



Master Gardener™

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 19 Issue 12

December 2016

Welcome, Master Gardener Class of 2016!



Front Row: Susan Cannizaro, Alice Rogers, Will Afton (county agent), Jamie Blazik, Sandra Tomaszewski—Second Row: Michael Sage, Sharon Gunther, Patricia Day, Patricia Roushar, Irene Shinn, Janice St. Germaine, Roxane Gunser, Kimberlee Burt—Third Row: Joe Cummins, Ignatius Thomas, Debbie Montreuil, Liz Berzas, Kathryn Villere, Kendra France, Rachel Lambert—Fourth row: Patti Carlin, David Maher, Stephanie Deshautreaux, Caryn Lang, Gina Sutton, Debbie Langenhennig, Don Fulham, Ronald Rowland (not pictured: Dan Dain and Cindy Williamson)

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Dan Dain Cindy William-
(not pictured)

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

www.lsuagcenter.com

Message from the President

Hello Master Gardeners!

Well the time has come for serving you as President to come to an end. It has been a very enjoyable experience working with you and for you in service to our parish. We have elected a new President and Vice-President, and I truly believe that Jan and Suzanne will do a wonderful job in the coming years. We have some exciting things ahead of us—the Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner, and we are moving closer to finalizing a bid to host the state Master Gardener convention in 2018. I am excited to move into my new role as "Fingers in the Dirt" Chair and, also, remaining on the board as past-President.

Some of you may have noticed in the last couple of months that I backed away from my holistic health articles, but I asked our editor, Tina Richardson, if I could begin writing a monthly article for *The Gardengoer*, and she thought it was a great idea. So, since I recently completed my required coursework, I am officially a certified Holistic Health Coach, and I will begin writing an article each month starting in January. If there are any topics you wish for me to cover, please email me at tyguidroz@charter.net.

Again, I would like to welcome our newly-elected leadership and wish them great success!

Thank you guys for all of the support and kind words of encouragement over the past two years. You have made this a great experience for me. As always, thank you for your service to our parish.

Humbly,
Ty

Ty Guidroz
Class of 2010
Outgoing President



Message from the Vice President

Hello fellow Master Gardeners,

I was recently listening to a podcast called The Act of Listening and I was inspired by a talk given by Evelyn Glennie, a deaf musician, about how the act of listening is not only an act of discovery, but also an act of generosity. And I got to thinking—the one thing that we all have in common is that we love to spend time in our gardens because, for most of us, we look forward to that peaceful, quiet time when we can most take in even the subtlest sounds; the different bird songs, the sound of the insects, and even the rustling of the leaves in the wind. For me, it is that sound of nature that makes my time in the garden that much more enjoyable and, many times, I'm able to discover something new because I've make it a point to listen. So, much like our gardens, we attend our monthly meetings prepared to listen and discover something new. This is when listening can also become an act of generosity. There are many of us who struggle to hear what's being said because there are many who are talking rather than listening, and the Castine Center's acoustics make it even harder to listen when so many different voices are competing with our speakers' voices. So, as an act of generosity and empathy to your fellow master gardeners, please refrain from having side conversations during the meeting. I know many will be deeply grateful.

So, having said that—thank you all for the gift of listening to me for the last two years.

For the benefit of our newest Master Gardeners, let me introduce myself—I am the outgoing Vice President of the St. Tammany Parish Master Gardeners Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their invaluable advice and suggestions during my time as vice president. These last two years have been a great success due to the many master gardeners who worked so diligently to make this organization not only fun, but also informative. A special thanks to the members of my program committee for their suggestions and hard work, and also to the thoughtfulness of the hospitality committee during our trips. To those who helped coordinate and attend the many different workshops and to those who made our adventurous, and sometimes rowdy, fieldtrips lots of fun, you all made my time as vice president one that I will not soon forget. And a special thank you to my fellow board members for their love and support.

