



**Master
Gardener™**

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 7

July, 2011

Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarship Awarded to Anna Ribbeck



The second Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarship was presented at the June meeting to Anna Ribbeck, granddaughter of our own Master Gardener, Anna Ribbeck. Both Annas enjoy a love of gardening, with the younger Anna pursuing a career in horticulture just like her grandmother. Julie Deus presented Anna with the Scholarship check. Last month, our other scholarship winner, Jane Satterlee, received her award. Both recipients plan to attend Louisiana State University in the fall.

In This Issue

Scholarship Awarded	1
President's Message	2
Rusty's Message	3
<i>In the Garden with aj</i>	4
<i>Tomato Passion</i>	5
June Minutes	6-7
June Meeting Recap	8
MG Vegetable Specialists	9
Tomato Focus Group	10
Slidell Herb Garden News	11
Legacy School Garden Project	12
MG Programs 2011	13-15
Announcements	16
WHAT'S GROWING?	17
STPMG Membership Survey	18-21
June Board Meeting Minutes	22
Agenda	23
Calendar of Events	24
Directory	25
Editor's Notes	26

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

www.lsuagcenter.com

President's Message

Last month's Vegetable Festival was a veritable farmer's market with beautiful tomatoes, eggplant, squash, bell peppers and even some corn! And the "problem" table gave Dr. Rusty an excellent opportunity to diagnose various maladies and show us how to heal our fragile produce. I know this information was helpful to our many vegetable gardeners, all of whom are anxious to grow the healthiest food possible for our families. Speaking of food, we had some delicious dishes to try: the gazpacho, salsa, eggplant casserole and many colorful sliced tomatoes were absolutely heavenly! Congratulations to Judy Wood and the entire Vegetable Festival committee. Next year we may need a bigger room.



We know how much fun and how successful our Slidell Herb Fests have been. Unfortunately, we are now facing a leadership crisis for this popular event. Betty Rose has sent out several requests asking for someone to lead this year's Fall Herb Fest, but has not received even one response. Frankly, if we don't have a chairperson by the middle of July, we will have to remove it from the Slidell Library's calendar. Please consider volunteering to chair this important community educational project. Even if you are not a member of the Herb Group, you can plan this festival! You will have three mentors from the previous Fests, a step-by-step guide book and volunteers galore to help you. Contact Betty at betty-rose@charter.net for more information.

Please fill out the membership survey that was sent out last month and return it to Pam Twardzik either by e-mail or to her home address. The Board is very interested in hearing your thoughts about the changes that have been made to the monthly meetings and how you feel about changing the days of the Plant Show for next year. Contact Pam at ptwardzik@yahoo.com if you have any questions. We will e-mail the results of the survey before the next meeting.

The tables at La Provence are filling up quickly but there are still chairs available for the August 17 tour and lecture by John Besh, followed by luncheon at the restaurant. Send your \$35.00 check directly to Judy Wood to reserve your spot. After August 1, if there are any places open they will be made available for our families and friends on a first-come, first-served basis for \$45.00 per person. **Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez!**

Julie Deus
jdcalla@aol.com 985-674-2040

Water Right!

By
Rusty Batty

Dry weather seems to be common this spring and early summer. Our plants and lawns are struggling, the ponds are lowered and the water bill is rising. Watering the landscape has become a daily chore. But watering properly will be requires more than just standing outside with your garden hose. Right ways to water your landscape:

- Water as needed. In our current conditions (high temperature, full sun, and high humidity) a daily dose of water is a big help to the plants and lawn. Keep in mind though; you want moist areas, not soggy wet soil.
- Water deeply- Allow water time to penetrate the ground to about 6 inches. Remember deep roots equal longer shoots.
- Water early- The best time to water is in the morning. Sunlight helps the plant foliage to dry. There is less loss due to evaporation. The morning watering allows the plant to have moisture when it needs it most, the hot day.

Using a sprinkler for irrigation is a common way to water. Either a hose end sprinkler or underground system can adequately serve your needs. To figure out how long to leave your sprinkler on to apply one inch of water, place empty cans within the spray pattern. Start your sprinkler, mark the time started. After you container has one inch of water, check your time again. That's how long it takes your sprinkler to apply an inch of water. Applying an inch of water to a medium textured soil should be enough to penetrate the soil about six inches.

The best check of how thoroughly an area has been watered is to check the soil 15 minutes after watering. Keep the soil moist and your plants can survive our hot, dry conditions.

