

# THE GARDENGOER

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Hi Everyone,

HUMIDITY is the garden word for August. Just step outside and you can experience the wetness for yourself. Most days, three sets of clothes are the norm. I just keep the lid on the washer open and the shower on tepid with lots of towels available. Since I spend a lot of time outdoors, I have color coordinated hand towels to match my outfits. I just tuck the hand towel in my pocket and set off to do the chores. As the morning progresses, the towel gets soaked, signaling me it is time to change clothes and shower again. I read somewhere that all of this perspiring rids the body of toxins. In this case, gardeners should be the least toxic people on the planet. All of the recent rains have surfaced another guest besides HUMIDITY, namely RED ANTS. My ankles are dotted with bites from this very unwelcome resident. The wet weather has brought forth a plethora of tiny hidden ant hills. I have sprayed the hills daily and I am still being attacked. Toothpaste, vinegar, pure vanilla extract, alcohol, (applied - not ingested) and anti itch cream are just a few of the many remedies recommended to ease the reaction to the ant bites. Despite these adversities I still find myself thinking about the new fall garden I am going to plant as soon as I shower and treat the new ant bites I just received!

Plans are underway for the October Parish Fair. Please volunteer and submit an entry. It is a lot of fun. This is the time to pick wild muscadines. They are excellent for jellies and wines. The rain has provided a nice crop this year. Eggplant and okra are still going strong. You can plant fall tomatoes and green beans at this time. Destroy as many weeds as you can before they have a chance to seed. Rest a little bit because September is a busy gardening and yard month.

The Bush branch of the library is having a plant swap Saturday September 13th, from 9- 11am and I need a couple of volunteers to answer questions and participate in the swap if interested. Also Jim Mizell is having Butterfly Day September 6th Saturday and volunteers are needed. I will have sign up sheets at the at the August meeting. You can call me to volunteer also. 895 373-5512.

Showered and calamined, I am ready for round two back in the garden - aj

### New 2008 Master Gardener's Class

By Rusty Batty

Our newest group of “potential” Master Gardeners have been selected for the fall 2008 Master Gardener training. There were 52 applicants for the fall class beginning August 12. Twenty-nine of those applicants will soon be involved in learning from many LSU specialists & local experts about soils, botany, weeds, insects, diseases and many other topics.



The class is made up of residents from across St. Tammany Parish: 2 Abita Springs, 1 Bush, 10 Covington, 1 Folsom, 2 Lacombe, 5 Pearl River & Slidell, 8 Mandeville & Madisonville. We are looking forward to their potential participation in providing horticulture education to St. Tammany resident.

Speaking of horticulture education, have you completed your volunteer hours for 2008? Please update and / or complete your online records. For veteran Master Gardener graduates before 2007, needing educational hours, you may attend the classes offered for the 2008 M.G. class.

Please keep in mind all records should be completed by the annual deadline, November 1, 2008. Please call if you have any questions, 985/875-2635

## LOCAL EVENTS

- August 9 - Independence Park Summer Plant Sale  
Baton Rouge, LA 8:00AM – 1:00PM
- Symposium on Sustainable Gardening  
East Bank Regional Library  
Metairie, LA 9:30AM – 4:00PM
- September 6 - Butterfly Day  
Mizell's Nursery
- September 13 - Butterfly Festival  
Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies  
Haynesville, LA
- October 4 & 5 - PlantFest 2008  
Hilltop Arboretum  
Baton Rouge, LA 9-4 Saturday, 12-4 Sunday
- October 12 - Baton Rouge Rose Society Fall Rose Show  
Baton Rouge
- October 17 - Gardner's Night Out  
LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station  
Hammond, LA
- October 17&18 - Southern Garden Symposium  
St. Francisville, LA
- Fall Flowers and Garden Fest  
Crystal Springs, MS
- October 18&19 - Fall Garden Show  
City Park Botanical Garden  
New Orleans, LA

## FUTURE MEETINGS

St. Tammany Master Gardener meetings are held at the LSU AgCenter Office in Covington and begin at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to wear your name badge to the meetings to be eligible for the door prize. The next Master Gardener meetings will be:

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

### PROJECT COORDINATORS

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**THE GARDENGOER**  
**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE**  
**ST. TAMMANY MASTER**  
**GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

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