I would also like to welcome our new President, Jan Gardener and our new Vice President, Suzanne Krieger. I know they will do an amazing job and will make 2017 a year to remember!

Happy Gardening!

Linda Rowe
Class of 2009
Program Chair
Outgoing Vice President



A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries surrounds the text. The leaves are dark green with white veins, and the berries are small red dots.

MASTER GARDENER HOLIDAY PARTY

**Friday, December 16th
11:30 AM**

*Abita Springs Town Hall
22161 Level Street
Abita Springs, La*

Potluck:

Sign up for side-dish, vegetable,
salad, or dessert *or* contribute \$12

The Association will provide the meat, rolls,
drinks, and wine

Plant Exchange (\$15 value)

Deadline to Sign up: December 13, 2016

Contact: Barbara Moore

babsofil@gmail.com

985-674-2747

985-264-6259

County Agent's Corner

Internal Dry Rot of Citrus

Dr. Raj Singh recently reported in the local news about a disease that has been causing the local Louisiana citrus industry some problems this season. I've been getting calls from homeowners across the parish about the same problem. The disease is known as "internal dry rot." The initial calls described a condition where the inside of the citrus fruit was starting to deteriorate without any discoloration of the outer rind. This problem can be extremely frustrating to not only the home gardener, but to the large scale growers, as well.

The organism that causes internal rot disease is a yeast called *Nematospora coryli*. It makes its way into the fruit by way of the leaf-footed bug, *Leptoglossus phyllopus*. Leaf-footed bugs have piercing, sucking mouthparts and can transmit the yeast from fruit to fruit while they feed. Adult leaf-footed bugs have the ability to fly long distances and can spread infection from yard to yard. The fruit is usually infected early in the growing season and the damage caused by the growing yeast develops in the fall. Severe cases will lead to premature color change and fruit drop.

The management of this disease is directed at controlling leaf-footed bug populations. The first step is learning to correctly identify the insect. The identifying characteristic of these insects is the swollen appendage on their hind legs. This is where the leaf-footed bug gets its name. Horticultural oils are effective when used at the first sign of a hatch. Malathion is also labeled for control but should be applied in the early morning and late evening hours, but not when plants are in bloom.

County Agent's Corner, *continued*



Internal dry rot of satsuma



Leaf-footed bug

Will Afton
County Agent
LSU AgCenter



“Finger’s in the Dirt” Projects

The new class got a sneak peek into all of the great work the Master Gardeners do for our community. Get involved! Make a difference!



“Fingers in the Dirt” Projects Update

Our association has many projects that allow us to get our “fingers in the dirt” while providing horticultural education to the folks in St. Tammany parish. Although, some of our projects are on hiatus during the summer months, we are in need of new leaders for some of our projects.

We have been approached by the staff of the Milneburg development in Covington for educational assistance from St. Tammany Master Gardeners. The facility is home to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The staff is in the process of adding gardens to the property to provide residents with opportunities to garden as a form of recreation and education, and they are hoping that one day they’ll be able to offer residents the chance to earn income from produce grown in their gardens. This fall, I will get additional information about the facility, and their needs, and present that information to our association to see if there is interest in establishing a “fingers in the dirt” project at Milneburg.

******Here is an update on the activities and needs of our current projects******

Abita Library Garden:

Martha Gruning is currently co-chairing this committee with Susan L’Hoste. **Martha would like to relinquish her role as co-chair, so we are looking for someone to assist Susan with chairing this committee.** The committee takes care of some of the library gardens and presents two programs each year with assistance of library staff.

Beau Provence Therapeutic Gardens:

Harold Ryan has chaired this committee since its inception and has “passed the trowel” on to Linda Zitzmann. This committee meets at Beau Provence every other month to provide hands-on activities for residents of this memory care residential home. (Thanks to Linda for stepping up to chair the project.)

