



Master Gardener™

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

ST. TAMMANY PARISH MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 2074, Mandeville, Louisiana 70470

VOLUME 20 Issue 5

May 2017

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May ~

William Shakespeare

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Karen Martin's "Ditch Lilies" displayed in her handmade vase

President's Message

As a service organization dedicated to educating our community, the St. Tammany Master Gardener Association has tackled numerous worthy projects over the years. This month we are being asked to consider undertaking a few more.

Mr. Russell Sanders, Director of the Florida Parish Detention Center in Covington, presented a short slide-show of the facility at our April meeting, and he has asked for some of our members to volunteer to mentor these incarcerated young men, most of whom stay an average of three weeks. They have on-site vegetable gardens which could be tended, as well. Anyone interested in this endeavor should contact Will Afton, who will schedule a tour of the facility. In May, we shall see whether we have enough interest from our members to form a project.

Also requesting our help is the Milne Home for Developmentally Disabled Women, a 50-acre tract of land in Waldheim that houses approximately 50 women of all ages who have mental or physical disabilities. They would like Master Gardeners to teach simple horticultural crafts to these ladies, help them plant flowers around their gazebo, possibly much like what we do at the Beau Provence Memory Care Center. (This was brought to my attention by Ruth Landis, a New Orleans Master Gardener. I have asked her to write an article which can be found in this issue to introduce us to the Milne Home.) Again, if there are Master Gardeners willing to undertake this, we can create a project. Although she is unable to chair should this project move forward, Tina Richardson has agreed to collate a list of Master Gardeners show interest in this project. Please contact Tina if you are interested in volunteering.

I am proud to be a St. Tammany Master Gardener. Thank you for all that you do for our communities, our citizens, and our gardens.

Jan Gardner
Class of 2014
President



Vice President's Message

Dear Master Gardeners,

Nick Usner of GROW Farm will be our speaker for the May 17th meeting. Nick starts his day before dawn harvesting organically grown and pesticide-free vegetables from his fields in Waldheim. One of the first Louisiana farmers to gain organic certification, Nick and his helpers do everything by hand, from tilling to planting to harvesting. He inspects every vegetable and harvests only the prime produce that is not only delivered fresh, every day, to the best chefs on the Northshore, but is also sold at the farmer's markets in Covington and New Orleans.

A passionate supporter of the garden-to-table movement, Nick learned to grow red beans, sweet potatoes, and heritage blackberries from his adopted grandfather, Homer Dutch. He also learned the art of growing vegetables such as baby beets, Easter Egg radishes, nutty sunchokes, and Evangeline sweet potatoes from his father and from generations of farmers in the area. He also grows a rainbow of herbs, lettuces, and greens. Nick has nurtured 35 varieties of figs, 50 varieties of crisp tender okra, and 70 varieties of tomatoes.

I can't wait to hear Nick Usner share his expertise and passion for living "in the dirt" with us. I hope to see all of you at the meeting.

Suzanne Krieger
Class of 2012
Vice President
Program Chair



Festival of Flowers 2017 Spring Field Trip



Foliage as far as the eye can see



Some of the most beautiful mixed container gardens I have ever seen



The amount of work it took to prepare for the festival is staggering!



Such great ideas to take away!

Festival of Flowers, *continued*



Festival of Flowers, *continued*



Festival of Flowers, *continued*



Festival of Flowers, *continued*



Festival of Flowers, *continued*



And, a special thank you to the fabulous shutterbugs who so graciously contributed their photographs so that those who couldn't attend the field trip could also find inspiration: Theresa Wilfert, Caryn Lang, Cindy Manger, Suzanne Krieger, Geralyn Suhor, and Angela Dutel.

Thank You!

Remembering Anna Ribbeck

“Never underestimate the potential of one little seed and the abundance it can set forth.”



May 26, 1921 - July 30, 2014

Anna Roy Ribbeck achieved the bloom of Master Gardener status at the ripe age of 89, but the seeds were planted early—as the grandchild of those with French and German heritage, she grew in a Garden of Eden. These early lessons continued to take root as she grew into a young woman with a growing family. Anna founded "The Cottage Planters" in New Orleans following in the garden path of her mother, who had been one of the founders of perhaps the first garden club in New Orleans—"The Little Garden Group.

