



**Master
Gardener™**

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5

May, 2011



Spring Herb Festival, "BEE Happy with Herbs"

Top: Mr. Julian Lane with his beehive exhibit and Sandy Arnoult
Bottom: Linda Franzo with "Chicks Rule" herb brioche bread.

See page 18 for more Spring Herb Festival info.

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

www.lsuagcenter.com

President's Message

April showers bring May flowers? Well, we sure missed most of the “showers” part of that this year. Guess we’ll just have to keep those sprinklers running for a while longer! And what about that wind? A breeze is nice when you’re working outside, but those gale force winds were way too much.



On the other hand, it was a picture-perfect evening for the Spring Herb Fest at the Slidell Library last month. Hats off to June Taffaro and her committee for the innovative program and speakers, delicious herb treats and teas, lovely container gardens and a fun children’s area. We had a record crowd and everyone who visited seemed to leave with some recipes, helpful information, hearty herbs and a big smile on their faces. Congratulations!

Jerry Ballanco has organized a group of 12 Master Gardeners who are ready to become MG Specialists in vegetable gardening. He hopes this will become a pilot program for other specialty areas within our group and also a model for MG Specialists around the state. He has scheduled a “basics” seminar on Thursday, May 19, and Dr. Kiki Fontenot and some of her colleagues from LSU will teach an “advanced” class on Tuesday, May 31. Once trained, these specialists will be available to speak to small groups and help Rusty field the many calls he gets about home vegetable gardening. If you are interested in joining this energetic bunch, contact Jerry at gballanco@bellsouth.net.

Thanks to Karla Partridge for hosting the potluck luncheon after the Plant Swap last month at her Lee Road farm. It was a very relaxing time in a lovely setting and Karla generously allowed us to dig up a plethora of plants from her beautiful gardens.

Free Lunch! If you haven’t signed up for the MG Appreciation Day at the Hammond Research Station on Friday, May 13, you still have a few more days to do so. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. Call Mary Beth at the LSU AgCenter office to reserve your spot.

Special Invitation To All MGers! Please join us at our regular membership meeting on Wednesday, May 18, as we honor **Anna Ribbeck** and **Jane Satterlee**, our two 2011 winners of the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarship Award, made possible by the hard work our organization puts in at the Plant Show. Out of the eight applicants this year, Anna and Jane were chosen by the committee based on their desire to pursue a horticultural degree from LSU, their many extracurricular activities and attendant awards, and their outstanding grades. (Incidentally, Anna is the granddaughter and namesake of our own Anna Ribbeck, a very proud MG member.) A reception will follow the award presentations and the Hospitality Committee requests that everyone bring finger-food for the celebration. I hope to see everyone there to support these two outstanding young women. Also, our featured speaker at the meeting, Art Scott, will talk to us about Edible Flowers.

Julie Deus
jdcalla@aol.com

NEW NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

I think we'd all agree that the GARDENGOER is the best MG newsletter in the state. A good bit of credit for this goes to Debora Litzenberger who publishes this document every month, a time-consuming task at best. To keep the quality of our newsletter high and at the same time make her job a bit easier, Debora has asked the Board to pass along a short list of guidelines for newsletter contributors in the future:

1. Keep in mind that Debora is a publisher, a compiler of information, not a writer.
For that reason, all newsletter submissions to her must be written in article form, ready for publication. If only notes and information are sent, Debora will have to return that submission to the sender.
2. Prepare any submission for the newsletter in a Word document and send it to Debora as an attachment to your email. If you do not have Word, then a clean email with no stationary or background will do.
3. Do not send any more scanned articles (Debora cannot move them into the newsletter).
You must retype the article in Word and send it in.

Please consider that it takes at least 12 hours to put the newsletter together when all articles are submitted properly. If the article has to be written, re-written or typed, it adds six to eight hours each month, an undue burden on someone who already gives so much of her time to this organization.
Please be considerate.

Debora is also asking for someone to assist her in compiling the monthly newsletter. If there is some Master Gardener who is will to step up and help, please contact Debora directly.
Thank you.

Julie

Proper landscape watering is important

By LSU AgCenter Horticulturists Dan Gill, Kyle Huffstickler and Allen Owings

Who knows how much rain we'll get during the spring and summer? We need to keep in mind that many areas of Louisiana are experiencing below-average rainfall amounts. And it's common to get significant rain events followed by three to four weeks of dry weather. How do we irrigate our landscapes under these conditions? This is a question that comes up often and is sometimes hard to answer.

