

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6

June, 2013

### 2013 BOBBY FLETCHER, SR. SCHOLARSHIPS



The 2013 Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarships were awarded at the May meeting. Shown above are: Dr. Bobby Fletcher, Jr., Julie Huynh, Donald “Greg” Cooper, Mrs. Bobby Fletcher, Sr., and Denise Fletcher.

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## *President's Message*

Summer is here, and this month Master Gardeners greet Will Afton as St. Tammany's new Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) agent and Master Gardener advisor. He will be starting his job on June 17. Welcome to St. Tammany, Will – we look forward to working with you.

Our May meeting featured a program on careers in the ANR field and the awarding of college scholarships to two St. Tammany High School graduates. Congratulations to our recipients (Julie Huynh of Salmen High School and Greg Cooper of Archbishop Hannan High School) and thanks to the members of the Scholarship, Program and Hospitality Committees for the excellent jobs they did in prepping for our meeting.

Our association will be jumping into June with some of our new projects. On June 8 Camp Salmen Nature Park in Slidell will host its "Spring Fling" which is rescheduled from a May rain-out. The event will take place at Camp Salmen (Hwy. 190 in Slidell, just east of Airport Road) from 10:00 – 2:00. Members of our Hummingbird Garden Committee will host an educational activity at the event. We will also continue to host tables at local Farmers' Markets in Covington and Slidell, and a new crop of Master Gardeners will begin training as "Vegucators". (Contact info for all of these project coordinators is contained in this newsletter. If you volunteer at any of these events remember to record your hours!)

Ready for a road trip? On June 15 the LSU AgCenter is hosting "Garden Fest" at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at the Burden Center. Check out the Garden Fest flyer included in this newsletter for more information.

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2013 St. Tammany Master Gardener class. Mary Beth Kaizer, Administrative Coordinator in the Covington Ag office, can provide applications to anyone interested in applying for the class. She can be contacted at (985) 875-2635. Application deadline is 6/14/13.

We will have a Fall Seminar planning meeting on Tuesday, June 25 from 11:30 – 1:00 in the meeting room of the Causeway branch of the library. Please consider volunteering for this event which will be held during the second week of September. At this time we are in need of a seminar chairperson(s) and volunteers to help chair the various committees (registration, hospitality, table clinics, etc.) needed to facilitate the seminar. This annual half-day seminar will be held in the Conservation Room at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Headquarters in Lacombe. This June meeting will be an opportunity to select topics and speakers for this conference. Volunteering for the seminar is a great way to earn volunteer hours, and this is one of the final 2013 events sponsored by our association.

Information on the 2013 State Master Gardener Conference is now available on the LSU AgCenter website. The conference will be held in Shreveport from October 8 – 11 and the theme is "*Gardening for Life*".

Happy gardening. Quote for the month: *Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.* (Robert Louis Stevenson)

Susie Andres



## STPMG Programs 2013

Month	Speaker	Topic	Hint	Problem	Share	Hours
January 16 Covington	Sue McGuire - Master Gardener 2012	Pruning Roses	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
February 20 Covington	Jim Campbell – Riverside Camellias	Camellias	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
March 20 Covington	Lee Berry – Bamboo Gardens of Louisiana	Overview of bamboo varieties, planting, maintenance	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
April 9	Field Trip – Burden Center, Baton Rouge	Windrush Gardens, Rural Life Museum, Children's Garden				6
April 17 Covington	No speaker	Spring Plant Swap The Barn	No	No	No	0
May 15 Covington	Scotty May, Lyn Monteleone, Debbie Rice	Scholarship Awards	No	No	Yes	0
June 19 Covington	Virginia Bessent Landscape Architect	Rejuvenating an Aging Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
July 17 Covington	No Speaker	Master Gardener Brainstorming Session	No	No	Yes	0
August 21 Covington	TBA	Native Plants	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
September 18 Covington	Linda Franzo – MG 2002	Starting an Herb Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
Late Oct/early Nov	Field Trip	Bellingrath Gardens				4
October 16 Camp Salmen	No speaker	Fall Plant Swap	No	No	No	0
November 20 Covington	Crystal Lawer	Growing Shitake Mushrooms	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
December	No Speaker	Christmas Party				



