

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 7

July, 2010



MASTER GARDENER TOUR OF AUDUBON ZOO AND LONGUE VUE HOUSE AND GARDENS

On June 17, forty-one members of the STPMGs boarded a CALCO tour bus and headed for New Orleans. The first stop was the Audubon Zoo, where we were given a brief history of the zoo landscaping then a walking tour behind the scenes. We saw an enrichment garden for the animals as well as the composting area at the zoo. After enjoying a box lunch under the live oaks, we were back on the bus. We were given an impromptu bus tour of the French Quarter by our own tour guide, Merle Mulkey. She really knows New Orleans history. At Longue Vue, we were given a tour of the historic house and a tour of the many gardens on the property. Those in attendance, *in no particular order*, were: Rusty and Robin Batty, Betty LaGraize, Merle Mulkey, Pattie McGinnis, Joan Gagliano, Julie Deus, Barbara Moore, Maryann Brannan, Barbara Griggs, Marie Porche, Gaynell Molinet, Glenda Spano, Barbara Blaga, Camille and Moe Schwandt, D'Wanna Hanes, Dianne Ramirez, Pam and Terry Keating, Lisann Cheaney, Debbie Rice, Glenda and Don Nanz, Joe Kieff, Jean Claire Cleveland, Betty and Jay Rose, Debora Litzenberger, Art and Liz Scott, Janice Roussel, Chere Currault, A.J. Heinsz-Bailey, Pat and Tom Cuccia, John and Debbie Mendow, Deborah Fournet, Francis Thigpen, and Gerri Sommers.

And a good time was had by all... ‘

Views from the Audubon Zoo and Longue Vue Tour



Longue Vue House and Gardens



Pam Keating & Jean the Elephant



D'Wanna Hanes & Jean the Elephant



The Enrichment Garden at Audubon Zoo



Hillary Clark, Docent, at Longue Vue



The end of a good day! Hot, tired and happy!

President's Message

Your response to the survey included in this issue of The Gardengoer will determine how we will run our organization for the foreseeable future. I've addressed a few of the questions below.

Would you rather be involved in the decisions regarding our organization or do you feel comfortable delegating this to a few selected members who promise to ***'act in the best interest of the organization'***?

There were two factions at work in the bylaws committee as they prepared the survey. Some members wanted an open and transparent organization, while others wanted the decisions made by a few.

This is the crux of the problem. Here are two opposing views and both groups feel they are acting in your best interest. Which side represents the majority of our members? Conflicting views are to be expected in any organization. Robert's Rules allows for all sides to be heard before an orderly decision is made based on what the majority wants.

These concerns are addressed in the survey's question about the duties of the Board of Directors.

Our meetings have been running just short of two hours. Another question gives you the opportunity to list what you feel would be an ideal meeting length.

Are the educational portions of the meeting important to you? If you live in Slidell, Pearl River or Lacombe, would you travel across the parish for an hour-long meeting without a program knowing that your round-trip travel time would probably be longer than time spent in the meeting?

Your officers and committee chairs spend quite a few hours each month handling administrative aspects of our organization. For example, your editor spends over **13 hours** a month preparing your newsletter. Please take the time to fill out and return the survey.

Thanks.

Art

folsomart@bellsouth.net (985) 796-5878

The Sunny Side of Gardening

By
Rusty Batty

If you are new to south Louisiana, welcome to our warm summer season of high humidity, high temperatures and high electrical bills. If you are a long time resident of the area, welcome to our summer season with cool shaded areas, cold sweet tea and cold watermelon. Like most things in life, especially our summer weather, it's just a matter of perspective. As you attempt to garden in this July heat keep all your gardening needs and wants in check.

- Drink lots of water. Gardeners working in their lawns and landscape may lose up to 2 quarts of water per hour. Drink water before, during and after your gardening chores. Water for you and your plants keeps everybody happy.
- Wear loose clothing, broad brim hats and sunscreen as part of your gardening attire. If you're gonna' be in one spot for a time, consider setting up your beach umbrella for shade. Shade can provide 10° - 15° difference in temperature.
- Work early morning and late afternoon and take frequent breaks to help to make the summer gardening more tolerable. Work a while - sit and think a while, are good tips anytime of the year.

