



## Master Gardener™

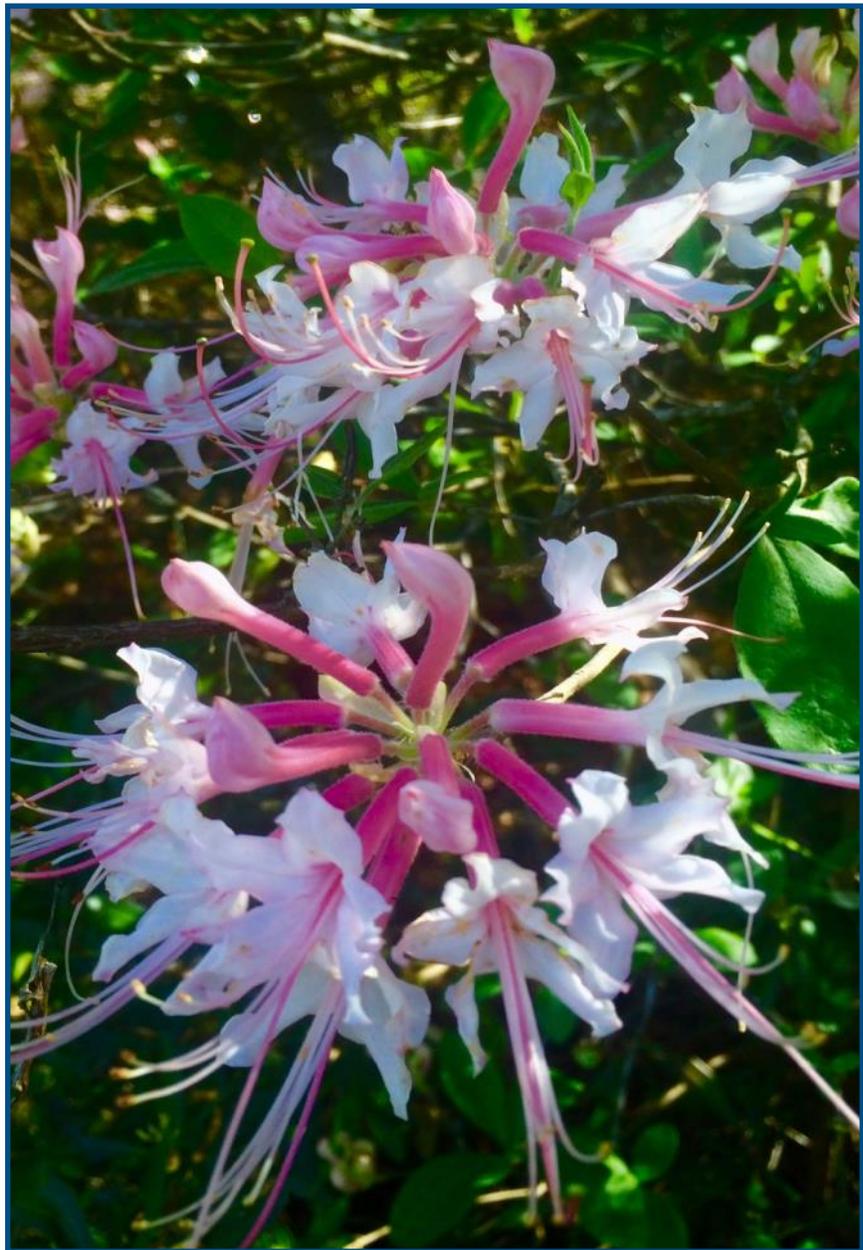
An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

### ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 20 Issue 4

April 2017

**Bring on the April Showers!**



*Karen Martin's Native Azalea*

President's Message	2
VP's Message	3
County Agent's Corner	4-6
"Spring Forward"	7-13
Garden & Plant Sale	14-26
BackYard Plants	27
An Oak in Every Yard	28-29
We Are All Gardeners	30-31
Madisonville Plant Show	32
Meetings, Projects & Workdays	33-39
Volunteer at the AgCenter	40
Committee Chair Contact	41
Board Meeting Minutes	42-43
Membership Meeting Minutes	44-45
Board & Committee List	46
Editor's Note	47
My Gift to You	48

For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site:  
[www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

## President's Message

Hello Master Gardeners!

What a busy month March has been for all of us. Helmed by our newest Master Gardeners, the class of 2016, we had an entertaining and informative Spring Seminar at the Coquille Sports Center. They deserve kudos for a smooth-running, much-appreciated event, and I know that you all will join me in welcoming them into our group. The very next week we hosted our Plant Sale at the Fairgrounds, and this, too, was well-attended and successful. Everyone who worked on this event is to be thanked and congratulated—and the weather simply couldn't have been better. (That “No-Rain” Dance you shared really worked, Jan Pesses!) Then, to reward ourselves we finished the month with a Spring Field Trip to Mobile, Alabama, to attend their 24<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Flowers. Rave reviews followed this outing, so we want to thank the Program Committee for arranging this treat for us. On top of all this activity, we have been at the Farmer's Markets, the Madisonville Plant Show, the Slidell Library Herb Garden “Ready—Plant—Go!” event, and the Habitat for Humanity's planting session. St. Tammany Parish has been well-served by her Master Gardeners.

Thank you for all that you do every month!

**Jan Gardner**  
Class of 2014  
President



## Vice President's Message

Dear Master Gardeners,

Jimmy DeJean will be our speaker for our April 19th meeting at the Castine Center. Many of you already know Jimmy as he does an outstanding job as our STMGA Treasurer. Jimmy became a Master Gardener in 2013, he graduated from the St. Tammany Vegucator Program in 2014, and he was one of the first graduates of the Louisiana Advanced Master Gardener Program in 2016. Jimmy is a retired Pharmacist. He received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Northeast Louisiana State College (now University of Louisiana at Monroe) and an Master of Science in Health Services Administration from the College of St. Francis.

