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## SPRING HERB FESTIVAL

The Friends of the Slidell Library and the Herb Committee of the STPMG hosted the fourth annual Spring Herb Festival on April 12. The theme of the festival was "Herbs Make Scents" and featured the herb of the year, the rose. Margaret Ganier of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society gave a talk on "Roses are Herbs Too!" and our own Linda Franzo gave a talk on "Butter Your Hips" with roses. There were several teas, dips, cakes, breads and salads to sample as well as making your own tea bag from an assortment of herbs. The children dug for worms and learned about composting. There were 3 vendors selling plants and there were lots of customers eager to buy them. Shown above are the ladies of the Herb Committee who spruced up the garden at a work day just before the Herb Festival. Shown are: Linda Franzo, front, Betty Rose and Cindy Jackson, seated, standing are Nancie Munn, Susie Andres, Pam Perret, Judy Wood, June Taffaro, Nancy Berulis, Kathleen Guidry, Kappy Goodwin, Camille Schwandt and the Chairman of the Spring Herb Festival, Sandy Arnoult.

## *President's Message*

April showers have certainly brought May flowers! Everywhere is just bursting with color. And the evenings are so pleasant. It's nice to be able to sit outside and enjoy the garden without the oppressive heat. That will come next month!



We had another tremendously successful Herb Fest on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks go out to Sandy Arnoult and her committee for all of their planning and hard work. We had spectacular weather and an appreciative crowd. The rose flavored teas, water and food and “make your own teabag” were wonderful and the kids (as well as many adults) had so much fun with the worm composting. Great job Karla and Nancy!

If you didn't make it out to Cheri Hall's house for the potluck after the Plant Swap, then it is well worth the trip to see her gardens, pond, beach and zip line. Karla and Cheri's husband, Mike, braved the water and rode the zip line across the pond. I'm sure Debora has some pictures. What a great time we all had. Thanks so much Cheri for opening up your home to us.

The LSU AgCenter is hosting a Master Gardener Appreciation Day on Friday, May 18 beginning at 9:00 am at the Hammond Research Station. This is a chance to visit with other Master Gardeners, take a peek at what's blooming at the Research Station and to pick Dr. Owings' brain! Please let Mary Beth know by May 5th if you plan to attend so they know how many lunches to order. Hope to see everyone there!

The St. Tammany Master Gardeners will be presenting the Bobby Fletcher, Sr. Memorial Scholarship to Bryan Haley from Covington High School at our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2012. Bryan will be attending McNeese State University to study pre-veterinary medicine. He has been involved in 4-H and FFA programs throughout junior and senior high school. Our meeting will begin one half hour later, at 10:30 am and Sheila Stroup will speak at 11:30 am. The scholarship presentation and potluck luncheon will commence at noon. Please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish to share with everyone.

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

## **Dirt Day**

By  
Rusty Batty

We have many celebrations in Louisiana and across St. Tammany Parish. Strawberry Festival, Tomato Festival and Watermelon Festival just to name a few. I would like to suggest a celebration of our soil/ dirt and call it Dirt Day. The most essential important and critical first step in any garden is soil. Although soil can be called ground, black gold, garden mix or mud most of us simply know it as dirt. Dirt Day would be celebrated as the back bone to good gardens.

Soils/ (dirt) are the medium where plants grow. Soil is the primary source of air, water and nutrients for plants. Although you may have anything from light sand to heavy clay, no one mix will work for all plants. The garden mix suggested in “Square Foot Gardening” by Mel Bartholomew is a good place to start. He suggests, “1/3 Blended Compost (compost from several sources), 1/3 Peat Moss and 1/3 Coarse Vermiculite.” Your goal for any good garden soil should be to have good moisture, good drainage and good nutrients for your plants.

A soil test is recommended for deciding the nutritional needs of the plants. One pint of soil brought to the Ag Center and a ten dollar check will provide your benchmark. See [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our\\_offices/parishes/St.+Tammany/Features/Agriculture\\_Horticulture/Soil+Sampling.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/parishes/St.+Tammany/Features/Agriculture_Horticulture/Soil+Sampling.htm) for a full explanation on taking a soil test.

