



**Master
Gardener™**

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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November, 2011

Wild Things



The Lacombe Butterfly Garden was in full bloom just in time for the annual "Wild Things" celebration at Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge on October 15. Susie Andres raised 31 Painted Lady Butterflies for the event and they were released throughout the day. The children's activity table focused on the lifecycle of the butterfly while a docent was in the butterfly garden to answer questions about the plants and butterflies. Shown are the Christopher Hebert family, Elizabeth, Cameron, Adam, David and Hanna, watching Susie Andres release a Painted Lady. See page 16.

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

President's Message

Whew! I think we can finally take a breath after all of the activities we've accomplished in the last two months. What I really love about all our efforts is the wide range of gardening topics we've covered through these projects! Think about it: just this fall we educated people about herbs, trees, vegetables and butterfly plants and attended a field trip to the Crystal Springs Plant Show to learn even more.



The Southeast Wildlife Refuge's "Wild Things" event was hugely successful again this year. Thanks so much to Susie Andres and her committee for a beautiful garden and a spectacular interactive butterfly activity that was the highlight of the day for a lot of children. More than 800 people (actually 872) stopped by the garden or the table and 31 butterflies were released throughout the day. It was a joy to see some cling to the fingers of the children for several minutes before taking off on their maiden flights and, hopefully, finding lots of nectar in the garden. Congratulations!

Another thank-you goes out to Judy Wood and the Program Committee for organizing a delightful day in Crystal Springs, MS at the Fall Flower and Garden Fest. There were plants, garden art and very informative speakers as well as tasty food. If you didn't get enough to eat at the Show, then Mary Ann Brannan and Barbara Moore made sure you had doughnuts, fruit, granola bars and candy to keep everyone satiated on the bus. Great job!

Welcome, Class of 2011, to the Master Gardener Organization! Along with all our other "veteran" MGers, I look forward to getting to know you and having you on board for an exciting year ahead. You might feel overwhelmed at first, so please don't hesitate to call someone if you have any questions. We've been there and will help you get acclimated these first few months.

Just a reminder to everyone, please wear your name tags to the meetings and any other Master Gardener activity. It's so nice to call someone by name. And it really helps my old brain.

Judy Wood and I are leading an Orientation Tour on Thursday, November 10, 2011 for the Class of 2011 and any other Master Gardener who may be interested in seeing our various projects throughout the Parish. We will begin in Slidell and end up in Covington. You can join us for the whole day or for just one venue, if you want. For more information, look further into the Gardengoer for a full article. Hope to see you there.

Julie Deus
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2011 Master Gardener Graduates

By
Rusty Batty

For the eleventh time, St. Tammany residents and novice gardeners have completed the course work required to become a Master Gardener: by participating in garden tours, show and tell, lectures, and a final exam.

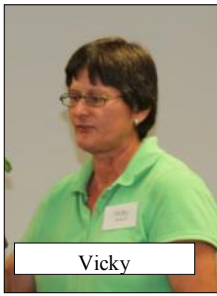
The twelve weeks of training have included topics like weed control, disease and insect identification as well as presentations on botany, vegetables and ornamentals. All 27 trainees have committed to volunteering 40 hours of providing horticulture education to parish groups such as schools, garden clubs and libraries

This year's 2011 Master Gardener graduates include the following: Elizabeth Bauer, Leslie Boucher, Janice Butler, Aimee Cappy, Vicky Clelland, Charlotte Fanz, Lucy Fitzgerald, Eileen Gremillion, Nancy Griffin, Kay Hanson, Cindy Jackson, Mary Jenks, Alana Karam, Amber Klekamp, Bart Loomis, Nancy McDonald, Dee Middleton, Deborah Nolan, Bernard Ory, Linda Pippins, Dianne Quinn, Harold Scherer, Marlene Sobkowich, Billie Stanga, Jill Stoltz, Yvette Waguespack, and Linda Wendle.

STMGA Class of 2011



Mary



Vicky



Jill



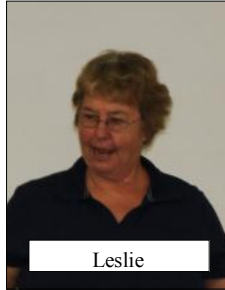
Lucy



Dianne



Linda W.



Leslie



Harold



Aimee



Marlene



Bart



Yvette



Elizabeth



Billie



Deborah



Janice



Dee



Bernard



Linda P.



Charlotte



Eileen



Alana



Nancy G.



