

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

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An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

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### "It's Easy Being Green"



The Spring Seminar Committee: Harold Scherer, Lucy Fitzgerald, Kay Hanson, Jill Stoltz, Chairman, Jan Butler, Billie Stanga and Bernard Ory. The seminar was the highest attended seminary yet at 230 attendees. The seminar was held at the Journey Fellowship Church, a wonderful location.. Speakers included: Julian Lane, a local beekeeper who spoke on "Beginning with Bees", Dr. Gerard Ballanco's topic was "Fire & Rain, Environmental Stresses on Vegetables", Dr. Regina Bracy introduced us to "Louisiana Super Plants for Spring", Dr. Don Reed talked about "Critter Control Around the Home", and to close the seminar, Dan Gill's topic was "Growing Out of the Ordinary Vegetables". It was a very well done, informative seminar. The refreshments were great as well as lunch, which was catered by Linda Franzo. Congratulations to everyone who worked on the seminar!

# President's Message

March is roaring in and we're in the final preparations for the Garden Show, hoping it will be the best one yet! Already some significant hurdles have been cleared on our way to another successful event. Just take a look at some of the things we've accomplished so far:



- We've filled every spot in the corral with plant materials and other gardening items.
- Many of our longstanding vendors have returned and we have several new friends joining us this year!
- Rusty has lined up a number of intriguing and knowledgeable speakers.
- And Glenda Nanz has secured a beautiful signed and numbered Audubon lithograph as a raffle donation.

NOW ALL WE NEED ARE CUSTOMERS!!! This is where you can help. Please pick up some fliers at the AgCenter and spread them around the Parish. Give them to garden clubs and nurseries, friends, neighbors and local businesses to hang in their windows. Then take some signs from Rusty and put them at strategic locations to let people know when and where to get all these wonderful plants. Caution: make sure the signs are displayed legally or they will be picked up and we could get fined. Many businesses will allow you to put a sign on their property, but please ask first.

Tune in to Cable Access Channel 10 to see Rusty promote this event. He will be on sporadically throughout the day for the next two weeks. Also, look for our ads in the paper, Inside Northside and on the Causeway signs. A big "thanks" goes out to Ann Gilbert for all of her hard work.

The MG Plant Booth needs donations of all kinds. You can put some transplants or divided plants in something as simple as a Styrofoam cup with potting soil and a plastic knife with the name of the plant written with a Sharpie.

If you haven't volunteered yet, it's not too late. Contact Pam Twardzik at [pammg09@yahoo.com](mailto:pammg09@yahoo.com) and she can tell you where you're needed most. We have such fun and just think of all those hours you'll rack up!

Remember that, after expenses, the proceeds from the Garden Show go towards the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund to help deserving students discover what we already know: that gardening is fun!!!

See you at the Plant Show on March 16 and 17!

Julie Deus  
[jdcalla@aol.com](mailto:jdcalla@aol.com)

# Fire Ant Wars

By

Rusty Batty

With the recent and consistent February rains and expected March moisture and warmer temperatures we will begin the annual Fire Ant wars. Fire ants can be a big nuisance with their painful stings, and their ability to make multiple mounds in lawns and planting beds. Most homeowners just want to use a nuclear waste to eliminate them forever in their landscape. However fire ants are a benefit as predators to many other insects invading your home. Most ants, including fire ants help to control lawn chiggers, ticks, fleas, aphids and many other sucking insect pests.

Although fire ants do not directly cause damage plants their painful sting is reason enough to limit their territory. Consider these two treatment methods to provide great fire ant control.

I. Broadcasting treatment-

- baits are less expense
- ants are controlled for longer period
- little labor required
- fewer environmental hazard

II. Individual mound treatment-

- More expensive, more time consuming
- Quicker results
- Low to moderate environmental risk

Fire ants can be controlled and not eliminated. Your method to fight the battle can bring victory.

Broadcast brand name materials would include- Extinguish, Ceasefire, or Amdro.

Individual mound treatment brand name materials- Orthene, Ortho max, or Sevin.

