



Master Gardener™

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

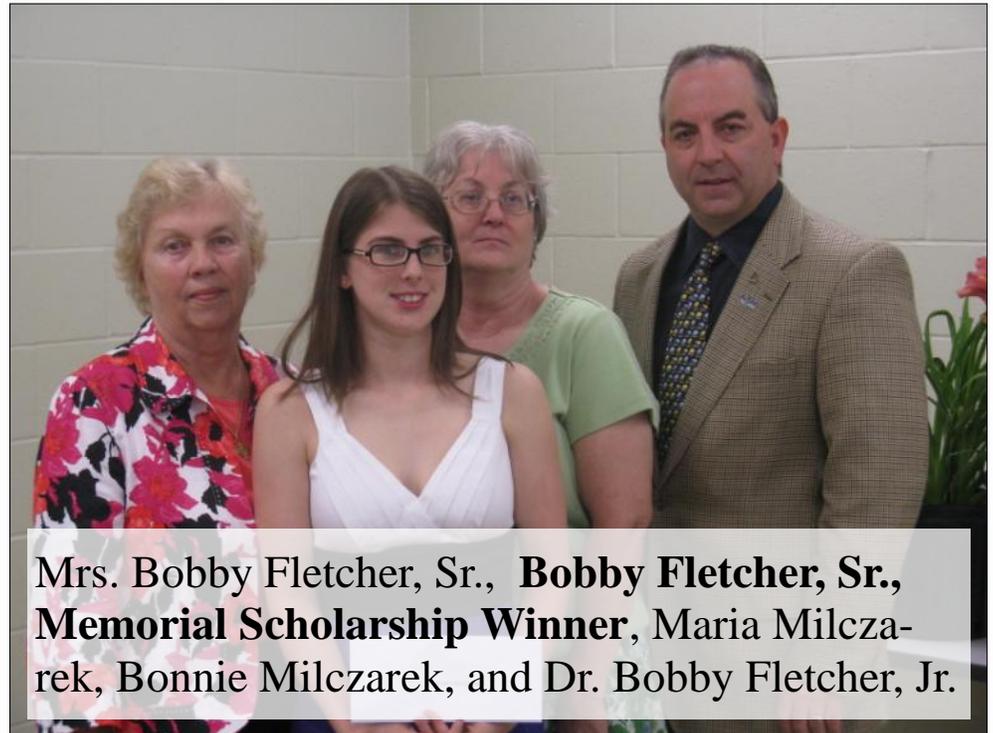
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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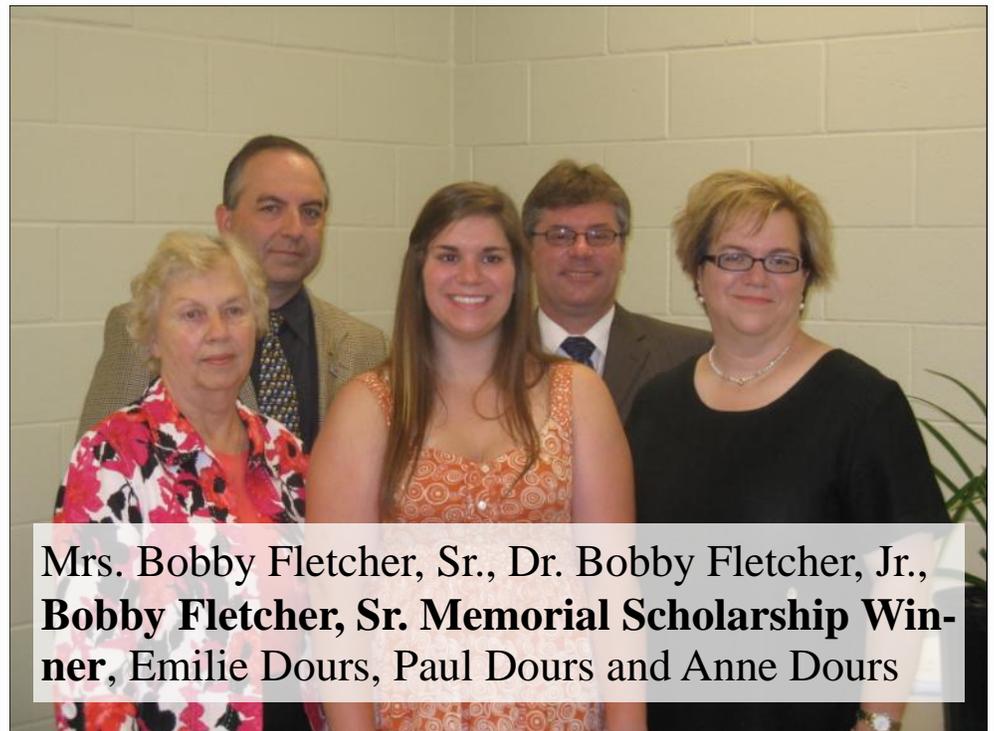
June, 2010

