

## Gardening Seminar Set for January 17

The Fifth Annual Gardening Seminar will be Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the West Monroe Convention Center. Pre-register now to reserve your place or register at the door. To pre-register, print and return the registration form on page 7 or stop by the LSU AgCenter.

### “Gardening Through the Ages” Theme for this Year’s Seminar

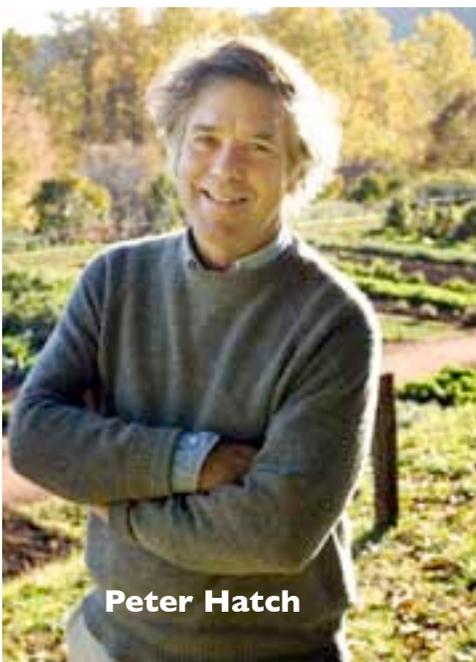
by Kerry Hefner

I promised I would write an article for the newsletter this time, but it slipped my mind. As you can imagine, I’ve been a little busy the past few weeks.

Lots going on in the new year, starting with the January seminar. I hope you will all be there. The stellar line-up of speakers is made up of Peter J. Hatch, William Welch, and Chris Wiesinger. Peter Hatch is the former director of gardens at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s estate in

Charlottesville, Virginia. A gardener’s Mecca,

Monticello has gardens with plants that were introduced into the United States by Jefferson, and seeds from those species and varieties are available for purchase from Monticello.



**Peter Hatch**

William Welch is a nationally-known expert on old garden variety roses, and Chris Wiesinger is a bulb collector, sight unseen. Chris is owner of The Southern Bulb Company and has published a book, *The Bulb Hunter*, co-authored by Welch.

The theme for 2015’s seminar is “Gardening Through the Ages,” which is close to, but not quite, what we started out with.

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# NELA Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes

*for December 9, 2014*

## **BOARD MEETING**

No Board meeting was held today due to the retirement party for Steve L. Hotard and Christmas party.

## **MEMBERS MEETING**

All were thanked for attending and for helping with our party. New Board members were announced once again.

Christy Francis, President

Steve Hotard, Vice President

Steve Thomas, Treasurer

Virginia Lee, Secretary

Lilly Matthews, Historian,

Helen Hotard, Recorder,

Warren Daniel, Member-at-Large

Elaine Johnson, Member-at-Large

Laura Hardin, Member-at-Large

### **Treasurer's Report**

No report was presented due to the Treasurer's absence.

### **Greenhouse**

Warren Daniel spoke briefly explaining that Steve Thomas's father was in very poor health, which is why Steve could not be at our party. Things are still progressing toward ordering a greenhouse.

### **January Seminar, January 17th**

Kerry Heafner reported briefly that everything is in place for the seminar. We all need to spread the word to all our friends and family and ask that they do the same. We have 400 seats available and need to have that many registrants. Laura Hardin presented the beautiful posters that she had designed. She asked members to ask businesses if they would post one of these in a prominent location in their business, and if so, to take a poster to them and mount it on their

door or counter. Also, she told us that we need more sponsors to donate money for our seminar; we need these donations to cover the cost of our speakers.

Small plants and seeds from your garden are needed for the seminar giveaway.

### **Butterfly Garden**

Debbie advised that the irrigation work on the Butterfly Garden was to have started after Thanksgiving. The contractor would then contact the city to mark utility lines. A day will be set to work on renovating the garden, dependent on weather, in January or February.

Christy announced that she will be working in the Butterfly Garden from the 10th to the 16th. She needs help planting snapdragons and pansies. Please call her before you come to make sure she is there.