For more in depth information on fire ant controls see:

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/environment/insects/ants/>



Hi everyone, It's Friday! I look out the kitchen window just in time to see a cottontail rabbit karate kick a crow at the corn pile. A second crow flew down from the black gum and the rabbit scampered to the other side of the driveway where another pile of corn was waiting for a diner to feast. The breakfast club never fails to entertain. Since it is sprinkling outside I will have to armchair garden today. Karla and Nancy's compost program brought back fond memories. Organic matter is the key to a great garden soil. There is a basic rule I follow when searching for the perfect compost. Feel the compost first. If it has the texture of a rich moist chocolate cake you have struck the jackpot. Do not smell other people's compost until you have known them for a while. However every now and then you will find someone who has a clump so rich, so moist, so inviting you just can't help yourself. The rich dark smell is so earthy you just have to inhale hard. After the giddiness passes, you know this compost will grow the best plants ever. This process is repeated every growing season. There are infinite combinations of organic materials available for composting. Everyone has their own favorites. Greens, browns, herbivore manure, grass clippings, dryer lint and newspaper are just a few of the raw resources available for producing black gold. Try making your own compost. 1 cubic yard is the minimum necessary to be successful. The benefits from your efforts can be eaten! Last but not least you can ask others to smell your compost. Waiting to get back in the garden aj



## STPMG Programs 2012

Month	Speaker	Topic	Hint	Problem	Share	Hours
January 18 Covington	Ed Goodwin Kim Walsdorf-Shockley	Caring for Garden Tools Gardening Exercises	No	Yes	Yes	1
February 15 Covington	Art Scott Bernard Ory	Irrigation  Presentation of Awards	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
March 14 Covington	Henry Harrison	Growing Watermelons in the Home Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	
March 29 Thursday	Field Trip	St. Martinville Jefferson Island	No	No	No	
April 18 Covington	No Speaker	Spring Plant Swap Lunch at Cheri Hall's	No	No	No	
May 16 Covington	Sheila Stroup	Scholarship Award	No	No	No	
June 20 Covington	Joan Gagliano Chairperson	Vegetable Festival	No	Yes	No	
July 18 Covington						
August 15 Covington						
September 19 Covington						
October 10 Wednesday	Field Trip	Bracy's Nursery Covey Rise Farms				
October 17 Covington		Speaker  Fall Plant Swap				
November 14 Covington						
December ? Location	No Speaker	Christmas Party				

Judy Wood  
[jazzwood@charter.net](mailto:jazzwood@charter.net)





## **STPMG Programs**

March 21, 2012

### **Growing Watermelons in the Home Garden**

**Henry Harrison**

Growing Watermelons in the Home Garden can be fun and rewarding. Henry Harrison, County Agent from Washington Parish will provide information on how to be successful at growing melons in your home garden. Washington Parish known for the quality of taste of their watermelons has over 700 acres devoted to watermelons and generates nearly one million dollars in revenue.

### **Sharing Table Garden Problems Garden Hints**

At this meeting the **Sharing Table** will be available to pass on those gardening items you no longer need/want but may be helpful/useful to other MGs. We need an MG to volunteer to provide the **Garden Hint** for March. If you have a **Garden Hint** you are willing to share with us, please email Judy Wood, [jazzwood@charter.net](mailto:jazzwood@charter.net) to be placed on the schedule. There will be a brief time to learn about a current **Garden Problem** about which you may have a question. Bring that ailing leaf, stem, plant, etc. for discussion.



**STPMG Spring Field Trip**  
**Jefferson Island**  
**Rip Van Winkle Gardens**  
**St. Martinville**  
**Thursday, March 29, 2012**  
**Bus Departs Covington Ag Center 7:30 AM**

The Spring 2012 Field Trip will be to view the Rip Van Winkle Gardens at Jefferson Island in Iberia Parish. Michael Richard, owner of Rip Van Winkle Gardens and Live Oak Nursery (wholesale) will lead the tour of the gardens and nursery.

The bus will depart from the AgCenter parking lot in the Fair Grounds at 7:30 AM. There will be a thirty minute stop in St. Martinville to view the Evangeline Oak and native gardens along Bayou Teche. Upon arriving at Jefferson Island the group will divide into two smaller groups. While the first group tours the gardens the second group will eat lunch. Then the groups will switch and the second group will tour the gardens and the first group will eat lunch. There will be time to view the short film about the November 1980 disaster when Lake Peigneur disappeared into the salt mine and to tour the Joseph Jefferson Mansion.

The bus will leave Jefferson Island at 2:30 PM returning to the Ag Center at 5:30 PM.

The cost of the tour for STPMG members is \$20 plus the cost of lunch. There are a few seats available for guests at a cost of \$32 plus lunch. The menu of lunch choices is on the next page. To reserve your place or the place for your guest **send a note indicating the lunch choice and a check made payable to STPMG for the amount of the lunch choice plus \$20(for members) or \$32 (for guests)** to Judy Wood, 60589 Cypress Drive, Lacombe, LA 70445. You will receive an email confirmation that your check was received.