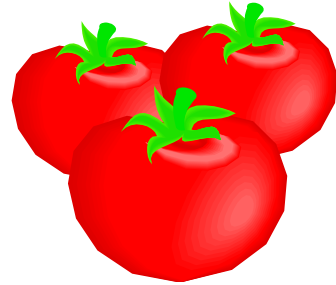


Hi Everyone, Many years ago, in a garden far away, I initiated a quest for the perfect garden sprinkler. I never answered the age old question of if overhead watering is so bad, why is rain our main source of garden watering? I never really gave soaker hoses a second thought. They seemed cumbersome and labor intensive. In my youth I wanted water to the garden in simple easy quick quantities. I realize in older age I still want the same goal. I enjoy a little recreational hand watering now and then but, when it comes to the real task I want to place sprinkler, set the timer, and move on to other gardening activities such as sweating and drinking large amounts of water. Reflecting on my earliest encounters with sprinklers, a hose connected metal spinning circular pattern model is my first recollection. It was great for running through but not an effective waterer. Next was the nozzle and hose hand watering phase followed by the ever popular oscillating in various positions sprinkler. The oscillator sprinkler always clogged and sent me looking for broom straws or toothpicks to unclog the little holes (easy and cheap repair). As I matured and became a professional gardener, I learned about Hunter heads and other sprinkler systems. The Hunter head remains a favorite as it waters a large area in a big circle or any part of a circle and it is almost maintenance free. I learned a lot from golf course irrigation specialists. The choices became endless. Popups with any pattern you could imagine. Fixed heads with risers of all heights. Plastic and/or metal components. Timers from minutes, to hours, to days. During this madness, I met a sprinkler man who created his own sprinklers. He presented me with a threaded lead pipe bronze 360 degree sprinkler set on a metal base that has to be held upright with a large paver. This is the sprinkler I still use today along with a few hose end frog sprinklers until last week. The temptation of youth reared its head while at the feed store, when a friend showed me a shiny, green aluminum tripod(doesn't need a paver) brass circular pattern spray pattern expensive sprinkler. I paid the price and brought "Greenie" home. As I started to disconnect "Old Yellow" spray painted so I could find her more easily, the guilt set in and I couldn't replace my faithful friend of 20 plus years. It is lucky that I have so many acres to irrigate. I hooked up the new guy on the South side of the house and after some adjustments he has settled in nicely. I reconnected " Old Yellow" and turned on the faucet and timer and then with the reckless abandon of youth, I ran through the sprinkler before retiring to the rocker on the porch. Now I have the best of old and new and the watering quest is over for now. Art has piqued my interest with his drip systems for small spaces so who knows what the future will bring? Mostly rain, I hope. Back into the garden through the sprinkler. aj



TOTAL TOMATO PASSION FROM MY GARDEN TO THE PANTRY

Hybrids vs. Heirlooms, Creoles vs. New Jersey What ever! We all just want something, with tantalizing aromas and juicy goodness, harvested from our urban farm to our forks. I thought I did all the right things this season. I checked my soil, added compost, and watered regularly. Then I sat and watched my garden grow. I did my daily pest check, squashed the beautiful black and red grasshoppers and spritzed with soapy pepper spray. Those darn webbed footed insects were getting the best of me and my tomatoes. And the stink bugs were marching in two x two!



Despite all odds, the tomatoes arrived with the first blush, sun kissed, ready to eat and preserve. I managed to pick enough tomatoes and paired them with meat – to – be ingredients of herbs and other produce. The flavors were in perfect harmony, soulful and scrumptious. What could I make today from my garden? I made Tomato ~Basil pasta, Caprese Salad, Green Beans with Tomatoes and Basil and Chocolate Tomato Cake. The misfits and distorted batch was transformed into a beautiful, silky, Tomato ~ Basil Soup. It doesn't get any better than this.

I definitely spent more money on my garden than in the supermarket. At least I can get my daily fix of Cherry Reds, Jellybeans, Juliets, Sugar sweets and Yellow Pears, with their uncanny ability to yield bumper crops. The mini tomato seems to be the equivalent of an over achiever. These tiny ambassadors of summer sweetness share one thing in common, a rich, exotic intoxicating taste; bushels of culinary creativity.