Cindy



Amber



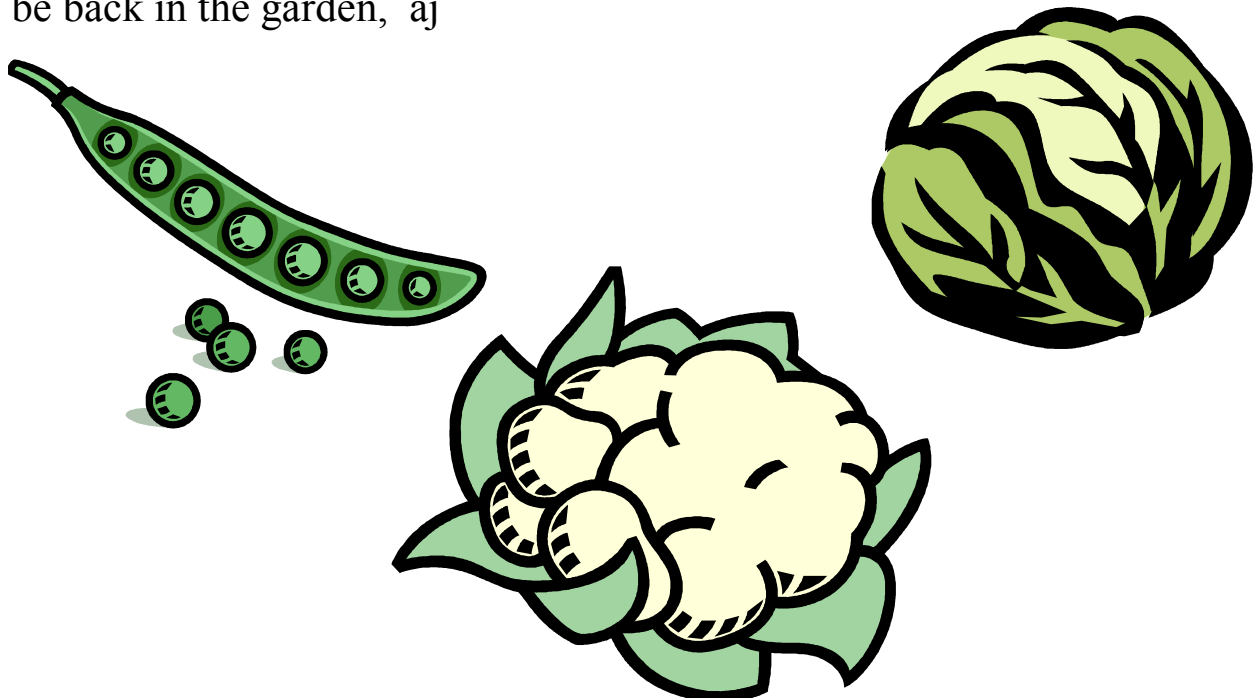
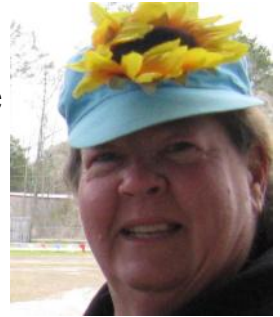
Nancy M.



Kay

Welcome to the St. Tammany Master Gardeners Association to all of the graduates of the Class of 2011. We look forward to getting to know you and volunteering with you. These photos were taken on Show & Tell Day. Starting from the the top left: Mary Jenks, Vicky Clelland, Jill Stoltz, Lucy Fitzgerald. 2nd row: Dianne Quinn, Linda Wendle, Leslie Boucher, Harold Scherer, Aimee Cappy and Marlene Sobkowich. 3rd row: Bart Loomis, Yvette Waguespack, Elizabeth Bauer, Billie Stanga, Deborah Noland and Janice Butler. 4th row: Dee Middleton, Bernard Ory, Linda Pippins, Charlotte Fanz, Eileen Gremillion, and Alana Karam. Last row: Nancy Griffin, Cindy Jackson, Amber Klekamp, Nancy McDonald and Kay Hanson. To see their class projects titles, be sure to look at the Picasa link that was sent with this newsletter.

As I sat in my rocking chair, on the back porch counting the gulf fritillary chrysalises on the ceiling ledges, retrieving the Crystal Springs pictures from my phone, I felt like a salivating, precocious child in a candy store arms full beyond capacity. Seeds, experimental pomegranate varieties, grasses, information, posters, acrylic polymers, and more, I begin to plan where to plant my new treasures. I thought I would have a little slow time now that the broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, Brussel sprouts, green onions, garlic and greens have been installed, but I should have known better. The garden is always ready for action. I have not finished cleaning up from summer and fall is knocking at the door requesting room service. Peas please and lettuce for 2 humans, 6 rabbits, and several chickens is not an uncommon request at this time of the year. The front end loader on the tractor is my best friend (after my husband) in fall. Together we scoop all of the organic matter we can find and deliver it to the waiting crucifer family members, hoping that we will be rewarded with huge heads of cabbage and cauliflower in the near future. I have a list with the new varieties I saw in Mississippi for next year already. I also have seed catalogs earmarked with 5 new tomato varieties I really liked. Gardening really is a life style. Season after season, and year after year, I can't wait to be back in the garden, aj



STPMG Programs

The Louisiana Iris

November 16

Patrick O'Connor, New Orleans

Our speaker for the November 2011 meeting is Patrick O'Connor of Zydeco Louisiana Iris Gardens www.zydecoirises.com. His expertise about Louisiana Iris is well known. Patrick is a former president of the Louisiana Iris Society and a prolific hybridizer of lovely and unique Louisiana Irises. Zydeco Louisiana Iris gardens is in the New Orleans area.