Additional information and sites are available at  
Rip Van Winkle Gardens <http://www.ripvanwinklegardens.com/> ,  
Live Oak Nursery <http://www.liveoakgardens.com/> ,  
The Lake Peigneur disaster [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Peigneur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Peigneur) ,  
St. Martinville, <http://www.stmartinville.org/attractions.html> .

Judy Wood [jazzwood@charter.net](mailto:jazzwood@charter.net)

**Lunch Choice (Includes beverage, tax, and 20% gratuity)**  
**Jefferson Island Café**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Half Muffuletta Ham, salami, Provolone and Swiss cheese, olive salad	12.66
2	Quarter Muffuletta	8.84
3	LOCO Turkey Sandwich Turkey, Jalapeno Cheese, Dressed with Lettuce Tomato, Mayonnaise and Jalapeno Mustard	13.93
4	BLT Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato served on Toasted Bread with Mayonnaise	10.12
5	Seafood Gumbo (Bowl) Homemade with large shrimp, LA crawfish and crabmeat served with rice on side and a roll	18.45
6	Weezies Chicken and Sausage Gumbo (Bowl) Homemade with boneless chicken, smoked sausage, served with rice on the side and a roll	14.63
7	Seafood Cream Bisque (Bowl) Homemade with large shrimp, LA crawfish and crabmeat served with a fresh roll	25.45
8	Crawfish Etouffee with Side Caesar Salad Homemade Blue Ribbon Etouffee with LA Crawfish	26.66
9	Crabmeat Au Gratin with Side Caesar Salad Jumbo chunks of crabmeat in a creamy sauce au gratin	27.93
10	Seafood Heaven with Side Caesar Salad Creamy basil sauce full of jumbo shrimp, crabmeat chunks, and crawfish over angel hair pasta	26.66
11	Spaghetti with Meat Sauce with small Caesar Salad Delicious spaghetti sauce over tender angel hair pasta served with fresh baked homemade bread.	16.48
12	Chicken Sauce Piquant with Side Salad Leg quarter with spicy red sauce, Tasso and Andouille, sundried tomatoes, roasted peppers and vegetable mirepoix.	19.02
13	Chefs Salad A plate full of ham, turkey, egg and American cheese, served on a bed of romaine with tomatoes	12.66
<b>Optional Side Items (no beverage included)</b> add this to the cost of the meal above		
14	Seafood Gumbo (Cup)	9.54
15	Weezies Chicken and Sausage Gumbo (Cup)	8.27
16	Seafood Cream Bisque (Cup)	12.09
17	Side House Salad Romaine lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, bacon bits, and croutons	5.03
18	Side Caesar Salad Romaine lettuce mixed with Caesar dressing, croutons, and Parmesan cheese	5.03
19	Beverage add if you are ordering side items only	2.55





**Southern Region Master Gardener Conference**  
**May 1-4, 2012**  
**Natchez, MS**

The conference provides an opportunity to meet and interact with Master Gardeners from many southern states. There are excellent speakers and tours offered for your selection. Registration is \$155 until March 10. After 3/10, late registration increases to \$205.

Additional information and registration is available at the web site.

[http://msucares.com/lawn/master\\_gardener/2012conference/index.html](http://msucares.com/lawn/master_gardener/2012conference/index.html)



# NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW

***FRIDAY, March 16  
& SATURDAY, March 17***

St Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington

9am-4pm

Adults—\$3.00/Under 12—FREE



Covered Event—No Rain Outs  
Free Parking  
30+ Exhibitor Booths  
Gardening Information -

Free Presentations Hourly  
Free Children's Activities  
Free Door Prizes both days  
Food Concessions

Benefitting the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. College Scholarship Fund



## NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW FRIDAY, March 16 & SATURDAY March 17 St Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington

Friday	Topic	Presenter
10 am	Basics in Butterfly Gardening	Eileen Gremillion, 2011 Master Gardener
11 am	Lawns, Leaves and Limbs Diagnosed	Dr. Nick Singh LSU AgCenter, Plant Pathologist
12 noon	Irrigation for Small Gardens	Curt Bowman Irrigation Specialist
1 pm	Weeds vs Lawns vs Man	Dr. Ron Strahan LSU AgCenter, Weed/Turf Specialist
2 pm	Recommended Fruits of the South	Dr Ned Edwards USDA-Horticulturist

*More than 35 exhibitors,  
featuring plant material and  
garden supplies for sale,  
a plant health clinic,  
childrens activities  
and food concessions*



Saturday	Topic	Presenter
10 am	Composting, The World of Worms	Nancy McDonald, 2011 Master Gardener Karla Partridge, 2010 Master Gardener
11 am	Louisiana Iris, from Acadian—Zydeco	Patrick O'Connor Horticulturist
12 noon	Can't Miss Colorful Plants	Dan Gill LSU AgCenter, Consumer Horticulturist
1 pm	Water Gardening	Diane Quinn, 2011 Master Gardener
2 pm	Lessons in Landscaping for Beginners	Eric McQuiston Landscape Architect

**FIVE WAYS TO PROMOTE  
THE GARDEN SHOW  
TO FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES,  
COMMUNITY**

Everything's set for our Garden Show and Plant Sale, except for the final promotion effort.