“Fingers in the Dirt” Projects Update, *continued*

Lacombe Butterfly Garden:

Barbara Moore is chair of this committee and her co-chair is Isabelle Moore. The garden is located on the grounds of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Southeast LA Refuges headquarters in Lacombe and was the site of an education activity during the 2016 WILD THINGS open house that was on October 15. Work days will be scheduled for 2017 to prepare the garden for the 2017 WILD THINGS festival.

Otis House:

Ann Durel is chair of this committee. Following a successful “All About Roses” program in May, Ann also planned rose garden tours on the second Saturdays of August and September from 8:30am-9:30am. The large plant identification signs used during the May program was left in place for reference. Basic information about growing roses was shared, and other plants near the Otis House was identified. Members of this committee will be taking turns monitoring weeds and watering during the summer.

Parenting Center Garden:

Marie Porche is chair of this committee which provides gardening activity programs at the St. Tammany Parish Parenting Center. Members of this committee will take turns monitoring weeds and watering during the summer and activities for children will resume in September.

School Partnership:

Christy Paulsell chairs our “Rooting for the Future” garden program. We will have Master Gardeners active in school gardens across St. Tammany. Some gardens will be tended over the summer, and when school resumes our gardeners will be back working with teachers and students.

Slidell Hospital Rehab Garden:

Paul Andres is chair of this garden project which is located in the courtyard at Slidell hospital. Master Gardeners will work weekly tending the garden, propagating plants, and planning educational activities for hospital staff and visitors. A plant sale is planned for early August.

“Fingers in the Dirt” Projects Update, *continued*

Slidell Library Herb Garden:

Sandy Arnoult is chair of this committee. Master Gardeners will tend herb, kitchen, and “pass along” gardens at the library. Two herb programs will be held each year with sponsorship from the Friends of Slidell Library and St. Tammany Parish Library. The fall herb fest is in need of a chair! Lots of help will be available to plan and stage the fest.

AgCenter Super Plant Garden::

Barbara Briggs is chair of this committee which keeps the garden in front of the LSU AgCenter office in Covington tidy with Louisiana Super Plants. The garden will be planted in the spring. It's a great spot to view some of the best plant choices for our area.



Activities, meetings, and work days are announced in our weekly MoM on Monday email.

Contact information for each of our chairpersons can be found in the membership directory and in our monthly *Gardengoer* newsletter.



Susie Andres

Class of 2010

“Fingers in the Dirt” Chair

Past President



Committee Chairs' Contact Information
Education Committees (E) and "Fingers in the Dirt" (D)
(current as of 11/16)

Abita Library Garden	Susan L'Hoste	lhoste@att.net Cell: 985.373.1770
Beau Provence Rehab Garden-D	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-D	Barbara Moore ** (chair needed)	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-D (Parenting Center, Covington)	Marie Porche	marieporche@yahoo.com Cell: 985.789.4283
Northshore Garden & Plant Sale-E (March 17 & 18, Cov Fairgrounds)	Jan Pesses, Co-Chair Rodney Cross, Co-Chair	jpeses@charter.net Cell: 504.458.6443 rod335i@live.com Cell: 985.778.3555
Otis House Rose Garden-D (Fairview Riverside Park, Madisonville)	Ann Durel	adurel@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.373.2111
School Partnership-D "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-D	Sandy Arnoult	sarnoult@charter.net Cell: 985.974.1676
Slidell Memorial Hsptl Rehab Garden-D	Paul Andres	pkandres@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.718.9161
Speakers' Bureau-E Coordinates MGs public speakers to provide horticultural education	Mimi Padgett	mimipadgett63@gmail.com Cell: 504.975.1800
Super Plant Garden @ AgCenter-D	Barbara Briggs ** (chair needed)	beb1@usa.net Cell: 504.914.0260
Vegucators-E study group open to all MGs	Wes Goostrey, Co-Chair Theresa Rheams, Co-Chair	wgoostrey@yahoo.com Cell: 504.913.2133 trheams@live.com Cell: 504.559.5336
W. St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity-E	Nancy Thompson	nthomps25@bellsouth.net Cell: 985.502.1716