Clipped from the zydecoirises.com

Tour of the Bromeliad Gardens

Suzanne Sloan

November 16

Following STPMG Meeting

We have been invited to tour the bromeliad garden of Suzanne Sloan, 948 Winona Drive, Marina Beau Chene, on Wednesday, November 16, following our STPMG meeting. Suzanne spoke to STPMG last year about bromeliads and her garden.

Directions to Suzanne Sloan's home: Take US 190 south 6.5 miles from the Ag Center, crossing I-12, exit right on LA-22 W toward Ponchatoula. Go 2.3 miles, turn right onto Marina Boulevard and enter Marina Beau Chene. Continue on Marina Boulevard which will turn left and become Winona Drive. Her home is on the cul de sac at the end of Winona Drive.

Judy Wood

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MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS ORIENTATION TOUR

You are invited to a special Garden Tour! On Thursday, November 10, 2011, Julie Deus and Judy Wood will lead a progressive tour of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Projects. Each of these garden projects offers an opportunity to work toward the 20 or 40 volunteer hours that are required before the end of 2012. The tour will give an opportunity to see the site, meet the chairman and hear about the focus and purpose of each project. The plan is to spend about 15 minutes at each venue.

The tour will begin in Slidell and then head west:

9:30 AM – **Slidell Herb Garden** in front of the Slidell Library, 555 Robert Boulevard. Betty Rose will explain the **Herb Group** and the **Herb Fest**.

10:15 AM – **Slidell Memorial Hospital Rehab Garden**, 1001 Gause Boulevard. Leslie Landeche will explain how we work in the **flower garden**, how the patients in the Rehabilitation Unit interact with us and how we help the therapists and patients reach the patients' goals.

11:15 AM – **Slidell Senior Center**, 610 Cousin Street. Cecelia Drennan will give details of the plans for the proposed raised **vegetable, herb and flower gardens** that the seniors will be tending.

12:30 PM – **Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge**, 61389 Highway 434 in Lacombe. Susie Andres will give a tour of the **Butterfly Garden** and tell us about the yearly "Wild Things" even that involves the Master Gardeners. *We plan to eat lunch at the Refuge so please bring a brown bag lunch and a drink with you.*

2:15 PM – **Otis House in Fairview Riverside State Park**, 119 Fairview Drive in Madisonville. Ann Durel will take us through the **Butterfly Garden** and give us some information about the upcoming activities that are planned for students in the spring 2012.

3:15 PM – **Lyon Elementary School**, 1615 N. Florida Street in Covington (just outside the gates of the fairgrounds). Erin Redmond, a teacher who has a **Legacy Garden** for her classroom, will tell of our "**MGs Partner with STPSB Schools**" project involving the Master Gardeners and several schools in the Parish.

3:30 PM - Also at **Lyon Elementary School**, Rodney Cross will explain the **Grow Your Own Food** project. The Master Gardeners help teach the Food Bank recipients how to start their own **Vegetable Gardens**.

I hope that you will be able to attend this jaunt through the Master Gardener Projects. There will be ample time to ask questions and get a better idea of what that project is all about. We suggest that perhaps those of you coming from west St. Tammany meet at the Ag Center and carpool. We have included the exact addresses so you can either put them into your GPS or use MapQuest to find each location. FYI – Rusty has advised us that this is an educational opportunity and cannot be counted as volunteer hours.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us.

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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	No Speaker	Plant Swap	No	No	No	0
May 18 Covington	Art Scott Edible Flowers	Scholarship Award	No	No	No	1
June 15 Covington	No Speaker	Vegetable Festival	No	No	Yes	1
July 20 Covington	Nancy Bartlett	Cut Flower Gardening	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
August 17 Covington/ Big Branch	John Besh	La Provence	No	No	No	1
September 21 Covington	John Cassidy	Urban Storm Drainage	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
October 19 Covington	Dr. Allen Owings	Outstanding Plants from the Trial Gardens at Hammond & Tour Bartlett Farms	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 talk 1 tour
October 21 Crystal Springs	Tour	MS Field and Flower Day				5
November 16 Covington	Patrick O'Connor	Louisiana Iris & Tour Suzanne Sloan Bromeliad Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	
December 14 Slidell	No Speaker	Christmas Party	No	No	No	0

Judy Wood
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October 2011 Suggestion Box

The following items were received in the Comment/Suggestion Box at the October 19 meeting. They were discussed at the October 20 Board Meeting.