Please pick up 5 or 10 fliers at the AgCenter office and give them to friends, family, and post in places where you shop, after asking permission.

Word of mouth is one of the best ways to boost attendance. Remember we changed the days - so remind everyone we are open on Friday/Saturday this year.

If you have a club meeting in early March, bring a handful of fliers to pass around.

Also, don't forget to forward the copy of the flier sent to your email by Julie Deus. What an easy way to encourage attendance and let friends know what a great show this is.

Last but not least, there are still plant show signs sitting at the AgCenter. Please go get one for your home or business if you were not at the February meeting.

The garden show and plant sale committee thank you! -- Ann Gilbert, Publicity





## Volunteer Opportunity

**If you have not yet signed up to help at the 2012 Plant Sale, the time is now!**

Just a few weeks away, the annual **Northshore Garden Show and Plant Sale** is still in need of volunteer help. The dates are **Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, 2012**. What a great, and **FUN**, opportunity to earn a large portion of your required volunteer hours for 2012. Volunteer shifts both days are from 8 a.m. until noon and noon until 4 pm. There are several areas that still need volunteers:

- Children's area (all shifts)
- Evaluations (Friday – both shifts)
- MG Table (both afternoons)
- MG Plant Booth (Saturday)
- Parking (Friday afternoon and all day Saturday)
- Plant Corral (both mornings)
- Raffle (all shifts)

Volunteering for parking is a two-for-one hour reward. (That is, for every hour spent as a parking volunteer you may record two hours of volunteer service.) Spouses/significant others are also welcome to help with parking. Our organization depends on this event for the majority of our yearly operating funds and to endow the Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship Fund. Your volunteer help is needed for this event to be a success. To sign up, please contact Pam Twardzik at [PamMG09@yahoo.com](mailto:PamMG09@yahoo.com).



Master Gardener Plant Booth  
At  
Northshore Garden Show

Options for donating plants:

1) Please drop off plants on Thursday afternoon between 2 and 5 pm (preferred method!)

If you need to arrange a time for plant pick up:

2) Thursday morning (9am to 11:30) (small plants only)  
call Lisann @ 985-951-9855 or email at  
[lisannsc@gmail.com](mailto:lisannsc@gmail.com)

3) Thursday afternoon or Friday morning call or email  
Rod Downie :  
985-630-4475; [RodDownie@bellsouth.net](mailto:RodDownie@bellsouth.net)

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!!!  
Lisann Cheaney





## Hydroponics Garden Adventure

by Janice Wells with the assistance of Chuck Pitard and Jerry Ballanco

Many of you, like me, had your first experience with hydroponics gardening by putting a few cuttings in a glass on your windowsill and seeing how fast the roots grew. The reward was planting the cuttings in my garden and getting free plants.

I experienced "real" hydroponics, for the first time, last year at the Biloxi Flower show where I, and many of you, sat in on a seminar on Hydroponics vegetable gardening. This started me on a quest to start my own system. I began by "meditating" on this new venture into hydroponics. This has taken nearly a year!!!! I was all set to get started (maybe on the wrong track) this spring. As luck would have it, through Jerry Ballanco, I received an invitation to visit the experimental hydroponics vegetable garden of Chuck Pitard of Mandeville. Chuck is in his first year of this venture into hydroponics. His winter crop is amazing and I can't wait to see what he grows in the upcoming spring.