In most of any St. Tammany soils, adding organic matter will be a good step toward plant production. Good sources of rotted manure, grass clipping, food waste, leaf mold or old sawdust will benefit the native soil with improved drainage, better moisture retention and nutrition.

So as you work in your garden this spring admiring your plants and harvesting your produce, don't forget to celebrate their beginnings. Hold up your dirty glasses, soiled gloves and muddy boots to Dirt Day.





Hi Everyone, This Spring has been a record breaker in all categories. Rain, wind, heat, and cold have plagued the garden. I have not spent as much time as I usually do enjoying the experience. So one cold night when a group of great horned owls had a 3 am hoot off outside my window I decided to visit my veggies and see what happens down in the patch at night. Jim pulled the covers over his head and continued to sleep as I donned a robe for warmth and hiking boots. The boots are for snakes. I have never seen any at night, but you never know what snakes are thinking! I am not afraid of the dark because as kids, my dad always told us, "If there was something out there it would eat the cows first because they tasted better than we did." The calves were not afraid of the dark so we shouldn't be afraid of the dark either. Veal is really tasty, so no fear of the dark in my family. Armed with a small flashlight, for identification purposes only, I proceeded to exit the back porch where two masked bandits, Raccoons, held me up for vanilla crème cookies. The half moon provided ample light for my stroll down the driveway. I could hear a thrasher providing a rare all night serenade in the woods. I watched two wild rabbits playing chase where we throw the whole corn for the birds. Loud rustling in the underbrush provided a medium sized armadillo out hunting for a meal. They all pass in the night without stop signs or traffic signals. I finally get to the garden and there is a wild rabbit eating nutsedge on the bean row. I watched to see if he tasted the beans too! He abruptly left when I turned on the flashlight. I walked the rows silently, looking and listening for intruders. Slugs were moving in on the strawberries so I picked the red ones. Worms on the Brussels sprouts leaves were still. A vole ran down a row and into the woods. The activities here couldn't be held at bay by a fence. Later today as the sun shines I will return with DE, Sevin, and beer (for the slugs). The owls are still partying but I am tired so I trudge back past the night shift of critters. It costs two more vanilla crème cookies to get pass the raccoons on the back porch steps and into the house. I slip under the warm covers and Jim stirs. It is 5 am and he is ready to make his first cup of coffee for the day. I do not drink coffee and I just finished the night shift in the yard so I elect to sleep in until 6 am. So on this morning I will not be back in the garden until 7am. 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	1
March 29 Thursday	Field Trip	St. Martinville Jefferson Island	No	No	No	3
April 18 Covington	No Speaker	Spring Plant Swap Lunch at Cheri Hall's	No	No	No	0
May 16 Covington	Sheila Stroup	Scholarship Award	No	No	No	
June 20 Covington	Joan Gagliano Chairperson	Vegetable Festival	No	Yes	No	
July 18 Covington			Yes	Yes	Yes	
August 15 Covington	Diane Quinn	Aquatic Gardening	Yes	Yes	Yes	
September 19 Covington			Yes	Yes	Yes	
October 10 Wednesday	Field Trip	Bracy's Nursery Covey Rise Farms	No	No	No	
October 17 Covington		Speaker  Fall Plant Swap				
November 14 Covington			Yes	Yes	Yes	
December ? Location	No Speaker	Christmas Party	No	No	No	

Judy Wood

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



## **STPMG Programs**

May 15, 2012

### **Garden Stories**

**Sheila Stroup**

Sheila Stroup columnist of the Times-Picayune will share Garden Stories with us as we celebrate the awarding of the Bobby Fletcher Scholarship. Sheila Stroup's columns tell stories about the people of the New Orleans area. She allows us to connect with others sharing their hopes and dreams. Also, we are drawn into her family including her husband, her daughters' families, her grandchildren, and her pets.

Judy Wood



## **Scholarship Reception**

May 15, 2012

We will honor the Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship recipient after the scholarship presentation at the May meeting. The Hospitality Committee will provide sandwiches, a cake, punch, iced tea and water. Please bring a favorite finger food, appetizer or side dish to go with the sandwiches. Remember, the meeting starts at 10:30 and the scholarship presentation will begin at noon with the reception to follow. Please come out and support our scholarship winner!