"How much water do I need to apply?" and "How often do I need to water this plant?" are common questions from many home gardeners. Water is essential for healthy plant growth, but it can be costly to apply, depending on your water source. Remember, it's important to get water to plant roots efficiently and effectively and keep the moisture in the root zone.

Too many gardeners have a tendency to water by using the calendar. Once a week or twice a week is a common practice. Some people even water plants daily.

Gardeners need to learn how to recognize drought stress in plants. You do this by monitoring soil conditions in containers and landscape beds. When one plant in a bed needs water, however, all plants in the bed may not need irrigating. Many factors determine how fast a particular soil or potting medium will dry out.

When plants are dry, water them thoroughly.

For lawns, water at a rate so that the moisture penetrates the soil to a depth of several inches. This encourages deeper root growth and also aids the plants in being able to handle droughty conditions that may come later in the year.

Try to eliminate the desire to "sprinkle" a lawn or landscape bed for a few minutes every day. This is not very helpful and actually discourages the plant from being able to withstand dry conditions later.

Gardeners often wonder what kind of sprinklers to use on their lawn or what kind of hose or sprinklers to use in their landscape beds.

For lawns, an efficient type of sprinkler is called an impact sprinkler. These are commonly seen on athletic fields and golf courses.

Continued on page 5

In landscape beds, use short-length soaker hoses, or use a micro-irrigation drip system that has individual emitters on shrubs and roses. For bedding-plant areas, you may use spray stakes off a micro-irrigation system, but be sure to direct the water underneath the foliage or downward toward the mulch or soil.

Irrigate trees by running a hose very slowly for a couple of hours. The hose should be placed within the tree drip line of mature trees or at the edge of the planting hole for newly planted trees. Do not let excess water run off.

The best time to irrigate plants is during the early morning. Avoid wetting the leaves – this encourages disease. Roses and bedding plants are most susceptible to problems with water accumulation on flowers and foliage.

Organic matter in landscape beds helps to maintain soil moisture. Apply mulch in all landscape beds twice a year. Pine straw and pine bark are excellent mulches. You can use hardwood mulch around many trees. Mulch flowers to a depth of 1-2 inches, shrubs to a depth of 2-3 inches and trees to a depth of 3-4 inches.

Irrigation is an important consideration in home landscapes. By following these hints, you can help your plants through droughty periods to they'll be more productive for you.

Visit LaHouse in Baton Rouge to see sustainable landscape practices in action. The home and landscape resource center is near the intersection of Burbank Drive and Nicholson Drive (Louisiana Highway 30) in Baton Rouge, across the street from the LSU baseball stadium. For more information, go to www.lsuagcenter.com/lahouse and www.lusagcenter.com/lyn.

Rick Bogren

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Rusty was on a well-deserved vacation!

Hi Everyone, Yesterday was Thursday. My day off. This meant a wonderful day in the garden starting at 5 am with the feeding of the critters. First out are always the raccoons. As soon as the kitchen light goes on five faces peek around the back porch waiting for breakfast: dog food and vanilla crème cookies, the breakfast of champions. Followed by a little pool time, then they retire as the chickens, rabbits, and wild birds are queuing up for a snack. I have one raccoon who has an interest in gardening. He works in one pot only. It has strawberries. He cultivates the edges and removes any vegetation other than his strawberry plant. I have repeatedly put in border plants around the edge of the pot only to come out the next morning to see the plants on the ground around the pot. Maybe he just doesn't like my choices. As I head out to the chickens and rabbits the fly bys start. It is a rural version of the drive by. The blue jays and cardinals are most anxious to get their days started with a good breakfast. The prothonatary warblers have claimed one side of the back porch for nesting. Their fly bys still take me by surprise. The bird calls are amazing in the morning. Even the hummers are out early. Next are the wild rabbits. As I zigzag down the drive putting out whole corn they zigzag up the drive-way to meet the flowing corn. We cautiously pass one another and as they eat I head for the cows. Complaining because they have had to wait, I fill each bowl swiftly. Next is watering the Native plant area. Finally I see the garden. The 25 little rows with rapidly growing weeds are my little piece of heaven. I bend to excavate a little nut sedge when I realize that the growling I hear isn't a bear, it's my stomach. Reluctantly, I head back to the house. All of the other hungry mouths have eaten and left to start their days. After breakfast I return to find the weeds just might be a little taller than they were when I left. I discover I need some top-soil and manure. Tractor time! Manure in place I still need top soil. Off to the store. Top soil and rainbow sherbet in hand I return. I swear that nut sedge is a little taller. Happily I weed, fertilize, cultivate, and mulch my little crops. 19 rows down and 6 to go. The hay works so nice I can't even see that remaining nut sedge. The sun has departed and I regretfully have to give up the gardening, I set the sprinkler on and wander up to the house passing the rabbits having dinner and the remaining birds swarming the feeder, and then as I reach the house the five little faces pop out of the kiddie pool wanting dinner. After all the evening meals are served, I sit out on the back porch steps and watch the dance of the lightning bugs. Off goes the sprinkler and in comes me. Tomorrow I go to work to rest, so that Saturday and Sunday I can return back to the garden, aj. Happy Gardening everyone! Jim comes home Friday so he can help fill all of the empty mouths.