Chuck Pitard

Chuck researched the internet to come up with an inspired method of hydroponics. He built a raised platform with timber legs on a slope to use natural elevation fall to feed the plants. He then covered the legs creating a tabletop of plastic fence material. This netting will in due course support the cucumbers, squash etc. as they spill over the pots. He then installed plastic gutters to create 4 runs of 30 foot gutter work on top of the structure. On the lowest elevation Chuck set up a large tub reservoir containing his pump and the liquid nutrients. This nutrient mixture is then pumped to the highest elevation of his structure and because of the slope, the water flows down the gutters, waters the plants and is then returned to his reservoir. Chuck uses a Hanna Electronic Meter to measure the level of PH (potential hydrogen) and PPM (parts per million) in his nutrient solution, making adjustments as necessary. Not maintaining correct PH will limit the plants ability to absorb the nutrients needed for growth. Chuck runs the pump with a timer for 30 minutes 5 times a day during the summer months and finds that is sufficient to prevent the pots from drying out completely. The plants do dry out partially when the pump is off, but when the pump restarts, the plants absorb a large quantity of the nutrient solution which increases their growth rate.



Gutter system



Reservoir set up

Chuck germinates his seeds in large peat pellets which after germination he puts into a 4-inch pot surrounded by rockwool. On Jerry Ballanco's recommendation Chuck will try adding some vermiculite to the current mix of peat and rockwool and maybe use some coir, to try to ameliorate the wilting that occurs between fertilizer flows. Chuck, on occasion, buys small potted seedlings, which he just drops into the system, pot and all.



Seed germination in large peat pellets

When the germinated seed pot is ready to plant outside Chuck inserts it into the gutter system laying small pieces of plastic pipe between the pots so that they do not float down the gutter system. In the case of the Kale he has planted at this time, Chuck uses a larger plastic pipe to anchor the pot in the gutter because it gets a little top heavy. His Kale is now 2 feet high.

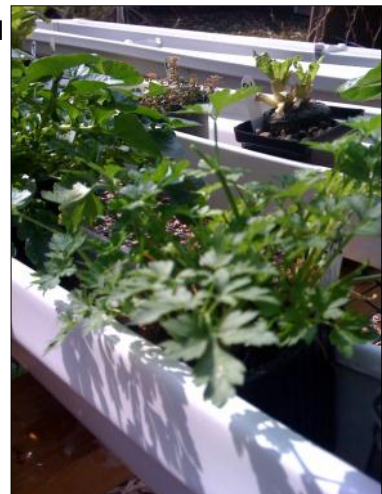


Kale and gutter system

Chuck has a very tolerant wife because she allowed him to set up his growing light on a temporary rack in the kitchen so he can move his seedlings inside during those few cold nights we have had recently. For that I give Mrs. Pitard the good gardener's wife award. I am not willing to test this out on my husband, I am not sure he would be as tolerant.

Like any new venture you develop lessons learnt and one that Chuck past onto me was that he used too much of a slope on his gutter system and that a slight slope would do the same job. He also thinks that he could have come up with a system to use plastic pipes for the legs of the structure instead of the wood. But either will achieve the same end.

Chuck found all the products he needed to manage his garden from sources he found on the internet. He used General Hydroponics FloraMicro Advanced Nutrient System 5-0-1 for his starter liquid followed by FloraGro 2-1-6 and then FloraBloom 0-5-4. The liquid nutrients cost him approximately \$100 for the concentrated products and this was sufficient for a season.



Herbs



Chuck Pitard has achieved a remarkable system for reasonable start up cost. My visit to his garden was very enlightening and will assist me and others with the challenges of starting a Hydroponics garden.

My on-line purchases are arriving, the nutrients, the net pots, the new Hanna meter, and it is time to put meditation aside and get started. I hope a few of you will join me in this new venture, we can learn together. As fast as Chuck's vegetables are growing we will be eating from our own crops before you know it.



Broccoli



Radish



Lettuce

Should you be interested in beginning your own "meditation" process here are some helpful websites to meditate on:

Nutrients: <http://homeharvest.com/hydroponicnutrientgeneralhydroponics.htm>

[http://www.hydrowholesale.com/SearchResults.aspx?  
tSearch=General+Hydroponics+Florabloom&x=19&y=10](http://www.hydrowholesale.com/SearchResults.aspx?tSearch=General+Hydroponics+Florabloom&x=19&y=10)

Net Pots: <http://www.hydrowholesale.com/OrderFormNew.asp>

Hanna Meter: <http://www.easeongear.com/hannahi98129.html>

General Information on Hydroponics: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydroponics>

Importance of tracking PH and PPM: <http://www.hydroponic-gardening.ws/the-importance-of-hydroponic-ph.html>

## **MASTER GARDENER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

### **2/15/12**

The February meeting was held on 2/15/12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Coast Guard Armory in Covington with 54 members present. Rusty led in the prayer and Julie led in the pledge of allegiance.

Don Lefevre presented a great garden hint. He had some unusual ideas for alternative potting containers. His 'planted' shoes and boots were very unique and so attractive. He also had a clever way to grow strawberries without using much space (the tower). Let Don know if you have a garden hint you would like to share with the members.