Barbara Moore,  
Hospitality Chairman

## *In Memory of Cecelia Drennan*

*The St. Tammany Master Gardeners lost an angel on Monday, April 23, but St. Peter gained a beautiful spirit and tremendous gardener. Celia graduated with the class of 2009 and has contributed so much to our organization. According to her children, gardening was her passion. She was so strong, kind and compassionate. I was in her class but had no idea she was undergoing chemotherapy at the time. She came to class and flashed her bright, infectious smile despite what I'm sure were many bad days. She never made a fuss about her diagnosis and whenever asked, simply said, "I'm feeling great. How're you feeling?"*

*Celia was on the committees for the 2010 and 2011 Fall seminars and the committees for all of the Herb Fests in 2010 and 2011. She handled the evaluations for the 2011 Plant Show and was the driving force behind the Slidell Senior Center Project, but unfortunately will not have a chance to see that to fruition. I remember showing up for the 2010 Fall seminar and there was Celia with five donated plants for decoration of the stage and she made sure they were given as door prizes. We have held on to that tradition at each subsequent seminar.*

*Even though she was involved in many philanthropic organizations such as the Slidell Republican Women's Club, the Slidell Lioness Club and the Rotary Club of Slidell-Inner Wheel as well as being First Lady of Slidell she always found time for the Master Gardeners. In February, the Krewe of Slidellians recognized her for her lifetime of service to the community and crowned her their Queen Samaritan LXII. Celia was truly a giving person.*

*She is survived by the love of her life, Freddie, two adoring sons, Doug and Deric and 5 precious grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all that knew her. The St. Tammany Master Gardeners will be honoring her memory with a donation to be decided upon soon.*

*Julie Deus*



## In Memory of Amber Williams Klekamp



Gardening was a passion for Amber and she had seemingly unbounded energy for working her beds, even in the heat of our Louisiana summers. She would garden to early afternoon, then flop into her pool to relax. She was a regular at Home Depot's garden spot in Covington, browsing and looking for bargains.

Amber loved the opera and a friend suggested she join the New Orleans Opera Association's Women's Guild. The Guild maintains their late 19th Century Home on Prytania Avenue, which is the only home open to visitors in the Garden District. After joining, she surveyed the condition of the Home's beds and inside plants, and immediately knew what would be her mission for the Guild, as no one had been caring for any of the plants on a timely manner. Watering was spotty, if at all. Scores of gifted Cast Iron remained in their nursery containers. Inside plants were dying. Amber designed a rotation of seasonal flowers for the front beds. The inside plants were resuscitated in her "Plant Hospital" behind her Mandeville home, where most "patients" recovered and were discharged back to the Guild Home. She installed a timed soaker hose for the front beds, and hand watered the plants sheltered on the porch as well as the inside plants. Frequently she co-opted her husband Tom to aid in weeding and planting. The interior plants were watered on those Mondays when she was a regular docent for the Home numerous visitors. One of the benefits she truly enjoyed while gardening was the numerous world-wide tourists and visitors she would meet. Amber was proud of her native New Orleans and would always chat up people who wandered in through the wrought-iron gates.

Last summer, with trepidation, she entered the Master Gardener's course, largely with the encouragement of her husband, Tom. She was concerned about the commitment to a daunting regimen. She soon loved the lectures (though complained of speakers reading their PowerPoint slides) and took studious notes--a forte of hers. She herself was an English teacher by profession and loved her students. Her education included a BA in English from Newcomb College and an MA in English from Tulane University. She loved British literature and even the archaic forms of Old and Middle English. Besides gardening she golfed, enjoyed cooking for house guests, copiously read mystery writers, and doted on her two grandsons, John and Mitchell Becker. All who came to meet and love her will sorely miss her.

Thomas Klekamp



## The Language of Flowers

I recently finished reading a book called “The Language of Flowers” by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. It was a good read about mother/daughter relationships and our foster care system. The main character, Victoria, found her passion when she discovered that flowers were used to convey emotions.

The language of flowers or floriography, was a Victorian era means of communicating feelings thru flowers. Queen Victoria of England is credited with showing British women how to use flowers and Tussie-Mussies to express their private emotions. Tussie-Mussies were small bouquets sent to others utilizing the language of flowers. Drawings of flowers were also used as a means to communicate emotions probably in the dead of winter when nothing was in bloom in England!