Project Work Days

Beau Provence Therapeutic Center

On November 15th, the members of the Beau Provence group met at the center to assist the residents with making pine cone ornaments. Some of our members brought various types of pine cones for decorating. We talked about the many species of pines and some of their key features. Linda Zitzmann, our team leader, led the discussion, displaying different sized pine cones she had collected from various places. Gordon Kuehl brought a very large pine cone, over a foot long, that he had found on a trip to the northwest in an area near the great Redwoods. We were able to engage several of the residents in our discussion.

After our discussion, we assisted the residents in decorating some pine cones that Linda brought for our activity. She had prepared the adornments the previous day, so it was a very organized plan. The residents had fun creating their own works of art; no two were exactly alike. They intend to hang them on a community tree in the common area. The residents seemed to really enjoy our visit. They spoke of looking forward to our next visit.



Linda Zitzmann shows off her pinecone decorating skills



Kathleen Dupuy and the Giant Pinecone



Project Work Days

Beau Provence, continued



Gordon Kuehl and Helen Babb



Sharon Hassinger
Class of 2015



Project Work Days

Covington Elementary School



The students at Covington Elementary School's kindergarten class enjoyed learning about bugs. Today they saw bean leaf roller eggs and also found the leaf roller caterpillar. They also had fun watering their gardens.



The children found leaf bean roller eggs and a newly hatched caterpillar

Project Work Days

Magic Wings Butterfly Garden

Our Master Gardeners had a great time teaching both the parents and their children about the life cycle of the ladybug and how the ladybug and the butterfly have very similar life cycles. We sang a song written by Frank Leto about the ladybug while we all played ladybug instruments loaned to us by Karin Crosby from Parenting Center. Dorothy Delaune read a book about ladybugs, and afterward we all gathered at the exciting, new vegetable garden that Tim Zimmerman lovingly created for the children behind The Wellness Center. The parents were especially excited about the new garden because they had shown a lot of interest in learning about how to grow vegetables. The children were amazed when Tim brought out live ladybugs to release in the new garden. We finished the day with the children enjoying delicious cupcakes decorated with, what else? LADYBUGS!

We will have presentations on Tuesday, January 24th and Tuesday, February 7th. Let me know if you would like to join us for the fun!



Project Work Days

Magic Wings Butterfly Garden, continued



Marie Porche
Class of 1999



The Last Habitat for Humanity Work Day for 2016

Master Gardeners Doing Good Work for Good People

The St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity Master Gardeners Committee has had a very successful year. We have held three well-attended informational classes called "All About Your Yard," and helped eight new Habitat homeowners landscape their new homes. The gardens were lovely and every time we left, there were lots of smiles all around for a job well done!

The Habitat for Humanity program collects donated plants from nurseries, farms, and individual gardeners. At this time, Lara, the Home Services Director, has requested that if the Master Gardeners were able, to please bring your extra plants to ReStore with her name "Lara" on the items you wish to donate for the new Habitat homeowners. Thank you for your help and support!

Have a Merry Christmas,
Nancy Thompson
Chair



The West St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity Master Gardener Co-Chairs for the past three years, Nancy Thompson and Jenny Graffeo, are both graduates of the class of 2012. The Master Gardeners and Habitat for Humanity are so grateful for all their hard work and dedication!

The Last Habitat for Humanity Work Day for 2016, *continued*



The West St. Tammany Habitat For Humanity master gardeners gather in front of the Faith Bible house for a group picture. The homeowner and her granddaughter prepared lunch for us!



This is the second house where we were working to install plants and bushes. The committee divided themselves between the houses and move about freely in order to help the new homeowners decide on plant placement in their gardens and to help demonstrate exactly how to plant the flowers and bushes.