An Aphid Story

On March 9th, while cleaning kale, Jerry Ballanco, St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener, came across something weird. Small tan mounds mixed in with the aphids.



He brought the leaf to Rusty Batty, St. Tammany County Agent, who decided it was an aphid. Jerry brought the leaf with its bugs to fellow St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Art Scott's photography lab and sent the resulting pictures to Rusty Batty who forwarded them to Dr. Alan Morgan. Meanwhile, Jerry and Art did some research and decided that the specimen was a mummified female aphid that had been parasitized by a wasp. Dr Morgan confirmed that they were looking at female aphids. They were disappointed that the sleuthing had brought them so far afield. However, they were not quite convinced. Look at the second photo and notice that to the left and below the pencil point there is a tan mound that does not seem to have legs and has a hole in its back.



The matter was laid to rest until, cleaning kale on April 19th; Jerry came across a leaf that was lined with tan dots with holes in their backs: photos number three and four. Clearly these are all dead, parasitized female aphids. Recalling that he had not seen live aphids in the garden for about two weeks and before they were always about on the different Cole crops. At time he could find no live aphids anywhere in the garden.



Art and Jerry agreed...this is the best of all possible worlds. Everyone was right. Additionally, it provided evidence that, in this case, a naturally occurring predatory wasp was able to completely decimate the aphid population in the garden with no outside help. Jerry is sure the aphids will be back but this was, for a garden geek, an educational and enjoyable adventure.

Gerard Ballanco, St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener
gballanco@bellsouth.net

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Association
April 20, 2011

A meeting of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, April 20th at the Covington Fairgrounds. A quorum was present with thirty-one Master Gardeners attending.

Julie Deus called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM.

Julie made several announcements concerning the next meeting, Master Gardener Appreciation Day and the Slidell Memorial Plant Sale. Information will be published in the Gardengoer.

It was announced that Susie Koepp will assist with emailing information to the membership until Pam Keating is able to resume those duties.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM and the Plant Swap followed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chere Currault, Secretary

April Meeting Recap



Sandy Arnoult, Art Scott and Jerry Ballanco swap plants. A large turnout for the plant swap. About 25 people attended the potluck lunch at Karla's home.



Karla Partridge



Sandy Arnoult and Julie Deus dig up some of Karla's plants to take home.

The April meeting was a plant swap. There was a huge turnout of members who brought lots of plants to pick and choose from. After the meeting we met at Karla Partridge's home off Lee Road for a potluck lunch. We toured Karla's lovely home, met all of her animals, including dogs, cats, a horse, a donkey, lots of chickens, and some ducks, and then toured the grounds. Lunch was a delightful sampling of salads, finger foods and desserts enjoyed in a peaceful, lovely country setting. After lunch, Karla invited everyone to dig up some plants to take home. Thank you, Karla, for a lovely afternoon!



*Louisiana Master Gardener
Appreciation Day
At
Hammond Research Station*

May 13, 2011

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Invitation to Louisiana Master Gardeners

- Come and spend a day in our garden!
- Guided tours through Sun Garden and Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden!
- LSU experts on hand to answer your questions!
- Presentation by Dan Gill and other Gardening Experts throughout the day!

*Complimentary lunch served at noon!
Door prizes!*

Contact your Parish LMG Coordinator and register by May 1st.



Hammond Research Station
21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond, LA
www.lsuagcenter.com/Hammond

Louisiana Master Gardener Appreciation Day Hammond Research Station, May 13, 2011

Dear Master Gardener: Last year's Louisiana Master Gardener Appreciation Day was a great success and was enjoyed by all. More than 200 Master gardeners attended! Dr. Regina Bracey and Dr. Allen Owings will again host this special event for Louisiana Master Gardeners on May 13th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hammond Research Station in Hammond, Louisiana. Speakers for the day will be Dan Gill and Dr. Gary Bachman (bio below). The speakers will give their presentation at different times during the day so everyone will have the opportunity to hear them. AgCenter experts who man booths and provide information throughout the morning will include:

Dr. Ron Strahan, The Weed Doctor

Dr. Don Ferrin, The Disease Doctor

Dr. Alan Morgan, The Bug Doctor

Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, The Vegetable and School Gardening Doctor



Dr. Gary Bachman is an assistant Extension professor of horticulture at the Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. He is the host of Southern Gardening, the gardening feature of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Gary does what Dan Gill does but in Mississippi. View or hear Gary's Southern Gardening columns and television and radio programs online at <http://msucares.com/news/>.

