardener™**

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

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THE GARDENGOER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

February, 2010



Dr. Gerard Bellanco's Home Vegetable Garden

Here's a beautiful garden created by a member of the Class of 2009. His garden rivals the gardens of all of the Garden Gurus of TV fame! Dr. Bellanco will share his gardening knowledge with our Association on February 11th at the AgCenter. He has already given two lectures at our parish libraries and is scheduled for more talks in the future. He is spreading the gardening word and quickly earning his volunteer hours. See page 9 for more on Dr. Bellanco.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey. Many similar responses were given. Several of the suggestions are being implemented or at least looked into. See everyone on Feb 17th at 10 a.m.

1-What do you like most?

Friendliness of the members and eagerness to share plant knowledge; making new friends; workshops; programs

2-Like least?

Business aspect (although necessary), long winded meetings, focus on chemical rather than natural solution to pests/diseases; talking between members while speakers have the floor; newsletter not being mailed

3-Any changes or modifications?

Not really, meetings have been well organized; have program committee announce guest speaker 3 months in advance; committees give brief update at meeting; more field trips

4-Thoughts about:

A-SNACKS AT MEETING

Unnecessary, it's lunchtime; sure; nope; on a perpetual diet; don't forget sugar-free; not necessary, only coffee and water; best at beginning or schedule a 15 min break because the meeting are so long

B-ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Very good; do we get enough candidates and credit; excellent and worthwhile

C-PLANT SHOW

Well done; well organized; continue to expand; more plants and less crafts some of which bordered on junk last year; need more pottery, ironworks and planter displays; 4H involvement; put up big tents to increase vendors and grow size; better publicity; seniors over 70 admitted free

D-DO YOU LIKE FIELD TRIPS

All for 'em; will get more members involved; should be supplemented by those going on trip; a good thing; no

E-IF LIKE FIELD TRIPS, SUGGESTED DESTINATIONS

City Park Gardens; Avery Island; private gardens around our area; Neal Odenwald's home; Burden; Plantation gardens; Lafitte in March for native iris bloom; LA house in Baton Rouge

F-TOPICS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Pot gardening; getting rid of armadillos; succulents; greenhouse gardening; roses; herbs; citrus; vegetables; dealing with bees and other stinging insects; deadheading; pruning; dividing plants (complete list sent to Glenda Nanz.

G-A PIN OR PATCH IN RECOGNITION OF 5/10 YRS SERVICE

Yes (there weren't any no's); limit to only those who have completed and recorded their volunteer hours for each year

5-Any other thoughts

-Rusty is out of pocket for MG state meet, let's pay his tuition; love the STPMG!

Frost, Freeze, Frozen or Forget it
Pruning Damaged plants
By
Rusty Batty

In January we had some unusually cold weather for South Louisiana. After nearly 6 days of below 32° and at least 3 days in the teens, we are ready for some milder winter weather. But hold on, old man winter is not through just yet. It's not uncommon for February to provide many more days of frost freeze and frozen plants. Our average last frost date is mid March.

These recent freezes have had an effect on our plants but it's a little early to severely prune or "cut it all down." Additionally, many plants weren't damaged, like trees, shrubs, ground cover and lawns. In any case no pruning of plants should be done till 7 to 10 days after a freeze. It usually takes several days for all the damage to become evident.

Other general tips on what to do following the freeze.

- For herbaceous / non woody plants (Cannas, elephant ears, begonias, impatiens and ginger) - prune away to living tissue. If it is mushy, slimy or smells, remove it.
- For woody plants (schefflera, hibiscus, angel trumpet, crotons, tibouchina) - use the thumbnail to check for green tissue.
- Move container plants back outside
- Uncover any covered plants so they can get sunlight
- Mulch over Amaryllises, crinums, irises and other bulb plantings
- Prune only what needs pruning, cut out the damaged part, and leave the living parts.

Keep in mind, the frost or freeze may have caused frozen plant damage that is beyond repair. That part of the landscape may be beyond recovery. For those plants, forget it and plant for the future.



Ditch Witchery

Often when I am stopped in traffic, (which is often!), I make a point of turning my gaze towards the natural beauty that lines the roads and byways. The yellows of Golden Rod and the lavender of Aster swaying just a few yards away soothes my growing road rage and reminds me why living in St. Tammany Parish is such a blessing. The ever changing landscape, exhibiting wild flowers blooming one day that were not just the day before, never ceases refresh and renew me.

In was in this frame of mind, that I excitedly attended the Ditch Witchery floral workshop hosted by the Flower Altar Guild at Christ Church in Covington. The title alone was enough to satisfy me but when I arrived and saw buckets full of various “ditch” flowers, plants, and okay, what some may even call weeds; and at least 30 women who apparently shared my love for road beauty, I was in heaven.