She soon became active in the New Orleans Garden Club Council and became known for her artistry in flower arranging. Between tending her now seven children and doting husband, she found time to work at Farley's Florist and Greenhouses. Anna also became a lecturer on house plants—their care and culture now second nature to her. Her own garden on Venus Street was full of every unusual plant one could imagine and she now had eight little gardeners trailing the path with her.

Remembering Anna Ribbeck

In 1963, her husband, Phil, was transferred by Exxon to Memphis where her knowledge and love of the garden filled a brand new city. She became a registered lecturer at the Civic Garden Center in Memphis and helped start not one, but three garden societies that are all still alive in the city, today. Soon the local public TV station contacted her to do a weekly show and she became known as "The Plant Doctor."



Early in 1976, Phil was transferred back to New Orleans and Anna's roots were replanted at 118 Riverwood Drive in Covington. She wrote gardening columns for two magazines on the Northshore and one in Jefferson parish. Anna had a collection of more than 200 gardening books and her knowledge was freely given to anyone in need. In between all of this, she found time to raise a garden of children (8) and grandchildren (35) and great grandchildren (13) and that garden is still growing! Her ripened blooms have sewn their seeds by way of these many family members into gardens all over the country.

Remembering Anna Ribbeck

As she approached the winter of her life, Anna found many ways to spread her "green" joy by blooming bigger and more colorful than ever. Her life motto could be summed up in one sentence, "Never underestimate the potential of one little seed and the abundance it can set forth!"

Reprinted with the express consent of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc., 2014



At 89, Anna achieved her dream of becoming a Master Gardener, graduating with the class of 2010



Anna quickly found her niche when she became involved in awarding the Bobby Fletcher Scholarship

The Milne Home for Developmentally Disabled

A Potential New Project for Master Gardeners



Milne Developmental Services provides high-quality programs and care services for adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Our professional staff develops a new individualized program and service plan-of-action every 90 days to meet and exceed each person's individual physical and emotional needs. Milne has, historically, been funded mainly through investments, but more recently has also received funding through state Medicaid programs.

History

Our philanthropic founder, Alexander Milne, for whom Milne is named, bequeathed his estate to our organization and three others in 1844. Decades of unrest, wars, and pestilence diminished Milne's presence until the early 1900s, when the Governor of Louisiana re-appointed local civic-minded women to, once again, lead Milne into the future. Originally, the Milne facility was located in New Orleans in a neighborhood known as Gentilly. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gentilly property and residents were moved to an empty nursing home in Mississippi, where rooms were renovated to meet the needs of the developmentally disabled adults. Milne remained in that location until the current facility outside of Covington, Louisiana was finished and ready for occupancy by our residents, many of whom have lived longer than might be expected of individuals with disabilities.

Population Served

Although our early records are sketchy and the flooding following Hurricane Katrina destroyed many of our existing records, we believe that Milne has served approximately 350 girls and women during its existence. Some of our current residents first came to Milne as children. Currently, eleven homes are occupied by women and one is occupied by men. Each home has four occupants, each of whom has their own bedroom and share two bathrooms. Staff members are assigned to each home 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week to assist in daily living needs. The communal area of the homes are designed with a full

The Milne Home for Developmentally Disabled

A Potential New Project for Master Gardeners

kitchen, dining and living room, enclosed porch, secured medical cabinet, a staff bathroom, laundry room, and family room. The facility also includes a community building with classrooms, offices, a hair salon, and Café Milne that is open to residents, staff, guests, and the public. There are two other buildings containing administration and professional staff offices.

Geographic Description

Milneburg is situated on 55 acres on the south side of Highway 21, eight miles east of Covington in Waldheim Township. The elevation of the property is approximately 100 feet above sea level. The property is forested and has three working wells. Two large wells supply the water treatment plant and water to the sprinkler system, while the other supplies drinkable water. We also have eight generators that supply power to the entire complex. We planted several additional pine trees in 2013 to offset trees lost to construction. All of the buildings are designed to withstand a Level IV Hurricane with 200-mile-an-hour wind speeds and includes state of the art storm shutters.