Invitation to Louisiana Master Gardeners

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Hammond Research Station

21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond

www.lsuagcenter.com/Hammond

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners 2011 Programs						
Month	Speaker	Topic	Garden Hint	Garden Problem	Sharing Table	ED Hours
January 19 Covington	Jerry Ballanco	Vegetable Gardening: Delicious Fun	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
February 16 Slidell	Bob Stroud	Camellias and Tour of Camellia Gardens	No	No	No	1 talk 1 tour
March 16 Covington	Georgeann Chaffee	Assessing the Mature Landscape	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
March 24 Mobile, AL	Tour	Festival of Flowers				6
April 20 Covington/Barn	No Speaker	Plant Swap	No	No	No	0
May 18 Covington	Art Scott Edible Flowers	Scholarship Award	No	No	No	
June 15 Covington	No Speaker	Vegetable Festival	No	No	Yes	
July 20 Covington	Nancy Bartlett	Cut Flower Gardening & tour of Blue Stem	Yes	Yes	Yes	
August 17 Covington/ Big Branch	John Besh	La Provence	No	No	No	
September 21 Covington	John Cassidy	Urban Storm Drainage	Yes	Yes	Yes	
October 19 Covington	TBD	<i>TBD</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
November 16 Covington	Partick O'Connor	Louisiana Iris	Yes	Yes	Yes	
December 14 ? Location	No Speaker	Christmas Party	No	No	No	

For any questions concerning MG Programs, contact:

Judy Wood

jazzwood@charter.net



MG Program Information

**By
Judy Wood**

MAY 18 Meeting - Edible Flowers (and Foliage) by Art Scott

Art Scott, Immediate Past President of STPMG, will speak about Edible Flowers and Foliage at the May 18 STPMG meeting. The list of edibles will include about 30 selections, what he has been able to grow in Folsom. His classification of Edible Flowers is 1) Tasty, 2) Salad Palette 3) Stuffable and 4) Tea.

Art, a retired dentist, moved to St. Tammany Parish in 2006 and is a member of the 2008 MG Class. He has had vegetable gardens for forty years (since he was a young lad). His special interests are bees and edible flowers. In addition, Art has long been interested in photography and the qualities of his pictures are excellent. This will be a presentation that will be lovely to see as well as an opportunity to learn about another use for flowers and foliage.



STPMG Vegetable Festival Wednesday, June 15, 2011

The program for the June 15 meeting of STPMG will be a Vegetable Festival. We want to celebrate all those many vegetables grown in your garden.

Please bring your vegetables, the perfect specimens as well as those vegetable that exhibit problems. We want to see it all! That is how we learn.

There will be tables set up around the perimeter of the meeting room at the Armory for you to display the produce. If appropriate, some vegetables, like tomatoes, will be available for tasting. Also, if you wish, please bring a dish using the vegetables so that other MGs may taste how you prepare the vegetable.

After the viewing there will be a discussion about the good and the bad so we can learn what went right and what we may try differently next year.

To make this as beneficial as possible we are requesting that an information sheet be completed for each vegetable. The form follows. We will compile the information from the completed forms and make a report.

Further details will be provided in the June Gardengoer.

St. Tammany Master Gardeners' 2011 Vegetable Festival—June 15th

Name (optional): _____

Name of plant and variety _____

☐ heirloom ☐ hybrid ☐ not sure

Started ☐ from seed ☐ as a transplant

Grown in ☐ containers ☐ raised beds/rows ☐ beds ☐ square-foot garden ☐ other _____

Would you plant this variety again? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Irrigation method

☐ garden hose

__handheld __soaker hose __sprinkler

__an automatic timer set for __1 hour __2 hours __3hours __other _____

☐ customized irrigation system (from Lowes or Drip Works or Ewing or other manufacturer)

__pre-installed emitters __emitters placed by you where needed

__an automatic timer set for __1 hour __2 hours __3hours __other _____

Irrigation frequency (assuming it hasn't rained)