1. *“Door prizes: We are doing two door prizes at the meeting and total cost is about \$35 for the two door prizes. We could drop to one prize and spend \$15-20 (if people want to continue the prizes).”*

Response – The membership voted at the October meeting to discontinue purchasing door prizes. Door prizes will be given only if prizes are donated. For example – if a speaker brings a plant that may be given to a member it will be handled like a door prize.

2. *“Would be nice if different people did various jobs for the seminars rather than have the same people so that many could get hours during the year by handling jobs rather than same people accumulating hours.”*

Response – The spring seminar is generally presented by the most recent graduating MG class. Rusty works with this group to offer this program for the public. The fall seminar is presented by STPMG and there is a general announcement offering the organization the opportunity to participate in the planning of the event. The responsibility for hosting the fall seminar is distributed among those STPMG who volunteer to participate.

3. *“There seems to be much money spent on food for the spring and fall seminars plus a lot of work involved. We could save money by having a nice menu but not to the extreme that we serve currently. Don’t think people come to the meetings to eat but rather listen to the speakers. Have attended some of seminars by Tangi MGs and it is not lavish plus the price of the seminar is a few dollars less. Perhaps we should look into the refreshments and have adequate but not try to have a banquet.”*

Response – Seminars and Projects will be encouraged to submit a budget of projected revenue and costs for the seminars and projects. It is hoped that the projected expenses will be reasonable without being lavish and that the cost to the public will be reasonable, also.

4. *“Please reconsider October Plant Swap. Was a tradition; maybe we can vote on it. Educational & fun.” “Sharing table not the same as interactive exchange. We are getting away from the ‘human’ side of the MG replaced with committees, etc.”*

Response – Next October we will look at how to incorporate the Fall Plant Swap into the Program. Perhaps we can go to the ‘Barn’ for a Plant Swap following the meeting. In the past the Spring Plant Swap was very well attended; whereas, the Fall Plant Swap had limited participation as compared to the over 70 members who attended this year’s more traditional meeting.

Judy Wood,
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Insecticides and pH

When we dilute an insecticide for use in our gardens, the higher the pH of the water we use, the more we reduce the effectiveness of certain families of insecticides.

An alkaline pH (value over 7) will reduce the effectiveness of organophosphate (37) and carbamate (22) insecticides. Two organophosphates are *Malathion* and *Diazinon*. *Sevin* is a carbamate.

Since there are almost 60 insecticides that will be affected, and often to varying degrees, in my garden, I handle all of the insecticides alike by keep the pH of the diluting water below 7.

The fungicides are minimally affected so I mix them without paying any attention to pH.

The insecticides noted above are acidic and alkaline water will neutralize them, reducing their kill ability. The formal name of the process is alkaline hydrolysis.

When Jerry Ballanco and I were looking into the varying success of those MGs growing tomatoes in the large black tubs, one thing we looked at was the pH of the irrigation water...water coming out of the hose.

Here are some of the readings on the days that we tested:

Municipal water systems:	Well Water:
-Madisonville 7.3	-Folsom 4.4
-Mandeville 7.8	-Folsom 4.7
-Folsom 7.9	-Lacombe 7.4
-Mandeville 8.8	

I researched several university sites and the consensus is:

With a pH range of 3.5 to 6.0

-it is OK to spray

-short term storage of diluted insecticide for up to 24 hours

With a pH range of 6.1 to 7.0

-it is OK to spray

-do not use the diluted insecticide after 2 (two) hours

Avoid pH over 7 and lower than 3

When testing for water pH, you can use a pool test kit (one with liquids, tapes aren't reliable) or a digital pen. The pool kits run about \$17 while the pens are upwards of \$50 but much more accurate. The digital pens are available from Ben Meadows Forest Products (www.benmeadows.com type in pH pen).

Home gardeners usually use vinegar (to lower pH) and baking soda (to raise pH).

The pH of water from the Lee Road Water Corp. supplying my home in Folsom is 7.9. I use vinegar to reduce the pH below 7. I used one-half gallon of water and found when I added ½ teaspoon of vinegar, the pH was reduced to below 6.8. Exactly how much I couldn't tell because the pool kits are only accurate within the range on the kit. Since mine went from 8.2 to 6.8, I could only tell it was below 6.8, but not by how much. A digital pen would have been precise.

Unfortunately, not all the labels will tell you not to use alkaline water when diluting.

If you have any questions, my email is folsomart@bellsouth.net.



St Tammany MG Tomato focus group results from 2011

Last spring was the second season in which some dedicated tomato growers in the St Tammany MG group worked on trying to find out what tomato varieties grow well in St Tammany. There were three groups of five people and each group grew at least two different named (mostly) heirloom tomatoes. The plants grown by each group were from seeds purchased at the same place and grown to planting size by the same person. Each person in the group grew two plants of the varieties for that group. All that standardization was to try to get an even start for all of the growers. Other than that, everyone just grew the tomatoes as they usually do or figured they would like.

