

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

March, 2013

You Need a Good Vegucation

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The Class of 2012 presented the Spring seminar, “*You Need a Good Vegucation*” on February 22 at the First Baptist Church in Covington. Over 200 attended the seminar. Speakers included: Dr. Kiki Fontenot, LSU AgCenter, “New and Improved Vegetable Varieties”; Rodney Cross, 2009 Master Gardener/Vegucator, “Container Vegetable Gardening”; Dr. Ron Strahan, Weed Specialist, LSU AgCenter, “Avoiding the Garden of Weedin”; Harry Schexnayder, Organic Program Coordinator, La. Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry, “Growing Vegetables Organically” and Dr. Lance Hill, Adopt a Mirliton, Tulane University, “Growing Mirlitons on the Northshore”. There were six table clinics with a wide variety of useful topics. The Chairman of the seminar was Nancy Thompson. She enlisted the help of the entire class of 2012 to put on the seminar. Congratulations for a very well done and informative seminar. It was our best yet! Rusty Batty, County Agent, far left, and members of the Class of 2012 are shown above.

President's Message

St. Tammany Master Gardeners are welcoming spring with all sorts of events and opportunities to learn more about gardening and share our knowledge with others.

Many MGs were among the 200 gardeners who attended our seminar, "You Need a Vegucation." The seminar was a great success with presentations and table top clinics on a variety of interesting and informative topics. Many thanks to Rusty Batty for selecting the wonderful speakers, to the Class of 2012 for the tremendous job they did in planning and hosting the seminar, and to the First Baptist Church of Covington for allowing us to use their facility.

Our Spring Plant Show is just around the corner, and additional information is available in this issue of *Gardengoer*. The Plant Show is a great opportunity to learn, mingle with gardeners, purchase plants and yard items, volunteer, and help raise funds to support our Bobby Fletcher Sr. Scholarship Fund. I still have plant show yard signs available – contact me if you'd like to accessorize your front yard for a few weeks with one of these cool signs!

Please take the time to read this issue of *Gardengoer* and learn about ALL of the wonderful projects and opportunities available to St. Tammany's 156 Master Gardeners. As usual, a big thank-you goes to newsletter editor Deb Litzenberger.

As I write this message I am looking into my yard which could almost be mistaken for a marsh these days – we have really had our share of February rain. But I am also seeing lovely green leaves, buds on sweet peas and snapdragons, and iris foliage which seem to be growing an inch per day. Hopefully there is drier weather on the way and lots of great gardening in your future.

Susie Andres

susieandres@gmail.com



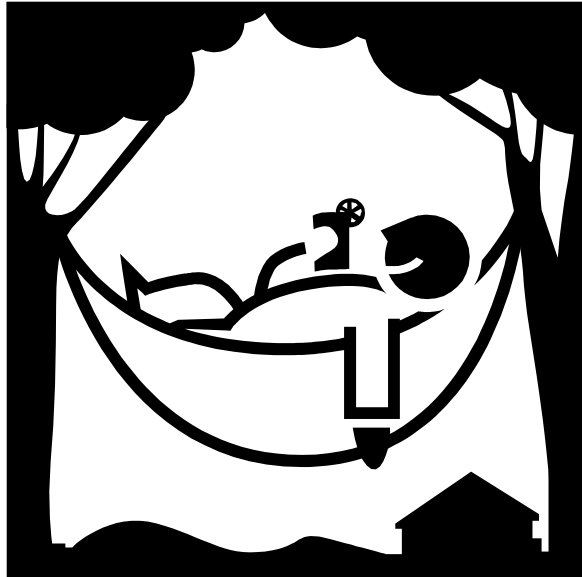
A Final Salute to St. Tammany Master Gardeners

I have always enjoyed my work w/ the LSU Ag Center and especially the St. Tammany Master Gardeners program. As most of you know I will be retiring “officially” April 1, 2013. Since beginning as MG program coordinator (roughly, in the year 2000) we started with the sole purpose of “educating volunteers with horticulture information, to help others needing horticulture information”. We started with the plant show, added seasonal seminars, moved to library/school / community talks and are continuing with more horticultural learning experiences each year.

Working with people who want to help others is always a benefit and blessing to both parties. Those that give, you the volunteers, get to see someone else receive. Sort of like a gift. The “gifter” enjoys giving and the “giftee” enjoys receiving. All MGs are gifted givers. Thank you for giving your time, talent and expertise to others. You are a great group of people to work with/for. I have been blessed by you.