Jimmy's presentation will help us better understand the results of a soil test. We will gain an understanding of how to best utilize the calculations to determine the conversion of the soil test results to organic fertilizers. He will also give us an update on commercially available organic fertilizers.

As an organic gardener, I look forward to Jimmy's informative and interesting presentation.

**Suzanne Krieger**  
Class of 2012  
Vice President  
Program Chair



## County Agent's Corner

### Top Three Tomato Diseases

Tomatoes are the most popular fruit grown in home gardens across the country, and, as a result, garden centers and nurseries attempt to meet the demand by offering more and more different varieties of tomatoes. With so many different varieties comes as many different diseases. After a conversation with Dr. Kiki Fontenot, we came up with the top three tomato diseases and how to handle them in the home garden.

#### Early Blight

The fungal organism, *Alternaria solani*, causes this disease. It can affect both seedlings and established plants, but the latter is more common. An identifying characteristic of the disease is the appearance of dark brown spots with dark concentric rings on the lower, older leaves of the plant. Spotted leaves will eventually die prematurely causing early defoliation. Once the plant loses a considerable amount of foliage, the remaining fruit usually suffer from sun scald. The fungus can survive up to one year living inside residue from the previous year's crop.

Control of Early Blight disease should combine several different actions in order to reduce the amount of disease pressure in the garden. Start with using disease resistant cultivars. 'Better Boy,' 'Big Beef,' and 'Celebrity' are just a few that have shown some resistance to this disease. Keep plants healthy and maintain vigor with proper irrigation and fertilizer practices. Practice good sanitation in the garden by removing all infected plant material from the garden at the end of the season. Do not plant tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and eggplants in the same location every year. Fungicides may be used to help provide protection to foliage. There are several options for tomatoes including copper fungicide, chlorothalonil, mancozeb, and maneb. Combining several of these techniques will not cure a plant, but it will give it a fighting chance.

#### Southern Blight

Southern Blight disease is caused by a soil-borne fungus called *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Soil-borne pathogens are difficult to deal with because the organism can survive in the soil for an extended

## County Agent's Corner

period of time without the need of plant residue. The organism has a wide host range and can infect many different landscape and vegetable plants. The first symptom of infection is a light brown, water-soaked lesion near the base of the stem. Depending on environmental conditions, a white, cotton-like growth (mycelia) may be seen on the soil surface near the stem. The whole plant will eventually start to wilt. At first, the plants will wilt during the day and then recover at night until the disease progresses resulting in plant death.

Southern Blight is tough to control because it is caused by a fungal organism that can survive on its own in the soil. However, there are a few different things that can be done to reduce pressure. Soil solarization can heat the soil up enough to kill some of the fungi that are close to the surface. Use a clear sheet of plastic during the warm season to cover the garden area completely and securely. Good sanitation practices, like removing all plant debris at the end of the season, will reduce the amount of inoculum. Proper soil fertility including soil pH management can help prevent spore germination and fungal growth. Use lime to raise soil pH closer to 7 and avoid acidifying fertilizers. Use mulch to help prevent plant soil contact. Commercial growers use plastic, but organic mulches will provide similar protection. Remember, it is best to combine as many actions as possible to manage this tough disease.

### **Bacterial Wilt**

Not all plant diseases are caused by fungal organisms. This disease is caused by a bacterium called *Ralstonia solanacearum*. It is known worldwide as one of the most damaging plant pathogens with a host range of more than 200 plant species within more than 50 plant families. The first symptom is the wilting of young leaves near the ends of the branches during the hottest times of day. The plant may recover at night during the initial infection period, but as the disease progresses the whole plant will wilt and leaves will start to yellow, eventually leading to plant death.

## County Agent's Corner

Bacterial wilt is one worst diseases to manage in the garden. If bacterial wilt has been a problem in the garden, it is advisable to avoid planting susceptible crops in that area. Tomato and other related plant should be grown in a separate location. Some gardeners will grow them in pots on the other side of the yard for a couple of seasons. Remove infected plants as soon as the disease is confirmed to reduce the amount of inoculum. The bacterium enters through openings in the plant, therefore, start with good healthy transplants free of wounds and scars. There are no chemical fungicides labeled for bacterial wilt control. We must rely on prevention as the only means of managing this disease.



Early Blight



Southern Blight



Bacterial Wilt

**Will Afton**  
County Agent  
LSU AgCenter



## A “Spring Forward” Thank You from Our 2016 Class

The Master Gardeners of the Class of 2016 would like to thank all those who participated in the “Spring Forward” Seminar. We especially would like to thank our speakers, Will Afton, Keith Villere, and Dr. Ron Strahan, as well as our very knowledgeable panel of Master Gardeners, A. J. Bailey, Gerry Bellanco, Deb Turton, and Will Afton.

We would also like to recognize our donors and ask our fellow master gardeners to keep them in mind when choosing , especially when making garden purchases. Let them know that you are a St. Tammany Master Gardener and that you appreciate their support.