The groups were formed to include all regions of the parish in each group. The groups:

AJ Heinsz-Bailey, Don Lefevre; Linda Rowe, Judy and Adrian Woods; Gaynell Molinet
grew: Arkansas Traveler, Violet Jasper

Art Scott; Dennis Koepp; D'Wanna Hanes; Janice Roussel; Linda Franzo
grew: Pruden's Purple, Rose, Trucker's favorite, Sun Ray

Jerry Ballanco, Rodney Cross, Terry Keating, Sandy Arnoult, Alvin Roussel
grew: Marian and Brandywine, Sudduth strain



My interpretation of the results is as follows:

Brandywine, Sudduth strain and Truckers Favorite did well and could be recommended as heirlooms to grow in St Tammany anticipating a rewarding experience.

Pruden's Purple is good tasting and more than half would grow it again.

Arkansas Traveler and Violet Jasper grew well and were good in salsa and sauce but not slicing.

Marion is tasty and hearty but most chose to not grow it again.

Saucy is a good producer but was without accolades.

Rose didn't stir too much enthusiasm.

Variety	Number of plants grown	Production	Would you grow again?	Growth failure	Comments
Arkansas Traveler	8	Great 7	No 2 Yes 6	1	Good for salsa and sauces, not slicing 8
Brandywine, Sudduth strain	10	Acceptable 8 Poor 2	Yes 8 No 2		Big 8 Juicy 10 Meaty 6 Very tasty 8
Marion	10	Great 2 Acceptable 5	Yes 4 No 6	1	Nice size 7 Juicy 7 Very tasty 4 Tasty 1 Mediocre taste 2
Prudens Purple	10	Acceptable 6 Poor 2	Yes 6	2	Good flavor 6 Meaty 4 Small 2
Violet Jasper	8	Great 8	No 2 Yes 6	0	Good for salsa and sauces, not slicing 8
Rose	10	Acceptable 4 Poor 4	Yes 4 No 4	2	Big 2
Saucy	10	Great 4 Acceptable 6	Yes 4 No 4		Sour 2
Truckers Favorite	10	Acceptable 8	Yes 8	2	Rich complex flavor 2 Size range small to large

The number represents the number of plants or persons commenting.

Production choices: Great, acceptable, poor

Grow again: Would you consider growing this variety again **without hesitation**?

Growth failure: Fatal event prevented adequate consideration

If the numbers don't add up: a) someone did not comment

b) more than one comment/person

Sun Ray is a cherry and was not included in the results.

Last summer was much drier than usual which made disease control easier. In wet springs, diseases are more of a problem, especially with the beefsteak tomatoes.

In 2010, the group found that cherry tomatoes of any variety seem to grow well and might be a great choice for a beginning tomato grower. Success and failure with other sizes and shapes of tomatoes seem to stroll the patches of both ground and container gardeners.

It is getting close to time to order tomato seeds for next year's tomato growing frenzy, so start looking at the catalogues to see what tomatoes you want to enjoy. In January, you will get an email inviting you to join in the exploration and fun for the coming season and help select the varieties that we will grow. You don't have to be an experienced tomato grower to join next year's tomato focus group but it helps to be a little wacky about home grown tomatoes.

G Ballanco

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Get the "Garden to Table" Message

I'm looking at the Fall Garden magazines, getting ready for the cooler weather and lots of greens. Harvest season is the favorite season . This year, the message is the same, just said in different ways.

Bushels of Bounty Blessings	Grow great garden Grub
Dig It! Dig In.	Grow , cook & eat
Edible Incredible	Grow your own Grocery
Feasting from your Family Fields	Healthy Herb Harvest
Feasting on the unfamiliar	"Herban" Harvest
From Farm to Fork	"Herban" Healthy
From Garden to the Table	Rake rows to recipes
From Seed to Skillet	Star Salads for seasonal suppers
From Seed to Supper	Plant it , Serve it
Garden Stock = soup Stoke	
Gather gifts from your Garden	
Grow a Garden of eat 'n	
Plan , prepare ,plant and provide for a plethora of garden pleasures!	

This all sounds like "Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers. Growing edibles is back in style!

What is old is new again. Growing a Victory Garden is not just for economic necessity, but also to have a relationship between the land and the food you eat. Growing edibles take some work, but the rewards are simply delicious.

Invest in herbs, vegetables, and fruit and receive bountiful bushels in return. Your harvest distance is just minutes from your garden to the kitchen, with no chemicals on your food. The choice of vegetables and herbs you grow will far exceed the available varieties in the local food store. You will spend less money on your garden budget as you increase your sustainable and recyclable gardening techniques. A packet of seeds can give you rows of greens, reproducing all season long. It's all about peak flavors to delight the palate. Gardeners agree; fresh is best!