This year I want to embrace my tomato bounty, heavenly flavors and irresistible juices in sparkling jars. I will run to the hardware store and stock up on all sizes of canning jars. I want to be able to make small batches as I harvest. I want to be ready for the P. P. P. ~ Pick at the Peak moment of Perfection! I want to capture the sun's energy in a jar and savor it for the cold months. These fruits of my labor will not grow old or go to the compost pile. [I used to tell my kids and now my grand-kids that I was going to put them in a pickle jar and keep them perfectly small and cute forever ~ Kid Pickles] It's so easy to turn these little jewels into batches of Pickled Pear Tomatoes with Rosemary, Herb Roasted Tomatoes, Tomato ~ Basil Jam or Tomato~ Mango Chutney. The irregular, less prettier tomatoes can be diced into Farmers market Corn Salsa.

I have the passion for my garden to the pantry. There is a connection of me to my garden to nurture my family and even a connection to my grandparents. They are the ones who let me make home – made Concord grape jelly, fresh tomato sauce and wine. I still have some of my grandmother's jars. There is a comforting passing of generations in those bottles. It's almost religious, rituals of daily inspirations, intentions and past garden traditions. Maybe next year I'll try some biodynamics and try to connect with my past ancestors in the cosmos to energize my garden. I already seed my tomatoes by the moon's phases. Who knows, I might get bigger tomatoes next year! For now I better harness my energy out of the garden and in to the kitchen to make Tomato ~Basil Soup.

TOMATO ~ BASIL SOUP: 8 CUPS TOMATO JUICE , 3 CUPS MILK , 2 TABLESPOONS ONION , 3 TABLESPOONS FLOUR , TWO TEASPOONS SUGAR , TWO TABLESPOONS BUTTER , JUICE OF ½ A LEMON OR LIME , SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE . In a large pot warm milk to just under a boil [small bubbles around edges] , In a blender , add 2 cups of juice , the onion , flour , butter and sugar , process smooth . And to the milk and add the rest of the tomato juice. Bring to a boil and simmer about 10 minutes. [At first, the mix will look like it wants to curdle, but as it starts to boil, it will get velvety smooth] Add juice, stir, then add salt and pepper to taste. Low fat version, use 2 % milk, rich version, heavy cream or half and half. Enjoy!

Linda Franzo



St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners Association
General Membership Meeting
June 15, 2011

A meeting of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners Association was held at 10:00 AM on June 15, 2011 at the National Guard Armory. A quorum was present with fifty-five master gardeners attending.

Julie Deus called the meeting to order and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rusty Batty led the group in prayer.

Julie introduced Miss Anna Ribbeck, recipient of the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarship Award along with Mrs. Anna Ribbeck. Anna graduated from Fontainebleau High School and will pursue horticultural studies at LSU. Mrs. Anna Ribbeck, master gardener and Anna's grandmother, presented the award.

Judy Wood introduced the "Veggie Fest" and Rusty spoke about various samples of problems and offered explanations/solutions for the members. After the Q&A discussion, the group enjoyed a tasting of vegetables brought in by the members.

Break from 10:55 – 11:15 AM.

Door prizes (Ixora plants) were given to Julie Deus (#19) and Alvin Roussel (#48).

The meeting resumed and Julie asked for approval of the Minutes of the May meeting.

A Motion was offered by Susie Koepp to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

Julie asked the members to review and complete the general survey that was e-mailed to the membership. A July 10th response deadline was requested with discussion at the July meeting. (Copy attached to the minutes)

Julie stated that the Nominating Committee – Diane Ramirez, Mary Ann Brannan and Nancie Munn – would be meeting regarding nominations for Board Members for next year.

Judy Wood presented a mug to Art Scott in appreciation for his Edible Flowers presentation at the May meeting. Judy reminded everyone that Nancy Bartlett would be the speaker for the July meeting and also reminded the group to sign up for the August 17 program/lunch with John Besh by submitting a check for \$35. Judy stated that there are 80 spaces and any openings would be published on August 1st for non-master gardeners. Judy also thanked the Veggie Fest Committee.

Jay Rose reported that the Association has a current net worth of \$21,390.00 and that the report was e-mailed yesterday. He also stated the proposed budget had been distributed and the Finance Committee would review. (Copies attached to the minutes)

Julie stated approvals of the Treasurer's Reports would be deferred until the July meeting.

Under New Business, Janice Wells suggested that the Association consider using excess funds in the budget to fund LSU projects in a more substantial way. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would consider the suggestion.

Sandy Arnoult, Honors Committee chairperson, stated she would welcome input/suggestions regarding how to honor master gardeners who have over 50 hours of volunteer service, i.e. bricks, LSU Ag Center calendar, La. Gardener subscription, or opt out. Sandy stated she and Sandra Pecoraro would develop a proposal which would be distributed to the group prior to the July meeting.