New Orleans freelance florists, Meade Wenzel and Keeth Buckley, brought *oohs* and *aahs* as they created one gorgeous arrangement after another in only a matter of a few minutes.

For her first display, Meade stuffed Magnolia leaves into a small inexpensive plastic pot to be used as the frog for the display. She placed the pot into a larger, attractive ceramic pot. Meade, stating she prefers water as a basic element in all her displays, poured water into the two pots to assist with preservation. Picking random Magnolia, Ligustrum and Nandina branches, she explained how she allows the shape of the foliage dictate the flow of the display. Each arrangement that followed was more impressive than the last; and that they were created so effortlessly, was inspiring.



The following week as I walked my dog around our subdivision pond, the easiest access I have to native flora, I gathered whatever caught my eye. I came home with a handful of Golden Rod, Aster, Trumpet Vine flowers and pods, wild blackberries and a few sticks. Just as Meade and Keeth demonstrated, I let the plants decide where they wanted to go. In just over 15 minutes, I had an arrangement that I proudly presented to my dinner hosts that evening receiving my very own *oohs* and *aahs*. I encourage all fellow “ditch flower” fans to jump right in and see what you can create with the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Submitted by Nan Balfour

LMG2010 Conference Overview

The annual state conference for the Louisiana Master Gardeners will be held in West Monroe from April 29-May 1, 2010, at the West Monroe Convention Center. Every adventure “*Through the Garden Gate*” offers new experiences that sustain the desires for more knowledge and stimulation from the world of gardening. The 2010 conference will address a wide array of interests, leaving everyone excited about continuing their journey “*Through the Garden Gate*.”

The conference is sponsored by the Northeast Louisiana and North Central Louisiana Master Gardener associations.

Our panel of instructors and speakers will include national, regional and local specialists on topics ranging from companion plantings, plant propagation, urban wildlife, native plants, hands-on projects, gardening history, wine making and much more. The conference will consist of five breakout sessions, each consisting of four classroom educational programs and one hands-on demonstration. Complementing the sessions will be our keynote speakers: **Joe Lamp’l**, host of two national television shows: GardenSMART on PBS and DIY Network’s Fresh from the Garden; **Dan Gill**, LSU AgCenter horticulturist, author and media personality; **Jenny Rose Carey**, director of the Landscape Arboretum on the Temple University Ambler Campus and adjunct professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

The conference will also offer educational displays, garden products and plant vendors, two socials, a silent auction, Master Gardener store and an opportunity to visit the Biedenharn Museum and Gardens and the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum. The ELsong garden is referred to as “Best Garden You’ve Never Heard of” by *Southern Living*, July 2009. Visit the Web sites www.bmuseum.org and www.biedenharncoca-colamuseum.com for a preview.

The conference is open to all Louisiana Master Gardeners and their guests. **Early Registration fee for the conference is \$110. After March 31, 2010, the fee is \$150.** Conference registration includes all educational programs, conference meals (excluding breakfast at motels), hospitality refreshments, vendor/exhibit area and socials (Thursday, Welcoming/Exhibitor and Friday, Ki-rola Park Fish Fry and Entertainment).

To register and learn more about LMG2010, please explore our Web site. Please contact Steven Hotard at 318-323-2251 or e-mail if you have additional questions.

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/LMG+State+Conference/





GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES

Food Focused Home Gardening

**St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners
in conjunction with the LSU AgCenter**

Invite you to attend a seminar
Wednesday February 24, 2010
9:00am to 3:00pm
(Check-In begins at 8:30am)

**Greater Covington Center
Bogue Falaya Room, 317 N. Jefferson Ave. Covington, La**

Topics will include:

Citrus: Orange You Glad You Can Grow It
Home Gardens Preparation and Management
Vegetable Gardening for Beginners
Blueberries for St. Tammany Parish
Fresh Food: Storing and Preserving



As an added bonus: Table Clinics with various topics of interest to the fruit and vegetable gardener

Registration Fee of \$20 per person is due by 2/12/10 - Lunch Included (Space is Limited)

Registration deadline 2/12/10.

Make checks payable to: STMG

Mail to: STMG, Grow Your Own Groceries Seminar c/o LSU AgCenter, P.O. Box 5438, Covington, La 70434

For further information contact: LSU AgCenter at 985-875-2635

Name: _____
(Please Print)

Additional Attendees: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address for confirmation: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed (\$20 per person/nonrefundable): _____

NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW

MARCH 20th & 21st

St. Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington

9am – 4pm

**Adults – \$3.00
Under 12 – FREE**



NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW

March 20th and 21st - St. Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington

| Saturday | Topic | Presenter |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10 am | Rose Care and Maintenance | Patrick Youngblood |
| 11 am | Deer Resistant Landscaping | Dr. Don Reed |
| 12 noon | Colorful and Evergreen Plants | Dan Gill |
| 1 pm | Bad or Beneficial Bugs | Russell Harris |
| 2 pm | Weeds in Southern Lawns | Dr. Ron Strahan |

| Sunday | Topic | Presenter |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10 am | Worming your way to Compost | Linda Rowe |
| 11 am | Frugal Gardening | Don Lefevre |
| 12 noon | Poison Ivy, Detection and Prevention | Pam Twardzik |
| 1 pm | Top Ten Vegetable Insects | Dr. Alan Morgan |
| 2 pm | Top Ten Vegetables to Grow | Dr. Kiki Fontenot |

January Meeting Highlights



Pam Keating, Membership Chairman, and the beautiful door prizes won by Barbara Griggs and Julie Deus.



New Officers at their first meeting. Dianne Ramirez, Treasurer; Glenda Nanz, Vice President; Nancy Berulis, Secretary; Art Scott, President



Julie Deus discussed the upcoming "Grow Your Own Groceries" seminar.



Art Scott, President, ran the meeting like a pro.



Leslie Landeche discussed the Slidell Memorial Rehab Garden



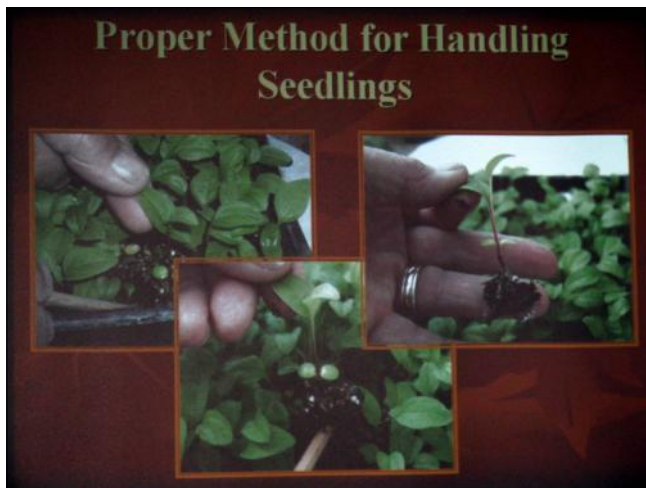
Paul Benham of Pretty Trees Nursery talked about root pruning and the new root pruning containers he uses at the nursery.



Master Gardener Volunteer in Action



Dr. Gerard Bellanco, Class of 2009, presented an informative and interesting lecture, "Growing Spring Vegetables from Seed" at the Folsom Library on January 15. He discussed why we should grow from seed, seed selection, germination, whether to grow inside or outside, germination media and environment, proper lighting, row preparation and transplanting seedlings. He also gave this lecture at the Slidell Library. Both sessions were well attended and appreciated. Dr. Bellanco will be presenting this topic to our Master Gardeners on February 11 at 11 a.m. at the AgCenter.

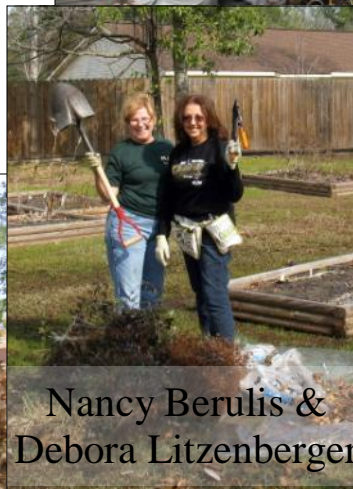


Slidell Library Herb Demonstration Garden

Master Gardener volunteers for the **Slidell Library Herb Demonstration Garden** met at the garden on February 1 at 10:00 am to discuss a possible spring demonstration for the public. A cleanup of the garden after the hard freeze plus re-planting a tree was accomplished.

Anyone interested in joining our group to maintain this demonstration garden and be part of the spring public demo are asked to call Betty Rose at 985-863-3418 to find out how you can participate. New graduates are welcome!"

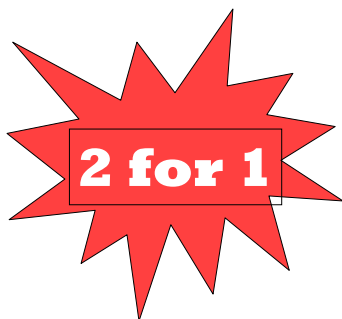
Thank you,
Betty Rose



Volunteer News

From
Judy Wood

Before we know it the annual **Northshore Garden Show and Plant Sale** will be here. It is held the weekend of Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21. If you have not indicated when you would like to volunteer, there is still the opportunity to sign up. Shifts both days are from 8 a.m. until noon and noon until 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to earn a large portion of your required volunteer hours for 2010. It's also fun! Your volunteer help is needed for this event to be a success. Our organization depends on this event for the majority of our yearly operating funds and to endow the Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship Fund. To sign up, please contact Judy Wood at jazzwood@charter.net.