Martha Gruning  
[mgruning@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgruning@bellsouth.net)





*Celebrating local food and music*

**Saturday, June 15**

**7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens**  
*at Burden*

4560 Essen Lane . Baton Rouge

## Enjoy the Fun

Hayrides to Fruit and Vegetable Plots

Outstanding Tomato Contest

All-America Selections  
and Children's Garden Tours

Children's Activities

Garden Fest Cocktail Contest

Red Stick Idol Contest  
and Live Music

Sample Fresh Local Gourmet Dishes

Plant and Produce Sale

Adults: \$10 . Children 4 to 10: \$5  
Children 3 and younger: FREE

**For information, visit:**  
**LSUAgCenter.com/Burden**  
**or call 225-763-3990**



*Visit Baton Rouge.com*

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Louisiana Nursery &  
Landscape Foundation  
FOR SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

*Invites Green Industry Professionals and Louisiana Master Gardeners To*

**GALA IV**

**Friday, June 14, 2013**

**The Stadium Club at LSU Tiger Stadium**

**(Enter at the West Side Elevators of Tiger Stadium)**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**6:30 – 9:30 PM**

*Join us for an evening of fun, food, and fund-raising  
for scholarships and research to benefit our industry in Louisiana.*

*Featuring: Extended Social Time with Horticulture Celebrities, Silent &  
Live Auctions, Championship Plaza, Views of Tiger Stadium & Mississippi  
River, Jazz Trio, Drinks & Hors D'oeuvres starting at 6:30, Dinner at 8:00.*

*Business Casual Attire - Limited Seating*

*Please respond with Gala Reservation Form by June 7<sup>th</sup>.*

Tables seat 6 persons each.

**Gold Sponsor \$3,000** includes 2 tables premium seating, recognition in Gala program and signage, and LNLA newsletter.

**Silver Sponsor \$1,500** includes 1 table preferred seating, recognition in Gala program and signage, and LNLA newsletter.

**Table Sponsor \$650** includes 1 table reserved seating, recognition in Gala program and LNLA newsletter.

**Individual Admission \$100** per person.

For information or reservation, contact Annie Coco, [anniecoco400@gmail.com](mailto:anniecoco400@gmail.com) or 985-789-4301.

Note: \$50 of each dinner received should not be considered a charitable contribution for tax purposes.



Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation  
For Scholarship & Research  
(LNLFSR)

Gala IV Reservation Form

Mr., Mrs., or Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

*Yes, I plan to attend the LNLFSR Gala IV*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Attendee - \$100/person  
\_\_\_\_\_ Table Sponsor (seats 6) - \$650  
\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Sponsor (seats 6) - \$1,500  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Sponsor (seats 12) - \$3,000  
\_\_\_\_\_ Additional / Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

*Gold Sponsor – 2 premium tables, recognition in program, signage and newsletter*

*Silver Sponsor – 1 preferred table, recognition in program, signage and newsletter*

*\$50 of each dinner received should not be considered a charitable contribution for tax purposes.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *No, I cannot attend but please find enclosed contribution.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please contact me about a named scholarship or research fund opportunity with the LNLFSR.*

***Please respond by June 7<sup>th</sup>.***

**Make checks payable to LNLFSR.**

**Mail Reservation Form and payment to:**  
Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation  
11050 Hwy 441  
Amite, LA 70422

# Thesis project studies 45 varieties of lettuce

**BY ED CULLEN**

Advocate staff writer

Photos by Patrick Dennis

February 27, 2012



Can't get your children to eat lettuce? See if you can get them into lettuce research.

**Will Afton**, a 27-year-old Baton Rougean working on his master's degree in horticulture at LSU, wasn't a big lettuce eater until he began work on his thesis: Planting and evaluating 45 cultivars (cultivated varieties) of lettuce at the LSU AgCenter's Burden research farm off Essen Lane.

With a USDA specialty grant, LSU horticulturists are growing or will grow lettuce, strawberries, bell peppers and tomatoes under commercial guidelines, Afton said.

"We're looking at yields that will help farmers choose the best varieties," he said. "Lettuce is sold by weight. So, the more it weighs, the more the farmer makes on his crop."

Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) is the foundation vegetable of the world's salads. The word "lettuce" comes from an Old French word meaning "milky," like the Latin root word for lettuce, a reference to the plant's juice.