2017 Spring Seminar Donors:

Bantings Nursery Northshore, 26300 Highway 190, Lacombe, LA  
Jamie Blazek (MG Class of 2016)  
Charvet’s Nursery, 4511 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA  
Judy Deerfield’s Nursery and Landscaping, 298 Deerfield Road, Folsom, LA  
Dan Dain (MG Class of 2016)  
Don Fulham (MG Class of 2016)  
Sandra Tomaszewski (MG Class of 2016)  
The Funny Farm, 138 Henry Howard Road, Poplarville, MS  
Garden Spot Nursery Slidell, 770 Robert Road, Slidell, LA  
Gordon’s of Mandeville, Store, Inc., 1846 north Causeway Boulevard, Mandeville, LA  
Marsolan Feed and Seed Store, Inc., 314 Gibson Street, Covington, LA  
Mid-Point Feed and Seed, 19744 Highway 40, Covington, LA  
Mizell’s Camellia Hill Nursery, 12497 Joseph Road, Folsom, LA  
Nan’s New Orleans Cafe and Poboy, 700 Florida Street, Mandeville, LA  
O’Keefe’s Feed and Seed, 900 North Columbia Street, Covington, LA  
Perino’s Garden Center, 3100 Veterans Boulevard, Metairie, LA  
PJ’s Coffee and Tea, 1202 South Tyler Street, Covington, LA  
Plant Gallery, 9401 Airline Highway, New Orleans, LA  
Slidell Nursery, 1605 Lawes Street, Slidell, LA  
Chris and Renee Swalm, 507 Timberlane Drive, Slidell  
The Triple Nickel Grill, 813 Florida Street, Suite C, Mandeville, LA  
Wild Bird Center of Covington 2033 Highway 190, Suite 6, Covington, LA

Special thanks to Will Afton, Julie Deus, The Class of 2015 chairs, Jan Gardner, Jan Walker Hickman (Ag Center), Coquille Recreation Center and Kelsey, Mimi Padgette, Sue Maguire, Pete and Kay Hanson, Tim Zimmerman, and all those who lent a hand the day of the Seminar.

## 2017 Spring Seminar “Spring Forward”



The decorating committee did an amazing job—and so creative!



Roxane Gunser and Sharon Gunther greeted guests with smiling faces.



The hospitality committee made sure that guests were well-fed and, thanks to PJs coffee, well-caffeinated.

# “Spring Forward” Table Talks



Liz Berzas Bespeak Bees



Cindy Williamson and Ronald Rowland Pontificate Propagation



Patti Carlin Explains Espaliers



Stephanie Deshautreaux Hails Hydroponics



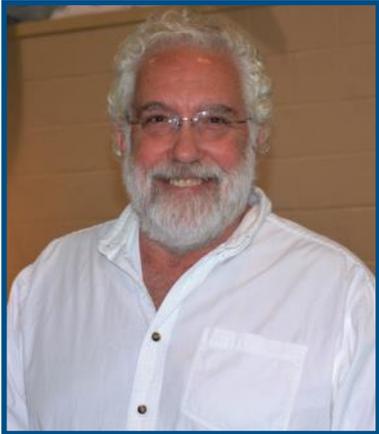
Mary Kathryn Navigates Natives

\*\*not pictured Jamie Blazek Pitches Poison Ivy

# “Spring Forward” Main Stage Speakers



Will Afton Speaks to Common Landscape Problems



Keith Villere of Villere Town Planning Associates Discusses the Importance of Going Native



Dr. Strahan is a HUGE Help with Turf Weeds

## “Spring Forward”



## “Spring Forward”



Joe Cummins and Patricia Day help keep everything running smoothly



Kappy Goodwin is all smiles!



Debbie Langenhennig wins a lovely door prize.



That's a good-lookin' plant, Art Scott!

## “Spring Forward”

**Thank you, Mary Kathryn Villere & Will Afton for a  
wildly successful Spring Seminar!**



## 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

We had a fantastic 2017 Northshore Garden and Plant Sale! There was perfect weather, no natural disasters, and multiple formats for advertising. All of these factors, plus all of our volunteers' hard work, culminated in high attendance numbers of 1,608 for the two days. We will give a detailed report of our profits when we receive all of the expense reports.

We had an impressive number of Master Gardener volunteers (and impressive volunteers)! We had 75% of our membership volunteer their time and hard work. Each of the 148 volunteers deserve a big Thank You!

Our County Agent, Will Afton, developed a strong and diverse panel of speakers, our Hospitality group excelled, as usual, and our Committee Chairpersons put in many hours before the Plant Sale even started. Our food court trucks were a big hit with attendees and volunteers--they all asked to come back next year.

And special thanks to the take-down crew. We were all tired and ready to get out of there, but die-hard and dedicated souls stayed to pack up, clean up, and turn out the lights.

Plant Sale Co-chairs,  
Rodney Cross  
Jan Pesses

**Jan Pesses**  
Class of 2013



**Rodney Cross**  
Class of 2009



## 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale *The Great Setup*



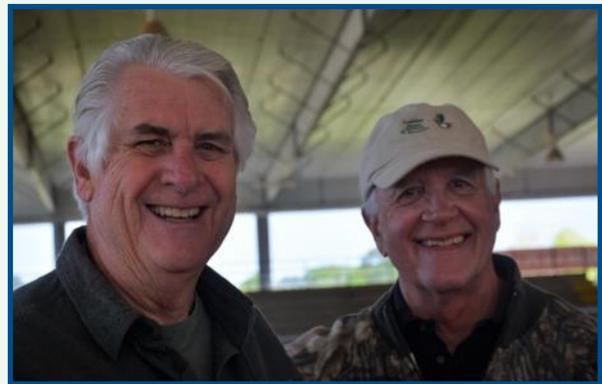
Julie Deus rallies the troops for set-up day



Joe James is Johnny on the Spot



Wes Goostrey is always at the ready with his Muscle Crew



Gordon Kuehl and Mike Enright are all smiles!