Scope and Management of the Garden Project

The garden facility is being planned in phases. Initially, a horticultural specialist and landscape architect will develop a master design plan so that there will be no need to disturb early-phase work when later phases are undertaken. The first phase will include the construction of both permanent and temporary gardens with simple and inexpensive materials. Over the following five years, we intend to expand the gardens using more expensive materials for walkways, walled gardens, etc.

The garden initially will begin with simple, raised beds that will bring the “ground” up to a more workable height for our residents. We have received dedicated funding to build a gazebo that will be centrally located and will provide some respite, shade, and seating for our residents when walking across campus. The Gazebo will be surrounded by raised beds, and pathways and will be considered a central part of our Garden Facility. The garden facility will also have easy access to water and electricity.

Handicapped accessible bathrooms will be within a reasonable distance from the garden site. Over time, we intend to construct and maintain a compost bin, a chicken coup, a hummingbird garden, a butterfly garden, a native, fruit tree orchard, a vegetable garden, a meditation garden, an herb garden, and an apiary. We intend to develop a relationship with local beekeepers to maintain the apiary, which will be located at distant location from our occupied homes.

The Milne Home for Developmentally Disabled

A Potential New Project for Master Gardeners

Accessories and Tools for the Garden Project

Worktables will be constructed, or made available, in our classrooms for gardeners to perform tasks such as, potting plants, sowing seeds, or pruning. There will be accessible storage space for placement of tools, supplies, and workshop and educational materials. Storage areas/lean-tos may be designed to also serve as activity/work areas. Residents will be able to safely and easily store all tools in the storage area. Gloves will be provided to protect hands and help maintain a grip on tools. A large magnifying glass will be available to help see small plants and seeds, and the use of a piece of lightweight, plastic pipe will help sow seeds without bending over. Residents will be provided with an apron or smock with large front pockets to carry seed packets, tools, and a whistle to provide a short blast alerting others should they need assistance.

Plenty of seating will be placed around the gardens to offer shady, rest areas for the residents, volunteers, and staff for respite on hot days, and to simply enjoy the garden. Spaces will be provided for privacy and social interaction. The gardens will also offer natural distractions that elicit emotional responses which might include moving water, art, and animals.

Milne has existing air-conditioned classrooms that can be utilized for the various garden-associated activities. They can be equipped for plant propagation, potting and plant crafts, nearby sinks, multiple working surfaces, and storage areas with pullout bins for soil, pots, etc. Multiple storage cabinets and closets for craft materials and tool storage are available. Our classrooms can accommodate groups of 30 people with chairs and different table configurations. All classrooms have movable walls that can be opened to accommodate a larger meeting environment.

We would greatly appreciate the help of Master Gardeners to provide volunteers to work with our residents and provide them with a Horticultural Therapy curriculum. I am requesting St. Tammany Master Gardener volunteers to provide some of the following educational classes on a bi-weekly basis:

- Educating our residents about garden planning and soil preparation
- Propagating, transplanting, and producing plants and flowers
- Preparing seed trays
- Growing organic herbs, vegetables, and flowers

The Milne Home for Developmentally Disabled

A Potential New Project for Master Gardeners

- Honeybee studies
- Using plant material in cooking
- Artistic displays and crafts such as, hanging leaf mobiles, wreath decorating, making scented bath products, beeswax candles, etc.

We welcome any additional project recommendations, including projects surrounding holidays or special events that may be taking place in the community. Milne will be happy to provide basic materials that will be needed for projects, but we do ask that master gardeners provide plant materials such as, cuttings, seeds, or plant materials from their own gardens for the activities and for use in expanding our garden beds.

Thank you so much for your generosity in sharing this with your master gardeners. We hope that the St. Tammany Master Gardeners will be interested in working with our community.

Sincerely,

Ruth Landis, Milne Developmental Services

Slidell Memorial Hospital Courtyard Garden

Preparing for the Annual Plant Sale!

We are experiencing some great garden weather, and the Slidell Memorial Hospital Courtyard Garden is responding remarkably well. Color is everywhere with oleander, lantana, hydrangea, hibiscus, Philippine violets, esperanza, Easter lilies, penta, and many more blooms.

The team has been busy working to get things ready for the first plant sale of the year on **Wednesday, May 10th from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.** We are displaying several of the plants as they might appear in a home garden, so the customers can get a better idea of color, size, texture, and spacing.