"Lettuce is 95 to 98 percent water," Afton said.

Roman writers described a dozen varieties of lettuce, according to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service website.

"There are hundreds of varieties of edible lettuce today," Afton said.

Wild lettuce originated in Asia Minor, the trans-Caucasus, Iran and Turkistan, according to the Texas A&M website.

The seed for the 45 varieties of lettuce growing in Afton's 26-row, 285-foot-long research plot came from seed companies, much of the seed donated, Afton said.

Afton chose seed for the seeds' plant properties — loose head, tight head, leaf lettuce and color.

"Some I chose just for the name," Afton said. "This is 'Drunken Woman Frizzy Head,'" said the graduate student stepping up to the frizzy headed lettuce. "That's its real name."

Growing close by was another lettuce Afton chose for its name, "Flashy Trout Back," a romaine.

Afton likes Lolla Rosso, New Red Fire and Red Salad for color and taste.

Research at the Burden Center helps farmers follow trends among consumers, produce suppliers and restaurants, Afton said.

“There’s a demand for red lettuce,” he said.

Growing up in Baton Rouge, Afton attended Highland Elementary, McKinley Middle and Baton Rouge High. Young Afton was not a lettuce eater.

“There was no good reason,” he said. “There were just a certain few vegetables you ate and nothing else.”

Afton the lettuce researcher likes lettuce on hamburgers and in salads.

“Now, I appreciate extra lettuce on a hamburger,” he said. “I eat a couple of salads a week, and I like it when they throw in some red lettuce.”

Between 1990 and 2008, crisp-head lettuce production declined by 64 percent, according to the USDA Economic Research Service.

Romaine lettuce production increased almost 400 percent, and leaf lettuce production jumped 77 percent.

“Lettuce isn’t a large commercial crop in Louisiana,” Afton said. “It’s grown mostly in home gardens and for farmers’ markets.”

Home gardeners like leaf lettuce and loose-headed lettuces because the gardener can rob leaves from different plants rather than having to harvest an entire plant.

Afton used plastic mulch to control weeds and to reduce contact between plants and soil. Drip tape was used for irrigation.

“We water once a day for 30 minutes in the morning,” he said. “Throughout the growing season, we ‘fertigated’ with calcium nitrate at a rate of 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

“Fertigation” fertilizes through irrigation lines using a water soluble fertilizer, Afton said.

“Calcium nitrate is extremely water soluble,” he said. “We ‘fertigated’ with 15 pounds of nitrogen a week for three weeks and on Week 4 we used 5 pounds of nitrogen to satisfy the recommended 50 pounds an acre.”

Before the mulch and drip tape went down, Afton applied a pre-planting fertilizer based on soil tests.

He used Mustang Max EC to control spotted cucumber beetle, a lettuce pest despite the bug’s name. The pesticide’s active ingredient is zeta cypermethrin.

“We try to limit pesticide use,” he said.

After harvest, Afton will retire to the lab to analyze the top 10 yielding lettuces and check for, among other things, nitrate concentration.



In the lab, he'll not only learn to run analysis on his lettuce but how to use the lab's instruments.

Even in this slow economy, the job market for new horticulturists isn't bad, Afton said. His "findings" are based on the luck fellow students have had getting work.

"There are so many sides to horticulture," he said.

There's turf grass, landscape installation and maintenance (residential and commercial), fruit and vegetables.

"Most people I hear about have a job within a year" of graduation, some faster, he said.

"You still have to search and apply," he said.

Like other people Afton's age, some new horticulture graduates start their own companies.

"I work at Clegg's Nursery," Afton said. "I see a lot of new lawn companies starting up."



Flashy Trout Back Lettuce



Drunken Woman Frizzy Head Lettuce

*Will Afton will be our ANR County Agent stating on June 17.*

# Growing hybrid tea roses can be easy

**News Release Distributed 01/17/13**

*By Allen Owings, LSU AgCenter horticulturist*

HAMMOND, La. – Some people consider roses to be hard to grow. This is not true. Difficulty in growing roses is a common misconception that many gardeners have a hard time believing.

Gardeners may have shied away from growing roses in the past, but more and more research is demonstrating that roses can be grown with less care than folks previously thought.