Julie stated there would be 1 hour of educational hours credit for today's program.

Julie informed everyone that a call for volunteers for the Fall Seminar had been e-mailed. A list was also circulated for anyone who wished to sign-up to assist with the seminar.

Jerry Ballanco gave an update on the MG Vegetable Specialists and stated that 10 people are needed for next year.

Julie stated that Christy Paulsell would have the July 27th workshop for the "Rooting the Future" partnership with St. Tammany Schools at the Jefferson East Building. Dr. Fontenot will speak about the projects with the school system and additional information will be in the Gardengoer.

Donna Dicharry distributed a volunteer list for the Speakers Bureau and gave a brief update.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Chere Currault, Secretary

June Meeting Recap



We had a cornucopia of vegetables at the Festival of Vegetables.



Rusty discussed squash bug damage. Julie is rather disgusted by it!



Lots of problem vegetables gave Rusty plenty of plant diseases and insect damage to talk about.



Jerry Ballanco and Art Scott at the Festival of Vegetables



MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE SPECIALISTS



On May 31, the St. Tammany MG Vegetable Specialist group had an advanced training session by Dr. Alan Morgan, Dr. Kiki Fontenot, Dr. Don Ferrin and Rusty Batty. Session attendees had more in-depth training in plant diagnostics, pests, and growing of vegetable crops. These MG Vegetable Specialists will assist Rusty with vegetable questions from the public, speaking engagements and other vegetable related MG activities.

Seated: Joan Gagliano, Julie Deus, Janice Roussel.

Standing left to right: Dr. Don Ferrin, Jerry Ballanco, Karla Partridge, Linda Franzo, A.J. Heinsz-Bailey, Dennis Koepp, D'Wanna Hanes, Rodney Cross, Dr. Kiki Fontenot, Christie Paulsell, Art Scott and Rusty Batty. Not shown are Judy Wood and Dr. Alan Morgan.

Tomato focus group June 2011

Last spring, the tomato focus group decided to grow **heirloom tomatoes** using multiple methods and see which tomatoes could **reliably be grown in St Tammany**. Each group of five (sixteen people in all) grew 2 plants of between 2 and 4 varieties of tomatoes and grew them according to how they usually garden. All transplants within a group were furnished by one person.

This is a partial report. Aj's group is still gathering data. This information will be submitted to the Gardengoer again in December in time to buy seeds, hopefully with all study groups reporting.

My interpretation is as follows:

Brandywine, Sudduth strain and Truckers Choice are clear winners and could be recommended as heirlooms to grow in St Tammany anticipating a rewarding experience.

Prudens Purple is good tasting and more than half would grow it again.

Marion is tasty and pretty hearty but most chose to not grow it again.

Saucy is a good producer but was without accolades.

Rose is a tossup.

Variety	Number of plants grown	Production	Would you grow again?	Growth failure	Comments
Brandywine, Sudduth strain	10	Acceptable 8 Poor 2	Yes 8 No 2		Big 8 Juicy 10 Meaty 6 Very tasty 8
Marion	10	Great 2 Acceptable 5	Yes 4 No 6	1	Nice size 7 Juicy 7 Very tasty 4 Tasty 1 Mediocre taste 2
Prudens Purple	10	Acceptable 6 Poor 2	Yes 6	2	Good flavor 6 Meaty 4 Small 2
Rose	10	Acceptable 4 Poor 4	Yes 4 No 4	2	Big 2
Saucy	10	Great 4 Acceptable 6	Yes 4 No 4		Sour 2
Truckers Favorite	10	Acceptable 8	Yes 8	2	Rich complex flavor 2 Size range small to large

The number represents the number of plants.

Production choices: Great, acceptable, poor

Grow again: Would you consider growing this variety again **without hesitation**?

Growth failure: Fatal event prevented adequate consideration

If the numbers don't add up: a) someone did not comment

b) more than one comment/person

Everyone who participated enjoyed the adventure. We will do this again next year with new varieties. Hope you join us.

Jerry



The Slidell Library Herb Committee News



Herb Gathering meetings - all are Wednesdays on the following dates from 1-3 PM at the Slidell Library meeting room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Aug. 10	Pattie McGinnis	Basil
Sept. 14	Cecelia Drennan	Mint
Nov. 9	Donna Dicharry	Parsley

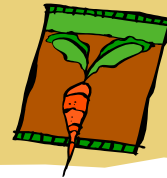
The Fall Herb Festival is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27.

We need a chairperson for the Fall Festival. Any volunteers?