Volunteer hours for PARKING at the Plant Show!

Education Credits:

If you attended the January meeting and stayed for the guest speaker, Paul Benham of Pretty Trees Nursery, *you earned .5 education credits*. Be sure to login to the LSU AgCenter to report your educational credit. Everyone except the Class of 2009 needs 6 educational hours per year to remain in good standing.

AGENDA for February 17, 2010 General Meeting

- 1-Call to order & report quorum present**
- 2-Opening ceremonies**
- 3-Minutes from previous meeting**
- 4-Officer's reports**
 - President - Art
 - Treasurer - Dianne
- 5-Committee Reports**
 - Spring Seminar – Julie – Grow Your Own Groceries
- 6-Project Coordinator Reports**
- 7- Comments by Rusty (County Agent/ MG Adviser)**
- 8- Unfinished business**
- 9- New Business**
- 10- Announcements**
- 11- Program – Camellias – Bob Stroud, Class of '09**
- 12- Adjournment**

If you want to place an item on the agenda, please let Nancy Berulis, our recording secretary, know by the Thursday before the meeting. (phone: 643-8813 or email: nberulis@bellsouth.net)

February, 2010

- 11 11:00 a.m. Presentation by Dr. Gerard Bellanco, "Growing Spring Vegetables from Seed" at the AgCenter. Call the AgCenter office to register.
- 17 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. Bob Stroud will speak on camellias then a tour of his garden after the meeting. NO PLANT SALE MEETING TODAY. RESCHEDULED to Feb.22.
- 19 "Spring & Summer Vegetable Garden Maintenance & Harvest", Lecture by Dr. Gerard Bellanco, Folsom Library,
11 a.m.- noon, call to register 985-796-9728
- 21 Camellia Garden Stroll, 1-4 p.m., Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy (Hwy 1067), free admission, also camellia plant sale.
- 22 9:00 a.m. Plant Sale meeting, AgCenter,
- 24 **Grow Your Own Groceries**, a seminar hosted by the class of 2009. Julie Deus is Chair. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost is \$20.00. Must pre-register by Feb 12. *See page 6*

March, 2010

- 17 9:00 a.m. Plant Sale meeting at the National Guard Bldg.
10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at National Guard Bldg.. Rod Downie will present a slideshow on Pine Island.
- 19 Set-up for the Plant Sale at the Fairgrounds. Committee chairmen and designated volunteers.
- 20 & 21 Northshore Garden Show, , 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
St. Tammany Parish Fairgrounds, Covington, LA *See page 7*

April, 2010

- TBA* Pine Island tour. Date and time to be announced later.
- 21 Plant Swap at the Fairgrounds big barn, 10:00 a.m.
- TBA* Slidell Library Herb Garden Committee will host a Spring Herb Festival

May, 2010

- 7 Open House exclusively for all Louisiana Master Gardeners at the LSU AgCenter Experiment Station, Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 9 a.m. until 12 noon
- 18 10 a.m. Monthly meeting with guest speaker, Lynette Westfarms, on rust resistant daylilies. Presentation of Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarships. Potluck.

STMGA Directory

PRESIDENT:

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796-5878
folsomart@bellsouth.net

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OTIS HOUSE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

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adurel@bellsouth.net

Notes from the Editor:

*It is hard to think about gardening with the WHO DAT NATION going crazy over the Saints and with Carnival season in high gear. If anyone does have the inclination to garden in the midst of all of this madness, you can do a few things to help our organization. One, pot up some plants or propagate some cuttings of your plants for the Master Gardener booth at the Northshore Garden Show in March. You will also need plants to trade come April when we have our plant swap. Most of us will need to replenish a lot of plants due to the freezing temperatures we had in January. Two, you can volunteer your time to one of our garden projects, like the Slidell Library Herb Garden. They are planning a Spring Herb Festival in April and will need to get the herb garden ready. Contact Betty Rose if you would like to volunteer. **Please save your 1/2 gallon cardboard juice and milk containers for a children's activity at the Spring Herb Festival. Be sure to leave the caps on. Please drop off at the Master Gardener meetings on Feb. 17 or on March 17.***

On a somber note, our deepest condolences go out to Linda Franzo. Her mother, Nancy DeLeonardis, passed away in December. Please remember Linda in your prayers.

Gardening articles and photos of events are needed! Earn volunteer hours for the time it takes you to write an article on a favorite subject or on a subject you would like to learn more about.

February is a short month, so the deadline to submit articles for the March newsletter will be the 25th.

Debora Litzenberger
dklitz@charter.net



THE GARDENGOER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Cooperative Extension Service

St. Tammany Parish

1301 N. Florida Street

Covington, LA 70433

Phone: 985-875-2635 (Covington)

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mastergardener/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/)