Spread your seeds and Spread the word! A seed is a symbol of hope and faith. You hope the seed will turn into a plant and you have faith that it will sprout. These spunky titles make fun topics for presentations to groups in your area. I'm sure there may be many more topics to add to this list. If you have a few cuties, let us know.

HAPPY GARDEN OF EAT 'n! Herbally yours, Linda Franzo 985-781-4372

RAW CABBAGE SALAD ~ Shred cabbage thin, slice green onions, add English cucumber. Sprinkle with Seasoned Asian Rice vinegar and salt and pepper to taste. Crunchy, no fat, Delish!

SWISS CHARD & TOMATOES ~ use Swiss chard in any recipe that call for spinach, 3 bunches or about 12 – 15 large leaves. Separate main stems from greens. You can eat the stems, slice ½ inch, sauté' in a large pan coated with 4 Tablespoons olive oil. Add 1 small diced onion and stems, cook until semi-soft. Add 2 diced cloves of garlic and either 4 diced plum tomatoes or a can [14oz.] of diced tomatoes. Add sliced greens to wilt and salt and pepper to taste. Eat as a side dish, or toss with pasta and add small mozzarella balls. Enjoy!

October MG Activities

The afternoon shift of volunteers at Wild Things: Back, Boo Bordes, Nancie Munn, Jan Butler, Isabelle Moore and Lyn Monteleone. Front, Debbie Rice, Ann Durel and Glenda Spano.



Cecelia Drennan gave a talk on mint at the Herb Gathering at the Slidell Library.



Fall Field Trip to Crystal Springs "Fall Flower & Garden Fest"



Dr. Alan Owings gave a talk at the October meeting on outstanding plants from the trial gardens at the Hammond Research Station. Judy Wood gives him a MG mug.



A tour of Nancy Bartlett's farm followed the October meeting. Debi Schoen listens to Nancy Bartlett talk about her way of growing Asiatic lilies in crates.

2011 Butterfly Garden

The 2011 Butterfly Garden was a big success at this year's WILD THINGS event, held on Saturday October 15 at the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges Headquarters in Lacombe.

Over 850 adults and children visited our garden, and were able to tour the garden which was gracious enough to put on a great show of color just in time for WILD THINGS. We stationed a Master Gardener in the garden to answer questions about our plants and winged visitors. Posters with information on butterflies common in this area were on display to enable visitors to identify the many butterflies feeding on blooms. At our tent we had children's activities with a focus on butterfly life cycles. Models of eggs, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterflies accompanied coloring sheets and handouts. Thirty one Painted Lady butterflies on display in a mesh habitat were released during the day.

This year WILD THINGS attracted over 4500 visitors to the day-long refuge event, and the Butterfly Garden was a popular and fun educational activity.

Susie Andres

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AG CENTER GARDEN CLEAN-UP

They say that a good carpenter's house is always in need of repair because he is busy working on everyone else's projects. I think this analogy can be applied to the gardens around the Ag Center building. We are all so busy making other gardens around the Parish beautiful, that we have neglected our own. Well, that's about to change.

Rusty has invited us to spruce up the plantings around the Ag Center building on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 9:00 AM. Bring your tools and gloves because we will be digging out old plants, moving some and planting new ones.

This is a great opportunity to get those last few volunteer hours to reach 20 (or 40) or to get that much coveted brick! Come on out and let's have fun creating a garden that we can be proud of and Rusty can enjoy for years to come.

Submitted by Julie Deus
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NOTICE ABOUT OUR MEETING ROOM

The National Guard Armory graciously allows us to use their space for our monthly Master Gardener meetings. This is arranged on a month-to-month basis based upon their availability. As we grow we need larger spaces for our meetings. Setting up for the meetings takes a while; it can be a shorter time if we have more help to make it happen. To accommodate our group we need tables for Hospitality, for the Sharing Table, for the Problem Table, and three tables across the front for the speaker, A-V equipment and the Board. The remaining space can be chairs. With fewer tables in the room it should be easier to accommodate our membership. Extra tables can be moved to the hall during the meeting.

In November the Plant Sale will begin at 9 AM so set up should begin by 8:30. Following the meeting the room needs to be returned to the condition we found it. Tables back in place, chairs stacked, and all trash/debris removed. Again, if everyone helps this should be an easy task. In the past the responsibility has been left to the few who are there taking down equipment and cleaning up from Hospitality.

Thanks for your future support.
Julie Deus & Judy Wood



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

The conference provides an opportunity to meet and interact with Master Gardeners from many southern states. There are excellent speakers and tours offered for your selection. Early bird registration is open through January 14 at a rate of \$105.

