



ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 2074, Mandeville, Louisiana 70470

Website: stmastergardener.org

VOLUME 22 Issue 1

Jan/Feb 2019

**Keep your face always toward the sunshine -
 and shadows will fall behind you** ~Walt Whitman

An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

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Topiary in Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Introducing STMGA Class of 2018



Class of 2018 Members (alphabetical)

Diane Bilbo, Darice Breeding, James Briggs, Debbie Byrnes, Jeanne Comeaux, Magali Dumontet, Melanie Edwards, Susan Enloe, Yvonne Giovingo, Wendy Hilker, Jay Hilker, Suzette Hubbell, Susan James, Earlyn Jaster, Ann Jolly, Joseph Laws, Kris Majnerick, Barbara Marino, Gayle Miller, Roger Mitchell, Dawne Pflughoeft, Sebastian Prator, Jane Sanchez, Janet Schexnayder, Snoann Willet, Frank Williams, Cathy Wills

STMGA Field Trips of 2018

STMGA had three awesome field trips in 2018. Each trip included transportation by bus, lots of gourmet food, and tons of gardening education. But best of all, the trips included the building of camaraderie with fellow master gardeners and meeting others who share our love of gardening.



April 2018 Field Trip: a three day excursion to Little Rock, Arkansas

It started out early one spring morning last April with our master gardeners and guests loading onto our coach to adventure. After 8 hours of gourmet snacks and convivial conversation, the coach arrived at our hotel destination. That evening we had a chance to walk off those sore muscles and discover the shops and restaurants of downtown Little Rock.

STMGA Field Trips of 2018, April continued



The next morning we embarked on our tour of Moss Mountain, the 500-acre home of gardening celebrity, P. Allen Smith. Moss Mountain is located just outside Little Rock on the banks of the Arkansas River. The landscaped grounds and buildings were ours to explore and enjoy: acres of formal and informal gardens, homes, fountains, garden art, apiaries, scenic views ... all a delight. During lunch at Moss Mountain Allen gave us a presentation on his background and work in garden landscaping starting with formal gardens in the English countryside.



STMGA Field Trips of 2018, April continued



That evening we explored Edgemont, a 6000 square foot Spanish Colonial with 2 courtyards built in 1927. It is the home of another gardening and lifestyle celebrity, Chris Olsen. When Chris bought Edgemont in 2016, it was in total disrepair with a rain damaged interior. He entertained us with his larger-than-life stories about falling in love with the structure at first sight and restoring it to become his magnificent home. We wine and dined there with Chris and his friendly pup. As gracious as his southern hospitality was, it took second seat to his colorful gardens and surroundings.



STMGA Field Trips of 2018, April continued

As we headed home on our last day we made one more stop at Marlsgate Plantation in Scott, Arkansas. We strolled the formal gardens which were designed and planted by P. Allen Smith. We admired a glass atrium complete with wood sprites. Then lunched in formal dining rooms hosted by Martha Ellen and Beau Talbot, the current owners. It was an educational and inspirational 3-day trip that gave us lots of ideas to incorporate into our own gardens back home.



STMGA 2018 Field Trips: June



June 2018 Field Trip: one day excursion to three Mississippi facilities

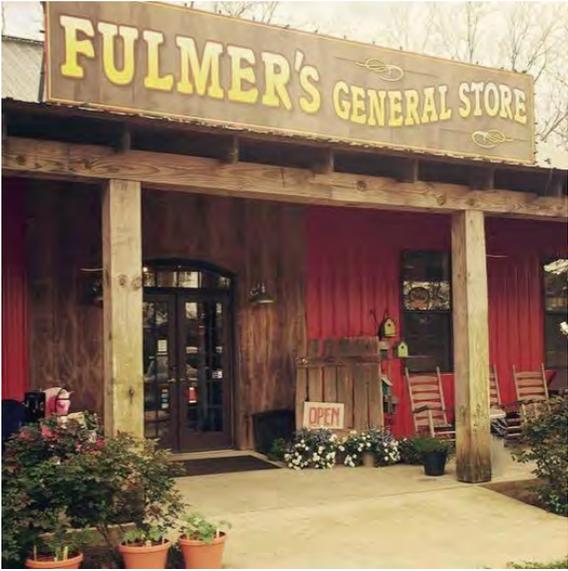
The Mississippi State Beaumont Horticultural Unit is located on 20 acres in Beaumont MS. Our hosts, Dr. Christine Coker and her staff, gave us a lecture and tour of the facility and gardens which included herbs, medicinals, fruits, vegetables, grasses, and ornamentals. The lecture included recommended gardening practices and techniques to encourage vegetable production and reduce time spent weeding. We were shown the experimental crop of hops, miniature potted eggplants and tomato plants.