Mark Flynn, Donna Dicharry, Johnny Despeaux, and Pierre Bouchee present and accounted for



Dorothy Delaune and Betty Plummer getting organized

# 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

## *The Great Setup Continues*



The raffle area is staged and just waiting for the goods



Suzie L'Hoste and Isabelle Moore getting organized



Denise Shoen giving vendors a hand



# 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

## *The Food Trucks Take Their Places*



# 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

*The Expeditors Brave the Elements*



**2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale**  
*Everybody Getting Their Green On for St. Patty's Day!*



Julie Deus



Linda Zittmann and Robin Phillips



Pam Peltier, Betty Cronin (our photographer extraordinaire), and Peggy Goertz



**2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale**  
*The Raffle Booth in Full Swing!*



Dianne Daniel selling raffle tickets



Cork planters donated by Betty Cronin

# 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

## *A Few of Our Happy Vendors*



## 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale *Master Gardeners Doing What They Do Best*



Constant action in the children's area with Dede Hanby, Lyn Monteleone, and Nancy Hodgins



Jim Bates know honey bees!



There was a lot of interest in Christy Pausell's Legacy Gardens



Our garden gloves are always a hit with Marilyn Bingham, Jamie Blazek, and Nancy Hodgins



Deborah Turton always gives amazing table talks

# 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale *In Full Swing!*



**2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale**  
*The Plant Pickup Was Very Popular!*



Cindy Manger worked very hard and her boots showed it!



**2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale**  
*The End of Another Successful Plant Sale*



**\*\*A special thank you to Betty Cronin for taking all of the wonderful photographs\*\***

## 2017 Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

**Thank you, Jan Pesses & Rodney Cross for a fun-filled and successful Garden and Plant Sale!!**



## A Thank You from BackYard Plants

Thanks so much to everyone for the amazing job you did donating plants! We had a successful year (we didn't beat last year, but we had a respectable showing). Our crew was already sharing ideas to make next year even better...so stay tuned!

I also want to thank all of our booth volunteers. We made new friends and had a great time working together. And the beautiful weekend was the icing on the cake.

We hope everyone has a Happy Easter!

Warm regards and happy spring planting,  
Lisann, Deborah, and Eileen



**Lisann Cheaney**  
Class of 2008  
Backyard Plants Chair



## An Oak in Every Yard

Louisiana gardeners should consider adding oak trees to their landscape. Many homeowners don't consider planting oak trees because they believe them to be slow growers, but while their growth tends to slow with age, they grow relatively fast while young. According to the LSU Coastal roots program, an oak will reach an average height of 13.4 feet in five years. Oaks are categorized as "white" or "red." The Live Oak (*Quercus virginianais*) is considered a "white" oak, and the Shumard's Oak (*Quercus shumardii*) and the Nuttall Oak (*Quercus nuttalli*) are both red oaks.

While the growth pattern of red and white oaks is similar, their physical characteristics are different. The leaves of the white oaks are rounded, and the leaves of the red oaks are pointed. White oaks tend to bear acorns annually, and red oaks bear acorns every two years. The acorns of white oaks have lower fat content and taste sweeter than red oaks. But all oaks, regardless of species, will have certain years when the nut production is very heavy. These years are called "mast years," and when those acorns drop in abundance it is called "masting."

Oaks have many advantages over other shade trees. Oaks are larval hosts to over 400 different species of butterflies, and their acorns provide food for birds and small mammals. They generally do not require any pruning and have few pests. Oaks are stronger than faster growing trees because their slow growth makes them better able to withstand high winds. Planted on the west side of your house, large oaks provide a natural sunscreen which will reduce your cooling bill in the summer. Gardeners can put their leaves to direct use as mulch in the garden or as a beneficial addition to the compost heaps.

One of the best oaks for Louisiana gardeners is the Nuttall Oak. This deciduous tree is a Louisiana native that can grow in moist, clay soil. Its limbs almost always form a central leader rather than forking, making the tree stronger. It has good autumn color and will grow to an average of 40 feet by 25 feet, but may grow even larger, if happy. This oak tends to develop a fuller canopy at a younger age, and new growth is an attractive purple color. Acorns from this oak have among the highest fat content of any oak—almost 35%! Acorns will take two years to form from the flower, but not until the tree is at least 20 years old—and masting will only occur every four to seven years.

## An Oak in Every Yard, *continued*

By incorporating native species into our home gardens and landscapes we can extend past the reach of our dwindling native habitats and act as links to join together larger tracts of native habitats. Think of your garden as one small piece of a large patchwork quilt that will help support pollinators and birds. Consider planting a heritage tree in your yard and the butterflies will thank you for the next 100 years.

Happy gardening!

References:

Learning about Nuttall Oak: *Quercus nuttalli*. Retrieved from <http://coastalroots.lsu.edu/Documents/Nursery%20Information/Plant%20Summaries/Nuttall%20Oak.pdf>

Bender, Steve. (2011, November 13). Shade Tree of the Week – Nuttall Oak: What’s That? Retrieved from <http://thedailysouth.southernliving.com/2011/11/13/shade-tree-of-the-week-nuttall-oak-whats-that/>

Bogren, Richard and Owings, Allen D. (2012, November 30). Nuttall Oak – of the best oaks for Louisiana. Retrieved from [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news\\_archive/2012/november/headline\\_news/nuttall-oak--one-of-the-best-oaks-for-louisiana](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2012/november/headline_news/nuttall-oak--one-of-the-best-oaks-for-louisiana)

Dirr, Michael A. (1998). Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. Champaign, Illinois: Stipes Publishing.



Owings, Allen D. (2012, November 30). Along with shade, nuttall oak provides fall color in Louisiana landscapes.