Additional information and registration is available at the web site.
http://msucares.com/lawn/master_gardener/2012conference/index.html

St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Association
Membership Meeting
October 19, 2011

A meeting of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Association was held at the National Guard Armory on October 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM. A quorum was present with sixty-four (64) members attending.

Julie Deus called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sandy Arnoult offered a prayer.

Judy Wood introduced Art Scott who presented a very informative “garden hint” on the effect of pH on insecticide strength – specifically how elevated pH diminishes the effect of insecticides.

Judy introduced Dr. Allen Owings of the Hammond Research Station who offered an exciting presentation on “Outstanding Plants of the Trial Gardens at Hammond Research Station”. Dr. Owings also provided information on the Louisiana Super Plants.

Julie gave a report on Rusty’s behalf and reminded the group about reporting education and volunteer hours; that the Crystal Springs trip is this Friday, October 21; and that Dr. James Briggs has offered a tour of his property at 21329 Hwy 40, Covington, on Sunday, November 6th at 1:00 PM. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those who want to attend on November 6th.

Julie stated the first Plant Sale meeting would be at 9:00 AM prior to our next monthly meeting in November – chairs and co-chairs have been selected.

Julie asked for volunteers for the Ag Center Office landscaping project on Friday, November 11 at 9:00 AM.

Julie had information available on the “Building Green Cities” workshop on October 20 at Mandeville City Hall; the Louisiana Wetlands Exploration Day at Camp Salmen on November 1st; and “Beginning Farmer Workshop”, Wednesday, October 26th at Fountainbleau State Park.

Additionally, Julie reminded the members that logo shirts can be ordered/purchased from ITC Printing and Promotions, 2301 N. Hwy 190 in Covington.

Julie asked for approval of the September Minutes as presented.

A Motion was offered by Lynn Monteleone to approve the Minutes of the September meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Judy Wood stated that a tour of Bartlett Farms would follow the meeting. She also stated that there are six seats available for the Crystal Springs trip on Friday. A visit to the bromeliad garden in Beau Chene would follow next month’s meeting. Also, Patrick O’Connor will speak on irises at the November meeting.

Jay Rose requested that dues be mailed to him no later than December 31st provided that hours have been reported. The budget will be discussed at the Board meeting tomorrow evening at the La. Heart Hospital at 5 PM. Jay stated that the Association has \$1,000 more than a year ago at this time. Members were invited to attend the meeting.

A Motion was offered by Sandy Arnoult to approve the Treasurer's Report (attached to the Minutes) as presented. Motion carried.

Under New Business, Julie discussed "E-Merge", which was explained in the Garden-goer. E-Merge is a system of managing e-mails to the membership and general public at a cost of \$360.00 per year. Julie asked for approval of utilizing the E-Merge system.

A Motion was offered by Cheri Hall to approve using E-Merge at a cost of \$360.00 per year for e-mail management to the membership and general public. Motion carried.

Julie stated that the Board has recommended eliminating the purchase of door prizes for the monthly meetings as this is no longer a necessary incentive to attract members to attend meetings. Elimination of the door prizes will save an estimated \$35-40 per month. Donated items would still be available at the "Sharing Table".

A Motion was offered by Susie Koepp to eliminate the purchase of door prizes for the monthly meetings, to be effective at the November meeting. Motion carried.

Camille Schwandt thanked everyone for their participation in the successful and well attended Herb Fest.

Susie Andres reported that "Wild Things" was a great success and thanked everyone.

Donna Howland reported that the Food Bank Project had 25 participants for the October 4th and 11th programs which were more successful than in the Spring. Donna thanked everyone who participated.

Door prizes (books) were awarded to #33, Pam Peltier and #56, Lisann Cheney.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chere Currault, Secretary

**St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Association Board Meeting
October 20, 2011**

The St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners held their October Board of directors meeting on 10/20/11 at the Louisiana Heart Hospital in Lacombe. In attendance were Julie Deus, Judy Wood, Jay Rose, Debora Litzenberger and Kathleen Guidry.

The meeting was called to order by Julie. Jay gave the treasurer's report and supplied a detailed printed report showing the income and expenditures of the organization for the year (so far), 11/17/10 through 10/18/11. Motion was made by Judy to accept Jay's report and was seconded by Julie.

Judy gave her report for the program committee. The meetings and field trips for the coming year were discussed, including the plant swap. Judy will send out an evaluation form to the membership to get feedback on meetings like the plant swap. New comments turned in at the general meeting will be answered in the next Gardengoer.