This is only July
It's only gonna' get hotter
Summer's just starting
So drink plenty of "wotter."

My rhyming attempt shows I've already been in the sun too long! Look at the sunny side of gardening.



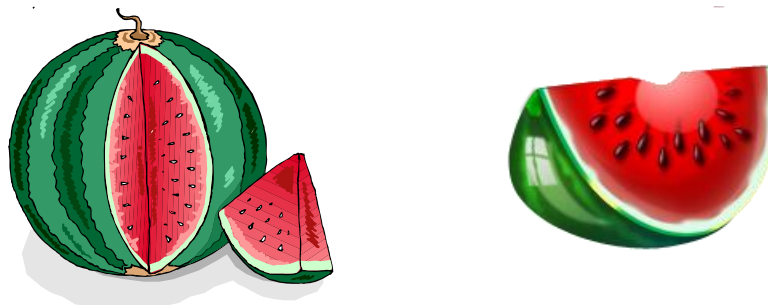
In the Garden with a.j.

July is swiftly approaching. This past week has been a blur. I am now on the trail for the perfect watermelon. It started about 2 weeks ago. I was working in the hot, humid, and weed filled section of my garden (whole garden). I sat in my plastic chair with the towel and ice water bottle soaking wet and sticking to everything when it hit me. WATERMELON!!!!!! Some ice cold watermelon would hit the spot and quench the summer thirst. I called my usual source, no melons. I called all of the gardening friends, no melons. I checked the local truck vendors, Alabama melons (no good). I asked at the feed store, no melons. Just as it seemed I was doomed to buy an overpriced, substandard store melon, I had a nibble on the library grapevine. I researched the phone number and made the call, no melons. A week into my search, I stopped to help a friend. She had mush melons and cantaloupes that were bursting open in the field. The aroma was intoxicating but no watermelons. The next day I shared the bounty. Smiles from co-workers were the first of a long list of exchanges that were to occur involving the cantaloupes. I received a torenia and peaches from gardening friends. As I stopped by more friends on the way home, I was gifted with corn, blueberries, and cucumbers. A kiss and a hug from a senior friend and finally I entered my own driveway, the cantaloupes all distributed. As you might have guessed, I do not eat cantaloupes or mush melons. It had been a very long rewarding day. Gardeners are truly the most wonderful people in the world. We exchanged more than produce that day. I walked up the driveway slowly and as I started up the steps I noticed the most beautiful watermelon sitting next to my door on the porch. It had a heart painted on one side and no note. I took my present inside and feasted. After the initial thirst was quenched, I cleaned and put the rest in the fridge. The rinds went to the chickens who were just as thrilled as I was to finally quench the summer thirst with a locally grown WATERMELON!!!!!!

Now is the time to plant sweet potato slips and replant green onions. Okra and eggplant and Rattlesnake green beans are the only survivors in July's garden.

Until the sticky weather dries up and cools off, I will be arm chair gardening until September.

Waiting to be back in the garden. aj



By-Laws Committee Survey

The By-laws Committee is seeking input from the membership regarding monthly general Master Gardener meetings. Please copy and paste this survey to an email, **highlight/underline/embolden** or fill in the blank with the appropriate responses, include comments or suggestions and email to jazzwood@charter.net. If you wish, you may print the survey and send via US Mail to Judy Wood, Post Office Box 2027, Lacombe, LA 70445. It would be helpful if we received your opinion by July 9.

Your responses will be kept anonymous unless you choose to identify yourself by including your name on this document.

1. Are you comfortable with the present way STPMG handles business and would like for it to remain that way?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. What would be the ideal length of a monthly Master Gardener membership meeting including the speaker/education program?

- A. 1 hour
B. 1 ½ hour
C. 2 hours
D. Other (Please explain)

3. Rank, in order of importance to you – 1 being most important, 8 being least important – these agenda items that are included in monthly general membership meetings:

- A. _____ Officer's reports
B. _____ Committee chair reports
C. _____ Project coordinator reports
D. _____ New business discussions
E. _____ Unfinished business discussions
F. _____ County agent comments
G. _____ Educational programs
H. _____ Other (Please explain)

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.