An example is the recent LSU AgCenter research nearing completion at the Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport. A study, called the Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Research Project, was initiated to identify hybrid tea varieties that will flourish under minimum care conditions.

This project was started in February 2009, and the last data from this four-year study were taken in October 2012. The research project is a joint effort of the American Rose Society and the LSU AgCenter with some financial support provided by the ARS Research Endowment Trust.

Based on the highly successful Earth-Kind rose program initiated and managed through the Texas Agri-Life Extension Service, the Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Project, as its name implies, focused on hybrid tea varieties rather than the shrubs and old garden roses primarily included in the Earth-Kind research. As with the Earth-Kind Program, Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Project has identified existing rose varieties that can meet the criteria to be designated earth-friendly.

Many rose enthusiasts have wanted to encourage more people to enjoy growing our national flower by developing a program to test and identify hybrid tea rose varieties that would require a minimum of care – including minimal use of fungicides.

The function of the Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research Program was to evaluate 30 carefully selected varieties of hybrid tea roses to identify those with the highest level of natural disease resistance.

Some of the hybrid tea roses that have performed well during a portion of this study have included Frederic Mistral, Mister Lincoln, Pope John Paul II, Rio Samba, Shreveport, Tahitian Sunset, The McCartney Rose, Tiffany, Traviata, Pink Traviata, Tropicana and Sunset Celebration. The LSU AgCenter will be finalizing the results of this study and have the list of winning roses available later this year.

Other rose research ongoing at the LSU AgCenter, primarily at the Hammond Research Station, includes using plant growth regulators to lessen pruning requirements on Knock Out roses, a landscape trial of Drift roses, blackspot susceptibility studies on heirloom tea roses, evaluation of the landscape performance of the new Biltmore Rose Collection and more.

In addition, Burden Center in Baton Rouge had been the site of an All-America Rose Selection display garden, and starting in 2013 it will be one of the new national sites for the American Garden Rose Selections program.

You can see more about work being done in landscape horticulture by viewing the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station [website](#). Also, like us on [Facebook](#). You can find an abundance of landscape information for both home gardeners and industry professionals.

**Rick Bogren**



*Traviata has been an impressive performer in Easy-Tea trials. (Photo by Allen Owings. Click on photo for downloadable image.)*



*The McCartney rose produced a large, vigorous plant after four years. (Photo by Allen Owings. Click on photo for downloadable image.)*

Hi Everyone, It is already June and my garden is not totally planted. The weather, the visitors, and the new part time job have hindered my efforts to complete all spring gardening tasks. The big Ford tractor had to have fuel pump surgery and a front end loader bolt replacement. A full recovery is expected. Jim has decided the tractor needs a facelift too! We purchased a gallon of Ford Blue paint for a summer project.



The tomatoes are behind schedule. The plants are a nice size but the fruit are just beginning to set on the plants. The potatoes and garlic are ready to be harvested. I have just planted the beans.

The cows took their dog on an excursion one Sunday while everyone was away from home except for me. I was out in the garden and I heard a cow repeatedly bellowing. It was a distress call so I started walking towards the noise. Upon arriving across the field, I noticed Casper (cow dog) was gone and so were about a dozen cows and calves. The remaining cows were bellowing at the trampled section of fence where it was apparent the break out occurred. I crossed the fence and walked down through the woods to the creek branch and found the girls showing Casper how to swim in the cool, poison ivy infested waters. It took another 20 minutes to return home and retrieve 50 pounds of corn to lure the escapees back to their own field. They were not so happy about having to jump back over the fence and walk to the front pasture in the afternoon heat. Two hours later, I had the cows in the front pasture (with Casper) securely locked up. Exhausted and covered with insect bites, I retired to the air conditioned confines of the house for a much deserved rest. We are still not sure how the cows found the dog or from where it originated. It is a permanent resident now. It looks like an 80 pound ghost and it appears at our fence twice a day ready to be fed. Untouchable but not aggressive, Casper is happy with the cow girls.

Yesterday during lunch, Jim and I looked out of the kitchen window to see our version of the tortoise and the hare race. A white cottontail rabbit was hopping down the driveway with a box turtle on the other side of the driveway going in the same direction. After about 20 feet the turtle went to the left and the rabbit went to the right and the race was over. This is the same box turtle that eats dog food and comes toward Jim whenever he breaks out a water hose. It is easy to get distracted by the antics of our wildlife friends.