### **St. Frederick's Garden & Union Parish AgAgent**

Debbie asked Rafash Brew to speak to our members about this project and to introduce the members of the D'Arbonne MG Association that accepted our invitation to join us at our December MG meeting. He has developed a plan based on the master school garden plan. The PTO and Student Garden Club have appropriated money for the project, which will include raised beds, rain water collection, and other state-of-the-art gardening practices. Our MG Association is requested to provide assistance with implementing this project, for which we would earn volunteer hours.

*Meeting Minutes continue on page 3*

# Meeting Minutes

*continued from page 2*

## Retirement Party

The retirement reception for Steve L. Hotard was a big success. Representative Mike Walsworth and Ouachita Parish Police Juror for District B, Mr. Mack Calhoun, gave speeches recognizing Steve's 33 years of service. Steve received many accolades and plaques; among those was one from the NE Louisiana Master Gardeners. Steve introduced Kerry Heafner as his replacement. Kerry gave a short speech thanking Steve for his guidance and friendship and vowed to make every attempt to follow in his footsteps. Kerry's official title is Horticulture Extension Agent.

## Miscellaneous Announcements

Peonies and other bulbs were made available for sale during the party. Between 300-400 dollars was sold in peonies, plants, or bulbs. There are still a few bulbs left.

Some also paid their registration fee for the gardening seminar. Thank you! Master Gardeners – don't forget to register!

Thanks also to those who paid their 2015 dues already. Annual dues are \$15 per MG and need to be paid ASAP. You can mail your check to the AgCenter office; note in the memo area that it is for 2015 MG dues.

## Calendars

A case of calendars was ordered and calendars were made available for purchase at the Christmas Party. The calendars are \$10.00 each for Master Gardeners and \$12 to non-Master Gardeners and make a great gift for gardening friends as they give seasonally appropriate gardening advice. Some calendars were sold at Dec. meeting. They will be available to all at the gardening seminar, also.

## Silent Auction Fundraiser

The silent auction was a huge success! We had many great items donated by the various members. Thanks to those who bid on items.

## Hospitality

Thank you to all who helped with preparations and the food for Steve Hotard's reception. Thank you also to all who brought a food dish to the MG December Christmas party and ALL of you who helped to pick up, put away, and clean up afterwards. You are wonderful!

## Next MG Meeting January 13

Your help is needed! Promote the January Gardening Seminar to others by sharing the video link below in emails to friends, on your Facebook page, website, etc.

[Video Link](#)

## NELA MG Board Members

### Board Officers

President	Christy Francis
Vice President	Steve Hotard
Secretary	Virginia Lee
Treasurer	Steve Thomas
Recorder	Helen Hotard
Historian	Lilly Mathews

### Board Members-at-Large

Elaine Johnson	Laura Hardin
Warren Daniel	

# Gardening Seminar

*Continued from page 1*

How did we arrive at this theme? Well, planning for the January seminar begins with a simple conversation among members of the seminar committee. And what surfaced during the conversation back in August was the notion that, whether by necessity or for pleasure, gardening seems to be an activity that is not only carried over into adulthood from childhood, but is also passed down from generation to generation. This had occurred to me as I researched and assembled an article on pomegranates for *Louisiana Gardener*. Many plants, particularly grains and fruits, have been grown all over the world for millennia, and to this day are still used by humans.

I mentioned to the committee that in recent months I had been reading and picking apart the garden diary of Martha Barrow Turnbull, the Mistress of Rosedown Plantation. Martha left a nearly sixty-year garden diary that has been compiled and annotated by Suzanne Turner, owner of Suzanne Turner Associates, a landscape architect firm in Baton Rouge. Interestingly, parts of Martha's diary are