☐ daily ☐ every other day ☐ every third day ☐ once weekly ☐ other _____

Fertilizer

☐ never use the stuff

☐ granular __8-8-8 __13-13-13 __8-24-24 __15-5-10 __other _____

☐ slow-release __Osmocote __fertilizer spikes __other _____

☐ water soluble crystals __miracle-gro __peters __other _____

☐ side dress with

__calcium nitrate __ammonium nitrate __ammonium sulfate __other _____

When did you side dress & amount per plant **OR** per 100 feet of row _____

☐ liquid __fish emulsion __worm tea __other _____

☐ Aged manure __cow __horse __chicken __rabbit __other _____

Fertilizer Frequency

☐ Never ☐ weekly ☐ every two weeks ☐ monthly ☐ other _____

Insecticides/fungicides

☐ Never ☐ as needed ☐ as a preventative spray applied __weekly __monthly __other _____

Check all you have used __Sevin __malathion __Ortho Max __chlorothalonil (Daconil) __maneb __neem oil __sulfur

__BT (or other biological control) __miticide __other chemicals/controls _____

☐ Did you have a recurring problem with a specific insect or disease? Problem: _____ Treatment: _____

Diseases, slugs and bugs __wilt diseases __leaf spotting diseases __mildew (downy or powdery) __rust __slugs __spider mites

__worms or caterpillars (list 'em) _____ __sucking insects __chewing insects __other (list) _____

Soil amendments – check all you used

☐ compost ☐ manure ☐ sand ☐ topsoil ☐ peat ☐ commercial garden soil ☐ other _____

Mulch ☐ None ☐ fabric ☐ leaves ☐ pine straw ☐ wheat straw ☐ newspaper ☐ plastic ☐ other _____

Yield ☐ Minimal ☐ enough for family ☐ plenty to share with neighbors and food bank.

FOR USE AT THE MEETINGIf tasting, place check below appropriate heading.

Vegetable or dish being

tasted: _____

Liked a lot

OK

Didn't care for

--	--	--

August 17 Meeting – La Provence Garden Tour and Lunch

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

The cost to Master Gardeners for the lunch including tax and gratuity is \$35 per person. **At the June 15th meeting, we will begin to accept checks to reserve a spot for this event.** Up to eighty people may attend the event. On August 1 any vacant spots may be filled by guests of MGs at a cost of \$45 per guest.

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

Judy Wood
Vice President/Program Committee Chair
jazzwood@charter.net



Chef John Besh and his restaurant, La Provence

STPMG Garden Glove Sales

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

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

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

Submitted by:
Judy Wood



Peggy Goertz sells gloves to Jerry Ballanco at the April Plant Swap



The Slidell Library Herb Committee News



On April 12, the 3rd annual Spring Herb Festival, "Bee Happy with Herbs" was held at the Slidell Library Herb Garden. This festival is sponsored by the STPMG and the Friends of the Slidell Library. This year was even better than last year with a turnout of 225 participants, 59 of those were children. Mr. Julian Lane brought a beehive exhibit, which was a huge hit, and he also spoke about beekeeping and using honey with herbs. Sharon Murphy spoke about kitchen medicinal herbs. Linda Franco talked about "Dripping in Honey and Citrus".



The photo above shows the interest in Mr. Lane's beehive by our own MGs: Judy Wood, Barbara Blaga, Rusty Batty and June Taffaro. There were teas to sample, cookies and cakes to taste, salads to sample and dips to snack on....all made with herbs grown in the herb garden. Children were treated to 2 activities: potting an herb plant to take home and decorating a card. Julie Deus hosted a table displaying several container gardens made with herbs. These container gardens were also used as door prizes. Congratulations to all the Herb Committee and the Chairman, June Taffaro, for another successful, educational event.

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

May 11	Linda Franco	Rosemary
Aug. 10	Pattie McGinnis	Basil
Sept. 14	Cecelia Drennan	Mint
Nov. 9	Donna Dicharry	Parsley

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

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

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



Food Bank/MG Garden Project

On a beautiful spring morning, members of the St. Tammany Master Gardeners, the volunteer arm of the LSU Ag Center, taught recipients of the Food Bank nutrition program how to grow a vegetable garden.

From site preparation all the way to the proper time to harvest, six MGs spent 90 minutes in a hands-on class with people eager to reap the benefits of eating fresh vegetables from their own backyard.

The emphasis was on gardening economically and in small places, such as a tomato plant producing its juicy red fruit, while anchored in an rubber tire from an automobile or pickup truck.

Spearheading the project for the Food Bank was Paula Souhlas, while Master Gardener Donna Howland planned the learning sessions with help from five other MGs: Don Lefevre, Rodney Cross, Linda Rowe, Tom Cuccia, and Kappy Goodwin.