My heaven now has boundaries. Before entering Heaven, my veggie garden, one has to enter through a green gate. The mother armadillo and her four little tillers have been banned from heaven as well as the strawberry eating cottontail. Unfortunately the fence does not keep out the insects. Back in the garden, aj



A.J. Heinsz-Bailey  
[ajjim@hotmail.com](mailto:ajjim@hotmail.com)



## Bamboo Gardens of Louisiana

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, a small group of Master Gardeners along with several friends, made a pilgrimage to Lee Berry's Bamboo Gardens of Louisiana in Mt. Hermon. "Pilgrimage" seems an appropriate word given the prevailing sense of serenity and calm in the beautiful groves of bamboo.

Bamboo Gardens of Louisiana has 24 acres of bamboo growing 110 different bamboo varieties. Screening bamboos, ornamental varieties, the giant Moso timber bamboo, towering up to 75' tall and up to 7 inches in diameter, the more delicate dwarf bamboos and the tropical bamboos were a feast for the eyes and the soul.

Bamboo varieties fall into one of two types – clumping and running. The clumping bamboo, with a self-limiting rhizome system, can be contained since it spreads to a certain diameter in width and then stops. The running bamboo will travel endlessly and invade spaces where it was not meant to be. Various methods of containment have evolved – in ground barriers, mowing new shoots and water. The surefire method is water because bamboo will not cross water. The roots cannot grow in wet, poorly drained soil. Some varieties of bamboo are suited to container growing. The clumping bamboo has an extensive root system and can become root bound and stunted in a container. Some running bamboos, with shallow, horizontal root system, will grow well in containers that mimic their natural growth pattern – shallow and wide.

Lee explained that the two varieties of bamboo prefer different types of fertilizer. Clumping bamboo is happy with chemical fertilizer. Running bamboo prefers organic fertilizer. Initially cow manure seemed to be an option for the organic fertilizer however the reality of gathering and regularly spreading tons of cow manure gave rise to an alternative: natural organic fertilizer provided by chicken droppings from a flock of beautiful French hens. I will say that the cacophony of the hen choir did somewhat spoil the calm serenity of the bamboo groves however honey-colored hens added to the charm of the gardens.

I think that all of us thoroughly enjoyed Lee's tour. Seeing the bamboo during "shooting season" was amazing – definitely the time to go.

Martha Gruning





## Inviting Butterflies & Hummingbirds into Your Garden

On April 24 at 4:30 P.M., the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners welcomed 57 participants to their Spring Event at the Abita Branch of the St. Tammany Parish Library. Kay Redd, the head librarian, and her assistants, Sarah Vliet and Amy Strain provided invaluable support by pre-registering patrons, copying literature on butterflies and hummingbirds and the plants that attract them, watering the flower and herb beds and keeping the hummingbird feeders filled with food in preparation for the event.



Martha Gruning leads a tour of the garden.

The Master Gardeners participating in the project did a marvelous job of educating the audience. Our program initially was planned as an outdoor event. However, a stretch of rain prompted us to move most of our presentations inside. Donna Howland gathered many books on butterflies and read to the children in the audience while the adults toured the raised herb and flower beds and the bed on the south side of the library all of which are full of wonderful butterfly and hummingbird plants – passionflower vine, melampodium or butter daisy, milkweed, lantana, Shasta daisy, various salvias, cuphea, pineapple sage, Thai basil, oregano, spearmint and lavender. The Master Gardeners pointed out which plants attract which butterflies both for host plants and nectar plants. Once the adults moved inside, they, along with the children, enjoyed excellent presentations on hummingbirds and butterflies. Deborah Nolan covered hummingbird information: their migration patterns, the species found in our area, favorite hummingbird plants, making food, cleaning feeders, flight details, diet and longevity and mortality. Susan L'Hoste, Cindy Manger and Wes Goostrey provided complete information on butterflies: scientific classification, anatomy, identification, life cycle, survival and predators and butterfly food. The presenters answered questions from the audience after the presentations. Our event closed with the distribution of raffle prizes, seeds, plants, small butterfly and hummingbird related gift items, to those attending the event.