We are having a fun time at the Courtyard Garden and invite all Master Gardeners to stop by any time and enjoy ~



One raised bed with Philippine Violet, Lantana, select herbs, and Esperanza plant



Butterfly Iris



Easter Lily coming into bloom

Slidell Memorial Hospital Courtyard Garden, *continued*



Esperanza plant



Ruthanne Johnson and Kathleen Guidry
cleaning up the Courtyard Garden for
the May 10th plant sale

LOUISIANA AgCenter
SMH Courtyard Garden

Slidell Memorial Hospital Plant Sale

Wednesday, May 10 FROM 2 TO 6 PM

St Tammany Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions

- Established plants are available
 - peace lilies
 - white shrimp plants
 - Swedish ivy
 - Philippine violets
 - cactus
 - bromeliads
 - succulents
 - herbs
 - and many more
- Spring is here and Summer is coming on strong. Come get some plants and ask some questions - we'll have Master Gardeners on hand to help.

COME OUT AND ENJOY YOUR GARDEN!
GET YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS ANSWERED!
SEE YOU THERE!

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

Paul Andres
Class of 2010



Woodlake Elementary Legacy Garden

On March 28, 2017, we officially started the Woodlake Elementary School Legacy Garden. The project is the result of a generous grant provided by Jacqueline “Jinx” Vidrine, PhD of the Northshore Community Foundation and an equally generous matching grant from Marian Arrowsmith, a former principal of Woodlake. Additional funds for the project will be provided by the Woodlake PTA.

It was a beautiful but warm day and we had a great turn out of Master Gardener volunteers. We laid the geotextile, built and filled two raised beds, installed a tunnel from cattle fencing, and two beds on each side to be used for vining vegetables such as, pole beans, peas, etc. We also placed and filled painted tires designed to resemble a caterpillar. Those tires were planted with Milkweed. The principal of Woodlake Elementary, Leigh Parker, has since provided two raised-bed, self-watering grow boxes for butterfly plants, as well as two custom, raised beds to be used as sensory gardens that were designed with children in mind. Principal Parker also provided a custom-made, wishing well planter box. Woodlake Elementary is very excited about this project, and they are very grateful for the guidance of the Master Gardeners.



Front row – Christy Paulsell, Karen Martin, Kathy Keppel (Woodlake PTA), Barbara Briggs, Sue McGuire, Eileen Crane, and Helen Babb

Back row – Jinx Vidrine, Gordon Keuhl, Pat Sharpe, and Pete Hanson

Woodlake Elementary School Legacy Project, *continued*



On Thursday, April 6, 2017, we helped the children plant the beds with tomatoes, squash, pole bean seeds, and a pizza garden that consisted of the herbs normally used in pizza-making, along with a tea garden using different flavors of mint. We are off to a great start! For those of you who are not familiar with Woodlake Elementary School, it is in Old Mandeville at the corner of Foy and Livingston. The property backs up to Bayou Castine, and it has a beautiful, wooden nature walk and outdoor area that looks over the marsh lands and bayou. It is in the process of being renovated and will serve as an outdoor classroom that we hope will be integrated into the garden project.

Thanks to all who helped get this project started, and please feel free to join in the fun!

Pat Sharpe
Class of 2015



Spring Garden Fest

The Master Gardeners partnered with the Covington Library to host the Spring Garden Fest, Saturday, April 22, 2017. The weather was beautiful, and there were multiple events being held in downtown Covington that brought out the crowds. We had 205 people attend this year! There were many who made sure that the word got out—Jillian Boudreaux, the Library's Adult Education Director, made sure the event was mentioned in the newspaper, Publicity Chairperson, Tim Zimmerman, sent out flyers to our public email list, Donna Howland went to the Farmers' Market and the Antique Heritage Festival to hand out flyers on Saturday, and Betty Cronin posted an announcement on our Facebook page.

Our speakers were knowledgeable and engaging. Rodney Cross talked about planting and caring for vegetables and was mobbed with questions afterward. The chefs from Del Porto demonstrated how to make a delicious, fresh beet salad that got outstanding reviews from everyone, and we finished up the day with Peggy Goertz talking about the flowers and plants that will attract hummingbirds and butterflies to our gardens. Will Afton was there most of the day and was busy answering gardening questions.