The Last Habitat for Humanity Work Day for 2016, *continued*



Master Gardener, Gordon Kuehl holding a shovel upright to help a young Habitat child to learn how to plant a tree correctly.



The Master Gardeners arrive at the home sites and get organized!

The Last Habitat for Humanity Work Day for 2016, *continued*



Demonstrating how to plant a "Teddy Bear Magnolia Tree" the new homeowners.



Demonstrating how to prepare the garden soil for planting and drainage.

The Last Habitat for Humanity Work Day for 2016, *continued*



Demonstrating plant installation.



Master Gardeners show how to detangle roots for proper planting.

Nancy Thompson
Class of 2012



2016 Vegucator Graduation

Meet the Former Sprouts!



Gordon Kuehl, Tim Zimmerman, Jim Bates, Geralyn Suhor,
Laura Steffee, Dee Middleton, and D'Wanna Hanes

2016 Vegucator Graduation, *continued*

This year's Vegucator graduation took place in the lovely home of GERALYN SUHOR—we were also able to spend time in her fall vegetable garden and check out her tidy, little composting station. We love having even more veggie experts to call upon for advice and support.



Living Wreaths Workshop by Yvette Gautreaux Cutrer



Yvette Gautreaux Cutrer



Living Wreaths Workshop, *continued*

Some beautiful examples of living wreaths. With the right materials and a little know-how, you can create a beautiful wreath that will last throughout the year and beyond



Master Gardener Cookbook

The St. Tammany Master Gardeners are putting together a cookbook. You're invited to send in your favorite recipe(s). It can be an original recipe or one you adapted from another source as long as you give credit to the original source. If you have a short story that goes with the recipe, please send it with the recipe.

Send recipes by email (preferred) to Susan L'Hoste at lhoste@att.net or mail them to:
105 Sherry Lane
Mandeville, LA 70471



**Disclaimer—image shown is NOT the final cover design

Master Gardeners' Mentoring Program

Mentoring Program for Master Gardener Class of 2016

Purpose:

To create a smooth transition from MG student to an active MG and retain the new MG's in STPMG beyond the first year.

Mentors:

- Assigned by geographic area
- May mentor up to two students
- Contact the new student(s) by phone or email
- Answer any questions about STPMG
- Be certain that the newly graduated Master Gardener apprentice registers on the LSU site Introduce yourself at the first member meeting to newly graduated Master Gardener apprentice. (November meeting)
- Provide a list of opportunities or be available to direct them to information to complete their volunteer requirements
- Give information and answer questions about the organization, its committees/projects and the Plant Sale
- Remain in contact with the new Master Gardener apprentice during the first six months after graduation

To be a Mentor:

- Completed a total of 100 volunteer hours or more and posted on the LSU website during membership in STPMG
- Completed at least one full year as a STPMG – MG Class of 2014 and prior years
- Must have a strong interest and actively participate in STPMG projects and/or committees

Contact information:

To volunteer as a mentor, learn more about the mentoring program, or offer any suggestions, please contact Jenny Graffeo, Membership Chair, at Jennygraffeo@hotmail.com or call or text at 504-756-7806.

***St. Tammany Parish Master Gardener Association BOARD Meeting
Minutes, LSU AgCenter, November 1, 2016***

Ty Guidroz, President, called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM.

In attendance were, Ty Guidroz, Linda Rowe, Jimmy DeJean, Susie Andres, Will Afton, Jan Pesses, Tina Richardson, and Julie Deus.

The October, 2016 meeting board minutes were approved as they appeared in *The Gardengoer*.

TREASURER, Jimmy DeJean presented the STMGA Financial Report as of October 31, 2016 which will also be presented at the November 16, 2016 general membership meeting.

- ♦ A revised profit for the Fall Seminar because a few more receipts had come in.
- ♦ The Seminar made \$1,235.31.
- ♦ The Fall Field Trip has 28 attendees and the organization had to pay \$420.00 to meet all of the expenses.
- ♦ The bill for the new pins we will be giving as awards this year was \$1900.00. Sandy Arnoult, Honors Committee Chairman, ordered in bulk so the cost was lower and now there are enough pins to last for about 4 years before another order has to be made.