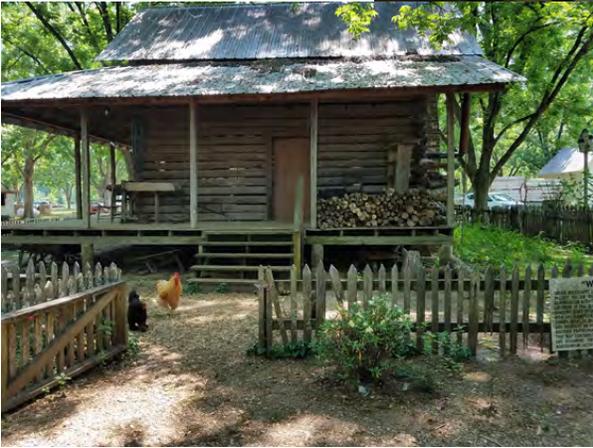
Beaumont, continued



STMGA 2018 Field Trips: June, continued



For lunch we dined at Fulmer General Store and Bakery, a working farm and produce grocery. Fulmer's, in Richton, Mississippi, is a horse-drawn family farm with a home-steading atmosphere. The farm includes pecan orchards, century old cabins, antique farming equipment and a fully operating bakery, café, book store and general grocery.



STMGA 2018 Field Trips: June, *continued*

Our third and final stop on the June field trip was South Mississippi Branch Experimental Station in Poplarville. Our host, Dr Eugene Blythe, introduced us to the All American Selection of ornamentals, small fruits, vegetable plants and melons that he and his staff are improving for home gardeners. We strolled through the vibrant gardens with him and his staff pointing out differences in individual varieties and cultivars that flourish (or not!!) in our local environment. He also directed us to resources online to learn more about improving our own gardens.



STMGA 2018 Field Trips: October Atlanta, Asheville & Birmingham

Our fall bus trip started out with Suzanne Krieger's delicious food accompanied by tempting desserts from fellow travelers. Our first stop was Atlanta. After checking into the hotel we had dinner at the Buckhead Diner. Sitting at tables with current friends and making new ones, we enjoyed a great meal. The next day we went to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens where we were enchanted by large fantasy topiaries and landscaped flowers and plants. Definitely worthy of another visit on a future trip.



Lunch was at the Swan House where we were delighted by the beautiful gardens. Then on to Asheville with dinner at an excellent Barbecue dinner at Luella's – more fun with friends and good food as well.



STMGA 2018 Field Trips October, continued

The next day and night was spent exploring the Biltmore. What an absolutely wondrous experience. Chihuly glass sculptures were everywhere. Returning to Biltmore at night gave us another breathtaking view of the magical glass enhanced by lighting.

Biltmore is an historic landmark with its own supporting town, shops and restaurants, working winery, and farm. The landscape itself was worth the visit.

