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Gardener™

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THE GARDENGOER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

January, 2010

OFFICERS FOR 2010



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Nancy Berulis, Secretary; Dianne Ramirez, Treasurer;
Glenda Nanz, Vice President; Art Scott, President

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www.lsuagcenter.com

GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR NEW OFFICERS

ART SCOTT, PRESIDENT

For most of the past 40 years, I have had a vegetable garden. Some years were more productive than others.

I slowly began to try a few herbs. Now, I have a small garden devoted exclusively to herbs including rosemary, oregano, thyme, lemon balm, basil, fennel, dill, parsley, cilantro, and Mexican tarragon as regulars, plus a few new (for me) experimental ones each year depending on the season. I also enjoy growing and using edible flowers.

Until we moved to Folsom from the south shore after Katrina in early 2006, I was mostly interested in growing stuff that produced something we could eat. Now, with 5 acres, I am also going for plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. As my garden and horticultural interest grew, I signed up for the 2008 St. Tammany Master Gardening class.

Two years ago we began to share our veggies with the food bank in Covington. We hope to expand the vegetable garden this year and provide a little more to them.

I enjoy spending most of my time outdoors and have planted some fruit and nut trees and have included two bee hives in my garden to increase production. I've been interested in photography for many years and in April of 2009 I bought a lathe and began wood turning.

Liz (aka Modine Gunch of *New Orleans Magazine*) and I have six children (4 daughters and 2 sons) and 13 ½ grandchildren. Our oldest daughter lives in New Orleans, one son lives in Slidell, the second son is in Mandeville (movie critic for the Times-Picayune), a daughter in northern Michigan, another in Indiana and one in California. They all enjoy getting their fresh honey from our hives. In California they added some honey to mashed potatoes and said it was delicious. We'll have to try that.

Art Scott



GLENDANANZ, VICE PRESIDENT

Glenda is a retired librarian from St. Tammany Public Schools with a Master's Degree in Education. She is also a retired homebuilder. She has lived in Mandeville for 25 years. The oil bust in Houston brought her here. She and her husband, Don, has built over 450 homes in Mandeville, some of which she personally landscaped. Glenda has a daughter, Kim, who is a nurse at Fairway Medical in Mandeville.

Glenda is a member of the Master Gardener class of 2000. She says, "I enjoy field trips, the spring plant sale and all of the friends I have made in the STMGA. I got interested in gardening when I landscaped the homes we built." Her special interests include landscape design and hummingbirds.



DIANNE RAMIREZ, TREASURER

Dianne is a retired educator of 32 years. Her specialties were business, English and guidance counseling with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. She married Adolfo Ramirez 41 years ago and has one surviving child, a daughter who lives in Atlanta with her husband and two year old son. Dianne was born in Texas, raised in Springhill, LA and has lived in New Orleans, Metairie, Marksville, and for the last 24 years, in Mandeville.



She loves to maintain her yard so that it is a pleasure to enjoy all year long. She is especially fond of plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. She inherited her "green thumb" from her mother and grandmother. She says, "As a small child I would wander around my maternal grandmother's yard and marvel at all of the plants and flowers she had accumulated over the years. Now, my mother and I share a love of gardening which provides a great source of conversations for us. Since retirement I have been able to devote more time to this hobby. After completing the Master Gardener course in 2003, I realize how little I really know!" Her favorite Master Gardener activity is the Spring Plant Show. "It is so amazing to see how everything comes together and to see the cooperative spirit among the Master Gardener members."

NANCY BERULIS, SECRETARY

I have accepted the role of secretary with much trepidation. The improvement of my listening skills should be substantial!

I was born in Washington, DC and raised in the Maryland suburbs. As the daughter of an avid gardener, I started weeding and planting at a very young age. Since graduating from nursing school in 1977, I have lived in many different planting zones, the longest being in subtropical Clearwater, Florida. I still nurture Bromeliads, a ponytail palm and a stag horn fern from there even though we have moved twice since then. Yes, I get attached to my plants, both indoors and out.

Jim and I have been married for 27 years and have two sons. My husband is very tolerant of my "collections" of plants and rocks. He works for a yacht building company and we have been in Slidell for 9 years.



I retired from nursing two years ago and work part time with my good friend and neighbor, Paula Guidiatis. She owns a small landscaping company with multiple clients in the French Quarter. I love planting annuals and maintaining the balconies and courtyards. The subtropical climate is right up my alley! She has been a wonderful mentor for me.