Recently, even Kate Middleton picked flowers to convey her personal feelings on her wedding day: Lily of the Valley - return of happiness, Sweet William - gallantry, Ivy - fidelity, as an example. The language of flowers is not limited to flowers but when you look thru these dictionaries, you can find meanings to herbs, fruits and even vegetables. Diffenbaugh includes Victoria's own dictionary in her book. I found it interesting and food for thought each time I go out in my garden.

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) ... pride

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) ...hate

Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) ... profit

Dianthus (*Dianthus*) ... make haste

Fig (*Ficus carica*)... argument

Iris (*Iris*) ... message

Lavender (*Lavandula*) ... mistrust

Mustard (*Brassica*) ... I am hurt

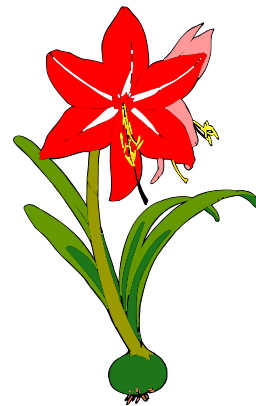
Orange (*Citrus sinensis*) ... generosity

Pear (*Pyrus*) ... affection

Raspberry (*Rubus*) ... remorse

Thyme (*Thymus*) ... activity

Zinnia (*Zinnia*) ... I mourn your absence



You can find more information about this old' language at your library and on-line. I found the idea that plants can talk too, thought provoking especially in our electronically fast paced world. So, take a second look at your plants! They could have a special new meaning for you....

Oregano or Joy!

Nancy Berulis

## Lacombe Butterfly Garden – May 2012 Report by Susie Andres

Spring planting and work on the Lacombe butterfly garden has been completed. Over a series of three work days – necessitated by uncooperative weather – the garden is ready for spring and summer visitors. Returning perennials include milkweed, fennel, lantana, Turk's cap, salvia, fall aster, sedum, cassia, haemelia, buckeye bush and some beautiful gladioli which are now in bloom. Workers from the Butterfly Garden Committee added a butterfly vine, penta, vinca, buddelia, bulbine, cigar plant and bat face plant. Two small urns were planted with angelonia and purslane

Thanks to the efforts of Master Gardeners the bed has been weeded, fed and mulched. Those who were able to help in the garden on one or more of the planting days include Kay Hanson, Pattie McGinnis, Janie Lively (and her husband Al), Debora Litzenberger, Sandy Arnoult, Julie Deus, Nancy Griffin, Dinah Keyes and Boo Bordes.

The Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges donated \$100 to cover the cost of plants that were added to the garden, and the National Wildlife Refuges donated five bales of pine straw which were used to mulch the garden.

Butterflies and hummingbirds are already enjoying the garden, and as our plants grow and bloom we should continue to see winged visitors well into the fall. The garden is on the grounds of the National Wildlife Headquarters in Lacombe on Hwy. 434 and is open to the public Monday through Saturday. A kiosk located at the main parking area displays a map of the grounds. The butterfly garden is located near the camellia gardens, just behind the Law Enforcement building.

We will have a work day in late September to get the garden ready for Wild Things which will be held on October 13, 2012 at the National Wildlife Refuge headquarters. There will also be a planning meeting held in September to plan educational activities for Wild Things. If you are interested in participating in these events please contact me, [sandres@bellsouth.net](mailto:sandres@bellsouth.net).



Sandy Arnoult, Janie Lively, Debora Litzenberger, Nancy Griffin, Dinah Keyes and Susie Andres