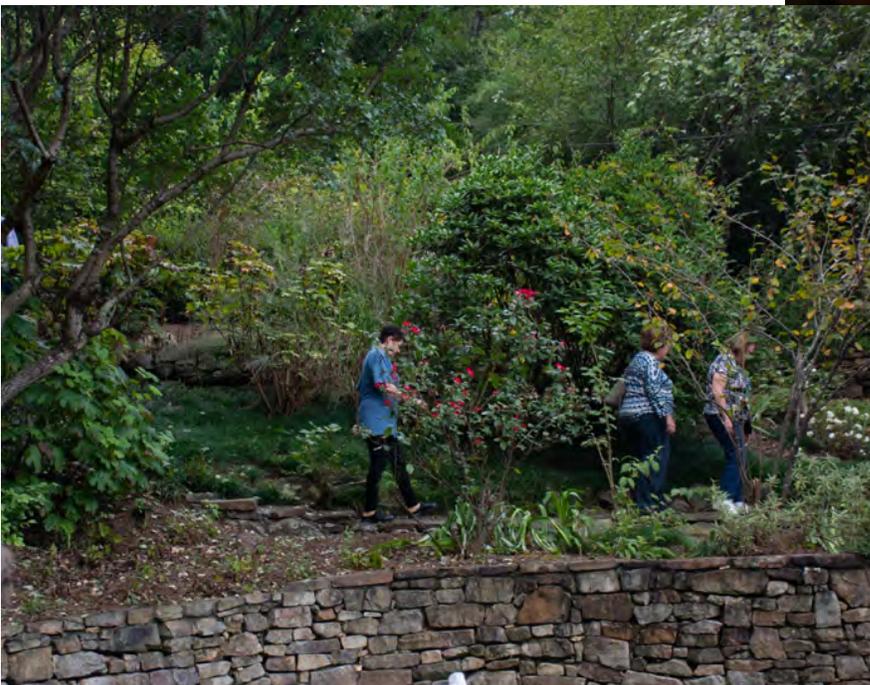


On day four after a hearty breakfast buffet we boarded the bus to Lyda's Apple Farm & Orchard where we were greeted by Deb Lyda, fifth generation owner. Apples, pumpkins, and scarecrows were everywhere! We sampled cider and loaded the bus with apples, gourds and pumpkins. Then on to Birmingham where we toured the private garden of Louise Wrinkle, a prominent member of the Garden Club of America and author of *Listen to the Land*. That evening we dined in the quaint restaurants downtown near our hotel, the historic Tutwiler.



STMGA 2018 Field Trips October, continued

At the Birmingham Botanical Gardens we took self-guided tours and strolled through the Antique and Garden Show which tempted us with antique furniture, jewelry and garden follies.



After a short scenic drive, we lunched at the private home of June Mays. We had a chance to stroll through her beautiful gardens before finally heading home. Everyone wanted to know where we were going on our next trip!

2018 Field Trip Contributors:
Jamie Blazek
Mary Kathryn Villere
Suzanne Krieger
and thanks to all who shared their photos

Proper Planting of Trees and Shrubs



Live Oak at Hammond Research Center

1. Find a location suitable for the particular tree or shrub in question with respect to sun and shade needs. Look for a site with good drainage and doesn't collect water after a rain.
2. Identify the root flare (synonymous with trunk flare and basal flare). The root flare is the area at the base of the trunk where the roots growth into the soil. In most cases, the trunk flares outward similar to the shape of a trumpet.

Proper Planting of Trees and Shrubs, cont

3. Remove the container and/or cut away the wire cage. Be careful not to disturb roots. However, in root bound containers, you may prune circling roots with a sharp pair of pruners to encourage outward growth.

4. Dig a wide but shallow planting hole. The planting hole should be 2-3 times the width of the root ball. The depth should be the same height as the root ball or soil level in the container. Use the root flare as a guide. The root flare should be visible above the soil grade.