In Slidell, we have an acre of land on a small bayou which is lovingly being replanted to meet the now sunny growing conditions. I also enjoy service work and have started a community garden in our subdivision. We have two raised beds on a vacant lot and our first winter crop is doing quite well. The herb garden at the Slidell library is also an avenue of learning for me.

I graduated in the 2007 class of Master Gardeners with the goal of sharing my knowledge and love of the outdoors with others. I look forward to meeting new friends and learning new skills in the New Year.

Nancy Berulis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good news. After all of our activities (\$20,341.31 spent through 15 Oct 09) including the scholarships, the bus trip, the subscriptions, garden books, and additions to the library plus all other expenses, we have added over \$500 to our checking account. This does not include the dues collected in November and December.

Our bank accounts total **over \$20,000**, which is approaching the amount that would result in the IRS taking a look at our organization.

The report of the Finance Committee (*page 9*) gives us a better handle on how many disposable dollars we have. We will want to keep some funds in reserve just in case our major income generating event (The Plant Show) has reduced attendance due to the weather, but there will be **several thousand we need to consider spending**.

Another item on the agenda under Unfinished Business will be the **Scholarship Committee's recommendations**, presented at the November meeting with action postponed to January since our December meeting was a social. The specific motion is included in this issue of **The Gardengoer** under AGENDA (*page 8*).

You'll find a **Membership Survey** in this issue of our newsletter (*page 10*) pertaining to what changes, if any, you would like to see in our organization. It isn't necessary to answer each one. You can print them or just send me your comments / feelings by email or through the post office. Your responses will give the board an idea of your concerns and let us know if we are on course for the majority of the members. (email to: folsomart@bellsouth.net or regular mail to me at **300 Orleans Avenue / Folsom 70437**).

With your board's approval, one new committee, one new project and an advisory position have been formed.

The **Hospitality Committee** will be charged with planning all of the social activities for the general membership including the Christmas Party, the May pot-luck, the snacks for our general meetings plus send out get well and sympathy cards. Let me know if you would like to serve on this new committee.

The **Lacombe Butterfly Garden Project** is on the grounds of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Lacombe Centre. Denise Stearns is the chair. To volunteer contact her at 2stearns2@charter.net or by phone at 757-846-4760.

Last year we had two seminars. Both returned a nice profit. Judy Wood has agreed to serve as **Workshop Adviser**. This resource position will provide continuity for our seminars so we won't have to reinvent the wheel as each event is planned.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on January 20th.

Art Scott

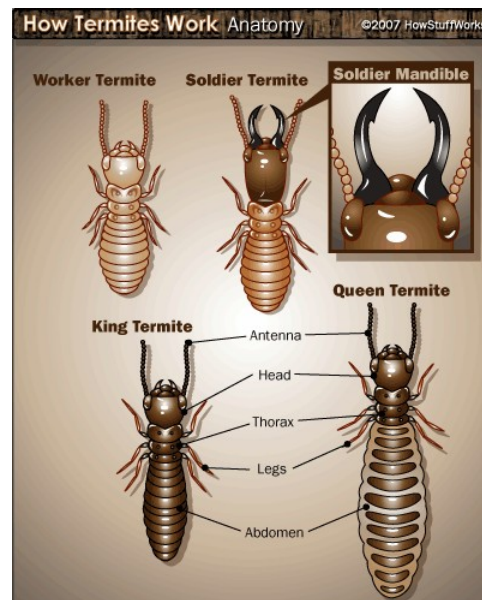
folsomart@bellsouth.net

Planting Tips on Avoiding Termites

by
Rusty Batty

As you may remember, December, January, and February are your best months to plant trees, shrubs and ground cover. As you begin to ponder where to put your new plants be cautious of creating termite habitat around your home. Keep these tips in mind to reduce termite problems.

- Situate gutters and slope your landscape beds so water drains away from your house.
- Keep mulch in beds adjacent to the house about 12 inches from the foundation.
- Do not add fill dirt or garden soil around the foundation or under porches or steps without contacting your termite company for retreatment.
- Do not disturb the chemical barrier at the base of the slab or around pilings by digging into it during bed preparation.
- Promptly remove all scrap wood and wooden debris from the landscape.
- Pine straw appears to be the mulch that is least attractive to termites. Avoid using wood chips to mulch beds adjacent to the house or other structures.
- Use metal edging, decorative bricks or border plants to edge your beds. Avoid landscape timbers, railroad ties or other wooden materials that may serve as food for termites.
- When watering, avoid spraying water against the foundation of your house.
- Leave at least 2 inches of space between your house and a deck or other wooden structure outside. Build decks and other structures on concrete pads and treat around the pads and posts.
- Do not allow clinging vines, such as English ivy or creeping fig, to grow on the wall of your house.