Contact Betty Rose at bettyrose@charter.net for more information.



Master Gardeners/ST. Tammany Parish Schools



You are invited.....

Master Gardeners interested in working with our Pk-3rd schools SAVE the DATE on your calendars:

Who: Teachers, Master Gardeners and PTA parents

What: “Legacy School Garden” Project for the 2011-2012 School Year

When: Wednesday---- JULY 27, 2011 8:30-3:30

Where: Jefferson East Curriculum Center (227 N. Jefferson, Covington, LA 70433)

To attend Contact- Christy Paulsell 985-898-6483 or
J.Christine.Paulsell@stpsb.org

Why: During this Continuing Education in-service, Pk- 3rd grade schools will be able to apply for a “Legacy School Garden”, donated by the Legacy Foundation, during the 2011-2012 school year. Teachers, Master Gardeners (PoC) and PTA parents will receive promotional information, curriculum and instruction lessons, planning and/or construction of frugal gardens for their school grounds.

Speakers for "Rooting the Future" Professional Development are Dr. Kiki Fontenot for the morning session and Mindy McCallum will speak about "rain gardens" in the afternoon.

Submitted by:

Christy Paulsell

J.Christine.Paulsell@stpsb.org



St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners 2011 Programs

Month	Speaker	Topic	Garden Hint	Garden Problem	Sharing Table	ED Hours
January 19 Covington	Jerry Ballanco	Vegetable Gardening: Delicious Fun	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
February 16 Slidell	Bob Stroud	Camellias and Tour of Camellia Gardens	No	No	No	1 talk 1 tour
March 16 Covington	Georgeann Chaffee	Assessing the Mature Landscape	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
March 24 Mobile, AL	Tour	Festival of Flowers				6
April 20 Covington	No Speaker	Plant Swap	No	No	No	0
May 18 Covington	Art Scott Edible Flowers	Scholarship Award	No	No	No	1
June 15 Covington	No Speaker	Vegetable Festival	No	No	Yes	1
July 20 Covington	Nancy Bartlett	Cut Flower Gardening & tour of Bartlett Farms	Yes	Yes	Yes	
August 17 Covington/ Big Branch	John Besh	La Provence	No	No	No	
September 21 Covington	John Cassidy	Urban Storm Drainage	Yes	Yes	Yes	
October 19 Covington	Dr. Allen Owings	New Plants at the Research Station	Yes	Yes	Yes	
November 16 Covington	Patrick O'Connor	Louisiana Iris	Yes	Yes	Yes	
December 14 ? Location	No Speaker	Christmas Party	No	No	No	0

For any questions concerning MG Programs, contact Judy Wood.
jazzwood@charter.net



St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners 2011 Programs *continued*

Cut Flower Gardening Nancy Bartlett July 20, 2011

Nancy Bartlett of Bartlett Farms will be our speaker at the July 20th meeting. Her presentation will be on Cut Flower Gardening.

Nancy who is a member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers began gardening when at the age of six her mother gave her a plot to grow daisies. In the late 1970s Nancy and her husband moved to the Folsom area and began growing organic vegetables. A few years ago her son, John, began farming the same land. He sells his produce and Nancy sells her cut flowers at the Farmers' Markets in Covington and New Orleans.

The flowers grown at Bartlett Farms are companion plants growing among the vegetables in the garden. The farm produces nearly forty different types of organic vegetables and has free range eggs.

Following the meeting on July 20 we will tour Bartlett Farms.

Bartlett Farms Tour

Bartlett Farms is located off of Highway 25 north of Covington and south of Folsom. It is the first driveway on the right (east side of Highway 25) past Million Dollar Road. It is less than six miles from the AgCenter.

It will be hot, so bring **water to drink and a hat for sun protection**. You may wish to pack a sandwich.

More information on Bartlett Farms (John Bartlett will be at the farm for our tour.)

John Bartlett was on the cover of the May 24, 2011 issue of Gambit. The cover story was Fresh Crop - The Good Earth - South Louisiana's young farmers have a stake in the land.

<http://www.bestofneworleans.com/gambit/young-farmers/Content?oid=1752043>

Another article about the farm appeared in the Times Picayune in 2009

http://blog.nola.com/judywalker/2009/01/a_new_generation_of_growers_co.html

Here is a third link about the farm.