Martha Gruning



Nancy McDonald, Wes Goostrey, Martha Gruning, Cindy Manger, Deborah Nolan, Susan L'Hoste and Diane Labourdette.



# MG Appreciation Day



Dr. Allan Owings gave a guided tour of the gardens.



Despite the early rain, there was a full house at the Hammond Research Station. The gardens were beautiful, we were treated to a bag lunch and interesting speakers, Bill Roundtree a landscape designer, and Dan Gill, LSU Associate Professor of Consumer Horticulture.



Dan Gill takes a moment to enjoy the garden. He gave a great talk on considerations to take into account before planting.



## **AgCenter schedules vegetable workshops for parents, teachers**

*Writer: Pamela Hodson at 225-763-3990 [or phodson@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:phodson@agctr.lsu.edu)*

BATON ROUGE, La. – The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is holding a series of vegetable workshops on a variety of gardening topics.

The workshops will provide information to help parents and teachers establish and maintain a vegetable garden.

“Gardens at school or home provide environments for effective learning,” said LSU AgCenter gardening specialist Kiki Fontenot. “The workshops will provide gardening basics that parents or teachers can use to plant seeds of knowledge in children.”

“The workshops will include hands-on activities, and everyone attending will be getting their hands dirty while learning basic principles of gardening that can be applied in the home or school garden,” director of education at the Botanic Gardens Kyle Huffstickler said.

The workshop dates and topics include:

- June 13 – What is a weed, what is a plant?
- August 8 – Insect identification.
- October 10 – Is it ready to harvest/eat?
- November 14 – Preparing your fresh vegetables.

All workshops will be held at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, located at 4560 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge from 6 p.m. until 7 pm. There is no charge for admission, but registration is required by contacting Huffstickler at 225-763-3990.

###

*Kyle Huffstickler can be reached at 225-763-3990 or [khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu)*

*KiKi Fontenot can be reached at 225-578-2417 or [kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu)*

## Master Gardener Activities



Slidell Memorial Hospital Rehab Garden Project members held a successful plant sale on May 8 to support the garden. Shown above are: Pete Hansen, Betty Rose, Pete Pericone, Leslie Landeche and Paul Andres. For information about volunteering at the Rehab Garden, contact Leslie Landeche at [rock-nlou@bellsouth.net](mailto:rock-nlou@bellsouth.net)



Covington Farmer's Market Project volunteers, Leslie Boucher and Dee Middleton, answer questions and give gardening advice. If you are interested in volunteering at the Covington Farmer's Market, contact Billie Stanga at [billie.stanga@gmail.com](mailto:billie.stanga@gmail.com)



## Join us for Bloomin' on the Red!

If education, entertainment and great speakers are what you hope to find in a statewide Master Gardener Conference, that's what you'll discover at the 2013 Louisiana Master Gardener Conference...**Bloomin' on the Red, 'Gardening for Life'** in Shreveport. Heads up, you all: Master Gardeners in Northwest Louisiana are HOT! (Well, who isn't after a Louisiana summer?)

So, **what** is in store for you at the **Bloomin' on the Red Master Gardener Conference** in Shreveport Louisiana?



- A little bit of dirt through storytelling
- Challenges of Shade Gardening...we liked the title "Gardening in the Dark," but Steve said it sounded rather vampirish. So it has a more sedate name now. Find it on Thursday in the **'Design Track'**.
- The score on gardening as we age, even if you don't admit it, c'mon folks! Here's how to do it. Look for it in the **'Health Track'**.
- Seasoning the Melting Pot. Hmmm....Whatever is Ann going to tell us?
- Why is my cilantro dead? And other stories of unintended consequences.
- Food is healthy. We grow Food. Learn more here!
- Festive fall and winter containers with Chris Olsen.
- Melinda Myers knows about small space gardening....among many other things! Check out her new tools in the Vendor Area.
- GREAT FOOD! (Really!)
- Two exciting tours, one to a locally acclaimed public garden, the *Norton Art Gallery and Gardens*, and another, a guided tour through the *Gardens of the American Rose Center* where fall bloom will be at its peak.
- Down time to visit the **Red River Revel**, where great music, lively entertainment, hal-lalujah good food, and original art intersect for a great gala. Yeah, Shreveporters get into this stuff! You can too.
- Scores of first-rate gardening products ranging from the unusual and hard to find tools to garden art. Books! Plants! and much more. Whoopee! Your garden will never look so good!
- Vendors who are aching to present unusual native and proven plants to a Louisiana gardener hungry to find them.
- Amazing, isn't it? Shreveport, Louisiana-"The Other Side." We've got a plan!