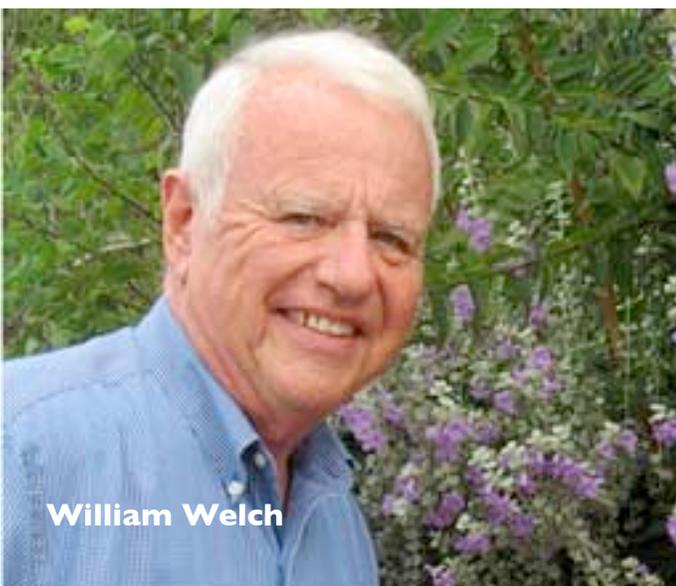
**Chris Weisinger**

written like a normal daily journal-type diary. Then other parts of the diary, particularly in later years, are written as if she was leaving a set of instructions to someone, most likely her daughter Sarah. Martha knew how important passing along her information would be. Indeed, Martha's granddaughters maintained her gardens as best they could until the last one, Miss Nina, passed in 1955.

With all of that in mind, we tentatively themed the seminar "Gardening Through History," and even tried to get Suzanne Turner for the seminar, but her schedule simply wouldn't let her. And Martha Turnbull died in 1896, so she was out! So we adjusted the theme slightly, and developed a short list of speakers.

I'm thrilled with this year's line-up. I'm sure all who attend will be, too. We've changed the room around (90 degrees, to be exact) to seat more people, so we're hoping for a good crowd. Help us get the word out. If you need flyers to distribute, get in touch with Laura Hardin.

Thank you in advance, and see you at the January monthly meeting!



**William Welch**

# January 2015 Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 MG Meeting 6:30pm	14	15	16	17 Gardening Seminar
18	19	20 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## REMINDERS

Remember to record your hours of training and service on the website REGULARLY.

Remember to pay your Master Gardener dues of \$15 per person for 2015 by sending to the Ag Center with a designation that it is for your dues.

Register for the January seminar and pay your \$20 (form on page 6).

## From the President

by Christy Francis

I am looking forward to a wonderful year, serving as your president. I have lots of ideas, but I also want to hear about your ideas!

I am already enjoying working with our new coordinator, Kerry Heafner, who is now serving as Horticulture Extension Agent. Kerry and I already have been coordinating on plans for this coming year.

I am excited to work with all of you on upcoming events – the seminar, the planning and construction of the greenhouse, implementing new ideas for the current projects, and growing plants for the Springfest Plant Sale.

Happy New Year!



## Volunteer Service Hours

**As of December 15, 2014**

947 Volunteer Service Hours

215 Continuing Education Hours

Do not forget to record your hours!

The next MG meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the LSU AgCenter.

The Louisiana Master Gardener logo. At the top, the word 'LOUISIANA' is written in a serif font. Below it is a stylized green illustration of a shovel with a plant growing out of it, and a pair of hands holding the handle. Underneath the illustration, the words 'Master Gardener' are written in a large, green, serif font, followed by a trademark symbol. Below that, in a smaller green font, is the text 'An educational program of the LSU AgCenter'. At the bottom, there is a green box containing white text: 'The Louisiana Master Gardener Program is a service and educational activity offered by the LSU AgCenter.', 'The program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help meet educational needs of home gardeners while providing an enjoyable and worthwhile service experience for volunteers.', 'Contact:', 'LSU AgCenter', '704 Cypress Street', 'West Monroe, LA 71291', and '(318) 323-2251'.

### REGISTRATION FORM

*Fifth Annual Spring Ag Expo Gardening Seminar: Gardening Through the Ages*

Please Print Clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, please send me email notices of other Master Gardener and LSU AG Center events

**Registration fee: \$20.00**

Make checks payable to: NELAMG, Mail registration form and check to:

NELAMG, 704 Cypress, West Monroe, LA 71291

Your registration info provided will never be sold. It is for registration use only. We respect your privacy.