See you at the Plant Show,

Rusty Batty
County Agent
St. Tammany Parish



Happy Retirement, Rusty!

Hi Everyone,

February has been a hip wader month at our house. Floaties are hanging on the porch in anticipation of the latest flash flood watch for the Bogue Chitto river. My lone quince tree was unprepared for the high water and it drowned. I am saving the skeleton for a yard art project. The rain barrels are all filled to capacity. The pond is ready to support a convention of herons. I sit at my computer looking at flower pictures, daydreaming about planting time, the plant sale, and a taste tempting spring veggie garden. I start cogitating about how things and attitudes change as we get older. I also reminisce about how much I enjoyed the slip and slide as a young child. No fear, no hesitation, only reckless abandon and a big grin to accompany me on a joyous, too short ride across the lawn. Now, I gingerly, hesitantly only go out when I have a chore to finish if it is raining. I know even a short slip is too long. Broken hips, insurance nightmares, hospital stays, surgery, and rehabilitation are all a real unpleasant reality. There is also the injured dignity issue. Who is going to find you if you fall and what is going to be exposed? (The wear your best underwear conundrum). How long is it going to take for someone to miss you? Maybe pack a lunchbox with a phone! Be prepared! I will be back in the garden soon!!!! Until then, aj



A.J. Heinsz-Bailey
ajjim@hotmail.com

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	No	No	No	0
May 15 Covington	TBA	Scholarship Award	No	No	No	0
June 19 Covington	TBA					
July 17 Covington	TBA					
August 21 Covington	TBA					
September 18 Covington	Linda Franzo – MG 2002	Starting an Herb Garden				
October ?	Field Trip					
October 16 Covington	TBA	Fall Plant Swap				
November 20 Covington	TBA					
December	No Speaker	Christmas Party				



Martha Gruning
mgruning@bellsouth.net

Master Gardener Spring Field Trip to the Burden Center

The Program Committee has selected The Burden Center in Baton Rouge for our spring field trip on April 9. For those of you who are not familiar with the Center, you have a treat in store. For those of you who have visited there before, I understand that many additions and improvements have made the grounds more beautiful than ever.

The day's program will be as follows:

- 7:30 a.m.: depart for Baton Rouge from the Ag Center Office on Florida St.
- 9:00 a.m.: arrive in Baton Rouge
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.: Children's Garden with Dr. KiKi Fontenot
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Rose Garden and Botanical Gardens with Mrs. Wanda Ellis and Mrs. Katie Guitreau
- 11:00 – 12 p.m.: Hayride; Food and Fiber Plots with Mr. Keith Lewis
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.: Lunch [catered by Whole Foods] either in Windrush Gardens or in the Orangerie [if the weather is bad]
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.: Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens with Mrs. Jane Paccamonti

Google "The Burden Center" to read about the history of this lovely spot and the dedication of the Burden Family to making it the paradise that it is today.

For more information go to:

<http://www.treesandtrails.com/history.htm>

and

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Burden/

The cost of the trip will be \$35; this includes the box lunch. Fifty spots are available on the bus. Please send your checks to Martha Gruning, P.O. Box 68, Abita Springs, LA 70420. After March 26th, remaining places will be available for guests. Checks received will be acknowledged.



NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW

FRIDAY, March 15
SATURDAY, March 16

NEW THIS YEAR
GARDEN ART VENDORS

St Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington
9am-4pm

Covered Event—No Rain Outs—Free Parking
30+ Exhibitor Booths—Food Concessions
LSU Experts—"Plant Doctor" Table
Raffle Items Available
Free Presentations Hourly
Free Children's Activities

Benefitting the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. College Scholarship Fund



NORTHSHORE GARDEN SHOW

FRIDAY, March 15 & SATURDAY, March 16

St Tammany Fairgrounds, Covington

Friday	Topic	Presenter
10 am	Backyard Beekeeping	Julian Laine St Tammany Beekeeper
11 am	A Season for Herbs	Dr. Arlene Kestner Past President, American Herb Society
12 noon	Best Roses for Your Landscape	Dr. Allen Owings LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station Specialist
1 pm	Mounting Bromeliads	Urbain Breaud 2012 Master Gardener
2 pm	Landscaping, Step 1	Eric McQuiston Landscape Architect

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



Saturday	Topic	Presenter
10 am	Proper Pesticides	Dolph Denley Owner Denley's Horticultural Services
11 am	Grass, Lawn or Turf	Dr. Ron Strahan LSU AgCenter Weed/Turf Specialist
12 noon	Some Like It Hot	Dan Gill LSU AgCenter, Consumer Horticulturist
1 pm	Azaleas, A to Z	Pat Newman Azalea Expert/Fohom Nursery
2 pm	Amaryllis from Seed	Richard Gremillion 2012 Master Gardener

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:

- April 11 – Starting and growing your own vegetable transplants.
- 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.