Rusty had two examples of scale for the garden problem and indicated that most of the petro based products on the market would remedy this problem. He also reminded everyone that now is the time to take care of your weed problem, but not to use weed and feed at this time. He recommended Atrazine for weed management in your home lawn. And, don't forget beer to say good-bye to your slugs.

Art and Bernard gave an informative presentation on drip irrigation. They explained with slides and humor the advantages of drip over sprinklers and hand watering. They referred us to drip-works.com for inexpensive parts and a free design system as one of many that are available on line.

Rusty kept us informed about the on-going budget cuts throughout the entire LSU system. He explained how it has already affected the STPAG Center and about more budget cuts that might be on the way.

A motion was made to accept the January minutes as entered in the January Gardengoer by Pam Twardzik and seconded by Kappy Goodwin. Motion carried.

Julie congratulated the new class of 2011 on their outstandingly successful seminar. The speakers, the food and the location were all excellent.

We welcomed two new members into the group: Cindy Hemm from the class of 1999, and Pam Parrett from the New Orleans Master Gardener Group.

Judy announced that 16 slots are open for our March trip to Jefferson Island. Contact her if you wish to attend. Also in the works is the trip to Bracey's Nursery in Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> (including lunch around \$30), the April 18<sup>th</sup> spring plant swap at the barn (with lunch at Cheri Hall's home (after the swap), the La. State MG meeting in Lake Charles on 10/24-26, and the 9/2013 International Master Gardener meeting which will be a cruise to Alaska.

A motion was made by June Taffaro to accept Jay's treasurer's report and seconded by Sandy Arnoult. Motion carried.

Rusty spoke for A.J. on the plant show and reminded everyone to mention to your friends the Friday and Saturday change this year. He also wanted us to remember that Friday is a school day and we will be across from a school- so come early. He said a diagram will be made to show each vendor's location in the barn so participants can find them readily.



Lisann Cheaney announced that she will be on hand at the barn on Thursday from 2 to 5 to accept the plants you bring for the MG booth. She asked that you be sure to label them in some way for easy I.D. by the public.

Art and Rodney led a discussion on the proposed amendment to the constitution on the two year chairman limit. They listed the pros and cons on the board. Included in the PRO was the generation of new ideas and new energy into the group. Included in the CON was the fact that the officers already only serve for two terms and the president can choose new chairmen. Voting was by secret ballot. Voting passed with a vote of 35 for and 10 against.

Pam Peltier asked if we wanted to participate this year in the Madisonville garden show. We have had a booth there in previous years. Lyn Monteleone made a motion to participate, Annette Their seconded. Motion carried.

Sandy announced the first planning meeting for the Spring Fest will be on 2/29 and the show will be on 4/12/12.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING  
ST.TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS  
2/16/12**

The February board meeting was held at Slidell City Hall on 2/16/12. Julie Deus, Judy Wood and Kathleen Guidry were in attendance.

Judy now has only 15 spots open for the March trip to Jefferson Island. More details for the October trip to Bracey's Nursery and Covey Farms will be given at the March general membership meeting

We have three additional members added to our group – Pam Perret of Covington and Dinah Keyes of Slidell. Cindy Hemm is also new and was re-introduced at the membership meeting.

A discussion was held on voting procedure to change by-laws as conducted at our membership meeting on 2/15. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the membership present and voting, provided a quorum is present. A quorum consists of 15% of the active members.

Also discussed:

1. Donna Howland requested, by letter, a cancellation in our participation with the Covington Food Bank as our original intentions were not able to be carried out.
2. Katherine Lynch, Covington City Hall, asked the Master gardeners to help Covington win the title of Cleanest City.
3. Including the project chairs names in the annual roster.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend the March board meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

## **PLANT SHOW MEETING 2/15/12**

The February Plant Show meeting was held on 2/15/12 at 9:00 a.m. before the regular Master Gardener meeting. There were 43 members in attendance. Rusty announced that improvements have been made for this year in the loud speaker system, the tents, and the Port-O-Johns. All tables and chairs have been ordered. A.J. asked chairmen for a progress report.

**VENDORS:** Jean Claire reported that all 35 tables are filled. This includes 4 new vendors – Wholesale Blooming, Evergreen Herb Farm, Mayhaw Native Plants and Green Thumb. Ty suggested putting tables in the corral area to accommodate more vendors. Rusty felt that with the possibility of wind and rain and being outside the hub of the activity, it probably wasn't a good idea.