The table talks, included: Jim Bates with his bees, Barry Pierce's composting, Dana Easley's keyhole gardening, Judy McCloskey and Denise Schoen with their beautiful roses, and Donna Dicharry talking about herbs. There was a steady stream of participants picking up handouts and asking questions.

As usual, the tastings were outstanding. Pam Peltier and Kappy Goodwin organized and served a veritable buffet which included: marinated caprese bites, hummus, a vegetable tray with dips, spinach artichoke dip, roasted vegetable and orzo salad, and a delicious pasta salad. Kappy offered a refreshing cucumber-lime water and raspberry tea. Delightful!

Barbara Briggs gave instructions on how to make herb soaps and gave everyone samples—the soap smelled wonderful! Monica Pierce had lots of kids learning about pollinators and making bee crafts. Having the event on Saturday brought out the families! Nancy Munn was there selling our gloves and people were buying.

Spring Garden Fest, *continued*

Once again this year, Bill and Sylvia from Dogwood Hill Nursery brought beautiful flowers and herbs for people to purchase. They didn't have many left at the end of the day!!

Geralyn Suhor and Sharon Hassinger were great at tracking down people that wandered into the Garden Fest and making sure they registered so we could get a good head-count. Tina Richardson donated daylilies and irises to give away with a filled-out evaluation form. They were a big hit!

Joan Gagliano and Chris Stellingworth put together some beautiful baskets with small vegetable plants and fresh vegetables for our table decorations. We had to beat people off with a stick to keep them from taking or trying to buy them! Thanks so much to Stelz Nursery for donating three flats of those small vegetables.

Jan Pesses worked all day introducing speakers, making sure everyone had water (and chocolate!) and solving all the little problems that cropped up. Thanks so much to Johnny Despeaux for showing up early to set up the speaker system; People had no problem hearing our presentations clearly.

Jan and I would like to thank everyone who helped and also, those of you that came out to see the event. We will definitely be hosting another one next year.

Jan Pesses
Class of 2013



Julie Deus
Class of 2009
Past President



Spring Garden Fest, *continued*



Spring Garden Fest, *continued*



Spring Garden Fest, *continued*



Spring Garden Fest, *continued*



Committee Chairs' Contact Information Education Committee (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 ** (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—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	jepaulsell@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 April 12, 2017 BOARD Meeting Minutes

The board meeting was held on April 12, 2017 at the St. Tammany Public Library, Causeway Branch, Mandeville, LA. President, Jan Gardner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Jan Gardner, Suzanne Krieger, Jimmy DeJean, Art Scott, Tim Zimmerman, Will Afton, and Cindy Manger were in attendance.

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

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Treasurer, Jimmy DeJean presented the STMGA March 2017 financial report. Jimmy explained he is awaiting the final expenses and/or payments for the Spring Seminar, Plant Sale, and Spring Field Trip. He will present the March report at the April 18th membership meeting.

President, Jan Gardner

- Commended Publicity Chairman, Tim Zimmerman for his impeccable publicity work. The board wholeheartedly agreed.
- Announced the STMGA post office box address is P. O. Box 2074, Mandeville, LA 70470. Art Scott will post the info in M.o.M. and suggested the address be permanently posted in future issues of The Gardengoer near the header.
- Distributed 20 STMGA newly-designed note cards each to Vice President, Suzanne Krieger and to Secretary, Cindy Manger. Requests for note cards may be made to Jan Gardner, who will store them.
- Announced that we are a nonprofit with the state of Louisiana, but she is still looking into becoming a 501(c)(3), mostly to encourage sponsorship for our many projects/events.
- Agreed to look into a professional to handle our web page development.
- Announced she and Suzanne Krieger will contact Liberty Storage regarding a donation of a storage unit for STMGA use, since the storage container near the AgCenter is in poor condition and is not meeting our storage needs.

BOARD Meeting Minutes, *continued*

- Announced to be on the lookout in the May issue of The Gardengoer for a letter from MGGNO member, Ruth Landis, requesting help from STMGA members at the Milne Home in Waldheim. She previously made the same request at a membership meeting in 2016.

