"The flower that follows the sun, does so even on cloudy days."

Robert Leighton

Henry and Patty Bradford’s Hybrid Daylilies
Thank you to everyone who attended our May Membership Meeting, and for making our two scholarship recipients (and their mothers) feel welcomed and well-fed. It was especially wonderful to introduce Mrs. Bobby Fletcher and her daughter, Denise King. Kudos to Kay Hanson and her committee for reviewing the applications and choosing such outstanding young ladies.

Any Master Gardeners interested in volunteering for the Florida Parish Detention Center should contact Will Afton, and Master Gardeners who think they would like to volunteer at the Milne Home for Developmentally Disabled should contact Tina Richardson. These are the two agencies who contacted us for volunteer support, and they were also featured in the May issue of The Gardengoer. Now is the time to decide whether we will create new projects for these worthy causes, but in order for this to happen we will need someone to volunteer to chair each project. Please consider this opportunity, and perhaps we can vote to make them official Master Gardener projects at our June Membership Meeting.

Our speaker in April was Nick Usner and many of us agreed that we would love to go on a Field Trip to visit his Waldheim farm, and possibly eat at the Café Milne. Our Program Chairperson, Suzanne Krieger, is looking into arranging this.

Thank you, again, for all that you do for our communities.
Dear Master Gardeners,

I met our June speaker, Tammany Baumgarten of BaumGardens Landscape & Design, at the New Orleans Master Gardener Winter Symposium on a chilly, windy day in January. Even though the weather was not conducive to gardening, I left the program ready to plant my Spring garden. As a Landscape Horticulturist, Tammany has designed, installed, and maintained gardens throughout the New Orleans area for almost 20 years. She is a Master Gardener and a Past President of the Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans. She has a keen interest in sustainable horticulture practices and an avid proponent of native and wildlife gardening. She maintains gardens at her Broadmoor neighborhood home and also on 35 beautiful acres in Tylertown, Mississippi.

In her presentation, "My Weeds, My Bugs and How They Matter," Tammany uses native plant material to garden more naturalistically using pollinators and other insects in her yard. She will share some of her favorite garden plants for pollinators and her favorite host plants for moths and butterflies.

I hope you will enjoy this delightful presentation as much as I did.

Suzanne Krieger
Class of 2012
Vice President
Program Chair
Driving north on highway 21 in northeast Covington, you’d never suspect that tucked back in a small, residential neighborhood was a three-acre parcel of land that is home to not only Henry and Patty Bradford, but also more than 700 varieties of hybridized daylilies and an astounding tens of thousands of daylily seedlings. And, when Helen Babb and I arrived the morning of May 19th to take a tour of the plantation, they were all blooming!
As a thank you for letting us peruse his daylilies, I brought Henry a mystery daylily from my own garden. Without missing a beat, he identified the variety and pointed out its unique characteristics. But my little daylily would literally pale in comparison to what we were about to see. It seemed apropos as we set off for the gardens that the sounds of sixties rock & roll (Henry and Patty’s preferred gardening music) would follow us as we began what would surely be a magical mystery tour of the most colorful and abundant gathering of daylilies I had ever seen at any one time, or in any one place.
A retired molecular biologist, Henry comes by his “hobby turned obsession” of hybridizing, naturally. To Henry, it’s all about the science. He explained the mechanics of hybridizing and how important it is to understand the biological characteristics of a daylily in order to create a successful hybrid. It boils down to knowing which traits are dominant and which traits are recessive and how to manipulate those traits to create daylilies that stand out in a crowd.

While researching in preparation for writing this article, I came across a profile feature about Henry and Patty in the October 2015 issue of Louisiana Gardener that had been written by our own St. Tammany Master Gardener, Yvonne Bordelon. In her article, Yvonne concisely explains how Henry’s knowledge of molecular science gives him an advantage when creating new and unique hybrids because of his ability to manipulate a daylily’s DNA. Yvonne writes, “Henry also experiments with creating tetraploid daylilies by treating diploid specimens with colchicine, a mitotic inhibitor, to change the DNA and increase the number of genes from 22 to 44. These can be used to create new hybrids with more variations in color, form and size.” It’s not a simple matter of cross-pollination. It is amazing to not only consider how much work Henry and Patty put into creating their hybrids, but also how long the process. It could take several generations before they are able to see the results of their experimentation.