VICE PRESIDENT, Linda Rowe reported:

- ♦ There were 28 MG's that attended the Fall Field Trip. There was discussion among the Board members about utilizing a bus for both field trips because of cost. Ty pointed out that it will be up to the next Vice President and the new Board to address this issue.
- ♦ Linda would like to see two Advanced Master Gardeners as speakers at future Membership meetings in 2017. Ty said that this too would be up to the next VP and her committee.
- ♦ Linda got an email from someone associated with the Three Rivers Art Festival looking for volunteers. Will said that these hours could not be used as volunteer hours toward Master Gardeners.
- ♦ The speaker for the November Membership meeting will be Yvette Curer on "Living Wreaths" and there will be a workshop immediately following the meeting for those that want to put together their own wreath.

COUNTY AGENT, Will Afton reported:

- ♦ The MG class of 2016 finished their classwork today and there will be 29 graduating Thursday.

BOARD Meeting Minutes, continued

PRESIDENT, Ty Guidroz reported:

♦Elections for President and Vice President will be held at the November Membership meeting. Presently, there are two candidates for President. The vote will be a paper ballot if there are two or more candidates and a show of hands if there is just one.

PROJECT REPORTS

“Fingers in the Dirt” chairman, Susie Andres reported:

- ♦The Project Tour for the Class of 2016 was very impressive and was well attended.
- ♦The Organization is looking for Chairs for the Abita Library Project, the Slidell Library Project (although Sandy Arnoult said she would stay on if one could not be found), and for the Lacombe Butterfly Garden Project.
- ♦Susie reviewed the project criteria for a new project and said that the speakers from the May membership meeting, Milneburg Adults with Disabilities, mentioned they would like the Master Gardeners to help with a garden at the facility. Susie said that the project would need a chair and a committee and to fill out the Project Checklist then be approved before they could get started.

Educational chairman, Julie Deus reported

- ♦There will be a Habitat for Humanity planting on Saturday, November 19th at 9:00 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2017 Northshore Garden and Plant Sale scheduled for March 17 & 18

Co-chair, Jan Pesses, reported that she is setting up a meeting with all of the committee chairs in a few weeks.

2016 Fall Seminar

At last month’s Board Meeting, the Board requested that Julie Deus review the evaluations. She tallied the positive and negative comments. The positive comments included that people liked the lunch, the table configuration, and the Boutique. The negative...

BOARD Meeting Minutes, continued

...comments centered on the disappointment in the first two speakers, that the seminar was too long and there were not enough bathrooms. She will email the entire report to the Board tomorrow.

Awards Committee

♦**Sandy Arnoult, Chairman**, was not present, but Ty and Linda reported that Sandy will be giving out the awards at the December Membership meeting and that people will have to have their hours posted before that. She will post the deadline in MoM and *The Gardengoer*. This deadline will only apply to those receiving the pins and that we still have until December 31, 2016 to post hours to maintain membership in the organization.

♦Linda reported that Sandy will be proposing that the Organization give “year” pins to those who have been members for 5, 10, or 15 years. Bricks will be awarded to the out-going Officers, the chairman of *The Gardengoer*, the two Plant Show Chairs and any other out-going appointed chairmen. Susie, the outgoing Project Chair and Julie, the out-going Education Chair respect fully refused bricks this year.