**Roxane Gunser, PhD**  
Class of 2016



## We Are All Gardeners

Yes, I can hear the protests. "I'm not a gardener; everything I plant dies," and "Even my cactus died from lack of water." In fact, most people seem very hesitant to apply the term *gardener* to themselves. The conventional wisdom is that a gardener can make any plant thrive. That's rarely the case. In fact, the best gardeners have killed way more plants than the mediocre ones. The difference is that they keep planting.

A garden is simply a collection of plants and the gardener is the person who tends them. As I have yet to find a house in Durham (North Carolina) that didn't have plants in the yard, I can only come to the conclusion that, if you live in a house, you are a gardener. I can think of one exception: Some folks live in houses surrounded by fabulous gardens, but writing checks to a landscape company does not a gardener make. Granted, some of you are better gardeners than others. For some, the collection of plants consists mostly of wiregrass and poison ivy. And the tending occurs on a rather infrequent basis. For others, the plant palette shifts to boxwoods and tall fescue (and not much else). In this case, the tending mostly takes place behind the controls of gas-powered engines. This has been shown to cause mental instability, as evidenced by the development of lawnmower racing.

Thus, we are all gardeners, and I hereby confer that title upon you with all appertaining rights and responsibilities. Your responsibilities:

- To improve the appearance of your garden. This is not as hard as it sounds. It could mean simply trimming back the overgrown shrubbery, adding a flower bed, or planting a tree.
- To enhance plant diversity. Plant something unusual. Boxwoods, azaleas, and lirioppe don't count.
- To minimize harm to the environment. Fertilizers are to be applied in the right amount at the right time and kept off driveways and sidewalks.
- Pesticides are to be applied only when needed and with great care. Soil shall not be allowed to erode.
- To minimize the spread of invasive plants. These are the plants which, when loosed upon the natural world, wreak havoc by displacing natives and degrading wildlife habitat. Examples may be found at many nurseries, so gardeners beware.

## We Are All Gardeners



Your rights:

- To kill lots of plants, as long as you learn from doing so. If you plant the same kind of plant five times in the same spot using the same method and it dies every time, then I would agree that you've learned very little. But if you plant a different kind of plant there and it dies, you've learned something new.
- To wonder if the seedlings that have sprouted in your garden are weeds or flowers.
- To claim that your home-grown tomatoes are the best you've ever tasted. You may make this same claim with each new crop for the remainder of your life.
- To celebrate the most menial events with immense delight. This includes the unfurling of a leaf, the flight of a hummingbird, and the opening of the first daffodil blossom.

--Reprinted from *The Herald-Sun*, Durham, NC by permission of Paul McKenzie, Durham County Agent to Gerri Sommers (because it speaks to the gardener in all of us)

**Gerri Sommers**  
Class of 2004



## Madisonville Plant Show



Mimi Padgett, Julie Deus, Tim Zimmerman, Sharon Gunther, and Peggy Bianchi representing at the Madisonville Plant Show!

## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

### *Slidell Memorial Hospital Courtyard Garden*

The Slidell Memorial Hospital Courtyard Garden is coming out of its winter mode with a great effort by several Master Gardeners. A special thanks to those who helped: Ruthanne Johnson, Pete Pericone, Stuart and Susan Stine, Dona Michell, and Pete Hanson.

During the last week of February, the three cold frames at the garden were dismantled and stored on site. On Wednesday, March 8, the first workday for the Courtyard garden was held. Because of the “mild” winter we experienced this year, many of the plants were in very good condition, and several of the tender perennials made it through the winter with new growth showing. The basil was the biggest loser and the hibiscus were the big winners.

The approach at this workday was to prepare as many plants as possible for an anticipated plant sale to be scheduled in early May. The two tool sheds were cleaned out and many of the tools found there were set aside to be used for demonstration at the tool care and sharpening table talk at an upcoming talk. This gives us a great collection of sharpened, cleaned tools for the garden.



**Paul Andres**  
Class of 2010



## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

### *Magic Wings Butterfly Garden*

On March 1st, Master Gardeners, Betty Cronin, Harold Ryan, Mary Ann Brannan, Tim Zimmerman, and Dorothy Delaune came out to plant and refresh the garden beds at the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Community Wellness Center at 1505 N. Florida Street in Covington. The Wellness Center is in the same building as the Parenting Center, just down the street from the LSU AgCenter.



Harold Ryan, Betty Cronin, and Mary Ann Brannan plant herbs, penta, and verbena in the butterfly garden

The Parenting Center has a Butterfly Garden that many master gardeners are familiar with, but the vegetable garden is less known. Both gardens are located behind the building.



## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

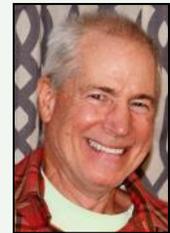
### *Magic Wings Butterfly Garden, continued*



Tim Zimmerman is kneeling next to one of two new, raised beds that were bought at Sam's and put together that day. The new gardens are now filled with dirt and planted with summer vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash) and more herbs that were planted with the help of the children from the Parenting Center. Behind Tim are the "pool gardens" that he found last fall. He'd planted winter greens (arugula, mustard greens, green onions, kale, and collards) and herbs (mint, parsley, sage and oregano) that were later harvested and the produce given to the parents of the Parenting Center and the patrons of the Wellness Center.



**Tim Zimmerman**  
Class of 2015



**Dorothy Delaune**  
Class of 2013



## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

### *Otis House Rose Garden*

Blue skies and cool temperature on March 2nd offered a perfect day to refurbish the rose garden. Lots of muscle moved two yards of garden soil, pulled weeds, pruned bushes, removed dead roses, mulched, and watered. Judy McCloskey kindly provided her pick up truck to deliver soil needed for subsidence. It was amazing how a seemingly overwhelming project is completed in just one morning with such dedicated volunteers. You are truly appreciated.