_Left: The second generation of Henry’s attempt to create a daylily that has a completely flat face. Right: Henry shows us how to identify different parts of a daylily._
But, Henry and Patty, in pursuit of hybrid perfection, spends most days between April and July moving from bloom to bloom with a matchbox in hand, collecting pollen-filled anthers from one bloom and touching those anthers to the stigma of another bloom, attempting to create a daylily that is absolutely unique among all other daylilies. And when it comes to the most desired traits, they differ greatly. As we walked through dozens and dozens of large daylily beds, Henry would point out which hybrids were his creation and which were Patty’s handiwork. Henry pointed out that Patty preferred “pastel colors, patterned eyes with edges, and soft, pretty faces,” while he was partial to “bold colors—red, purple, and orange to gold—with ruffles and teeth.” Henry told us that he was also working on a “meta-chromatic” variety that would have the ability to change color, which is fascinating considering daylily blooms last only, well, a day.

**Henry’s Hybrids**

- “teeth” on petals
- flat faces
- bold colors & ruffles

**Patty’s Hybrids**

- patterned eyes
- pastel colors
- soft faces
I am deeply fascinated by daylilies, but I was unaware that there was such a staggering number of different hybrids and cultivars—and those were just the hybrids created by Henry and Patty! Considering how many other daylily growers Henry mentioned during our tour, I doubt anyone knows that number. Now that I’ve spent time with Henry, I understand how his hobby turned into an obsession. It’s the same reason why I could easily get lost in the world of daylily hybridizing. It’s the thing we have in common: Curiosity. It is a curious mind that can fall under the spell of this persistent bloom that only last a day. It is a curious mind that starts with one daylily and the question: I wonder what would happen if…?

Here are few of Henry and Patty’s daylilies that cast a spell on me—
Bradford’s Daylily Plantation, continued
Bradford’s Daylily Plantation, continued
Bradford’s Daylily Plantation, continued
Bradford’s Daylily Plantation, continued

Tina Richardson
Class of 2015
This year’s herb of the year is cilantro! What does that mean? It means it is the showcase herb for both our gardens and our cooking. But, cilantro has a bonus. Its seeds, called coriander, are prized in spice blends, for baking, pickling, and in Latin and Indian cuisine. Coriander is more commonly known as cilantro in the United States (which is also sometimes called Chinese parsley, even though it isn't from China). has a love/hate relationship with foodies. Julia Child despised this herb, saying that she saw it on a plate, she would pick it and throw it on the floor. Why does this herb cause an outbreak of such great emotion? Whether you love it or hate it, your genes are to blame. Chemicals called Aldehydes are not only found in cilantro, but are also found in soap. So, depending on your genetics, cilantro can taste, to some, like soap when eaten raw. But, to those who are a little less sensitive, they can enjoy raw cilantro with lemon, lime, or tomato juice. These juices can tame the flavor of raw cilantro.

Cilantro is commonly used as a garnish in many cuisines. In Europe, coriander seeds are highly prized in baked goods. Cilantro is an essential staple in Mexican, Southwestern, and Texan flavors, and is a very important component in Asian cuisines (even the roots are used for flavoring in green curry sauces). The Indian culture uses cilantro and coriander extensively in curries, Garam Marsala, and other spice blends. The first mention of coriander in an American cookbook was in Amelia Simmons' American Cookery of 1796. Coriander is also common as a pickling spice. The cilantro plant is a fantastic plant for pollinators. It attracts bees, butterflies, and other nectar-loving insects needed to keep our gardens healthy. Concerning our health, the fresh leaves of cilantro contain high levels of antioxidants and is rich in calcium, phosphorous, and vitamin A and C.

If you have too much cilantro on hand, you can preserve it for later use by making an herb oil paste. Put clean leaves and soft stems in a food processor, along with a lightly flavored oil, and process it all into a paste. Place the paste in a quart ziplock bag and lay it flat in the freezer. You can break off pieces as needed.