Donna Howland

Rowe explained that the site of the garden needed a minimum of six hours of sun, and should not collect moisture. She said to place the garden near a water source. Make it convenient and easy to water during those droughts. While chemicals can be used to kill the weeds, she recommended laying newspaper down over the grass, prior to adding the soil.

Cross demonstrated how to build raised beds and do square foot gardening, while Howland got her hands dirty showing soils not good for a garden - too sandy or with too much clay. She mixed peat moss and compost with Pearlite to get the right combination.

Cuccia and Lefevre helped the novice gardeners make the decision about using seeds or seedlings and explained care for the plants and during continued growth. To enjoy eating the vegetables all summer, plant varieties that will mature at different times.

Tips were given on such things as sucker removal, and how to "stake" tomatoes using heavy duty wire rolled into cylinder shapes and planted firmly into the ground, one per plant.

"The novice gardeners asked questions and seemed thoroughly interested in the presentations," Howland said. "We offered the class right in the middle of the Covington community garden called Seeds of Hope, where volunteers grow vegetables for the Food Bank to distribute to their recipients."

"Our premise was one bag of vegetables given to someone feeds them for a few meals. Teaching them to garden feeds them for a lifetime," Howland said.

Submitted by Ann Gilbert



Rodney Cross, Tom Cuccia, Linda Rowe, Kappy Goodwin, Donna Howland and Don LeFevre

Bayou Lacombe Centre Butterfly Garden

What is approximately 600 square feet in size, located near beautiful Bayou Lacombe at the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges headquarters complex, bright and sunny, covered in pine straw and full of all sorts of blooming and growing plants? It is the Butterfly Garden, located on the grounds of the Bayou Lacombe Centre. The garden, a joint project of the Friends of LA Refuges and the St. Tammany Master Gardeners, has been given a spring cleaning and is now ready for winged and not-so-winged visitors.



Boo Bordes and Julie Deus plant a passion vine.



Boo Bordes, Julie Deus, Sandy Arnoult and Janey Lively put new plants in the garden.

The Master Gardeners recently held a work day to prune, weed, and feed existing plants; add new plants; and install an irrigation system. The Friends of LA Refuges provided financial support for the garden, which has been designed to attract butterflies.

(Hummingbirds are also welcome!) Many of the plantings from 2010 survived the winter and are ready for a new season. Heirloom mums, gladioli, milkweed, Mexican fire bush, buckeye bush, fennel, turk's cap and salvia are making an encore appearance in the garden. This year several herbs (dill, parsley, curry,

tricolor sage, lavender and thyme) have been added to the garden along with pentas (red and pink), dark red vincas, passion vine, and portulaca. These plants were specifically chosen for the garden because they are attractive to butterflies. Attracting butterflies involves incorporating plants that serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly. The insects need places to lay eggs, food plants for their larvae (caterpillars), places to form chrysalides and nectar sources for adults. Two shallow water sources have been added to provide a butterfly-friendly hydration station.

Next time you are in the neighborhood stop by and take a look at the Butterfly Garden. The red, pink, purple, lavender, yellow and orange blooms have already started enticing caterpillars and butterflies. As the garden matures towards fall it will be a buzz of activity attracting numerous species of both butterflies and hummingbirds. The garden is located on the grounds of the Bayou Lacombe Centre on Hwy 434 in Lacombe. Directions to the garden are located on map kiosks; the garden is a short walk from the Visitor Center and main parking area.



Keith Knight and Art Scott put in a drip irrigation system.



Submitted by: Susie Andres, Chairman

St. Tammany MG Specialist Pilot Program

To Master Gardeners interested in vegetables: [An Invitation](#)

Would you like to expand your knowledge of vegetable gardening beyond the basics we received in our initial seminars? The St Tammany MG Specialist Pilot Program is a new proposal because the hoped- for Advanced Master Gardener program as it applies to vegetable gardening will not begin any time soon.

Dr Kathryn Fontenot has agreed to come to the Ag Center on Tuesday, May 31 with other faculty (Dr Ferrin and Dr Morgan), to give us wider and deeper insights into vegetable gardening. This six hour instruction level will be intermediate/advanced. Later, there maybe a field trip with faculty guidance to the LA House Vegetable Garden for practical application.

The tentative curriculum for the sessions is: On-going care for amended soil, side dressing of vegetables - what and how often for what vegetables using standard and organic products.; ranking of vegetables based on ease of growing-- easy, average, difficult, darn near impossible; crop rotation, rationale and application, useful references and resources.