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Kyle Huffstickler can be reached at 225-763-3990 or khuffstickler@agcenter.lsu.edu

KiKi Fontenot can be reached at 225-578-2417 or kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu

Backyard Plants Master Gardener Grown Plants 4 Sale

The Plant Show is ONLY 2 WEEKS AWAY!!

Please continue preparing what you'd like to donate to the BACKYARD PLANTS booth.

Please keep in mind these parameters:

- 1) Plant must be **labeled** (common name ok/ scientific name, great!)
- 2) Plant must have a **viable root system** –
- 3) Please **bring your plants to our booth in the barn** at any of these times:
 - Thursday: 1 to 4 pm**
 - Friday: 8am to 4pm**
 - Saturday: morning only – 8am to noon**
- 4) Remember – the hours you spend propagating your plants DO count toward your annual volunteer requirement.
- 5) If you attended the **propagating workshop** in November – don't forget your **promise to donate** a plant! ☺
- 6) If you can, please send me a quick email/or text about your donations – I'd like to have an idea of what to expect!:)

Thanks so much-

Warm regards, Lisann 985-951-9855 (lisannsc@gmail.com)



PLANT SHOW MEETING

2/20/13

The Plant Show meeting was called to order by Ty Guidroz at 9:00am, on 2/20/13 at the National Guard Armory in Covington. Ty asked for updates only from those committees with new information.

VENDORS: Peggy said that tables are 80% complete. The deadline is 3/1/13. The Marketplace section is completely full already.

Julie met with the Fairgrounds to see the set-up and where to put the tents.

Weather will be the biggest concern and last minute changes may have to be made in the event of rain.

PUBLICITY: Ann announced that a new ad was placed this year in the Baton Rouge Advocate since a number of St Tammany residents now subscribe to the paper.

CHILDREN: Lyn needs a few more volunteers for the Saturday shift.

SPEAKERS: Donna said some fans will be donated by the tourist bureau. Judy will compile a list of volunteers and let everyone know who still needs help. She also suggested each chairman keep a floatation list of volunteers in case someone has to cancel at the last minute.

Julie suggested we go with visors this year since time is running out. Volunteers voted agreement by a show of hands. She also confirmed that we will have two Port-a-Potty and one hand washing station. She is working on a reception for the vendors for Thursday around 4:00 pm. A volunteer is needed to serve as announcer for the plant show.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Guidry



STPMG Board Meeting

February 7, 2013

The February board meeting was held on 2/7/13 at the Causeway Branch of the St Tammany parish library in Mandeville. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Susie Andres, president.

Julie motioned to accept the January board minutes as submitted---seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Judy Wood, membership chairman, said starting in February Susan L'Hoste would be circulating a new printed sign-in sheet. This will only require each member to check off their name rather than sign. We will try this new form for three months.

Pam Rowe, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report. Board decided to combine the monies for the Education Outreach and the Program Support into one sub set called Project Support. Hospitality budget increased to \$800 to handle refreshments at meetings and the annual Christmas party. County agent fees/expenses increased by \$100 for a \$350 total.

Martha Gruning, Program committee, met with the committee members to discuss a field trip on 4/9 to Burden Center in Baton Rouge. More information will follow. Also, Linda Franzo will be the guest speaker at the September meeting. Her topic will be herb gardening.

Julie Deus spoke for the plant show committee. Ty will have a spot on channel 10 for 8 minutes, Rusty on the Dan Gill radio show, possibility of a spot on the Morning Show with Sally Ann Roberts. Many new ideas implemented this year, such as fans, ATM, benches and the new ART section. Committee is considering a get together after the show set-up with food and drink, to welcome new vendors and thank returning vendors.

Board discussed having an "Ask the experts" table at the Madisonville Garden Show. Motion to accept was made by Susie and seconded by Lyn Monteleone. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lyn Monteleone, seconded by Susie to approve \$100 for the 3/22 program "Into the Garden" at the Otis House, Fairview Riverside state Park. Motion carried.

Marilyn Bingham, Spring Seminar, said all seats are filled for the 2/22 event and over 25 people are on the waiting list.