Vice President, *Suzanne Krieger* reported the field trip to the Festival of Flowers was a huge success, with all participants agreeing they would welcome the opportunity to attend again.

PROJECT REPORTS:

- Jan Gardner reported the Covington Library Spring Garden Fest committee has requested \$100 for supplies for the April 22nd event. Jimmy DeJean motioned to approve spending up to \$250 with a unanimous approval by the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The board unanimously agreed that Publicity Chairman, Tim Zimmerman should handle all free publicity. Tim will also handle any paid publicity when a committee chair deems paid publicity necessary. This will only be handled at the request of a committee chairman. The cost of the publicity for the chairperson's event will be included in the budget of that event.
- Scholarship Committee selected a student from St. Scholastica Academy and a student from Northshore High School. The committee will be presenting the two scholarships to the recipients at their respective school awards ceremonies.
- Will Afton announced
 - Regional Director, Dr. Regina Bracy, will be retiring on June 30, 2017. Interviews of prospective candidates are underway.
 - He received a thank you letter from Dr. Allen Owings for the 2016 STMGA \$500 donation to the Hammond Research Station. Jimmy DeJean motioned to vote at the membership meeting regarding a 2017 \$500 donation.
 - September 29th is set for Master Gardener Appreciation Day at the Hammond Research Station.
 - At the April 19th membership meeting, Florida Parishes Detention Center Director or Assistant Director will be presenting members with a possible new project for

BOARD Meeting Minutes, *continued*

- STMGA. The center rehabilitates youth, ages 9-21, with the average age being 13. They have 12 raised bed gardens and would like help from STMGA members so the center may utilize them as part of rehabilitation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Publicity Chairman, *Tim Zimmerman* suggested standardizing the STMGA procedure to distribute produce. He presented his idea with his example, complete with labels. The idea will be brought to the membership at the April meeting.

M.o.M. Editor, *Art Scott* suggested using the titles “Committee Chairman” and “Committee Vice Chairman,” which would replace the title “Co-Chairman” and/or “Co-Chairmen.” The board wholeheartedly agreed.

Secretary, *Cindy Manger*, at the request of Jan Gardner, presented the board with information regarding the use of PayPal for payments made to STMGA in various instances. Cindy agreed to investigate “Event Brite” and “Constant Contact,” each of which might integrate the use of applications or order forms with payment for STMGA seminars, events, merchandise, dues, etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Cindy Manger
Class of 2009
Secretary



St. Tammany Master Gardener Association April 19, 2017 MEMBERSHIP Meeting Minutes

The April 19, 2017 meeting was called to order by President, Jan Gardner at 10:05 a.m. at the Castine Center in Pelican Park, Mandeville, LA. Linda Deslatte gave an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jan Gardner.

Attendance: 83

PROGRAM & SPEAKER:

Vice President, *Suzanne Krieger* introduced this month's speaker, our own STMGA Treasurer, Jimmy DeJean. Jimmy gave a very informative presentation on how to perform a soil test, how to calculate the proper amounts of fertilizer, and how to convert a soil test to organic fertilizer. In addition, he displayed images of a variety of brands of traditional and organic fertilizer. He presented members with a handout which included a table to be used as a quick reference guide for common fertilizers.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

March 2017 meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the April 2017 issue of *The Gardengoer* with a motion to accept by Deb Nolan, then with the members unanimously voting to accept the minutes.

Treasurer, *Jimmy DeJean* presented the March 2017 financial report as it appeared in April 17, 2017 M.o.M. He stated the profitability of the 2017 Plant Sale, but was still awaiting final receipts and payments to give a final profit amount. There were no questions or corrections. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President, *Jan Gardner* reported

- The Scholarship Committee has awarded two scholarships thus far. One to a student at St. Scholastica Academy and the other to a student at Northshore High. The certificates will be awarded to the recipients at their respective schools. The checks will be awarded to the recipients at the May 17, 2017 membership meeting, where a reception will be held after the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP Meeting Minutes, *continued*

- Be on the lookout for a letter in the May issue of *The Gardengoer* from MGGNO member Ruth Landis regarding a request for STMGA volunteers at the Milne Home in Waldheim.
- Urbain Breaud will be presenting two classes on mounting Bromeliads. Dates and times will be in *M.o.M* and *The Gardengoer*.
- Membership Honors Chairperson, Sandy Arnoult needs members who earned bricks to pick them up from her car. It's weighing it down! She also has honor pins for those who earned them.
- The new STMGA note cards are available thru Cindy Manger, Suzanne Kreiger, and Jan Gardner.
- Scholarship brochures are available for displaying at farmers' markets in order to make the public aware of the STMGA scholarships for next year.
- Vice President, Suzanne Krieger is in need of a Vice Chairperson for the 2017 Fall Seminar. Geralyn Suhor has seven (7) bags of shredded paper, in case anyone has a use for it.