- A. _____ Plant Swap
B. _____ Scholarship Awards
C. _____ Tomato Tasting Awards
D. _____ Officer Nominations
E. _____ Officer Elections
F. _____ New Officer Presentations
G. _____ Christmas Party
H. _____ Annual Field Trip
I. _____ Northshore Plant Sale

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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:
- A. Monthly
 - B. Every other month
 - C. Quarterly
 - D. Three times a year
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? Select all that apply.
- A. Financial obligations that are under a given monetary threshold.
 - B. Emergency decisions that cannot wait for a general membership vote.
 - C. Monthly budget and financial review.
 - D. Review monthly reports from committee chairmen and provide guidance as required.
 - E. Screen all new business requests and ideas prior to inclusion on a meeting agenda.
 - F. Other (Please explain)
- 7.. As a general rule, how many monthly meetings do you attend on an average annual basis?
- A. 10 – 12 times
 - B. 7 – 9 times
 - C. 4 – 6 times
 - D. 1 – 3 times
 - E. Unable to attend
8. If you do not attend monthly meetings on a regular basis, please provide comments or suggestions that would help improve your attendance.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

At the June meeting, Art Scott announced the formation of the Nominating Committee. The members of the committee are: Dianne Ramirez, Chairman, Betty Rose, and Debora Litzenberger. The committee is charged with presenting a slate of officers for 2011 at the September meeting. Voting will take place in November.

This committee has met to discuss possible nominees. We would appreciate your input on this issue. If you are interested in serving the organization in any capacity and would like to be considered for nomination, please contact one of the committee members with your interest and questions. Serving in office will ensure earning those required volunteer hours! If there is someone you believe would be an excellent officer, please nominate them. Please refer to the STPMG By-Laws excerpt below for specific information on the duties of each officer.

Please help us present the best possible slate of candidates by giving us your feedback on this issue before July 12.

Dianne Ramirez, Chairman, adram@bellsouth.net

Betty Rose, bettyrose@charter.net

Debora Litzenberger, dklitz@charter.net

Below is an excerpt from the STPMG By-Laws concerning the duties of elected officers:

Article VII. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall:

- Preside at all meetings of this Association and the Board of Directors.
- Execute all written instruments, including signing of checks in the absence of the Treasurer, in the name of this Association when directed by the Board of Directors or by the membership.
- Appoint, with concurrence of the Board of Directors the committee chairmen, a parliamentarian, and an editor of The Gardengoer, the official publication of the STPMG.
- Turn over to the incoming president, a complete set of all records and communications pertaining to the affairs of this Association.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall:

- Assume the President's duties when necessary.
- Chair the Program Committee.
- Give all records to the incoming Vice-President.

Section 3 The Secretary shall:

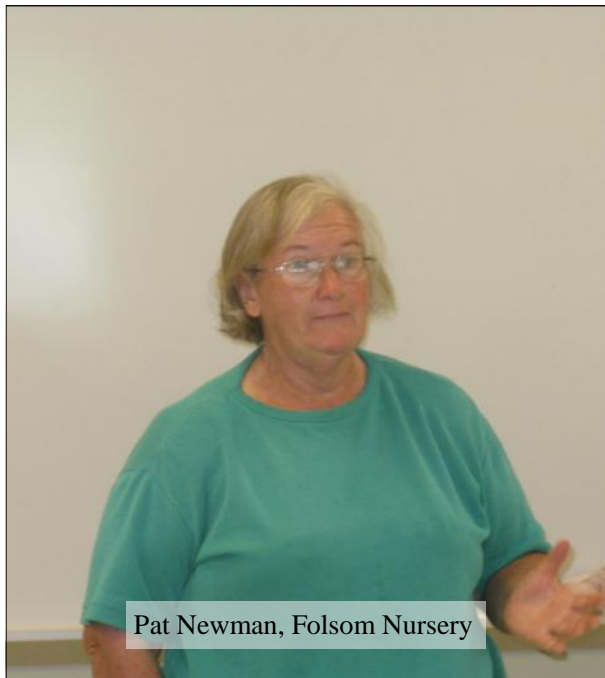
- Keep minutes of all general, Board of Director, and Northshore Garden Show meetings.
- Conduct correspondence as directed by the President.
- Give the incoming secretary a complete record of the minutes and correspondence.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- Collect dues from members and maintain a current list of those who have paid.
- Collect proceeds from association activities,
- Deposit monies on the STPMG account at a local bank.
- Chair the Finance Committee
- Disperse monies as directed by the Board of Directors and according to the financial obligations of the organization as voted by the general membership.
- Present a fiscal report at each meeting and provide a copy to the secretary to be filed with the minutes.
- Give the incoming treasurer all financial papers and records.