Julie introduced a proposal by Jerry Ballanco that the proceeds from the recent seed starting workshop go to the Don Ferrin Scholarship Fund. \$300 was recommended with supplemental gifts to be added by any interested members. This will be voted on at the February meeting. Lyn Monteleone, Scholarship Chairman, reported the committee's concern over the lack of applicants in recent years. The board gave suggestions of other ways to increase awareness/interest in scholarship. The board also suggested the committee increase the amount of scholarships (starting in 2013) to \$500 per semester instead of the \$250 now in place and to grandfather in current recipients to \$500 also, beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year.

Art Scott is working on streamlining the Mail on Monday emails and still keep all information needed inside for the entire week. Reimbursement forms will appear on the 1st Monday of the week.

Board voted to keep the board minutes in the Gardengoer rather than change to the MoM format.

A muscle committee is needed for the general meetings to set up and take down tables, chairs and equipment. Hours will be earned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

STPMG FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2/22/13

The February meeting of the STPMGs was held at 10:00am at the National Guard Armory in Covington immediately following the Plant Show meeting. Eighty-seven members were in attendance. Phyllis Morgan gave the prayer and Susie led in the pledge of allegiance.

Guest speaker was Jim Campbell of RIVERSIDE CAMELLIAS in Covington. His presentation covered the history of Camellias, various ways to propagate and some of the common pests and diseases. He said there are over 200 species of Camellias including some new ones that bloom in the summer; some that bare yellow flowers and some that are a rare Camellia/Azalea orange variety. Jim said that Camellia seeds are unstable and would not give you a plant true to form. Propagating by cutting, grafting and air layering would give you a better outcome. He and Martha are working on a date later in the year (when the Camellias are in full bloom) that the STPMGs can visit his nursery.

Rusty said that LSU has started interviewing for his position. He expects it will still take weeks/months to finalize. Rusty also announced that there would be a Farm Pond Management Workshop, given by the AgCenter on 3/19/13.

A motion was made by Lyn Monteleone to accept the January meeting minutes as submitted in the Gardengoer. Lonnie Holbrook seconded. Motion carried.

Sandy Arnoult announced that the bricks for members exceeding 50 hours of volunteering were still in route to us. She should be able to pass them out at the March meeting. Sandy also suggested that we seal the bricks with a clear sealant once a year to keep the sharp detail on the brick from looking faded.

Martha announced that the field trip in April would be on 4/9/13 at the Burden Research Center in Baton Rouge. The Burden Center is home to the Windrush Gardens, the Rural Life Mu-

seum, a vegetable section and children's garden. We would travel by bus, meeting in Covington at 7:30am and returning at 5:30pm.

Nancy Thompson announced that the SPRING SEMINAR registration has been closed since 2/1/13. She said everything is ready for Friday because everyone on the committee has done an amazing job of putting it together. There will be a wrap-up meeting to discuss the event on 2/28 at ten in the morning.

Julie announced that visors will be ready for the PLANT SHOW volunteers to pick up on Thursday at around 11:00 am when everyone meets to start setting up. At 4:00 pm there will be a ribbon cutting reception to welcome the new vendors and thank the returning vendors.

Lyn Monteleone announced that the scholarship committee has voted to increase the Master Gardener Scholarship to \$2000(for two years) and \$4000 for four years. This will be given out to recipients at \$500 per semester. Jerry Ballanco suggested that we review the criteria for these scholarships so that students who are already enrolled in college can participate also since not many high school seniors have applied.

June Taffaro, Slidell Library Herb Chairman, invited everyone to a work party and short meeting on March 6th to help clean up the herb beds.

Billie Stanga reported that the first table top at the Covington Farmers Market was a success.

Jerry announced that the first meeting of the tomato focus group will be on 2/27 at the AgCenter at 10:00 am. This is the Vegucator Group.

Jerry also motioned that we donate \$300 Master Gardener funds to the Don Ferrin Scholarship Fund and allow individual members to add to this amount. Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Susie announced that the March Board meeting would be held in the business center of the library instead of our usual room. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary



Jim Campbell spoke about camellias at the February meeting.

Calendar of Events

March, 2013	
6	The Slidell Library Herb committee will have a workday at the Slidell Library herb garden beginning at 9:30 and a planning meeting under the trees for the Spring Herb Festival following. Bring a lawn chair, water, a snack and gardening tools.
15-16	Northshore Plant Show and Sale at the Fairgrounds. Ty Guidroz is the Chairman of the Plant Show, tyguidroz@charter.net . See pages 7 & 8 for details.
20	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am. Lee Barry will give a talk on bamboo.
22	Otis House/Fairview State Park presents a school program "Into the Garden", 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. Contact Ann Durel if you are interested in volunteering, 985-792-4652.