**PARKING:** Ty reported that the volunteers would be moving the parking tent up to the first turn at the original entrance.

**PUBLICITY:** Ann announced that on 2/20 through 3/10 Julie and Rusty will be on television promoting the plant show. This will be aired on Channel 10 on Charter access. The recorded spot will be shown several times throughout the each day.

Rusty warned everyone that there is now a parish-wide ordinance against putting signs on public grounds. If seen on public property, the signs will be thrown away and the organization will be fined. Rusty suggested that for next year maybe we should consider a separate committee just for putting up the signs.

Julie is checking into the possibility of having several banners made that can be used legally (3 X 4 ft.), at a cost of \$55 each and with a separate Velcro arrow that can be attached to point in either direction (cost \$15 each). These could be used from year to year and in various locations.

Sign up sheets for volunteering at a particular booth were placed in the back of the room. A.J. adjourned the meeting at 10:05

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

## 2011 Exceptional Service Honorees



The Honors Committee recognized members who completed the requirements for Exceptional Service in 2011 at the February MG meeting. To achieve Exceptional Service status, members earned 50 or more volunteer hours, met the required educational hours and posted their hours to the LSU AgCenter website. Front row: Janey Lively, Donna Dicharry, Betty Rose, Sandy Arnoult, Linda Rowe, Anna Ribbeck, Ann Gilbert, Annette Their, Ruthanne Johnson, Judy Wood, Lyn Monteleone, Susan L'Hoste, Kathleen Guidry, Lonnie Holbrook, Julie Deus, Donna Howland and Peggy Goertz. Back row: Rodney Cross, Jerry Ballanco, Pam Twardzik, Gail Hinkley, Janice Roussel, Ty Guidroz, June Taffaro, Karla Partridge, Pam Peltier, Kappy Goodwin, David Lynd, Debora Litzenberger and Art Scott. Winners had a choice of awards: a subscription to "Louisiana Gardener", an LSU AgCenter 2012 Gardening Calendar or a grey brick inscribed with the MG logo and "St Tammany Parish Exceptional Service 2011". Many thanks to Sandy Arnoult, Honors Committee Chairman, for keeping track of all of the hours and carrying around hundreds of pounds of bricks in her trunk!

Exceptional Service Award winners not present for the group photo are: Yvonne Bordelon, Mary Ann Brannan, Jean Claire Cleveland, Chere Currault, Linda Deslatte, Rod Downie, Linda Franzo, Joan Gagliano, AJ Heinsz-Bailey, Ann Jenkins, Pam Keating, Terry Keating, Keith Knight, Leslie Landeche, Don Lefevre, Patty McGinnis, Isabelle Moore, Nancie Munn, Christie Paulsell, Pete Pericone, Dianne Ramirez, Jay Rose, Camille Schwandt, Glenda Spano, Chris Stellingworth, Fran Thigpen, Deborah Adams, Paul Andres, Susie Andres, and Susie Koepp,

## 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](mailto: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





**AGENDA**  
**STPMG Membership Meeting**  
**March 21, 2012**

- 1. Call to order and report quorum present**
- 2. Opening Ceremonies**
- 3. Garden Hint**  
**Garden Problem**  
**Program: Growing Watermelons in the Home Garden:**  
**Henry Harrison**  
  
**Break-10 minutes**
- 4. Comments by Rusty Batty, County Agent and MG Advisor**
- 5. Minutes from February meeting**
- 6. Officer's reports**  
**President: Julie Deus**  
**Vice President: Judy Wood**  
**Treasurer: Jay Rose**
- 7. Committee Reports**  
**Plant Show-A.J. Heinsz-Bailey**  
**Scholarship Committee-Lyn Monteleone**
- 8. Project Reports**  
**Herb Fest-Sandy Arnoult**  
**Otis House Butterfly Garden School Day-Ann Durel**  
**MG's Partner with Food Bank-Donna Howland**  
**Speaker's Bureau-Donna Dicharry**  
**Lacombe Butterfly Garden-Susie Andres**
- 10. Adjourn**