Cilantro is a cool season herb that’s planted in the fall (September through June). Snip the plant regularly to encourage growth and a feathery, green top. Make cilantro pesto. Harvest the seeds as soon as the seed stem emerges. A cute way to display your plant is in a strawberry pot, sold
at most nurseries. Fill the pot with strawberry plants or mini tomato plants and place a cilantro plant on the top. When the cilantro goes to seed in the hot month of June, replace it with a low flowering plant or basil until the fall.

Typically, we associate cilantro with salsa. Even though I hate the smell or taste of cilantro, I can devour it when it is in salsa. Cilantro is also great with fruits such as, pineapple, mango, and orange in ceviche. A fresh twist to salsa is to replace tomatoes with strawberries. The wonderful combination of strawberries, jalapeno, lime juice, and cilantro creates a new fresh way to enjoy salsa. It goes from savory to sweet. Another way to enjoy cilantro is to add coriander seed to a fruity is mango chutney to make a flavorful dip. Both of these are great served with crackers, cheese, or next to a meat like pork or chicken. Chillax with Cilantro!

**STRAWBERRY SALSA**

1 quart strawberries, diced
1 medium red onion, finely diced
1 red bell pepper, seeded and finely diced
1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
1/2 bunch cilantro, finely chopped
The juice of 1 lime
A pinch of salt
Mix all together, cover and refrigerate
If you have any salsa leftover, heat up a jar of apple jelly and add mashed salsa to make a delish strawberry salsa pepper jelly!

**TOMATO SALSA**

1 quart cherry tomatoes, red or yellow
1 medium red onion, finely diced
1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
1/2 bunch cilantro, finely diced
The juice of 1 lime
Salt & Pepper to taste
MANGO CHUTNEY
1 medium onion
1 Tablespoon fresh ginger, finely minced
2 cloves garlic, finely minced
1/4 tsp. chili pepper flakes
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. turmeric
3 cardamom pods, slightly crushed
1/4 tsp. whole cloves
1 star anise
1/4 tsp. mustard seeds
1/4 tsp. salt
5-6 mangoes, peeled and diced
2 cups white sugar
1 cup white vinegar

In a medium sauce pan, heat oil and sauté' onions to translucent. Add garlic, ginger, and pepper flakes, stir 2-3 minutes. Add the coriander, cumin, turmeric, and salt. Wrap spices (cardamom pods, cloves, mustard seeds, and star anise) in a tea ball or cheese cloth. Add in mangoes. Add sugar and vinegar and sauté' about 30-40 minutes to reduce liquids. Mash mix if you want a non-chunky chutney.

CILANTRO PESTO
1 1/4 cup cilantro
1 Tablespoon fresh lime juice
2 Tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic
Salt & pepper to taste

Blend in food processor

Remembering

Linda Franzo
Class of 2002
Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

Lacombe Butterfly Garden

Karen Martin and I have volunteered to be the new co-chairs for the Lacombe Butterfly Garden. In late March we met with Barbara Moore, the previous chair, to become acquainted with the garden and our new responsibilities. We returned to the garden in late April to clean up the bed and tackle the overgrown Lantana by pruning it back and removing all of the dead wood.

Our first workday session on May 2nd was to primarily continue the job of weeding the bed and pruning where needed. Susie Andres, the team leader before Barbara Moore took over the project, was there to help us figure out what plants we had and what to do next. We not only needed to spruce up the existing plants, but we also decided what plants we needed to add to the bed. Susie had contacted Jim Schmidt, the group leader for Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges and our liaison, who ordered several bales of pine straw and had them delivered to the garden so they would be ready for our next workday session.
I purchased about a dozen butterfly-attracting perennials at a local nursery and brought them to the refuge for our second group session on May 10th. Pete Hanson, one of the former team leaders, came by during our work session to check the irrigation system and explain how the controls work. We moved a few existing perennials to better locations, planted the new Perennials, and pruned the Vitex to give it more of a tree form. Finally, we spread the pine straw and considered our work done for the day!