Check out the interesting list of speakers. **Bloomin' on the Red** has three "tracks" to pique your interest and grow your knowledge. You can choose to stay on one track for the whole conference, or bounce back and forth to whatever makes you happy. We've looked far and wide for those people with cutting-edge knowledge to bring it to you in a three-day package of fun and downright practical information based on current research.

After our brutal summers, October seems like a rainbow. Yes, it is. And you've found it here: **Bloomin' on the Red!**

For more information: [www.bloominonthered.com](http://www.bloominonthered.com)

## STPMG MAY, 2013 BOARD MEETING

The May 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting was called to order at 10:00 am at the Causeway branch of the library in Mandeville by Susie Andres.

Julie motioned that we accept the April board minutes as presented. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

It was decided that there would be no board meetings for June or July. The next board meeting will be on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Causeway library.

Judy spoke on the recent teleconference between Bobby Fletcher Jr. and the board members. One of the discussions concerned types of usable volunteer hours. It is possible that member hours could be approved by the project committee. Judy will draft an article to eventually go in the Gardengoer.

Judy also discussed the possibility of having a mentoring program for new/perspective members in order to retain new Master Gardeners in the organization and to facilitate a smooth transition from student to active Master Gardener. It was felt that the mentoring process should begin prior to orientation of the new students.

Pam Rowe will be transferring money out of the plant show account leaving only the amount budgeted for the year. Scholarship money will be transferred to the saving account to cover present and previous commitments.

Martha spoke on continued planning for upcoming meetings and field trips. She is currently checking into a Japanese garden in St. Francesville for next spring. The exact date for the fall seminar has not been decided yet (should be around 9/10 or 9/11). A planning meeting will be called for June. Details will be in the Gardener. A nominating committee will also meet in June to find a new secretary.

Respectfully submitted by  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

## STPMG MAY 15<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by Susie Andres, president. The meeting was held at the National Guard Armory in Covington. Thirty-five people were in attendance. After opening ceremonies Julie motioned to accept the April minutes as presented in the Gardengoer. David Lynd seconded. Motion was carried.

Martha spoke on upcoming programs including one on mushrooms in November and a field trip to Bellingrath Gardens in October. The October general membership meeting will also be a plant swap held this year at Camp Salmen. The July meeting will include a one hour brainstorming session instead of a speaker. Members can brainstorm on the organization and the annual plant show sale. Martha reminded everyone that this one hour session will count as one hour of volunteering.

Possible available seminar dates for the fall are 9/11 or 9/12. There will be a planning meeting the last Tuesday in June at the Causeway branch library.

Susie reported that a new county agent has been hired to replace Rusty. His name is Will Afton and he will begin his duties on 6/17/13.

The board members had a video conference with Dr. Bobby Fletcher Jr at the AgCenter on 4/18/13. He thanked our membership for the important work we do to spread gardening knowledge to all of St. Tammany. He also suggested we consider volunteering more hours in the AgCenter office taking phone calls and to volunteer to help with numerous 4H activities. Cindy Manger is chair so please contact her if you can help.

Susie reported for Donna on a very successful Slidell Herb Fest and Martha reported on the successful Abita Library program. Nancy Berulis reported on the new Slidell Farmers' Market project. It will usually be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, but in June it will be changed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday because Slidell Farmers' Market will be celebrating their 15th anniversary. Susie reported for Peggy that the Camp Salmen event that was cancelled due to storms has been rescheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>.

We usually give a donation to the Hammond Research Center by way of Allen Owings. The membership will vote in June to decide if a donation will be made this year.