Picture L-R: Ron Rowland, Mike Enright, Patti Roushar, Helen Babb, Melanie Borne, Harold Ryan, Judy McCloskey, Linda Zitzmann, Rebecca Mackie, and Pat Sharpe.

**Ann Durel**  
Class of 2009  
Otis House Garden Chair



## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

### *READY—PLANT—GROW!* *Slidell Library Herb*

On Saturday, March 11th, the STMGA Slidell Library Herb Committee presented a morning of garden education. The program was held from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the library. We offered two indoor presentations: “Making Gardening Easy” presented by Cindy Jackson and “Basics of Lawn Care” presented by Ty Guidroz.



Cindy Jackson



Ty Guidroz

In addition to these two formal presentations, four table top clinics were located outdoors in the herb and pollinator/pass-along gardens. Joe James provided information and a demonstration of composting, Paul Andres gave advice on keeping lawn and garden tools sharp.



Joe James



Paul Andres

## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

### *READY—PLANT—GROW!* *continued*

Donna Dicharry and Sandy Arnoult offered information on herbs, and Betty Rose and Dona Michell manned a table with information on garden pollinators. Ruthanne Johnson, Kathleen Guidry, Camille Schwandt, and Tassie Wahl staffed our Master Gardener tables and greeted visitors to the gardens and indoor programs.



Sandy Arnoult and  
Donna Dicharry



Betty Rose, Dona Michell,  
and Nancy Munn



Camille Schwandt and  
Kathleen Guidry



Ruthanne Johnson



Nancy Munn

Isabelle Moore introduced the speakers, and Nancie Munn sold our famous garden gloves. Prior to the beginning of the programs, Linda Franzo was on hand to put final touches on the herb gardens, which are maintained by the committee.

## Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

### *READY—PLANT—GROW!* *continued*



Jay Rose



Sandy Arnoult and Donna Dicharry

The two presentations drew good crowds who enjoyed the programs and found them to be very informative. Some of the visitors indicated on their evaluations that the information provided was very timely and will be used in their home gardens.



Members of the Slidell Library Herb Committee who volunteered for this program included those listed above and Jay Rose, Dinah Keyes, and event chairperson Susie Andres.

**Susie Andres**  
Class of 2010



## Come Volunteer at the Ag Center



Come put some of your gardening knowledge to good use and volunteer at the AgCenter. It's a great way to earn volunteer hours and, if you're lucky, you'll get to hang out with Will Afton—and who wouldn't want to do that? If you want to be part of the fun, contact Cindy Manger to reserve your day and time.



## Committee Chairs' Contact Information

### Education Committees (E) & "Fingers in the Dirt" (F)

Abita Library Garden—F	Susan L'Hoste	lhoste@att.net Cell: 985.373.1770
Beau Provence Rehab Garden—F	Linda Zitzmann	nickiroux@hotmail.com Cell: 985.630.6403
Covington Farmers Market—E	Billie Stanga-3rd Saturday chair Diana Cammatte-1st Saturday chair	billie.stanga@gmail.com Cell: 504.428.6535 dhcammatte@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.778.3500
Lacombe Butterfly Garden—F	Barbara Moore <b>** (chair needed)</b>	babsofil@gmail.com Cell: 985.264.6259
LSU AgCenter Volunteers—E **phone duty	Cindy Manger	beachin70124@gmail.com Cell: 504.481.7792
Magic Wings Butterfly Garden—F **Parenting Center, Covington	Dorothy Delaune	regdelaune@aol.com Cell: 985.630.6503
Northshore Garden & Plant Sale—E **March 17 & 18, Covington Fairgrounds	Jan Pesses, Co-Chair Rodney Cross, Co-Chair	jpesses@charter.net Cell: 504.458.6443 rod335i@live.com Cell: 985.778.3555
Otis House Rose Garden—F **Fairview Riverside Park, Madisonville	Ann Durel	adurel@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.373.2111
School Partnership—F **"Rooting the Future" all school gardens	Christy Paulsell	jcPaulsell@gmail.com Cell: 985.264.4926
Slidell Farmers Market—E **2nd & 4th Saturdays Jan – Oct	Sue Clites	suethern@yahoo.com Cell: 985.951.0508
Slidell Library Herb Garden—F	Sandy Arnoult	sarnoult@charter.net Cell: 985.974.1676
Slidell Memorial Hsptl Rehab Garden—F	Paul Andres	pkandres@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.718.9161
Speakers' Bureau—E **coordinates MGs public speakers	Donna Howland	donna.howland@mac.com Cell: 508.733.5237
Super Plant Garden @ AgCenter—F	Ron Rowland	rrowlan60@gmail.com Cell: 504.329.0599
TableTalks—E	Denise Schoen	neez@mindspring.com Cell: 504.554.5486
Vegucators—E **study group open to all MGs	Ron Wahl	rjwahl@charter.net Cell: 985.640.8778
W. St. Tammany Habitat—E	Jenny Graffeo, Chair Nancy Thompson, Co-Chair	jennygraffeo@hotmail.com Cell: 504.756.7806 nthomps25@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.502.1716

## **St. Tammany Master Gardener Association March 8, 2017 BOARD Meeting Minutes**

The March board meeting was held on March 8, 2017 at St. Tammany Public Library, Causeway Branch, Mandeville, LA. President Jan Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:58 A.M.

Jan Gardner, Suzanne Krieger, Ty Guidroz, Jan Pesses, Art Scott, and Cindy Manger were in attendance.