We will plan a few follow up sessions during the summer to weed and keep things looking tidy. In late August or early September, we will meet to make plans for our table at the Wild Thing Festival that takes place in October.
On May 9th, the Beau Provence Master Gardener team gave a presentation about herbs to the center’s residents, and judging by the record number of residents in attendance, it was a very popular topic. Harold Ryan, our former team leader, and Dinah Keyes clipped a variety of herbs from the beds that we maintain for the center. Harold led a discussion on the use of herbs in cooking, for tea, and for medicinal purposes. We passed around cuttings of all the herbs to the residents, and they were able to touch and smell them as each herb was discussed. It was a lively session with several residents contributing to the discussion.

Dianne Ramirez brought some rose cuttings from her garden to share, and she spoke of their significance. The red rose was a sweetly-scented, Bourbon that she won at the plant sale, and a lovely pink that came from a cutting from her mother’s garden.
Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

Beau Provence, continued

After our discussions we went out to the garden with some of the residents to observe the growth of our herb beds and check on the recently planted caladiums and other perennials in other raised beds that we maintain. We added a few basil plants to the herb beds to fill in as needed. One of the residents, who had a nursery business in the past, loves to help work in the beds weeding and pruning when needed.

We had a wonderful session with the Beau Provence residents. Many came to us and told us that they really enjoyed our visits—so, of course, we will gladly continue our mission.

Dianne Ramirez, Dinah Keyes, and Linda Zitzmann, our team leader

Sharon Hassinger
Class of 2015
Meetings, Projects, & Workdays

Marigny Elementary School

The Master Gardeners have been putting in a lot of hard work for the children from the pre-K and kindergarten classes at Marigny Elementary School. In early spring, Allison Fisse and Gordon Kuehl built some additions to increase the depth of the existing trellis beds, including a new trellis for sugar snap peas, and a raised bed against the back fence for growing mirliton. Since then, we have been planting seeds of various vegetables, and in late April and early May, we started harvesting and sampling the results of those harvests with the children.

During our most recent visit, we helped the children harvest green beans, kale, and a variety of lettuces. After we harvested, we led the children to the kitchen area where they watched as we cooked the green beans and plated them with the lettuces and kale. We put a dollop of ranch dip on the side of each plate to encourage the children to at least try each vegetable—and they, mostly, enjoyed them!
We will be planting gourd seeds with the children in our new trellis beds, that were recently built by Allison Fisse and Karen Martin. Also, we will be planting sunflower seeds with the children in our new Sunflower House, Sue McGuire's latest idea. Carolyn Rault and I helped set up the bones of this structure, recently.