## “Into the Garden”

Thanks to many dedicated Master Gardener volunteers, the “Into the Garden” school program at Fairview-Riverside State Park/Otis House on March 28 was a success. Fourth-grade students from Mandeville Middle School learned about plants, soil, and butterflies as they visited seven stations to help “Slick” the garden slug complete his diary. At station one, Donna Howland, Rodney Cross, and Susan L’Hoste conducted a hands-on activity where children learned about the characteristics and benefits of tree layers. Seeds held center stage at station two, “Have Seeds Will Travel,” as Leslie Boucher and A.J. Heinsz-Bailey assisted park ranger Lori Barnes cover methods of dispersal. Children received hand stamps of a crown to proclaim seeds as “kings of the plant world.” Linda Rowe, Linda Deslatte, and Nancy McDonald emphasized the importance of good soil at the “Wiggly Soil” station with worm farming, composting, and soil identification. The butterfly garden established by Master Gardeners several years ago provided a learning opportunity as Julie Deus, Pattie McGinnis, and Linda Wendle identified host and nectar plants and released Painted Lady butterflies. Donna Brown, Nancie Munn, and Gerard Ballanco generated lots of questions at the “There’s a Plant on My Plate!” station as they presented a crop of usual and not-so-often-seen fruits and vegetables, such as yellow carrots. The “Secret Lives of Leaves” station utilized cross-sectioned leaf models as Christy Paulsell, Ann Gilbert, and Martha Gruning donning chef’s hats to proclaim leaves as the most important part of the plant since they produced food to sustain plants. Students provided the jury at the final station, “Alien Invaders: The Good, the Bad, and the Greedy,” to decide the fate of invasive plants. Judge (Bart Loomis) held court as Counselor Freeplant (Deborah Nolan), Counselor Turfguard (Eileen Gremillion), cross-examined witnesses Ms. Pullemall (Jan Butler) and Ms. Lettembee (Mary Jenks). Students voted to eradicate or propagate the defendants: Tallow Tree A.K.A. Popcorn Tree and the Alligator Weed. Many thanks to all the Master Gardener volunteers and to Otis House volunteers Clara Alexander and Fernell Cryar for furnishing a delicious lunch to sustain our “real troopers.”



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



## Abita Springs Library Project

Rod Downie approached me last October to ask if I would be interested in helping him do a little beautification for the Abita Library. I agreed and we approached Kay Redd, the head librarian at the Abita Branch about Rod's idea. Kay was quite enthusiastic about having the Master Gardeners involved with the library. We did understand that our work in the community has to be primarily focused on education - not just free labor. So Rod and I sent out the word that we were looking for volunteers for this project and figured we could poll our volunteers for ideas that would involve educating the community about some facet of gardening and nature. The response was marvelous. We had our first planning meeting in January. We decided to focus on the two raised beds initially and to create an herb garden and a vegetable garden. When I was contacted by Mimi Nothacker of the St. Tammany Parish Library, in charge of adults programs, she told me she would like to schedule two dates for 2012, one in the spring and one in the fall. She gave me the dates and our plans were underway. The group, Julie Deus, Rod Downie, Ann Gilbert, Martha Gruning, Cheri Hall, Donna Howland, Susan, LHoste, Deborah Nolan, and Sandra Pecoraro, began planning our spring event - "the Basics of Vegetable and Herb Gardening, to be held on April 18th at 4pm. We had several planning meetings and a few work days to get the beds planted and growing well in time for our events.



Sandra Pecoraro, Deborah Nolan, and Martha Gruning

We had a children's event on March 28 - part of the "Amazing Afternoons" program the library offers for children. The response was good - 28 people attended. The children really seemed to enjoy the program. Donna Howland read to them inside the library about herbs and related subjects. The children came outside for the remainder of the program and enjoyed touching smelling and hearing about the many herbs we have in the bed. Martha talked a bit about herbs and what plants fall into that category; Deborah focused on the medicinal properties of herbs and Julie spoke to them about using herbs in cooking. We all enjoyed the afternoon and thought it a great success.

On the afternoon of April 18th, we put our plan into action for the adult event. The beds looked beautiful after lots of rain and sunshine. On one of the workdays before the event, we planted cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, pole beans, mirliton, bell peppers, ichiban eggplants and herbs to go along with them - maidenwort and others. Ann, Julie and Susan manned a table at the back of the library building which addressed the garden location, type of bed, irrigation, mulching, animal control and related topics. Donna Howland covered soil testing and preparation at her station at the back of the parking lot. She demonstrated mixing soil with sand, compost and other materials to improve it. Finally, Martha, Deborah and Sandra spoke at their table about plants selection, where to plant climbing vegetables, how to select the right varieties and companion planting - which herbs go with which vegetables. We had seventeen attendees, many of the experienced gardeners. Questions were asked, information was shared and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Breaking up the group into three smaller groups which rotated among the three stations worked well.