There were no questions or comments regarding the February 2017 board minutes as they appeared in the March edition of *The Gardengoer*. Ty made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Jan Gardner.

### **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**Treasurer** *Jimmy DeJean* was out of the country, therefore he was not in attendance. He will present the February & March 2017 financial reports at the April 12, 2017 board meeting.

#### **President** *Jan Gardner*

- Announced that Donna Howland is the new Speakers' Bureau chairperson.
- Officially recognized the STMGA Facebook page by the board of directors. Betty Cronin is the administrator.
- Stated that following discussion and agreement by the board at the February board meeting, a much-needed wireless headset microphone and receiver was purchased. It will be presented to the membership on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed with Will Afton the possibility of beginning the 2017 Master Gardener class earlier in the year, which would enable the class to hold their Spring seminar in mid-January.
- Shared with the board the benefits of changing STMGA to a 501(c)(3) – a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. To name a few (not all) the benefits:
  - The ability to accept contributions and donations that are tax-deductible to the donor.
  - Exemption from federal and/or state corporate income taxes.
  - Ability to apply for grants and other public or private allocations.
  - Discounts on USPS bulk-mail rates and other services.

### **PROJECT REPORTS:**

#### **Vice President/Program Chairman** *Suzanne Krieger*

- Commended the program committee's hard work. Speakers have been attained for almost every 2017 meeting.
- Reported that there are 20 participants signed-up for the Spring Field Trip to Mobile's Festival of Flowers on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Members may register with a payment of \$35 at the March 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. At the end of the meeting, if there are any spots available, Suzanne will take applications and payment for guests.
- Stated there will be a program committee meeting directly following the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Final plans will be made for the field trip. All field trip information will be posted in M.o.M.
- Announced the Fall Seminar will be held at Church of the King on October 13, 2017. She presented the Fall Seminar budget. So far, Suzanne has acquired three esteemed speakers for the event. The seminar will include the *Gotta Have It Boutique!* Most importantly, she is in search of a co-chair for the event.

## BOARD Meeting Minutes, *continued*

**Spring Seminar** *Mary Kathryn Villere* requested Jan Gardner report on the Spring seminar. Jan announced:

- 210 participants are registered.
- 24 door prizes have been secured.
- In addition to lunch by The Triple Nickel Grill, continental breakfast will be served all day.
- Jan will be announcing the opening and closing of the event that day.
- Index cards will be available at every table on which participants may write their questions for the panel of experts.
- Seminar evaluations will be available online. Participants who complete and submit an evaluation will be eligible for a raffle for a gift certificate. Jan will be encouraging each member of the hosting class (class of 2016) to also complete an evaluation.
- Jan will be attending the wrap-up meeting, which will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the AgCenter.

**Northshore Garden and Plant Sale Chairman** *Jan Pesses* reported

- There will be three food trucks with a variety of food available for purchase, in addition to the gelato cart, and an ATM machine.
- Jan will urge members at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to support our food vendors and, of course, support all other vendors.
- Requested volunteers to post flyers at businesses that they frequent in their neighborhoods. Ty and Jan Gardner agreed to post them in Mandeville and Art agreed to post them in Folsom.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jan Pesses agreed to create a process document to be used by all event and activity chairmen.

Cindy Manger agreed to investigate costs of varying-sized post office boxes with USPS and PayPal cost and procedure for opening an account by which STMGA might accept payments (i.e. dues, merchandise, etc.)

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Cindy Manger

**Cindy Manger**  
Class of 2009  
Secretary



## **St. Tammany Master Gardeners' Association March 15, 2017 MEMBERSHIP Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Gardner at 10:05 a.m. at Castine Center in Pelican Park in Mandeville, LA. Theresa Wilfert gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jan Gardner.

Attendance: 98

**Garden Hint of the Month** was given by Donna Howland. When dividing her Daylilies, she discovered that after unearthing them, their roots easily untangled when she hung them upside down (roots pointing up) and carefully pulled them apart.

### **PROGRAM & SPEAKER:**

**Vice President** Suzanne Krieger introduced this month's speaker, Russell Harris of Simpson Sod Turf Management. He presented a very informative talk regarding care and maintenance of the varieties of grasses, which may be grown in our area. He also enlightened the membership on weed identification and control of such. He can be reached at russell@simpsonsod.com with any questions or concerns regarding grass issues.

### **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**February 2017 minutes** were approved as they appeared in the March 2017 *Gardengoer* with a motion to accept by Ty Guidroz, and members unanimously voting to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer** Jimmy DeJean presented the February 2017 financial report as it appeared in March 13, 2017 M.o.M. There were no questions or corrections. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**President** Jan Gardner

- Congratulated the Class of 2016 on their very successful Spring Seminar.
- Reminded the membership to contact Secretary Cindy Manger with any condolence or get well information, so a card may be sent.
- Announced STMGA now has a P. O. Box at the Mandeville Post Office. All officers will obtain a key.
- Karen Lang is in the process of having STMGA note cards printed with the LMG logo and STMGA post office box address imprinted on them for \$75 per 250 cards.
- Announced the purchase of a wireless headset microphone for use at STMGA meetings and events. Betty Cronin made a motion to accept the purchase. The membership approved with no opposition.

**Vice President** Suzanne Krieger

- Announced there would be a program committee meeting following the membership meeting.
- Also stated at the end of the meeting, that if there were any seats available on the bus for the upcoming field trip, she would be accepting guests with a payment of \$35 each.