Dr. Ferrin and Dr Morgan will focus on diagnostic principals and practical means of identification, practical means of protection or avoidance, standard and organic remedies for the most common pests and diseases, resources and references.

There will be some expenses involved but should not be significant. Travel to Baton Rouge at least once is probable. Commitment is important as the registrants will be limited to eighteen MGs. You will get education hours credit for these sessions. On May 19th, participants we will meet to review the entrance level information to be sure everyone is up to speed. All presentation spots have been taken but you will be expected to study the soil and vegetable gardening section of the MG manual before the session. Saint Tammany MGs who have completed the prior year's service hours will be given preference if more than eighteen MGs express interest.

We currently have room for six more interested MGs. After the training sessions, you will be expected to serve 6 hours volunteering (speaking, going to farmer's markets, school or Head Start oversight, article for the Gardengoer, etc.) in matters relating exclusively to vegetable gardening. Continuing education hours are under discussion.

You don't need to be an expert gardener or a public speaker. Many opportunities to do volunteer work are available that do not involve power point or presenting to a group. You do need an interest in vegetable gardening, curiosity, and be willing to study and learn.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Jerry Ballanco gballanco@bellsouth.net



Master Gardeners/ST. Tammany Parish Schools

You are invited.....



Master Gardeners interested in working with our Pre k-3rd schools “SAVE the DATE” on your calendars:

Who: Teachers, Master Gardeners and PTA parents

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

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

Where: Jefferson East Curriculum Center (227 N. Jefferson, Covington, LA 70433) To attend Contact- Christy Paulsell 985-898-6483 or J.Christine.Paulsell@stpsb.org

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

Submitted by:
Christie Paulsell



ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Scholarship Meeting

Two Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarships will be awarded at the May meeting. The recipients are Anna Ribbeck and Jane Satterlee. Following the scholarship presentation, there will be a reception. All members are asked to bring a small dish of their favorite finger food. This can be fruit, dips, appetizers, desserts, or sandwiches. The hospitality committee will be furnishing cake, punch, coffee, and some sort of finger sandwiches as well as all the needed supplies. The regular meeting will follow the reception with a presentation by Art Scott on Edible Flowers.

Thank you!

Dianne Ramirez



St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Home Page

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT'S GROWING?



Kappy Goodwin planted 50 of these bulbs she was told were caladium bulbs. Obviously, they are not caladiums! Does anyone know what this is? Email kappygoodwin@yahoo.com if you can identify this plant.



Paul & Susie Andres wrote:

“Last month I noticed some volunteers popping up in the "growing" compost bin. There wasn't a great need for that compost right away, so I ignored it for a few weeks... Today it is flowing out of the first bin and fighting to take over the active bin next to it, but I just don't have the heart to beat it back... yet!”

STMGA Board of Directors Meeting
April 28, 2011

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the St. Tammany Master Gardeners Association was held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 5:00 PM at the La. Heart Hospital. Board members attending were Julie Deus, Judy Wood and Chere Currault.

Also attending were Art Scott, Debora Litzenberger, Jerry Ballanco and Susie Andres.

Judy Wood gave an update on forthcoming meetings and field trips. She is still working on the program for the September and October meetings as well as a fall field trip.

Judy spoke about her recent training in Baton Rouge relative to the LSU website and respective link to the parish site. The newsletter will be accessible through the LSU site and more detailed information will appear in the GardenGoer.

Julie announced that the Herb Talk will be presented by Linda Franzo on May 11 at 1 PM. The topic will be “rosemary”.

Judy stated the Herb Fest was a success with 225 attendees.

Susie Andres reported that the Butterfly Garden has been planted and funded by the Friends of the Butterfly Garden and that the irrigation system is working well.

Jerry Ballanco reported that the number of Specialty MG’s dropped from 13 to 8 and that 10 people are wanted. He stated that this is an invitation to learn about vegetable gardening. They are seeking MG’s with a strong interest who want to expand their knowledge with the goal of sharing through teaching.

Julie stated that Donna Dicharry would chair the Speakers Bureau and that fifteen people have signed up. A meeting will be held to formulate topics. One goal is to have evening programs at the library with speakers to present topics of interest to the general public.

Debora Litzenberger stated that she is seeking an editor for the newsletter and would mentor/teach anyone willing to assume this role.

Julie reported that the Scholarship Committee has selected two recipients of the scholarships – Anna Ribbeck and Jane Satterlee, both going into horticulture programs at LSU. There were eight applicants.