SLIDELL MEMORIAL REHAB GARDEN

For a number of years, there has been a small but fulfilling garden project at Slidell Memorial Hospital. Tucked in the corner of 2 buildings is the “Rehab Garden.” There you will find a small in-ground garden, a large arbor, 2 large potting tables, tables and chairs for eating and relaxing, and a variety of container plants.

When I began volunteering at SMH following my graduation from the MG Class of 2003, there were a number of very experienced and knowledgeable Master Gardeners who arrived weekly to care for plants, work with patients and share their expertise with one another. Most of these gardeners lived near the lake, lost their homes following Hurricane Katrina, moved away or became absorbed with the rebuilding of their lives. That left me, the least experienced of us all, to continue the work in the garden.

Since Katrina, repairs have been made, a few volunteers have come and gone and the garden has survived. Through the changes in staff at the hospital, there have been a few who have seen to the survival of the project. Not only has it survived, but it has thrived under the guidance of a therapist who knew nothing about plants when I first met her. On a number of occasions, I have heard from patients and families how important and comforting the garden has been to them. It is wonderful to know that this small garden is a sanctuary for people during difficult times.



As with any garden, there is always work to be done. There are also many opportunities for further development of the project. To keep the “Rehab Garden” going, volunteers are needed. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact me at

(985)639-9963 or
rocknlou@bellsouth.net.



Leslie Landeche

AGENDA for January 20, 2010 General Meeting

145 members X 15% = 22 members for quorum
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1-Call to order & report quorum present

2-Opening ceremonies

3-Minutes from previous meeting

4-Officer's reports

- President - Art Scott
- Treasurer - Dianne Ramirez

5-Committee Reports

- Program Committee – Glenda Nanz
- Plant Show - AJ
- Spring Seminar – Julie Deus – *Grow Your Own Groceries*

6-Project Coordinator Reports

- Slidell Rehab Garden – Leslie Landeche
- Lacombe Butterfly Garden – Denise Stearns
- Fairview Riverside-Otis House Butterfly Garden -- Ann Durel

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

8- Unfinished business

- Finance Committee – (spending down our excess funds) – Chair - Dianne (*see Financial Report pg 9*)
 - Motion to reserve \$14,200 for 2010 allocations (\$5,500 = Plant Sale expenses/ 4,000 Scholarships/ 2,200 Workshop expenses / 1,500 Offsite Seminar/Educational tour for members/ 500 reference books for MG library/ 500 seed money for state MG conference)
 - Motion to donate \$500 to Dr. Owings research
 - Motion to donate \$500 to Hammond Research Station
 - floor will be opened for additional ideas for spending down our excess
- Scholarship Committee –(The motion is in four parts.) – Chair - Brenda Caston
 - 1- That we give two scholarships for attendance at a Louisiana University or College in the field of horticulture or agriculture. One going to a student entering a traditional 4 year college program of study (with emphasis on the LSU program) and one going to a student entering a Community College for a two year Associate Degree Program.
 - 2- The scholarship for the traditional 4 year program will be \$2,000, and \$1,000 for a 2 year program. All will be \$250 per semester, renewable for the subsequent semesters of college provided specified requirements are met.
 - 3- The requirements being that the student provide official verification that they a) carry enough hours to remain a full-time student, b) maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average and c) submit a letter or statement from their adviser indicating that they are making progress in their stated field.
 - 4- The first \$250.00 check made out to the University or College will be given at the May MG meeting and the remaining checks, also made out to the University or College, will be issued when required verification is received by the scholarship committee.

9- New Business

10- Announcements

11- Program—Root Development — Pretty Trees Nursery —Paul Benham

12- Adjournment

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

MG Finance Committee Report:

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. Those in attendance were Rusty Batty, A.J. Heinsz-Bailey, Art Scott and all members of the committee. Committee members were Dianne Ramirez (Treasurer), Brenda Caston, Debi Bowman, Ron Trupp, Lisann Cheaney, and Deborah Turton.

The net worth of the MG organization as of 10/15/2009 was \$19,482.93. (The Association Fund has \$5,690.70 and the Plant/Garden Show Fund has \$13,792.23.)