## MEMBERSHIP Meeting Minutes, *continued*

**County Agent & MG Advisor** Will Afton

- Reported having received numerous calls regarding established Azalea plants declining. He suggested cleaning up the ground under the plant, putting down new mulch, and fertilizing on a regular basis (following the fertilizer package directions).
- Congratulated the Class of 2016 on their very successful Spring Seminar.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Northshore Plant and Garden Sale Chairman** Jan Pesses

- Reported the need for parking volunteers on Friday and Saturday.
- Advised volunteers for the event to layer up.
- Announced that booths have been arranged and are available for viewing after the membership meeting.
- Requested volunteers wear green STMGA t-shirt when volunteering.
- Suggested to decorate booths with green Mardi Gras beads on Friday in celebration of St. Patrick's day.

**Facebook Page Chairman** Betty Cronin announced she placed an ad on STMGA's Facebook page, which has been getting thousands of hits and she will be posting live feeds from the event.

**West St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity Chairman** Jenny Graffeo announced a house planting is set for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. All Master Gardeners are invited to join in. All info will be in March 20<sup>th</sup> M.o.M.

**Merchandise Chairman** Pam Perret implored the members to pick up their ordered MG merchandise from her.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **Replacements Needed:**

- **Lacombe Butterfly Garden Chairman** Barbara Moore announced she will be stepping down as chairman and pleaded with the membership for a volunteer to be the new chairman. The job entails 3 times a year clean up of the garden and mulching, which takes about 2 hours. Then in October there is a STMGA table to be manned at "Wild Things," where the children who attend make a craft
- **A/V Equipment Tech** Johnny Despeaux needs a replacement for this job, which he has handled for the majority of STMGA meetings and events.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50AM

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Manger.

**Cindy Manger**  
Class of 2009  
Secretary



## 2017 St. Tammany Master Gardeners Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons

President: Jan Gardner (1<sup>st</sup> year)                      Vice President: Suzanne Krieger (1st year)  
 Secretary: Cindy Manger (2<sup>nd</sup> year)              Parliamentarian: Pam Rowe  
 Treasurer: Jimmy DeJean (final year)          Past President: Ty Guidroz

Membership Committee Chair (2-year term):              Marilyn Bingham (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Finance:                      Mary Ann Brannan, Dianne Ramirez, and GERALYN SUHOR  
 Muscle:                      Wes Goostrey  
 Nominating:                Rodney Cross, Barbara Moore, and Deborah Nolan  
 Plant Sale:                 Jan Pesses and Rodney Cross  
 Program:                    Suzanne Krieger  
 Scholarship:                Kay Hanson

### Facilitators (no term limit)

A/V:                            Johnny Despeaux  
 Facebook:                  Betty Cronin  
*The Gardengoer*: Tina Richardson  
 Gloves:                      Marilyn Bingham  
 Historical:                  Janet Reuther  
 Honors:                      Sandy Arnoult and Sandra Pecoraro  
 Hospitality:                Barbara Moore  
 Mentoring:                 Jenny Graffeo  
 Merchandise:              Pam Perret  
 MoM:                         Art Scott  
 Photography:               Betty Cronin  
 Publicity:                  Tim Zimmerman

### Project Co-Ordinators

Education:                      Mimi Padgett  
 Fingers in the Dirt:              Ty Guidroz

### Project Chairs (no term limits)

Abita Library Garden:              Susan L'Hoste  
 Beau Provence:                      Linda Zitzmann  
 Covington Farmers Market:        Billie Stanga and Diana Cammatte  
 Covington Library:                  Mimi Padgett  
 Hospice of the South Gardens:      Paul Andres  
 Lacombe Butterfly Garden:        Barbara Moore  
 LSU Ag Phone Volunteers:         Cindy Manger  
 Magic Wings Garden:                Dorothy Delaune  
 Otis House Rose Garden:            Ann Durel  
 School Partnership:                 Christy Pausell (Rooting the Future)  
 Slidell Farmers Market:              Sue Clites  
 Slidell Herb Garden:                 Sandy Arnoult  
 SMH Courtyard Garden:              Paul Andres  
 Speakers' Bureau:                    Donna Howland  
 SuperPlants AgCenter Garden:     Ron Rowland  
 TableTalks:                         Denise Schoen  
 Vegucators:                         Rob Wahl  
 W. St Tammany Habitat:             Jenny Graffeo and Nancy Thompson

## Editor's Note



Hello my fellow Master Gardeners!

This month I started taking a pottery class. During my first class, I expected to learn how clay works, but I was surprised to learn how important water was to the process—use too little water and the spinning clay would be too dry and my hands would take the brunt of the friction, use too much water and the clay would become bogged down and eventually collapse under its own weight. It was strange to think that something as simple as water would be the hardest thing to master—but water isn't simple, is it? The scientists declare “where there is water, there is life,” and it's true. Without water, we would cease to exist. Without water we would never have existed in the first place. And the same can be said of our gardens, but also *too much* water and our gardens would cease to exist. It is a delicate balance. Now April is upon us, and it's rumored that she will arrive bearing the gift of showers. So it is no surprise, then, that it's this time of year when our gardens really begin to come alive. My wish for you all is that you discover that perfect balance of water to keep your gardens *and* yourselves happy and healthy and hydrated.

Be well,  
Tina



### THE GARDENGOER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH

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/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/)

# Springing

By Marie Ponsot

In a skiff on a sunrised lake we are watchers.

Swimming aimlessly is luxury just as walking  
loudly up a shallow stream is.

As we lean over the deep well, we whisper.

Friends at hearths are drawn to the one warm air;  
strangers meet on beaches drawn to the one wet sea.

What would it be to be water, one body of water  
(what water is is another mystery) (We are  
water divided). It would be a self without walls,  
with surface tension, specific gravity a local  
exchange between bedrock and cloud of falling and rising,  
rising to fall, falling to rise.