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Mrs. Bobby Fletcher, Sr., Bobby Fletcher, Sr., Memorial Scholarship Winner, Maria Milczarek, Bonnie Milczarek, and Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Jr.



Mrs. Bobby Fletcher, Sr., Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Jr., Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Winner, Emilie Dours, Paul Dours and Anne Dours

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

www.lsuagcenter.com

President's Message

We just returned from 12 days in Indiana. Changes in latitude really do result in changes in attitude, especially when it involves what to plant and when.

The hostas were everywhere and appeared to be on steroids. The peonies were large, fragrant and totally covered the foliage. (They look like large roses in the bouquets pictured below.) Their farmer's market was four-times the size of our Covington market and included several booths offering grass fed beef. I was surprised to see so many strawberries and cut flowers for sale.

Since we were asked to help with Folsom's planned Community Garden, I met with the supervisor of Bloomington's sponsored garden.

The garden has over 300 participants with a waiting list. It is surrounded by an eight-foot fence. It seems that Bloomington has a severe deer problem and is one of the reasons that the garden is so popular. Jessica, the supervisor, told me another reason they have such a strong interest is because most of the homes have lots of trees and are too shady for a vegetable garden. The plots are either 10X10 or 10X20 feet with a few beds 4X8 that are raised to 3 ½ feet for those having trouble getting down.

The downside: snow coverage for months and their vegetables are just now going into the ground (see photo below.) Their community garden is utilized only from April through October.

Even though the highs were in the 70s with nights in the 50s and low humidity, I happily returned home to 90 degree temps, high humidity, 5-foot tomato plants, ripening peppers, squash, eggplants, cucumbers, blueberries and a lawn that needed mowing.

Art

folsomart@bellsouth.net



Knock Out Roses

By

Rusty Batty

Roses are among the most popular landscaping flowers planted. There are many proven groups of roses such as the English Roses, All American Rose Selections (AARS), Earth Kind Roses and Old Garden Roses, just to name a few. An extremely popular rose from the Earth Kind selection is the Knock Out rose. This rose has been an AARS winner since 2000. It's disease resistant and blooms frequently with a variety of colors. Listed are some of the best management practices for the "Knock Out Rose"

- Soil pH requirement – 6.5
- Full sun, 8 hours minimum.
- Raised beds with good drainage are highly recommended.
- Spacing 6-8 feet apart.
- Prune in Mid- February. Cut 2/3 of the height.

Prune also in late August or early September 1/3 of the height.

- Fertilize in February and September with a controlled release fertilizer.
- Although it is considered disease resistant, consider a fungicide application in March – May.
- Insects and mites may attack any rose flowers and foliage. Systemic insecticides work best, such as an acephate and imidacloprid.

The LSU AgCenter Burden Center maintains an inventory of plants representing 150 varieties.

For more information look for "Roses- Selection, Planting and Care" at LSU AgCenter.com.



**2010 Louisiana Master Gardener State Conference
April 29 to May 1, 2010, West Monroe Convention Center**

Attending the conference from St. Tammany Parish MG were Master Gardeners Bob Doolittle and Judy Wood and their spouses along with County Agent, Rusty Batty. The two and a half day event was filled with speakers and breakout sessions. Featured speakers included Dan Gill “Outstanding Old and New Perennials for Louisiana”; Jenny Rose Carey, “Women in Horticulture and Landscape Design”; and Joe Lamp’l “The New Face of Gardening in the 21st Century”.