As usual, new things are happening in the Marigny Elementary School Gardens. Stay tuned for future updates.
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<th>Garden Name</th>
<th>Contact Person(s)</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abita Library Garden</td>
<td>Susan L’Hoste</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhoste@att.net">lhoste@att.net</a> Cell: 985.373.1770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beau Provence Rehab Garden</td>
<td>Linda Zitzmann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nickiroux@hotmail.com">nickiroux@hotmail.com</a> Cell: 985.630.6403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covington Farmers Market</td>
<td>Billie Stanga-3rd Saturday chair Diana Cammatte-1st Saturday chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:billie.stanga@gmail.com">billie.stanga@gmail.com</a> Cell: 504.428.6535 <a href="mailto:dhcammatte@bellsouth.net">dhcammatte@bellsouth.net</a> Cell: 985.778.3500</td>
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<td>Lacombe Butterfly Garden</td>
<td>Sharon Hassinger, Co-Chair Karen Martin, Co-Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharhass@me.com">sharhass@me.com</a> Cell: <a href="mailto:carboncopy2@gmail.com">carboncopy2@gmail.com</a> Cell:</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSU AgCenter Volunteers</td>
<td>Cindy Manger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beachin70124@gmail.com">beachin70124@gmail.com</a> Cell: 504.481.7792</td>
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<td>Magic Wings Butterfly Garden</td>
<td>Dorothy Delaune</td>
<td><a href="mailto:regdelaune@aol.com">regdelaune@aol.com</a> Cell: 985.630.6503</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northshore Garden &amp; Plant Sale</td>
<td>Jan Pesses, Co-Chair Rodney Cross, Co-Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jpresses@charter.net">jpresses@charter.net</a> Cell: 504.458.6443 <a href="mailto:rod335i@live.com">rod335i@live.com</a> Cell: 985.778.3555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otis House Rose Garden</td>
<td>Ann Durel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adurel@bellsouth.net">adurel@bellsouth.net</a> Cell: 985.373.2111</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Partnership</td>
<td>Christy Paulsell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcpaulsell@gmail.com">jcpaulsell@gmail.com</a> Cell: 985.264.4926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slide Farmers Market</td>
<td>Sue Clites</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suetern@yahoo.com">suetern@yahoo.com</a> Cell: 985.951.0508</td>
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<td>Slide Memorial Hsptl Rehab Garden</td>
<td>Paul Andres</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pkandres@bellsouth.net">pkandres@bellsouth.net</a> Cell: 985.718.9161</td>
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<td>Speakers’ Bureau</td>
<td>Donna Howland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donna.howland@mac.com">donna.howland@mac.com</a> Cell: 508.733.5237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Super Plant Garden @ AgCenter</td>
<td>Ron Rowland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rrowlan60@gmail.com">rrowlan60@gmail.com</a> Cell: 504.329.0599</td>
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<td>TableTalks</td>
<td>Denise Schoen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neez@mindspring.com">neez@mindspring.com</a> Cell: 504.554.5486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegucators</td>
<td>Ron Wahl</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rjwahl@charter.net">rjwahl@charter.net</a> Cell: 985.640.8778</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. St. Tammany Habitat</td>
<td>Jenny Graffeo, Chair Nancy Thompson, Co-Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennygraffeo@hotmail.com">jennygraffeo@hotmail.com</a> Cell: 504.756.7806 <a href="mailto:nthomps25@bellsouth.net">nthomps25@bellsouth.net</a> Cell: 985.502.1716</td>
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The May board meeting was held at the St. Tammany Parish Library Causeway Branch, Mandeville, LA. In President Jan Gardner's absence, Vice President, Suzanne Krieger, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Suzanne Krieger, Jimmy DeJean, Deb Nolan, Art Scott, Mimi Padgett, and Cindy Manger were in attendance.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

There were no questions or comments regarding the April 2017 board minutes as they appeared in the May 2017 issue of *The Gardengoer*. Jimmy DeJean made a motion to accept the minutes with no opposition.

**Treasurer, Jimmy DeJean**

- Presented the STMGA April 2017 financial report. He will present the April report at the May 18th membership meeting.
- Presented a print out of expenses and income for the 2017 Northshore Plant and Garden Sale.
- Stated the need for a vote to allow present board members, Jan Gardner and Cindy Manger, to sign on the STMGA Gulf Coast Bank accounts and for the removal of former board members Susie Andres and Pamela Rowe from signing on the account. He suggested we sign below these minutes, which he will then present to Gulf Coast Bank.

Jimmy DeJean made a motion to allow present board members, Jan Gardner and Cindy Manger, to sign on STMGA Gulf Coast Bank accounts and to remove former board members, Susie Andres and Pamela Rowe, from signing on the STMGA Gulf Coast Bank accounts. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Krieger. The motion passed with a unanimous approval by the board members.
Vice President, Suzanne Krieger reported
- The program committee met to discuss future speakers for membership meetings. Almost all meetings have speakers scheduled.
- Discussed Fall seminar speakers.
- The Scholarship Committee will present scholarship checks to scholarship recipients at the May 18th membership meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:
Vice President, Suzanne Krieger, reported Ruth Landis (MGGNO member) will attend the May 18th membership meeting in pursuit of volunteers for the Milne Home in Waldheim.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM

Respectfully submitted

The following board members are allowed to sign on STMGA Gulf Coast Bank accounts:

_______________________      ________________________      _______________________
Elwood DeJean, Treasurer      Janette Gardner, President      Cynthia Manger, Secretary

The following former board members to be removed from signing on STMGA Gulf Coast Bank accounts:

__________________________     __________________________
Susie Andres                Pamela Rowe
The May 17, 2017 meeting was called to order by President Jan Gardner at 10:12 a.m. Donna Howland gave an invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jan Gardner.