April, 2013	
4	MG Board Meeting 10 AM. It will be held in the business center annex of the Causeway library, located in the K-Mart shopping center between Coffee Rani and Heavenly Ham. If you wish to place an item on the agenda please email Susie Andres (susieandres@gmail.com).
20	MG Plant Swap under the barn at the Fairgrounds. 10:00-12:00. Bring seeds, cuttings, seedlings or mature plants that you'd like to share with your fellow MGs.
23	"Got Herbs", the Spring Herb Festival is held on the grounds of the Slidell Library on Robert Rd. Set up starts at 1 PM, the Festival runs from 4-7 PM. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact the Herb Festival Chairman, Donna DiCharry at dmd1001@bellsouth.net

May, 2013	
15	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. This is the annual Scholarship Meeting in which the Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship will be awarded. More info to come.

STPMG Directory

PRESIDENT:

Susie Andres, susieandres@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAMS:

Martha Gruning, mgruning@bellsouth.net

TREASURER:

Pam Rowe, PamMG09@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Kathleen Guidry, katfire@bellsouth.net

LSU AGCENTER MASTER GARDENER CO-ORDINATOR/COUNTY AGENT:

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LSU AGCENTER OFFICE:

Mary Beth Kaizer, MKaizer@agcenter.lsu.edu

**LSU AGCENTER OFFICE
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Judy Wood, jazzwood@charter.net

HONORS:

Sandy Arnoult, sarnoult@charter.net

HOSPITALITY:

Barbara Moore, babsofil@gmail.com

MERCHANDISE:

Dee Middleton, doloresmiddleton@ymail.com

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Art Scott, folsomart@bellsouth.net

Pam Rowe, PamMG09@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER:

Debora Litzenberger, debtogo@gmail.com

PLANT SHOW:

Ty Guidroz, tyguidroz@charter.net

CAMP SALMEN HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN:

Peggy Goertz, peggpegg@aol.com

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SCHOLARSHIP:

Lyn Monteleone, lynmonte01@yahoo.com

PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Julie Deus, jdcalla@aol.com

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SLIDELL SENIOR CENTER:

Ruthann Johnson, rjohnson104@bellsouth.net

SMH REHAB GARDEN:

Leslie Landeche, rocknlou@bellsouth.net

SLIDELL HERB GARDEN:

June Taffaro cptjpt@yahoo.com

Camille Schwandt camilleschwandt@charter.net

LACOMBE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Kay Hanson, hansonpk@bellouth.net

OTIS HOUSE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Ann Durel, adurel@bellsouth.net

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

Christy Paulsell, j.christine.paulsell@stpsb.org

VEGUCATORS & TOMATO FOCUS GROUP:

Gerard Ballanco, gballanco@bellsouth.net

ABITA SPRINGS LIBRARY:

Martha Gruning, mgruning@bellsouth.net

GLOVES:

Peggy Goertz, peggpegg@aol.com

CHILDREN'S METHODIST HOME GARDEN:

Ty Guidroz, tyguidroz@charter.net

COVINGTON FARMERS' MKT:

Billie Stanga, billie.stanga@gmail.com

Notes From the Editor:

Hi MGs,

Saying “Good Bye” to our esteemed leader and friend, Rusty Batty, will not be easy. He has lead the St. Tammany Master Gardeners for over a decade and has helped it to grow from one small MG class to a large, very active association of 150 members. He’s always been there to answer questions, lead, guide, and nurture us. We’ve had growing pains at times, but Rusty was always there with a helping hand. He has grown the Plant Show from a small plant sale to a very successful 2 day event that funds substantial scholarships to ag/horticulture students. His vast knowledge of horticulture has been a great resource for us. He will be greatly missed. Rusty leaves some big boots to fill!

Happy Retirement, Rusty! We wish you all the best in your new life.

Be sure to keep your post your hours at least once a month. Here is the link to post your hours:

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

Debora Litzenberger
debtogo@gmail.com



THE GARDENGOER

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

Cooperative Extension Service

St. Tammany Parish

1301 N. Florida Street

Covington, LA 70433

Phone: 985-875-2635 (Covington)

Fax: 985-875-2639

Website: www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/