June Meeting Recap

Tomato tasting was the order of business at the June meeting. We indulged in every variety of tomato imaginable. Awards were given for many categories of tomatoes. They were all so delicious and all deserved awards! Pat Newman from Folsom Nursery gave a wonderful talk on the history and care of azaleas. Two hanging baskets of purslane were donated by Timberline Nursery, a supplier of Home Depot. The door prizes were won by Pattie McGinnis and A.J. Heinsz-Bailey.



Pat Newman, Folsom Nursery



TOMATO TASTING AT BURDEN

It was a relatively comfortable evening when we gathered at 6:30 at the Burden Research Station in Baton Rouge. The tomato garden was planted with forty samples of various tomatoes grown for commercial harvest. Dr. Jimmy Boudreaux, Dr. Don Ferrin, Dr. Kiki Fontenot, and Mr. Steve Crnko all of the LSU Ag Department provided demonstrations, answered questions, and talked about successful methods for growing tomatoes.



Average tomatoes were the size of a soft ball. For the most part they were beautiful, picture perfect. Some had cracking, green hips, or were a small size. These tomatoes were grown to go through the commercial process of harvesting, sorting, and bringing to market.

Following the presentations and a guided tour of the garden there was a tomato tasting where participants tasted five red, one yellow, and one pink tomato. Consensus was that Rocky Top Stokes/Seigers had the best taste.

Judy Wood



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fairview-Riverside State Park Guided Walk

July 31, 9 a.m. Fairview-Riverside State Park, Swamp Invaders!
Master Gardener Julie Deus will lead an approximate 1 1/2 mile walk through the park and along the raised boardwalk Swamp Trail to discover native plants and invasive species found in the wetlands. Registration not necessary. Park admission will be charged: \$1.00 per person, over 62 free. Meet at the Otis House parking lot.

Ann Durel

2010 Membership Directory

The 2010 Membership Directory for the St. Tammany Master Gardener Association is available at the LSU Ag Center office. The directory lists all members name, address, telephone, email and year of graduation. It also includes the 2010 STMG officers and selected chairman. Any member is welcome to have a copy (or 2) of this directory. Please pick them up at the office at your earliest convenience, while supplies last.

Rusty Batty

New Books for the Master Gardener Library

From money earned at the Master Gardener Plant Booth at the Spring Plant Sale, I bought new books for the Master Gardener library. These include *Rain Gardening in the South* by Helen Kraus and Anne Spafford; *Garden Bulbs for the South* by Scott Ogden; *Passalong Plants* by Steve Bender and Felder Rushing; *Weeds of the South* by Charles Bryson and Michael DeFelle; and *Antique Roses for the South* by W.C. Welch. These books are in the bookshelf in Rusty's office and can be checked out by Master Gardeners. Write your name and the name of the book you want to check out on the clipboard on top of the bookshelf. Please be considerate of others who may want to check out the books.

Pam Keating

Continued on page 12

Announcements *Continued*

2010 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference

Mississippi will be hosting the 2012 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, May 2-5, in the beautiful southern town of Natchez. As conference information becomes available it will be posted at this website: http://msucares.com/lawn/master_gardener/2012conference/index.html

You are all welcome to come join us for good food, fun, fellowship and, of course, education along the bluff of the Mighty Mississippi! If you are interested in being a speaker, please contact me. Thanks so much.

Lelia Scott Kelly, Ph.D.

Consumer Horticulture Specialist

North Mississippi Research & Extension Center

PO Box 1690

Verona, MS 38879

662-566-2201

Why Record Your Volunteer and Education Hours?

Recording Volunteer and Education hours demonstrates our commitment to the LSU AgCenter and the Master Gardener Program. We've all benefited from the education we learned as a member of a Master Gardener class. Providing and recording hours demonstrates the appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of the program.