Rusty Batty, Judy Wood and Bob Doolittle



The display and scrapbooks on exhibit at the State Convention were made by Glenda Spano.

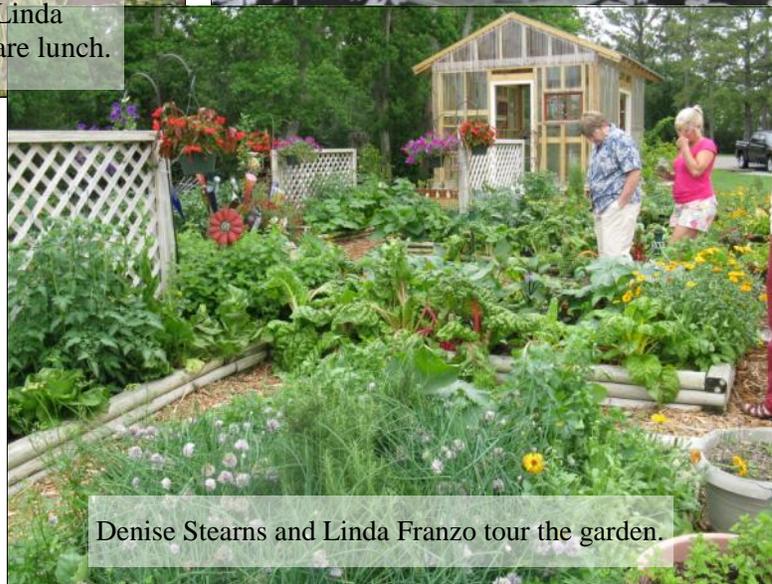
Slidell Library Herb Committee Meeting



Ruthanne Johnson, Nancy Berulis, Linda Franzo and Camille Schwandt prepare lunch.



The Slidell Library Herb Committee met at Linda Franzo's home on May 3rd to discuss the Spring Herb Festival that was held in April. Linda served a gourmet pizza lunch, complete with a picture perfect dessert. After the meeting and lunch, we toured Linda's garden. She had a hyacinth bean plant for everyone to take home. We have our own "Martha Stewart" right here in St. Tammany!



Denise Stearns and Linda Franzo tour the garden.



Cecelia Drennan, Ruthanne Johnson, and Art Scott. What a beautiful backdrop for a meeting! Twelve members were in attendance.

Garden Stroll at Hammond Research Station May 7



MAY SCHOLARSHIP MEETING RECAP



Mrs. Bobby Fletcher, Sr., Emilie Dours, Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Jr.. Emilie was awarded a \$2500 Scholarship.



Mrs. Bobby Fletcher, Sr., Maria Milczarek, Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Jr.. Maria was awarded a \$2500 Scholarship.



Dale and Lynette Westmoreland of Westfarms Nursery. They graciously gave the daylilies they brought to the members in attendance.



Pam Keating, A.J. Heinz-Bailey, Glenda Nanz, Judy Wood



Dale Westmoreland gave a talk on rust resistant daylilies.

MASTER GARDENER REMINDERS

Reporting responsibly and remaining active

As most of you know, one of the key ingredients in being in the Master Gardener program is volunteering your time in providing horticulture information to area residents. All graduates have agreed to complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteering within the first year of graduating. Those that choose to remain active as a Master Gardener, after the first year, are required to complete a minimum of 20 volunteer hours and have 6 educational hours, annually.

These are minimum requirements and many of you do far more hours and exceed the educational obligations. By reporting your hours you can keep track of your volunteer time and activities. Reporting also helps me to see who needs help in meeting their obligation and what horticulture needs and activities are being addressed. Additionally, there is a value to all you do. By reporting your hours, an in-kind value can be reported to supervisors, government officials and the general public. All of this helps in meeting the needs of the public.

Please continue to keep your volunteer hour reporting current. Contact Judy Wood, 882-5353 jazzwood@charter.net for any help you need with this.