New Business

Julie Deus presented some information about getting grants from large businesses when their current or retired employees volunteer. The example she gave was for a Master Gardener in The Woodlands who is a retired Exxon-Mobil employee. For every 20 hours of volunteering the company will donate \$500 to the organization up to a cap of \$2000 a year per employee. Exxon-Mobil has a maximum donation of \$5000 per year for one organization. However, there is a “Group Benefit” that is given separately when several employees volunteer on one project (ex: Plant Sale) and the organization can receive an additional \$10,000 for that event. Jimmy said that we would probably have to be considered a 501C organization and Julie said she would confirm that with her friend. Ty stated that this should probably be proposed to the new board after the first of the year for consideration once all the information is gathered.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:32 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Julie Deus, Acting Secretary
Class of 2009
Educational Chairperson
Past President



St. Tammany Master Gardener Association MEMEBERSHIP Meeting Minutes, Castine Center, November 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Ty Guidroz at 9:10AM with an invocation by Mary Jenks. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ty Guidroz.

Attendance: 81

Class of 2016 Master Gardener graduates were invited to attend this meeting.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT, Ty Guidroz

- Welcomed the 2016 Master Gardener graduates.
- Inquired if there were any corrections or questions associated with the October 2016 minutes as they appeared in the November *Gardengoer*. There were none. There was a unanimous vote to accept the minutes.
- Informed the group that there will be a vote at the December 16th meeting/party regarding whether or not the association will hold the monthly meetings at the Abita Town Hall in 2017. The meeting time would need to change to 9AM till 11AM. There is no charge for use of either the Castine Center or the Abita Town Hall.
- Announced the meeting day was also the birthday of Jimmy DeJean and Peggy Goertz.
- Welcomed back to our group member Betty Cronin, who has been out about 9 months due to numerous surgeries.
- Introduced Linda Deslatte, who schedules volunteers to give invocations at the meetings.
- Announced that the signup sheet for AgCenter office volunteers was being passed around, as was the signup sheet for food or monetary contributions for the December 16th party.

TREASURER, Jimmy DeJean

- Presented the October 2016 financial report as it appeared in November 14, 2016 M.o.M. There were no questions or corrections. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.
- Jimmy was asked to explain to the Master Gardener class of 2016 the reason for the amount in the savings account. Jimmy explained that the money is used for the association's annual scholarships it gives and money in the savings account accrues...

Membership Meeting Minutes, *continued*

... interest. He also made mention that in 2016, our only real fund raiser, the Northshore Plant Sale made about \$3,500 less than 2015, due to inclement weather and the devastating flooding.

• Following Jimmy's explanation, Art Scott volunteered an explanation of the history behind keeping a certain amount in the savings account as a “cushion” or “insurance.”

VICE-PRESIDENT, Linda Rowe

- Asked the seasoned members to introduce themselves to the new class members.
- Praised Tina Richardson's coverage in *The Gardengoer* of the recent field trip to Crosby Arboretum and Shroomdom. She stated that the field trip was a huge success.

PROJECTS “FINGERS IN THE DIRT” CHAIRMAN, Susie Andres

- Explained that Ty Guidroz will be taking over her Chairman position.
- All “Fingers in the Dirt” projects are complete for 2016 and will be in full swing in January 2017.
- Sandy Arnoult has agreed to continue as Slidell Library Herb Garden Chairman
- Stated there are chairmen positions which need to be filled:
- Abita Springs Library Chairman (Martha Grunning is retiring from position.)
- Lacombe Butterfly Garden Chairman (Barbara Moore retiring from position.)
- Urged the Class of 2016 to accept the challenge of a Chairman position. She and Julie Deus will post project and chairmen information in the December *Gardengoer*.

PROJECTS EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON, Julie Deus

- Reported the Spring Seminar is being planned by the Class of 2016. There will be a meeting in a few weeks.
- Reminded everyone of the Habitat for Humanity planting on Saturday, November 19th. Information was in November 14th Mail on Monday.
- Mentioned she has contacted all booth chairs and is coordinating volunteers for the 2017 Plant Sale event.

Membership Meeting Minutes, *continued*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON, Deb Nolan

- introduced Jan Gardner as the only candidate for President and Suzanne Krieger as the only candidate for Vice President. Thru a show of hands both candidates were voted in for the board positions.