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

Photos by Susan L'Hoste



Julie Deus, Susan L'Hoste and Ann Gilbert



## Herb Talks at the Slidell Library

The following speakers are scheduled for herb talks at 1 pm at the library meeting room:

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 9	Camille Schwandt	oregano (wrap-up Spring Herb Festival followed by Herb Talk)
July 11	June Taffaro	undecided
Sep 12	Kathleen Guidry	ginger
Nov 14	will probably skip & start again in 2013	

Please come and support our fellow gardeners and learn a bit more on these herbs.

Betty Rose

[bettyrose@charter.net](mailto:bettyrose@charter.net)





*Louisiana Master Gardener  
Appreciation Day  
at  
Hammond Research Station*

**May 18, 2012**

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

***Invitation to Louisiana Master Gardeners***

- Come and spend a day in our garden!
- Guided tours including a Scavenger Plant Hunt!
- LSU AgCenter experts on hand to answer your questions!
- Special question and answer program by Dan Gill!
- Door Prizes!

*Complimentary lunch served at noon!*

***Contact your Parish LMG Coordinator and register by May 5th.***



Hammond Research Station  
21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond, LA

[www.lsuagcenter.com/Hammond](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/Hammond)

For lodging in the Hammond area visit: [http://tangi\\_cub.org/site3.php](http://tangi_cub.org/site3.php)

**Planning for the Festival of Vegetables**  
**Tuesday, May 1st**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Ag Center**

*The June 20 meeting of the STPMG will be a Festival of Vegetables.*

*What does that mean?*

If you would like to have a voice in designing this Festival come to the planning meeting. The Festival will be decided by a committee that will meet on Tuesday, May 1st, at 9:30 at the AG Center. Come bring your ideas and help to plan this fun event/meeting. Many of you have wonderful talents and ideas, please share. Any questions or thoughts, contact Joan Gagliano, Program Chair. At [joan70435@yahoo.com](mailto:joan70435@yahoo.com). (Participation in this meeting counts as volunteer hours.)



Joan Gagliano



## **Vegucator Seminar Season**

The new vegucator seminar season is starting May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the Ag center. As last year, Dr. Morgan and Dr. Ferrin will talk about pests and disease that attack or guard vegetables. Dr. Morgan will spend some time talking about field identification of pests and predators. The third speaker is a surprise. We will also have another clinical-pathologic-conference for the faculty to think out loud and solve puzzles based on photographs and “history”. Last year we not only learned a lot but the CPC was really fun. Oh! There’s lunch too and we treat the faculty. The cost should be about 10.00-12.00/person. It will be over by 3:00 or 3:30.

There are 20 vegucators and thirty chairs so we can have ten non vegucator guests. Vegucators do not have to email but if any MG’s would like to come, please send me an email. Sorry, but we will have to cut off at ten guests. If you come, please review the chapters on entomology, organic gardening, and vegetable diseases in the MG handbook as the speakers will start from that baseline.

The regular vegucator seminars will begin on July 11<sup>th</sup> and all MG are invited. Those seminars are given by the MG vegucators and are in groups of three or four in a 9:00-12:00 session. The topics and dates will be listed in the June Gardengoer.

Happy vegetable growing,  
Jerry Ballanco  
[gballanco@bellsouth.net](mailto:gballanco@bellsouth.net)



## **APRIL STPMG MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

A short meeting was held at St. Tammany Fair Grounds Barn on 4/18/12 at 10:00 a.m. Forty one members were in attendance. Julie called the meeting to order and Sandy Arnoult led the group in prayer.

Announcements were made regarding the Scholarship and pot luck for the May meeting. Members should bring finger food. The time will be changed to 10:30 instead of the usual 10:00 to accommodate Rusty and Dr. Fletcher's attendance at the scholarship presentation immediately after the business meeting.