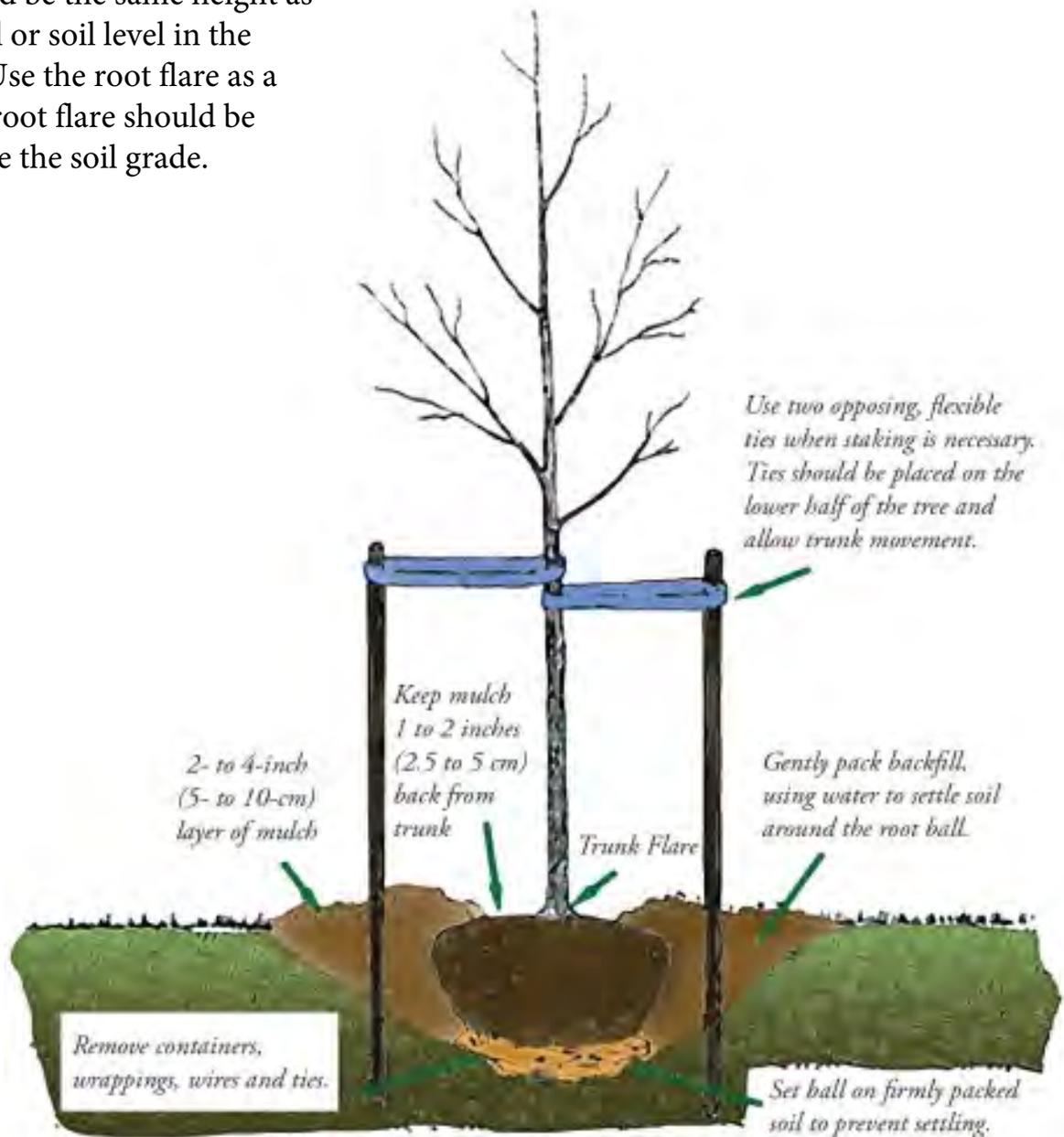


Image courtesy of the International Society of Arboriculture
<http://www.isa-arbor.com>

Proper Planting of Trees and Shrubs, cont

5. Fill in the hole with the backfill from the original digging of the planting hole. Do not fill the hole with potting or garden soil. In heavy, clay dominant soils you make mix in a shovel full of composted material. Pack the soil gently but firmly to remove air pockets in the rooting zone. Watering can also help in this manner. Do not add any type fertilizer during the first year.
6. For larger trees and shrubs, staking is a good idea. The object of staking has nothing to do with helping a tree grow straight but rather to keep it from uprooting itself. Use a three-stake system and remove after the first year.



7. Mulch around the base of the tree. Use any of the organic mulching products available such as pine straw, pine bark, or hardwood chips. Mulch the entire width of the planting hole at two to three inches thick. Pull mulch away from the trunk of the tree to avoid volcano mulching.
8. Follow up with supplemental irrigation for the remainder of the season. If not raining, look to water when the soil turns dry. Proper care during the first year of a tree or shrub greatly increases the chances for success.

Will Afton
County Agent
LSU AgCenter



Editor's Note: HELP WANTED

The Gardengoer is the official publication of the St. Tammany Master Gardener Association. It is one of the official records of the activities of our association. As such, it needs input from our members, especially those in charge of projects. What are you working on? Who are you impacting? Are you educating St. Tammany residents? Are you a volunteer planting gardens for new home owners or schools? Don't hide your good works under a bushel barrel. Let the world know what you are doing. Send some pictures of our STMGA members while they create, educate, and plant.

Does your committee need more volunteers? The Gardengoer is a great way to put a spotlight on what you do so others can come join the fun.

How about writing an article about what you planted this year. Or how to photograph flowers. Or how to clean and sharpen tools. Any topic, prose or poem, that is garden related. Did you visit a garden while on vacation? Send some pictures and descriptions. Your words don't have to be perfect or polished. We can help with that. Time spent composing articles can be added to your volunteer hours.

Help make this publication interesting and appealing.

I look forward to seeing what everyone is planting.