The committee unanimously agreed to let the two Certificates of Deposit be automatically renewed with Capital One Bank.

Members discussed whether we should pursue IRS Non-Profit status. It was agreed that since the organization had an income of less than \$25,000 for the first ten months of 2009, we would not pursue this process at this time. (Our income from 1/1/2009 through 10/15/2009 was \$20,865.83.)

Members discussed and proposed the following allocations for budgeting purposes (with the idea in mind that these amounts may need to be changed as the year 2010 progresses).

\$5,500	Plant sale expenses
4,000	Scholarships
2,200	Workshop expenses and Speakers
1,500	Offsite Seminar/Educational Tour for members
500	Reference books for MG Library
500	Seed money for State MG Conference
\$14,200	Total Proposed Budget Allocations

The committee agreed to donate money to the Hammond Research Center and also to Dr. Allen Owings for research projects. The amount of the donations would be brought before the association members. (The finance committee members suggested \$500 for each donation.)

Dianne Ramirez

STPMG Membership Survey

What do you like most about our organization?

What do you like least?

Are there any changes or modifications you would like to see made?

What are your thoughts about the following subjects:

- Snacks being served after our monthly meeting for a brief social?
- The annual scholarship(s) awarded from the profits of the Plant Show?
- The Plant Show? Any changes?
- Field trips funded by the organization for the members?
- If you like the idea of field trips, do you have any destination suggestions?
- What topics/speakers would you like for our monthly meetings?
- A pin (to be placed on hat, shirt or stuck to nametag) or patch in recognition for 5 and 10 years of service as a Master Gardener?

Any other thoughts?

Return to me by email: folsomart@bellsouth.net or regular mail:

Art Scott
300 Orleans Avenue
Folsom, LA 70437

CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP



Rusty presents A.J. with an engraved silver tray commemorating her 9 years of service to the St. Tammany Master Gardeners Association.

Many thanks to the hard-working Christmas party committee: Judy Wood, Joan Gagliano, Debi Bowman, Kathy Magee and Glenda Nanz. They did an outstanding job! The party was a huge success!



Outgoing President A.J. Heinsz-Bailey presents our new President, Art Scott, with a bucket of tools and seeds to “grow” the Master Gardener Association.



Volunteers Needed

The annual **Northshore Garden Show and Plant Sale** will be held Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21. 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.

For the new members out there, here is what last year's **Plant Sale** looked like:



January, 2010

- 8 **Growing Spring Vegetables from Seeds**, talk by Dr. Gerard Ballanco, MG Class of 2009. Folsom Branch Library. 11a.m.-noon. Visit or call 985-796-9728 to register. More info at www.sttammany.lib.la.us .

- 16 **Growing Spring Vegetables from Seeds**, talk by Dr. Gerard Ballanco, MG Class of 2009. Slidell branch library. 11a.m.-noon. Visit or call 985-646-6470 to register. More info @ www.sttammany.lib.la.us .

- 20 9:00 a.m. Plant Sale meeting at the National Guard meeting room.
 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting follows Plant Sale meeting.

February, 2010

- 17 9:00 a.m. Plant Sale meeting at the National Guard meeting room.
 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting follows Plant Sale meeting.

- 24 **Grow Your Own Groceries**, a workshop hosted by the class of 2009. Julie Deus is Chair. More information to follow.
 Save the date!

March, 2010

- 17 9:00 a.m. Plant Sale meeting at the National Guard meeting room.
 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard meeting room.

- 19 Set-up for the Plant Sale at the Fairgrounds. Committee chairmen and designated volunteers.

- 20 & 21 Northshore Garden Show & Plant Sale
 St. Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington, LA
 Mark your calendars!

STMGA Directory

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Notes from the Editor:

The forecasters say we are in for a cold, wet winter. We gardeners are left to peruse gardening catalogs and dream of warm, sunny days, spring planting, May flowers and June tomatoes. During these indoor days, remember that you can earn volunteer hours right in the comfort of your home by writing a article on your favorite gardening topic or reviewing a gardening lecture you have attended. Please send in your photos of Master Gardener events, event notices and volunteer needs for garden projects. I prefer submissions to be sent by email. Remember, the deadline to submit articles for the newsletter is the 28th of each month, except February. The deadline for that short month will be the 25th.

Happy New Year!

Debora Litzenberger
dklitz@charter.net



THE GARDENGOER

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

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