# Calendar of Events

March, 2012	
10	Madisonville Garden Club Show, 9-3 at the Madisonville Town Hall and along the riverfront on South Water Street. Educational seminars, MGs on hand to answer questions, vendor with plants and other garden items. Free. Info: Molly Stillinger, President, 985-845-7348 or 985-778-5272, <a href="mailto:mfmstillinger@bellsouth.net">mfmstillinger@bellsouth.net</a> .
14	Herb Gathering at the Slidell Library. 1pm. The speaker is Judy Wood on Chervil. The 2nd meeting for the Spring Herb Festival will follow. Sandy Arnoult is Chairman of the Spring Herb Festival, <a href="mailto:sarnoult@bellsouth.net">sarnoult@bellsouth.net</a> .
16 & 17	<b>Northshore Garden Show and Plant Sale</b> at the Fairgrounds. This event is on Friday and Saturday this year. Sign up to volunteer. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Email our Plant Sale Chairman, A.J. Heinsz-Bailey at <a href="mailto:ajjim@hotmail.com">ajjim@hotmail.com</a> with any questions. Sign up to volunteer with Pam Twardzik at <a href="mailto:pammg09@yahoo.com">pammg09@yahoo.com</a> . See pages 10-13 for more info.
21	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10am. The speaker is Henry Harrison, "Growing Watermelons in the Home Garden". See page 6 for more program info.
27 & 29	<i>Making a Kitchen Garden</i> by Dr. Gerard Ballanco. Learn how to grow fresh herbs and vegetables. 2 dates: 3/27 at the Causeway Branch of the STP Library 6-7:30 pm & 3/29 at the Folsom Branch of the STP Library from 1-2:30 pm. Space is limited. Call to register. Causeway Branch: 626-9779, Folsom Branch: 796-9728.
29	Field Trip to Jefferson Island. See pages 7 & 8.

April, 2012	
12	Spring Herb Festival at the Slidell Library Herb Garden. 4-7 pm. Plans are underway for another great festival. Contact Betty Rose at <a href="mailto:bettyrose@charter.net">bettyrose@charter.net</a> or Sandy Arnoult at <a href="mailto:sarnoult@bellsouth.net">sarnoult@bellsouth.net</a> if you would like to volunteer for this event.
18	Spring Plant Swap at the barn and lunch following at the home of Cheri Hall. Details TBA.

May, 2012	
1-4	Southern Region Master Gardener Conference in Natchez, MS. See flyer on page 9 for more information.
16	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am. Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship will be presented. Sheila Stroup is the featured speaker.

# STPMG Directory

**PRESIDENT:**

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**VICE PRESIDENT:**

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Jay Rose, [jayrose@charter.net](mailto:jayrose@charter.net)

**SECRETARY:**

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ER COORDINATOR/COUNTY  
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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:**

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**PUBLICITY:**

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**PLANT SHOW:**

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**PROJECTS COMMITTEE:**

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**SPEAKERS BUREAU:**

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**SLIDELL SENIOR CENTER:**

Cecelia Drennan, [ceceliad@charter.net](mailto:ceceliad@charter.net)

**MGs PARTNER WITH FOOD BANK;**

Donna Howland, [donna.howland@mac.com](mailto:donna.howland@mac.com)

**SMH REHAB GARDEN:**

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**SLIDELL HERB GARDEN:**

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**LACOMBE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:**

Susie Andres, [sandres@bellsouth.net](mailto:sandres@bellsouth.net)

**OTIS HOUSE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:**

Ann Durel, [adurel@bellsouth.net](mailto:adurel@bellsouth.net)

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

Christy Paulsell, [j.christine.paulsell@stpsb.org](mailto:j.christine.paulsell@stpsb.org)

**VEGUCATORS:**

Gerard Ballanco, [gballanco@bellsouth.net](mailto:gballanco@bellsouth.net)

**ABITA SPRINGS LIBRARY:**

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

*Notes from the Editor,*

*Hi MGs,*

*We have much to look forward to this month. There is the Northshore Garden and Plant Show and our spring field trip. Be sure to sign up to volunteer at the Plant Show if you haven't already. It's a fun, bonding experience for MGs, and, if you're like me, you'll go home with a car load of plants and many wonderful memories! The trip to Jefferson Island sounds fantastic. It's be a great way to reward yourself after the hard work at the Plant Show. Be sure to sign up soon. Guests are now eligible to sign up.*

*Please help get the word out about the Plant Show. Talk it up to gardening friends and put out posters and signs. Just be sure to follow the sign rules so we don't get in hot water with the parish. Ask Rusty to explain if you weren't at the meeting.*

*Here is the link to post your hours:*  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn\\_garden/master\\_gardener/Reporting+Volunteer+Hours/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/Reporting+Volunteer+Hours/)

*I hope to see everyone at the Plant Show on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17.*

*Debora Litzenberger*  
[debtogo@gmail.com](mailto:debtogo@gmail.com)



## **THE GARDENGOER**

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

Cooperative Extension Service

St. Tammany Parish

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Fax: 985-875-2639

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