Jamie Blazek
Master gardener & Vegucator
Editor, *Gardengoer*



2018 St. Tammany Master Gardener Association Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons

President: Suzanne Krieger (1st year)
 Vice President: Jan Pesses (1st year)
 Treasurer: Donna Moran (1st year)
 Secretary: Mary Kathryn Villere (2nd year)
 Past President: Jan Gardener
 LSU County Agent: Will Afton

Plant Sale: Julie Deus (2nd year)
 Membership Chair: Helen Babb (2nd year)
 Scholarship committee: Kay Hanson (2nd year)
 Nominating: TBA
 Finance: TBA



Facilitators (no term limit)

Audio /visual	Mark Flynn
Awards	Sandy Arnoult and Sandra Pecoraro
By-laws	Art Scott
Facebook	Betty Cronin
Gardengoer	Jamie Blazek
Gloves	Marilyn Bingham
Historical	Janet Reuther
Hospitality	Barbara Moore
Merchandise	Pam Perret
MG Master Calendar	Leslie Boucher
MoM	Art Scott
Muscle	Wes Goostrey
Parliamentarian	Mary Ann Brannan
Publicity	Caryn Lang
Webmaster	Caryn Lang

**2018 St. Tammany Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons, cont**

Educational Outreach: Mimi Padgett

Educational chairs: no term limits

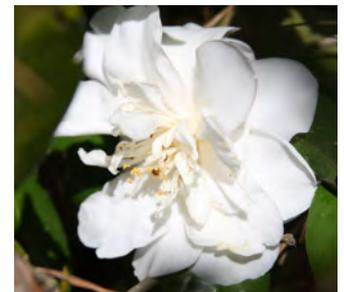
AgCenter Library	Kim Burt
Covington Farmers Market	Diane Cammatte and Billie Stanga
Fall Seminar	Mary Kathryn Villere and Kendra France
Historical	Janet Reuther
LSU Ag Center Volunteers	Cindy Manger
Mentoring	Jenny Graffeo
Slidell Farmers Market	Sue Clites
Speakers Bureau	Donna Howland
Spring Seminar	Earlyn Jaster
Table Talks	Kim Burt
Vegucators	Dawn Lavoie and Mimi Padgett

Projects Coordinator:

Dave Maher

Projects Chairs:

no term limits



Abita library	Sandy Tomaszewski
Beau Provence Rehab Garden	TBA
Boys and Girls Club, Covington	Dave Maher
Habitat for Humanity	Jenny Graffeo
Hospice Foundation of the South gardens	Paul Andres
Lacombe Butterfly Garden	TBA
Lang House	Peter Weaver
LSU Agcenter Super Plant Garden	Ana Maria Montoya
Magic Wings Butterfly Garden	TBA
Otis House Rose Garden	Ann Durel
School Gardens	
Lee Road Elementary	Lynn Monteleone
Marigny Elementary	Sue Maguire
Woodlake Elementary	TBA



THE GARDENGOER
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



Cooperative Extension Service
St. Tammany Parish
1301 N. Florida Street
Covington, LA 70433
Phone: 985-875-2635 (Covington)
Fax: 985-875-2639
www.lsuagcenter.com/mastergardener/

ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



19th Annual Northshore Garden & Plant Sale

Fri & Sat, March 15 & 16, 2019

9 am - 4 pm

St. Tammany Parish Fairgrounds, 1301 N. Florida St, Covington, LA

Adults \$5 / Under 18 Free
Pay Entry Fee at Gate
All Police, Fire, & EMT – Free

Under Pavilion – Rain or Shine - Free Parking – ATM
Food Trucks - 60+ Plant & Garden Art Booth
LSU “Plant Doctor” Table - Seminars & Cooking Demo
Educational Exhibits - Children’s Activities
Wagons Available or Bring Your Own

Friday’s Speakers

10:00: Dr. Dennis Ring, “Pollination”

11:15: Dr. Ashley Long, “Garden Wildlife”

12:30: Dr. Raj Singh, “Plant Disease”

1:45: Dr. Ron Strahan, “Weeds”

Saturday’s Speakers

10:00: Mr. Buddy Lee, “Southern Garden Plants”

11:15: Ms. Anna Ribbeck, “Landscape Plants”

12:30: Mr. Will Afton, “Spring Super Plants”

1:45: Mrs. Karla Partridge & Mrs. AJ Bailey, “Grow Your Own”

LSU AgCenter (985) 875-2635

More info at www.stmastergardener.org