To remain active in the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener association {and be included in the STMG membership directory} there are 2 simple requirements

-Complete the minimum volunteer hours (and educational hours, where applicable) each year

-pay the \$12 dues by December.

These requirements will be strictly adhered to.

Thanks for all you do,

Rusty Batty, St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Coordinator

AUDUBON ZOO / LONGUE VUE TOUR

At the May meeting, the members voted to go on a tour of Audubon Zoo and Longue Vue gardens on Thursday, June 17. Those living near Covington will meet the tour bus at the AgCenter at 7:30 a.m. Park in the back of the AgCenter by the dumpster. The Hotard bus will leave the AgCenter at 7:45 and go to the Northshore Mall parking lot in Slidell to meet up with the members who live on the eastern side of the parish. The bus will leave the Northshore Mall parking lot at 8:15. We will then go to the zoo, have a box lunch, then proceed to Longue Vue.

If you are interested in going on this tour, you must reserve your seat by June 7. Send a check for \$10.00 made out to STPMG to:

**STPMG TOUR
C/O LSU AgCenter
1301 N. Florida Street
Covington, LA 70433**

If there are remaining seats after June 7, the open seats will be available for guests. The closing date for all reservations is June 10.

Be prepared: wear comfortable shoes, bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, money for the gift shops and a smile!

Thanks to Merle Mulkey for putting this tour package together for us!

<http://www.auduboninstitute.org/visit/zoo>

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

Home vegetable, landscape field day set for June 11 in Baton Rouge

The LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Home and Landscape Resource Center (LaHouse) will hold a sustainable vegetable and landscape field day Friday, June 11, in Baton Rouge.

Margaret Pierce, LaHouse coordinator, said the field day will provide a morning of information on sustainable home vegetable gardening and ornamental landscaping.

The field day will be an opportunity to learn about improved yields while being a good steward of the environment, she said.

"LSU AgCenter horticulture specialists will be on hand, conducting tours of the vegetable gardens and the landscape features of LaHouse," Pierce said. "It also will be a chance to ask experts questions on issues you're facing in your lawn and garden."

Tours and discussions will be held in 30-minute sessions from 9 a.m. through noon.

A 30-minute session on sustainable home vegetable gardening will be presented by Kathryn "Kiki" Fontenot, Carl Motsenbocker, Stephen Crnko and Natalie Levy. It will be conducted at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

A session on environmentally friendly landscaping will be presented by Dan Gill and Brian LeBlanc at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.

LaHouse is located at 2858 Gourrier Avenue off Nicholson Drive across from the new Alex Box baseball stadium on the LSU campus.

For additional information, contact Pierce at 225-578-7913



Annual Hattiesburg Daylily Show
June 5, 2010

June 5, 2010 - Saturday (one day only) ...

Visitors to this show view more than 500 daylily specimens and arrangements. The show is one of the largest shows in the nation, in numbers of entries. In addition to marveling at breathtaking flowers, visitors participate in a plant sale, benefit from seminars, receive information at the Education Table, and swap stories and information with other daylily enthusiasts. The show is held at the beautiful Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, MS.

The convention center is at the intersection of Highway 49 and Interstate 59 in Hattiesburg. Judging will continue until 1:00pm, after which the show is open to the public. Visitors are welcome to saunter among rows of tables laden with show entries and marvel at hundreds of breathtaking individual daylilies; including arrangements using daylilies.

During the judging period, visitors may participate in the plant sale and benefit from the seminars. There is always an opportunity to swap stories and information with other daylily enthusiasts. Seminars provide information on establishing daylily beds, caring for daylilies, and using daylilies in the landscape.

Show entries are welcome from any daylily grower. There is no entry fee and membership in the Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society (HADS) is not required.

http://www.hattiesburgdaylily.com/2010_seasonal_events.html

Judy Wood submitted this event for your consideration as a great follow-up to the daylily presentation we had at the May meeting.

TOMATO STUDY

Fellow Master Gardeners,

The information published by the LSU AgCenter on tomato varieties recommended for Louisiana is extremely valuable but often the seeds/plants are not easily available and the selection tends to address the needs of commercial growers. Most home gardeners put taste first.