<http://www.thegardenveg.com/>

Judy Wood

August 17 Meeting – La Provence Garden Tour and Lunch

On Wednesday, August 17, our speaker will be John Besh, nationally recognized chef and owner of many restaurants in and around New Orleans. We will tour the garden at La Provence and then hear remarks by Chef Besh. Following his presentation we will have lunch at La Provence. (Menu below)

We will gather at the Armory at 10 AM on August 17 for our regular business meeting. Following the meeting we will drive to La Provence for an 11:45 tour of the garden with John Besh's presentation and lunch to follow.

Registration for the event will be by a check for \$35 made out to STPMG. Up to eighty people may attend the event. **Registration checks may be sent to JUDY WOOD, 60589 Cypress Drive, Lacombe, LA 70445. You will receive an email confirmation that the check sent through the mail has arrived.** To date sixty MGs have paid \$35 to reserve their seat.

Any vacant spots will be announced in the August Gardengoer and at that time the remaining seats may be filled by guests of MGs at a cost of \$45 per guest.

St. Tammany Master Gardeners Wednesday, August 17, 2011 La Provence

salad of mixed local greens from our farm, Mangalitsa ham, candied pistachios, fresh goats cheese, and roasted beets

*slow cooked neck of Mangalitsa pork
local chanterelle mushrooms, heirloom tomatoes, and house made pasta*

local blueberry tart with buttermilk ice cream

ice tea and coffee service



ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Home Page

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners now have their own home page at the LSU AgCenter web site. The link to take you directly to the page is

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/stpmg>

When you click on the link and arrive at the page, save it as a book mark.

Presently the STPMG home page contains the link to our newsletters, The Gardengoer, and the link to report your volunteer hours. In the coming months we will add content to the page reporting about our projects and announcing our upcoming events.

To provide suggestions for the site contact Judy Wood jazzwood@charter.net



STPMG Garden Glove Sales

Garden gloves sold at STPMG events will be \$5 per pair to whoever is purchasing at that event.

STPMG members may purchase garden gloves at \$4 per pair at STPMG monthly meetings only. (There may be meetings where gloves may not be for sale.)

Members who wish to purchase gloves should email Peggy Goertz, Glove Chairperson, peggpegg@aol.com, indicating the size and number of gloves they wish to purchase at \$4 per pair. The gloves will be packaged for the member and ready for pick up at the designated meeting. The member will have a check in the correct amount made out to STPMG.

Submitted by:
Judy Wood

WHAT'S GROWING?



A master gardener moved this winter and I inherited this large clay pot full of soil. I left it alone and then in mid-spring a shoot started sprouting from the pot. The stem is variegated green and yellow with a fleshy consistency similar to the snake plant. It is now about 4 ft tall and has a baby plant that came up and another sprout appearing. I called the plant's previous owner and she doesn't know what it is either but knows it loves shade. Since it survived the winter freeze in a pot I am tempted to plant it in the ground but would like to learn more about it first. Can anyone identify this plant?

Betty Rose
bettyrose@charter.net



STPMG Membership Survey

June 2011

The Board is seeking input from the membership regarding implementation of changes based on last year's survey and recent suggestions from members at large. Please **highlight/underline/embolden** or fill in the blank with the appropriate response, include comments or suggestions and send a return email to ptwardzik@yahoo.com. If you wish, you may print the survey and send via US Mail to Pam Twardzik, 1236 Foy Street, Mandeville, LA 70448-3935. It would be helpful if we received your opinion by July 10th. Your responses will be kept anonymous and confidential unless you choose to identify yourself by including your name on this document. Thank you for your time and involvement in the STPMG program.

1. The Plant Show is held on Saturday & Sunday with the largest crowds on Saturday and a considerable drop off on Sunday. A proposed change is to hold the show on Friday & Saturday to encourage the early shoppers and garden enthusiasts to attend on Friday – eliminating the crowded conditions on Saturday.

Would you be in favor of this change? _____ Yes _____ No _____ No Opinion

Why/why not? _____

2. The Spring Plant Show is a very important project for the STPMG association in terms of fundraising and public education. There have been several suggestions for changes or enhancements to increase the attendance and offer additional educational opportunities in order to better meet both those goals. Please give some careful consideration about these ideas and then provide your feedback. Using a Value Scale of 1 to 5 (1 = Very Valuable 2 = Valuable 3 = Neutral 4 = Not Very Valuable 5 = No Value at All), please rate the following current activities and proposed ideas for their value in helping to meet those goals:

_____ Speaker Presentations

_____ Offer Table Clinics

_____ Non-Profit Booths (like Mosquito Control, etc)

_____ Add Landscaping Vendor(s)

_____ Children's Activity

_____ Add Irrigation Vendor(s)

_____ Current Vendor Variety

_____ Add Garden Items – Pots, Tools, Carts, etc.

_____ Food Vendors

_____ Add Wildlife Items – Feeders, Birdbaths, etc.

_____ LSU Ag Center Specialists Table

_____ Add Fresh Produce Vendor(s)

_____ Master Gardener Table

_____ Invite Other MG Groups to Attend

Other Suggestions: _____

3. There have been two sponsored MG tours to plant shows in Crystal Springs, MS and Mobile, AL and there is a special upcoming meeting with John Besh at La Provence in Lacombe to include lunch and a garden tour. Please indicate your attendance, interest level and how much you rank their value using the same Value Scale as above (1 to 5):

Event	Attended	Did Not Attend	Would Like to Attend	Value (or Expected Value)
Crystal Springs Tour				
Mobile Tour				
John Besh Meeting				

4. Please indicate (X or √) your interest level in volunteering for each of the following STPMG projects:

STPMG Projects	Volunteered in 2010	Interested in Volunteering in 2011	Not an Area of Interest
Spring Plant Show			
SMH Rehab Garden			
Slidell Herb Garden/Herb Festival			
Lacombe Butterfly Garden			
MG's Partnership w/ STPSB Schools			
Covington Food Bank			
Otis House Butterfly Garden			
Specialty Master Gardeners			
Speakers Bureau			
Bi-Annual Seminars			
Slidell Senior Center Project	NA -New Project		

5. Changes were implemented in the MG meeting format based on input from the 2010 membership evaluation. Please indicate if you like the new format. If you dislike the format or content, or have suggestions for further improvement, please provide a comment with your suggestions or alternatives.

Educational Speaker First on Agenda ☐ Like ☐ Dislike Comments: _____

Garden Problem ☐ Like ☐ Dislike Comments: _____

Garden Hints ☐ Like ☐ Dislike Comments: _____

Streamlined Business Agenda ☐ Like ☐ Dislike Comments: _____

6. The Board now conducts the routine business of the STPMG association, helping to shorten the business portion of the meeting. What is your opinion of the change?

☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ No Opinion ☐ Poor ☐ Very Poor

Why? _____

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. What is your biggest hindrance to attending monthly meetings?

A. Location

D. Time of day

B. Day of week

E. Other _____

C. Date of meeting

F. No hindrance with current meetings

If time, day, or the date are issues, what time, day, or date would be best for you?

How would your attendance be affected if the time or day was changed? _____

9. If the Covington location limits your attendance, what location would allow you to attend more frequently?

A. Slidell

C. Madisonville

B. Lacombe

D. Other _____

If meetings alternated locations, how would your attendance be affected? _____

10. Did you attend the meeting held in Slidell? ____ Yes ____ No

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners Association
Board of Directors Meeting
June 23, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners Association was held at 5:00 PM on June 23, 2011 at the La. Heart Hospital in Lacombe. Board members attending were Julie Deus, Judy Wood, Jay Rose and Chere Currault. Also attending were Debora Litzenberger, Betty Rose, and David Lynd.

Julie called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Judy Wood gave an update on the monthly programs for the remainder of the year.

There were no project committee reports. Julie gave a brief update on the vegetable specialists progress.

Jay Rose presented a statement of the Associations Net Worth as of 6/23/11 - \$23,121.87 (attached to the minutes).

Jay presented a draft of the proposed budget which was discussed by the Board. Based on the discussion and recommendations, a budget proposal will be prepared and presented to the membership.

Julie reported that the membership survey is in progress with results pending. Additionally, a survey letter was sent to plant show vendors. Results will be distributed to the membership prior to the July 20th meeting.

Julie stated the Fall Seminar committee is in place and the seminar date is Wednesday, September 14 at the Lacombe Refuge. The seminar topic will be "trees".

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chere Currault, Secretary

AGENDA
STPMG Membership Meeting
July 20, 2011

- 1. Call to order and report quorum present**
- 2. Opening Ceremonies**
- 3. Hot Topic of the Month**
 Garden Hint of the Month
 Program: "Cut Flower Gardens" presented by Nancy Bartlett
 BREAK: 10 minutes
- 4. Comments by Rusty Batty, County Agent and MG Advisor**
- 5. Minutes from May meeting**
- 6. Officer's reports**
 President: Julie Deus
 Vice President: Judy Wood
 Treasurer: Jay Rose
- 7. Committee Reports**
 Honor Committee: Sandy Arnoult
 Membership Committee: Pam Keating/Susie Koepp
- 8. Project Committee Reports**
 Plant Show: Membership Survey Results: Pam Twardzik
 Vendor Survey Results: Jean Claire Cleveland and Betty
 LaGraize
 Discussion and Vote to change days of Plant Show
 Fall Seminar: Nancie Munn
 Herb Fest: Betty Rose
 MG Partners with STPSB: Christi Paulsell
- 9. Door Prizes**
- 10. Adjourn**