Attendance: 76

PROGRAM & SPEAKER:

_Vice President_, Suzanne Krieger introduced this month's speaker, Nick Usner, who gave a very comprehensive talk on organic gardening. He has 55 acres near Waldheim and supplies various New Orleans restaurants with fresh, organic produce.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

_April 2017 minutes_ were approved as they appeared in the May 2017 issue of _The Gardengoer_ with a motion to accept by Deb Nolan. The members unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

_Treasurer_, Jimmy DeJean presented the April 2017 financial report as it appeared in May 15, 2017 M.o.M. There were no questions or corrections. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

_President_, Jan Gardner
- Introduced Linda Ferringer of the Milne Developmental Home in Waldheim, LA. She is asking STMGA members for support in planting flower and vegetable gardens for the residents. Jan added that we could teach the women as we do at Beau Provence Therapeutic Gardens. Tina Richardson is compiling a list of potential volunteers.
- Announced that recipes from the Herb Festival were available at the handout table.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

_Honors Chairman_, Sandy Arnoult asked that Master Gardeners who have not picked up their honors award bricks to contact her to receive their bricks.
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Two Dr. Bobby Fletcher scholarship recipients were present with their parents at the meeting to receive their checks. Both recipients will attend LSU. The wife and daughter of Dr. Fletcher were also present for the award ceremony. Jasmine Pittman from Northshore High will study dairy production, and Caroline Cantrell from St. Scholastica Academy will study textiles and design.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 followed by a potluck lunch. The lunch was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Nolan for Secretary, Cindy Manger
2017 St. Tammany Master Gardeners
Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons

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

Membership Committee Chair (2-year term): Marilyn Bingham (2nd 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: Sharon Hassinger and Karen Martin
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
Hello my fellow Master Gardeners,

I recently toured Bradford’s Daylily Plantation in Covington (see the article I wrote in this issue), and I have to admit that I was unprepared for what I would see. I was rendered utterly speechless. Hundreds of thousands of daylilies, more than 700 different varieties, graced almost every square inch of the Bradford’s three acre plot of land—and they were all blooming! The view left me jaw-dropped. Helen Babb and I spent almost two hours walking around the gardens with Dr. Bradford, and, most of that time, I barely uttered anything other than, “Oh my gosh! Look at that one!” Everywhere I turned, there was bloom after bloom after bloom, and they took my breath away. I was left with the same feeling of bewilderment and awe that I experienced the first time a plant that I had nurtured finally bloomed for the very first time. To truly consider the how of it, the design mechanics, how there had to be a perfect balance, both molecularly and environmentally, internally and externally, that had to happen at exactly the right moment was, and is, wonderful. That first bloom sparked an insatiable curiosity to know more. For me, that’s not a wholly unfamiliar feeling—I’m curious by nature. And while that curiosity can be a source of inspiration and beauty, looking more deeply at the world can also lead to pain and sorrow. But I’m willing to take that leap because the alternative would be unbearable. So, for those curious minds who are also willing to leap, may you land in a field of blooming daylilies.

Be well,
Tina
No matter the pull toward brink. No matter the florid, deep sleep awaits. There is a time for everything. Look, just this morning a vulture nodded his red, grizzled head at me, and I looked at him, admiring the sickle of his beak. Then the wind kicked up, and, after arranging that good suit of feathers he up and took off. Just like that. And to boot, there are, on this planet alone, something like two million naturally occurring sweet things, some with names so generous as to kick the steel from my knees: agave, persimmon, stick ball, the purple okra I bought for two bucks at the market. Think of that. The long night, the skeleton in the mirror, the man behind me on the bus taking notes, yeah, yeah. But look; my niece is running through a field calling my name. My neighbor sings like an angel and at the end of my block is a basketball court. I remember. My color's green. I'm spring.