Do you need to record hours beyond the required hours for membership? Yes! This shows a greater commitment to the program. If you give of your time, report it, 'cause every little bit adds up. Below is the link to the report of all the Louisiana Master Gardener Associations. It is a way of showing the value of the contribution Master Gardeners give to the state.

<http://cms.lsuagcenter.net/MCMS/RelatedFiles/%7B48C2E4EA-57C6-4668-9C7E-9048F835A644%7D/2009+LMG+Annual+Report.pdf>

If you need assistance with reporting your hours, contact Judy Wood at jazzwood@charter.net or 882-5353. She will answer your questions and talk you through the process. At each business meeting of STPMG a year-to-date of reported hours is circulated for your review.

Judy Wood

Selection Committee for the 2010 Master Gardener Class

The Selection Committee consists of the following class representatives:

-2000, AJ Bailey

-2004, Kathy McGee

-2009, Suzanne Crow

-2001, Tom Cuccia

-2006, Deborah Turton

-2002, Janice Roussel

-2007, Don Hames

-2003, Leslie Landeche

-2008, Art Scott

If you know of an applicant for the new class and would like to give a recommendation, please contact one of the members above. Please refer to your directory for contact information.

Art Scott

AGENDA for July 21, 2010 General Meeting

1-Call to order & report quorum present

2-Opening ceremonies

3-Award Door Prize (s)

4-Minutes from previous meeting

5-Officer's reports

-President – Art Scott

-Vice President – Glenda Nanz

-Treasurer – Dianne Ramirez

6-Committee Reports

-Honors Committee – Sandy Arnoult

-Finance Committee – Dianne Ramirez

7-Project Coordinator Reports

-Tomato tasting results – AJ Heinsz-Bailey

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

9- Unfinished business

-report of bylaws committee – Judy Wood (if she can roll in)

10- New Business

11- Announcements

12- Program – Landscape Design – Randy Aultman

13- Adjournment

Draft 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
-begin planning for Christmas party – Hospitality Committee
- July:** -appoint nominating committee - President
- August:**
- September:** -fall Herb Festival at Slidell Library
-report of nominating committee
-fall gardening seminar??
- October:** -elections
-fall field trip – Program Committee
- November:** -begin planning for Northshore Garden Show – especially the vendor committee
- December:** -annual Christmas party – Hospitality Committee

If you have anything to add to the yearly calendar, please contact Art via email at folsomart@bellsouth.net or at home (985) 796-5878."

CALENDAR

July, 2010

- | | |
|----|---|
| 21 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. |
| 31 | 9:00 a.m. Fairview-Riverside State Park, Swamp Invaders |

August, 2010

- | | |
|----|--|
| 18 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. |
|----|--|

September, 2010

- | | |
|----|--|
| 15 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for 2011. |
| 28 | Fall Herb Festival at the Slidell Library on Robert Blvd. 4-7 |

October, 2010

- | | |
|----|---|
| 20 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting and plant swap. Get ready for the plant swap by rooting some cuttings now. |
|----|---|

STMGA Directory

PRESIDENT:

Art Scott
796-5878
folsomart@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT:

Glenda Nanz
845-4494
nanz@att.net

TREASURER:

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626-1631
adram@bellsouth.net

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nberulis@bellsouth.net

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LSU AGCENTER OFFICE:

Mary Beth Kaizer
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Linda Franzo

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LACOMBE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Denise Stearns
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OTIS HOUSE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Ann Durel
626-1656
adurel@bellsouth.net

Notes from the Editor:

If you want your voice to be heard in our association, now is the time to speak up. There are two very important requests for your input in this newsletter. The By-Laws Survey will help to determine how our meetings will be conducted in the future. The Nominating Committee is actively searching for nominees for all elected offices. They are looking for people who want to serve. Only a handful of people usually respond to these requests for information. If it is ok with you that the opinions of only a few determine the future course of the STPMG, then don't respond. If you do respond, know that you have helped to shape the future of this organization. So, get those replies in the email this week!

The deadline for the August newsletter will be July 28th.

Debora Litzenberger

dklitz@charter.net



THE GARDENGOER

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

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