New business included the 2012 budget presented by Jay. It was suggested that a formal budget be given and followed for each of the seminars. Also discussed were the dates and times for the board meetings in 2012. A new place for the board meetings will be looked into to see if a convenient location in Slidell can be found. There was also a discussion on the set up and clean up for the general membership meetings at the National Guard Armory and having guests at the meeting. A motion was made by Judy Wood that we encourage the scholarship committee to revisit the requirements for the scholarships and the distribution of the funds. Seconded by Julie.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for Chere Currault, Secretary
by Kathleen Guidry

Membership Dues

You may now pay your membership dues of **\$12.00** if you have 20 volunteer hours and 6 education hours posted online at the LSU AgCenter site. Please make out your check to **STPMG** and mail your check and the completed membership form below to Jay Rose, 525 Oak Alley Drive, Pearl River, LA 70452 or bring them to the November meeting. He will verify hours through Sandy Arnoult and send this information to Ruthanne Johnson, who will be compiling names and addresses for the 2012 Membership Directory. Please have all hours posted online no later than Dec. 15 and dues in by this time also. Members of the Class of 2011 have already paid dues for 2012.

Thanks to all of you for your promptness in paying your dues and having your hours online.

Susie Koepp
Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2012	
NAME:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____ _____
HOME PHONE:	_____
CELL PHONE:	_____
EMAIL ADDRESS:	_____
CLASS YEAR:	_____

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



AGENDA
STPMG Membership Meeting
November 16, 2011

- 1. Call to order and report quorum present**
- 2. Opening Ceremonies**
- 3. Garden Hint of the Month**
Garden Problem
Program: Louisiana Iris: Patrick O'Connor
- 4. Minutes from October meeting**
- 5. Officer's reports**
President: Julie Deus
Vice President: Judy Wood
Treasurer: Jay Rose
- 6. New Business**
Introduction of the New Class
Introduction of Committee and Project Chairman
Introduction of Mentors
Recognition of Outgoing Officer and Chairmen
- 7. Committee Reports**
Finance: Jay Rose – Budget Approval
Hospitality: Mary Ann Brannan – Christmas Party
Membership: Susie Koepp
- 8. Project Committee Reports**
- 9. Adjourn**

Calendar of Events

November, 2011	
3	New Master Gardener Class graduates. Welcome to the STMGA!
9	<i>Herb Gathering</i> 1pm at the Slidell Library on Robert Rd. in the meeting room . Donna Dicharry will give a talk on parsley. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially anyone interested in our Slidell Library Herb Committee.
10	MG Projects Orientation Tour. A progressive tour of all of the ongoing projects of the STMGA lead by Julie Deus and Judy Wood. <i>See page 7.</i>
11	Clean-up day at the AgCenter. Come out and help spruce up the AgCenter's landscape bed. <i>See page 17.</i>
16	Plant Sale meeting at 9 am at the National Guard Armory before the regular monthly meeting.
16	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10 am. Speaker is Patrick O'Connor, a local <i>guru</i> on the Louisiana Iris. A rescheduled tour of Suzanne Sloan's bromeliad garden will follow (weather permitting). Bring your completed membership form and 2012 dues to Jay Rose, Treasurer.

December, 2011	
14	Christmas Party! Save the date! Details will be in the December Gardengoer.
15	Last day to pay your 2012 Membership Dues. Don't wait! Don't procrastinate or you won't be included in the 2012 Membership Directory. This does not apply to new graduates. <i>See page 22</i>

January, 2012	
18	Plant Sale meeting at 9am at the National Guard Armory before the regular monthly meeting.
18	Monthly meeting at the National Guard Armory. 10am. Speaker TBA.

STPMG Directory

PRESIDENT:

Julie Deus
674-6742 jdcalla@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Judy Wood
882-5353 jazzwood@charter.net

TREASURER:

Jay Rose
863-3418 jayrose@charter.net

SECRETARY:

Chere Currault
796-5038 ccurrault@att.net

COORDINATOR:

Rusty Batty
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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
845-0216 penelope@sewrepro.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Susie Koepp
892-8643 cskoepp@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER:

Debora Litzenberger
882-7986 dklitz@charter.net

PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Art Scott
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PUBLICITY:

Ann Gilbert
796-0520 gilbertwriter@yahoo.com

HISTORICAL:

Glenda Spano, *Scrapbook*
845-0900 runmimirun@yahoo.com

SMH REHAB GARDEN:

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SLIDELL HERB GARDEN:

Betty Rose
863-3418 bettyrose@charter.net

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,

Welcome to all of the new MG graduates! It's wonderful to have a group of new people with fresh ideas join our group. It's like getting a transfusion of energy!

For the new graduates, here's a bit of information for you. You can earn some of those volunteer hours by writing an article on your favorite gardening topic for this newsletter. I prefer articles sent in Word but I can handle articles sent in a plain email. I send out a reminder email several days before the deadline, which is usually a couple of days before the end of the month. The newsletter is published at the beginning of each month. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to share your gardening expertise with us. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Also, new grads, please get in the habit of posting your hours on a monthly basis. I post the link here every month for your convenience. It is so easy to forget hours if you don't post them often.

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/