This study proposes to gather the experiences and opinions of Master Gardeners in their home gardens regarding the different tomatoes that we grow. Hopefully, the tabulated findings will help us and other community gardeners in our area with selection based on a home gardener's wish list for tomatoes and perhaps provide helpful growing tips.

In connection with this, I am asking that you please use the chart below. I'm trying to keep it simple but still gather information that other gardeners will find helpful. If you think other information should be included, please email me. If enough gardeners participate, we may choose to look at other criteria and eliminate some listed below. This is for fun and to help us learn and teach.

You can either print out this chart and complete it by hand or respond by email. Please comment on a separate sheet about such things as which variety was the tastiest in your garden; how disease resistant was the variety; do the bugs like it; did it take up a lot of room; was the plant and fruit attractive; from whom did you buy your seeds or plants; or any other tips for success. Comment on all, some, or none of your varieties as the muse directs but be sure to include the variety name with the comments.

I am not sure how the information will be compiled. My thought is to combine the data from everyone and report it in alphabetic order of the plant's common variety name and publish the comments without editing. That plan may change as the study progresses. The results of the Master Gardener's taste test that will be held at the June meeting will be included in the final tabulated results.

Please send me the information in the format below by July 15 for this study.

Many who grow indeterminate varieties may want to comment on summer progress and whether a particular variety will produce again in the fall. That should be considered separate information. If there is enough interest and participation, there can be a fall supplement re: the summer experience with indeterminate varieties and/or fall tomatoes.

My special interest is in tasty, beautiful tomatoes and, with some exceptions, heirloom tomatoes usually win the prizes at my house. In the spring, I plan to donate 40 or so plants of at least two varieties (usually heirlooms) to the garden show plant sale. Hopefully, as more people grow these and report on them, our individual and collective experience with heirlooms will grow. If you have a special tomato, heirloom or hybrid, that you like or would like to try, let me know by early January and I will consider growing that variety for donation for the spring of that year. (I order tomato and eggplant seeds in December and January).

I hope that this is enjoyable and educational information and am looking forward to learning and sharing. Thank you for participating.

Jerry Ballanco

AGENDA for June 16, 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

-Vice President – Glenda Nanz

-Treasurer – Dianne Ramirez

6-Committee Reports

-Historical and Publicity Committee (Scrapbook) – Glenda Spano

7-Project Coordinator Reports

-Slidell Herb Garden – Nancy Berulis

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

9- Unfinished business

10- New Business

-Proposed bylaws change – Pam Keating

MOTION: that the bylaws committee look into ways that will streamline the business portion of our general membership meeting and report back no later than our August 18, 2010 meeting.

11- Announcements

12- Program – Azaleas – Pat Newman – Folsom Nursery

13- Adjournment

June, 2010

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| 11 | Home Vegetable Field Day at La House. <i>See page 10.</i> |
| 16 | 10 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. Tomato tasting. Program on azaleas by Pat Newman of Folsom Nursery. |
| 17 | Audubon Zoo/Longue Vue Tour. <i>See page 9.</i> |

July, 2010

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| 21 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. |
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August, 2010

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| 18 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. |
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September, 2010

- | | |
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| 15 | 10:00 a.m. Monthly meeting at the National Guard Bldg. |
| 28 | Tentative date for the Fall Herb Festival at the Slidell Library. |

STMGA Directory

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Notes from the Editor:

Again the Master Gardeners have been a busy group. A few went all the way to Monroe for the State Convention, and we had a wonderful turnout at the Garden Stroll. St. Tammany was very well represented there and it was a wonderful event if you missed it.

We are planning a group tour of the Audubon Zoo with a box lunch, then on to Longue Vue for a tour of the gardens. This is one of the “carrots” that we work hard for during the year. This trip is also a great way to get to know your fellow members that you don’t usually volunteer with. The educational component will be there too. Please send in your \$10 to reserve a seat and join us in this fun activity. I hope to see you there! The deadline for submissions to the GARDENGOER will be June 28th. Please think about writing an article to earn volunteer hours you need to fulfill your obligation.

Debora Litzenberger

dklitz@charter.net



THE GARDENGOER

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

Cooperative Extension Service

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