Fran Thigpen spoke on the Methodist Home for Children located on the campus of Southeast Louisiana State Hospital. There are 30+ children, mostly teenagers, who will eventually transition out of the home. There is a fenced area adjoining the building with a small garden called the butterfly garden that could use some TLC. Fran motioned that we adopt this garden as a project to direct and advise the children and staff Isabelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The business part of the meeting was adjourned so the members could return to the plant swap and then on to the pot luck luncheon at Cheri Hall's home. A great outing. A great chance to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

## **STPMG BOARD MEETING**

### **4/19/12**

The April board meeting was held at Slidell City Hall on Thursday, 4/19/12. Seven people were in attendance – Julie Deus, Judy Wood, Jay Rose. Kathleen Guidry, Debora Litzenberger, Ty Guidroz and Rusty Batty.

Julie called the meeting to order. Jay reported no changes in the treasurer's report. Judy reported on upcoming programs including the veggie fest in June and speakers at both the May and August meetings. The October trip to Bracey's will cost about \$20 for transportation and Judy will call for a vote at the meeting to have members pay \$10 and the association pay \$10. Additionally, lunch with gratuity will be \$20.40 that day.

New business included managing donations being carried on the books that are earmarked for particular projects. Judy motioned that we set aside the monies for one year by emailing the project chairman and after one year, if not used, to put into the general fund. Kathleen seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on the plant sale scholarship fund. Jay suggested that the rules be restructured. Motion made by Judy to suggest that the scholarship committee revise the criteria for the scholarship – the requirements, the amount of the award and the payment distribution schedule. Kathleen seconded.

Other new business included the recent tax forms submitted to the organization for the annual plant sale. Jay motioned that we pay all obligations as presented to us and that we create a plant sale finance committee to oversee all expenses including any city or parish taxes. Seconded by Kathleen. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Guidry, Secretary

## 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**  
**May 16, 2012**

- 1. Call to order and report quorum present**
- 2. Opening Ceremonies**
- 3. Minutes from April meeting**
- 4. Officer's reports**  
**President: Julie Deus**  
**Vice President: Judy Wood**
- 5. Committee Reports**  
**Finance-Donations received for projects**
- 6. Project Reports**  
**Herb Fest-Sandy Arnoult**  
**Abita Library Project-Martha Gruning**  
**Slidell Senior Center-Julie Deus**
- 7. Announcements**  
**MG Appreciation Day**
- 8. Program**  
**"Garden Stories"-Sheila Stroup**
- 9. Scholarship Presentation**  
**Barbara and Jamie Fletcher to Bryan Haley**
- 9. Adjourn**



# Calendar of Events

May, 2012	
1	Festival of Vegetables planning meeting at the AgCenter at 9:30 am. Come, help plan for this festival to be held at the June MG meeting. Contact Joan Gagliano for more info: <a href="mailto:joan70435@yahoo.com">joan70435@yahoo.com</a> See page 15.
9	Herb Talk at the Slidell Library, 1 pm. Camille Schwandt will give a talk on oregano. There will be a wrap up meeting of the Spring Herb Festival also. See page 13.
16	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10:30 am. Note the time change! Sheila Stroup is the featured speaker. She will start her presentation at 11:30. Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship will be presented at noon and a reception will follow. Please bring a side dish. See page 6.
18	Master Gardener Appreciation Day at the Hammond Research Station. 9-3. Lunch provided. Contact Rusty to register by May 5. See page 14.
30	Vegucator Seminar begins at the AgCenter. See page 16.

June, 2012	
11	Vegucator seminars by MGs will begin. More info next month.
20	Monthly MG Meeting. Festival of Vegetables. Info TBA.

July, 2012	
18	Monthly Meeting at the National Guard Armory. Info TBA

# STPMG Directory

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## *Notes From the Editor:*

*Hi MGs,*

*April was a gardener's month! Great weather, a plant swap, some zip lining, and lots of activities with our MG Projects led to an exciting month. It was also a very sad month. We lost two of our own Master Gardeners, Cecelia Drennan and Amber Klekamp. I can't remember if I said a kind word or gave either of them a smile the last time I saw them. I can only hope that I did. Let their untimely passing serve to remind us of just how fragile life is and to always let the people in your life know they are special.*

*Please come out to the May meeting to support our Bobby Fletcher, Jr. Scholarship recipient. Historically, it is not a very well attended meeting. Let's change that and show our support to our very deserving winner. Please bring a side dish for the reception.*

*Don't forget to log in your hours for April. 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/)

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## **THE GARDENGOER**

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

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