Judy Wood reported that the Honors Committee (Sandy Arnoult) will address the membership concerning the suggestion that MG’s with 50 or more service hours have a choice of receiving a brick, or La. Gardener subscription, or have an “opt out” option. More information will be forthcoming.

Continued on page 26

Julie provided a list of co-chairpersons for the Program Committees and Project Committees (list attached to the minutes).

The date of the May Board Meeting will be decided at a later time as Julie will not be able to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chere Currault, Secretary

AGENDA
STPMG Membership Meeting
May 18, 2011

The Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Memorial Scholarships will be awarded beginning at 10:00 a.m. followed by a reception PRIOR to our business meeting.

- 1. Call to order and report quorum present**
- 2. Opening Ceremonies**
- 3. Program: "Edible Flowers" presented by Art Scott**

BREAK: 10 minutes

- 4. Comments by Rusty, County Agent and MG Advisor**
- 5. Minutes from April meeting**
- 6. Officer's reports**
President: Julie Deus
Vice President: Judy Wood
Treasurer: Jay Rose
- 7. Committee Reports**
- 8. Project Committee Reports**
Slidell Herb Fest: June Taffaro
MG Specialists: Jerry Ballanco
- 9. Unfinished Business**
- 10. New Business**
Speaker's Bureau: Donna Dicharry
- 11. Announcements**
Next Board Meeting : Julie Deus
- 12. Door Prizes**
- 13. Adjourn**

Calendar of Events

May, 2011

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| 11 | Herb Gathering at the Slidell Library on Robert Rd. Linda Franzo will give a talk on rosemary. 1-3 pm. <i>See page 18.</i> |
| 13 | Plant sale at the Slidell Memorial Hospital Rehab Garden. Contact Leslie Landeche @ rocknlou@bellsouth.net for details. |
| 13 | Louisiana Master Gardener Appreciation Day at Hammond Research Station. 9-3. <i>See flier on pages 11-12</i> |
| 18 | Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 a.m. The Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Scholarships will be presented. A reception for our Scholarship recipients will follow. Bring a dish! Art Scott will give a PowerPoint presentation on Edible Flowers. <i>See page 23.</i> |

June, 2011

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| 15 | Monthly meeting at National Guard Armory. 10 a.m. Festival of Vegetables. Bring your good garden gems and your garden failures to share, along with a tasting dish containing the vegetable. <i>See pages 14-15.</i> |
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July, 2011

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| 20 | Monthly meeting at National Guard Armory. 10 a.m. Speaker: Nancy Bartlett and tour of Blue Stem Farms. Details will be forthcoming. |
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August, 2011

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| 17 | Monthly meeting at National Guard Armory 10 a.m. followed by a tour/lunch at La Provence with Chef John Besh. <i>See page 16.</i> |
|----|---|

STPMG Directory

PRESIDENT:

Julie Deus
674-6742 jdcalla@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Judy Wood
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TREASURER:

Jay Rose
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SECRETARY:

Chere Currault
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COORDINATOR:

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LSU AGCENTER OFFICE:

Mary Beth Kaizer
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WEB ADMISTRATOR:

Sandy Arnoult
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**LSU AGCENTER OFFICE
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:**

Penelope Giles
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

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NEWSLETTER:

Debora Litzenberger
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PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Art Scott
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PUBLICITY:

Ann Gilbert
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HISTORICAL:

Glenda Spano, *Scrapbook*
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SMH REHAB GARDEN:

Leslie Landeche
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SLIDELL HERB GARDEN:

Betty Rose
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Linda Franzo
781-4372 Linda@passionateplatter.com

LACOMBE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Susie Andres
643-3310 sandres@bellsouth.net

OTIS HOUSE BUTTERFLY GARDEN:

Ann Durel
626-1656 adurel@bellsouth.net

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

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

Notes from the Editor:

I am looking for someone to assist me with the GARDENGOER. I will work closely with anyone who is interested, teaching them everything they need to know. However, having good computer skills is a must! If you are good with Microsoft Word, can put pictures and graphics into a document and can send an email, I can teach you how to publish the newsletter. If you already know how to use Microsoft Publisher, then you are ready! Time is another must have. The newsletter requires a good bit of time, but only the last few days of the month and can be done at home. Contact me by email or phone if you are interested in working with me on the GARDENGOER. If there's more than one person interested, then we'll form a committee! I had never published a newsletter before I published this one and no one was around to teach me. If I can do it, you can do it!

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

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

Debora Litzenberger dklitz@charter.net



THE GARDENGOER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Cooperative Extension Service

St. Tammany Parish

1301 N. Florida Street

Covington, LA 70433

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Fax: 985-875-2639

Website: www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/