After a short break we began the second part of the program – The Bobby Fletcher Sr. Memorial Scholarship Presentation. The program started with Scotty May, Washington Parish ANR agent speaking to the group about the different Horticulture and agriculture careers that the STPMG scholarship could include. Debbie Rice spoke on the history of the St Tammany chapter of the Master Gardeners and the plant show. Lyn Monteleone, scholarship chairman, gave a presentation on the various agricultural and horticultural programs offered by the St. Tammany Parish School System. She then made the presentation of the scholarships. This year's recipients were Julie Huynh and Donald 'Greg' Cooper.

Bobby Fletcher, Jr. thanked the Master Gardeners for setting up this program to help students attend college in agriculture related studies. He gave a little background information on his father, Bobby Fletcher, Sr. in whose memory our scholarship is given.

Thanks to Barbara Moore and her crew, a wonderful reception was held afterwards.



Respectfully submitted by  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary



Lyn Monteleone, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, and the 2013 Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarship winners, Julie Huynh from Salmen High (left) and Donald "Greg" Cooper (above) from Archbishop Hannon High. Julie plans to pursue a career in veterinary science at LSU and Greg plans to pursue a degree in Horticulture at Southeastern.





# Calendar of Events

June, 2013	
8	Camp Salmen Spring Fling. 10-2. MGs will host an information table and a children's activity on hummingbirds. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Peggy Goertz at <a href="mailto:peggpegg@aol.com">peggpegg@aol.com</a> .
15	Burden Center, "Garden Fest", 9-1. See page 4
17	Our new ANR County Agent, Will Afton, will come on board. For some background on Will, see pages 7-9,
19	Monthly Meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am –noon. Virginia Bessent, Landscape Architect, will speak on "Rejuvenating an Aging Garden".
25	Planning meeting for the Fall Seminar at the Causeway Branch Library. 11:30-1:00. If you are interested in volunteering for the half day seminar to be held at Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Headquarters in Lacombe, please contact Susie Andres at <a href="mailto:sandres@gmail.com">sandres@gmail.com</a> . This is the last major opportunity to earn volunteer hours this year.

July, 2013	
13	Slidell Farmer's Market Project will host an information table at the Market on the second Saturday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nancy Berulis at <a href="mailto:nberulis@bellsouth.net">nberulis@bellsouth.net</a>
17	Monthly Meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am—noon. MG Brainstorming session.

August, 2013	
1	MG Board meeting at the Causeway Branch Library at 10:00 a.m.. There will be no Board meetings in June or July.
6	Slidell Herb Garden Talk at the Slidell Library. 1 p.m. The speaker is Kathleen Guidry and her topic is "chia".
10	Slidell Farmer's Market Project will host an information table at the Market on the second Saturday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nancy Berulis at <a href="mailto:nberulis@bellsouth.net">nberulis@bellsouth.net</a>
15	Monthly Meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am—noon. Speaker on native plants..

September, 2013	
3	Slidell Herb Talk at the Slidell Library. 1:00 p.m. Gail Hinkley will talk about the passion vine.
5	Board meeting at the Causeway Branch Library. 10:00 a.m.
14	Slidell Farmer's Market Project will host an information table. Contact Nancy Berulis for more information: <a href="mailto:nberulis@bellsouth.net">nberulis@bellsouth.net</a> .
18	Monthly Meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am—noon. Speaker: Linda Franzo on starting an herb garden.

# STPMG Directory

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**ROOTING THE FUTURE: MGs PARTNER WITH STPSB SCHOOLS:**

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**ABITA SPRINGS LIBRARY:**

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**GLOVES:**

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*Notes From the Editor:*

*Hi MGs,*

*Vacation is over and I'm back in the routine again. It was so good to come home to living plants thanks to a friend. My house had no rain for 10 days so everything would have died. Of course, it rained and stormed most of the time in Missouri and the day we came home it rained. Nature is so fickle. I was rewarded with the first tomato of the season when I got home. I was so afraid my watering friend would get the first one! There's nothing better than the first tomato from the garden!*

*I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting. We will meet our new County Agent, Will Afton, for the first time there. Please show him the STPMG love! Welcome, Will! We are so happy to have you on board!*

*Please post your hours at least once a month so you don't forget them. Here is the link:*

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn\\_garden/master\\_gardener/Reporting+Volunteer+Hours/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/Reporting+Volunteer+Hours/)

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## **THE GARDENGOER**

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

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