MEMBERSHIP HONORS CHAIRPERSON, Sandy Arnoult

- Urged members to post their volunteer hours on the AgCenter Website. November 30 is the cutoff date for members to post hours in order to be eligible for honors awards.
- Reiterated that there will be a brick given for 500 hours and 1,000 hours of service. A pin will be given for 100 hours, 250 hours, 500 hours, and 1,000 hours.
- Proposed the Honors Committee's suggestion of a pin for years of service in addition to the pin for hours. After some discussion a vote of the membership decided against the additional pins at this time.

NORTHSHORE GARDEN and PLANT SALE CHAIRPERSON, Jan Pesses reminded everyone of the event date, March 17th and March 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

THE GARDENGOER EDITOR, Tina Richardson passed out a questionnaire requesting suggestions, likes/dislikes regarding *The Gardengoer*.

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT, Suzanne Krieger announced a Friends of Longue Vue Design Symposium luncheon and lecture by Dutch Master Floral Designer, René van Rems, which will be held at the Audubon Tea Room on Friday, November 18th. There are 20 to 30 seats still available. In addition, two holiday centerpiece workshops will be on Saturday, November 19th. Participants can choose to attend the 9AM - Noon class or 1PM – 4PM class, where van Rems will instruct participants on how to create a holiday centerpiece using autumn flowers and foliage.

Membership Meeting Minutes, *continued*

MASTER GARDENER, Deb Nolan announced A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit at the Abita Trailhead Museum - "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America." It is available for viewing November 19, 2016 - January 1, 2017 each Thursday thru Monday from 10AM till 4PM.

PROGRAM & SPEAKER

VICE PRESIDENT, Linda Rowe introduced this month's speaker, Yvette Gautreaux Cutrer who gave a very informative and interesting demonstration on creating a living wreath. Afterward she instructed registered participants on creating their own living wreath.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50AM.

Respectfully submitted by

Cindy Manger
Class of 2009
Secretary



Editor's Note



Hello, my fellow Master Gardeners!

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has helped me find my way as the new *Gardengoer* editor. I have read all of your thoughtful suggestions and I am very much looking forward to implementing your ideas to make your newsletter not only something you can be proud of, but also something I can be proud to create. Many of you know that I am an editor by trade, but what you might not know is that I'm also a poet. I've been diligently revising and re-revising my second collection of poems that will be published next year. But even if I weren't a poet, I would still seek out poems to help me make sense of the world when my own understanding falls short. Whether during times of great joy or times of grief, poetry has never failed to bring me comfort. So, as a gift to you for putting your trust in me as your editor, I share with you one of my favorite poems.

Be well,
Tina



THE GARDENGOER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



Cooperative Extension Service

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Shepherd's Purse *by Paul Perry*

In the field —
shepherd's purse:

to be seen even in the dark.

Think on it — after the gravel paths,
after the roads — uneven and aching long,
across the cold promise the border makes
to a sloping field, to a ditch.

A ditch like any other.
A ditch I have known — since.

Imagine them: green, slender, from crown to root,
a rosette of radical leaves, smooth,
arrow-shaped and above them numerous small,
white, inconspicuous flowers.

There was no need to ask
the man to kneel but he did,
as if he were going to beg forgiveness,
which he did not, nor did he ask for his life.

He named his children and his wife,
murmured to his own private God.

Overhead, there was the sound of pine shifting,

the moon winnowing in the distance.
So, nothing terrible about the night then,
if you do not count the earth tilting,
or the sound in the undergrowth
of a passage from this world to the next.

More than that I remember the flat-seed pouch:

weed some call it, as if to flourish and seed
in the poorest soil is to be just that.

They are everywhere now —
it seems to me,
populating my field of vision
like a generative disease, an affliction.

Look:
a man walks into a field.
A field with shepherd's purse.

He falls.
He falls again.
Every day, from this day until kingdom come,
he falls into the embrace of a field of flowers,
into shepherd's purse.