Calendar of Events

July, 2011	
17	Crosby Arboretum, 10-11 am. Part two of the Summer Nature Series is on endangered wildlife by US Fish & Wildlife Education Outreach Specialist, Diane Barth. Cost is \$5 for non-members. Register by July 16. http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu
20	Monthly meeting at National Guard Armory. 10 a.m. Speaker: Nancy Bartlett and tour of Blue Stem Farms following the meeting. <i>See page 14.</i>
27	<i>Legacy School Garden Project</i> 8:30-3:30, continuing education in-service with speakers, Dr. Kiki Fontenot and Mindy McCallum. <i>See page 12.</i>

August, 2011	
10	<i>Herb Gathering</i> at the Slidell Library meeting room at 1 pm. Pattie McGinnis will give a talk on basil. <i>See page 11.</i>
17	Monthly meeting at National Guard Armory 10 a.m. followed by a tour/lunch at La Provence with Chef John Besh. <i>See page 15.</i>

September, 2011	
14	<i>Herb Gathering</i> at the Slidell Library meeting room at 1 pm. Cecelia Drennan will give a talk on mint. <i>See page 11.</i>
19	Monthly meeting at National Guard Armory 10 a.m. Speaker is John Cassidy on Urban Storm Drainage.

October, 2011	
15	<i>“Wild Things”</i> at SELA NWR in Lacombe. Lots of children’s activities, food and fun. Hwy 434 Lacombe. 882-2000
19	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am. Speaker is Dr. Alan Owings on “New Plants at the Research Station”.

STPMG Directory

PRESIDENT:

Julie Deus
674-6742 jdcalla@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Judy Wood
882-5353 jazzwood@charter.net

TREASURER:

Jay Rose
863-3418 jayrose@charter.net

SECRETARY:

Chere Currault
796-5038 ccurrault@att.net

COORDINATOR:

Rusty Batty
875-2635 rbatty@agcenter.lsu.edu

LSU AGCENTER OFFICE:

Mary Beth Kaizer
875-2635 MKaizer@agcenter.lsu.edu

WEB ADMISTRATOR:

Sandy Arnoult
882-3344 sarnoult@bellsouth.net

**LSU AGCENTER OFFICE
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:**

Penelope Giles
845-0216 penelope@sewrepro.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Pam Keating
892-4445 tvkpam@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER:

Debora Litzenberger
882-7986 dklitz@charter.net

PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Art Scott
796-5878 folsomart@bellsouth.net

PUBLICITY:

Ann Gilbert
796-0520 gilbertwriter@yahoo.com

HISTORICAL:

Glenda Spano, *Scrapbook*
845-0900 runmimirun@yahoo.com

SMH REHAB GARDEN:

Leslie Landeche
639-9963 rocknlou@bellsouth.net

SLIDELL HERB GARDEN:

Betty Rose
863-3418 bettyrose@charter.net

Linda Franzo
781-4372 Linda@passionateplatter.com

LACOMBE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Susie Andres
643-3310 sandres@bellsouth.net

OTIS HOUSE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Ann Durel
626-1656 adurel@bellsouth.net

**ROOTING THE FUTURE: MGs PART-
NER WITH STPSB SCHOOLS:**

Christy Paulsell
898-6483 j.christine.paulsell@stpsb.org

Notes from the Editor:

Thankfully we've had some rain in Lacombe this week. We were beginning to think that nature had a grievance with Lacombe since every storm went over, around or just divided before it got here for well over a month. We've had blessed relief from constantly moving the sprinkler around!

Planning for the Fall Seminar has begun. If you need hours, this is the perfect opportunity to get those hours in. Contact Julie Deus or Nancie Munn if you are interested in volunteering.

*This newsletter is supposed to be a reflection of **all** of the Master Gardener activities of the previous month. If your committee doesn't submit news and photos of your activities, then the membership doesn't know what your committee is doing. Please help keep this newsletter an accurate historical record of our association.*

Don't forget to post your volunteer hours! Here is the link for your convenience:

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

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)

Fax: 985-875-2639

Website: www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/