Vice President, *Suzanne Krieger*

- Thanked the Program Committee for all their hard work on the Spring field trip and in acquiring speakers for the membership meetings. She also applauded the Hospitality Committee for handling snacks and drinks for the field trip.
- Announced any ideas for the Fall field trip are welcome. All info will be in *M.o.M.* and *The Gardengoer*.

County Agent & MG Advisor, *Will Afton*

- Informed the members of the shedding of leaves by Magnolia Trees. The trees aren't dying!
- Introduced Director, Russell Sanders and Operations Assistant, Taylor Zeigler, of the Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center. They shared a video regarding the facility and the good work they do. The facility won a national award in 2016 for their exemplary work in Cognitive Based Therapy. The director and operations manager summoned the members for their help with ten 10' x 5' raised bed vegetable gardens. The center donates their yield from the garden to a Hammond food pantry. Volunteer packets were available for interested volunteers. In addition, the center's representatives were available following the meeting to answer any questions.

MEMBERSHIP Meeting Minutes, *continued*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publicity Chairperson, *Tim Zimmerman*

- Reminded all members to wear their Master Gardener name tag in addition to their logo merchandise (shirt, hat, apron, etc.) at STMGA sponsored events/functions.
- Presented his idea for standardizing the method in which STMGA herbs, vegetables, seeds, etc. are distributed to the public. He displayed a plastic zip bag to hold the contents and a common label on the outside of the bag, which included the name of the contents of the bag and a statement “Grown in Cooperation with STMGA,” complete with logo. He noted the option of placing in the bag an informational card regarding the contents of the bag (general info, scientific name, cooking uses, etc.). A discussion ensued where the cost was discussed, among other things. The end result was a number of members agreed to join Tim as part of a publicity sub-committee to discuss the logistics and present their findings at the May 17th membership meeting.

Covington Library Spring Garden Fest is still in need of volunteers at the event, as announced by Jan Pesses. Set up will begin at 8 a.m. with the event being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All members are welcome to help.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

Respectfully submitted

Cindy Manger
Class of 2009
Secretary



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: 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,

Something has happened to time. Time is the one thing that we could (literally) count on to be faithful and immutable. Yet, time seems to have become this mercurial thing—an illusion of dependability. And, specifically, time has begun to pass differently in my garden. I will be working for what I believe has been no more than an hour, yet that hour has somehow become three hours, and sometimes four, or even five! And I think to myself *How is this possible? What has happened to time?* The lengthening shadows should have alerted me, I suppose. But, to consider the nature of time and how it moves, the only true measurement is change—the change of the sun's position in the sky, the changing seasons—but if change is the only reliable measurement of the passage of time, would the measure of a day remain the same if the blooms on my daylilies never wilted? I used to measure my life in minutes and hours, but now I find myself measuring my life in shovels full of soil and spent blooms. Perhaps it's not that time has gone rogue, perhaps I've simply lost a sense of it and I am able to step outside its passage. So, let time march on—I'm in my garden.

Be well,
Tina



THE GARDENGOER
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH
MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



Cooperative Extension Service

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Website: www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/

Putting in the Seed By Robert Frost

You come to fetch me from my work to-night
When supper's on the table, and we'll see
If I can leave off burying the white
Soft petals fallen from the apple tree.
(Soft petals, yes, but not so barren quite,
Mingled with these, smooth bean and wrinkled pea;)
And go along with you ere you lose sight
Of what you came for and become like me,
Slave to a springtime passion for the earth.
How Love burns through the Putting in the Seed
On through the watching for that early birth
When, just as the soil tarnishes with weed,
The sturdy seedling with arched body comes
Shouldering its way and shedding the earth crumbs.