

# NEWSLETTER

Louisiana Garden Club  
Federation, Inc.

April 2024



# THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

## Newsletter

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

*“Louisiana Goes Emerald—Plant Wildflowers”*



VOLUME LXXIV

APRIL 2024

NO 4

### LGCF 2023-2025

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## Table of Contents

President’s Message .....	3-5
Editor’s Corner .....	6
Book Review .....	7
LGCF News	
LGCF Annual Convention / Registration, Hotel, Menu, Agenda .....	8-14
Plant America Month .....	15-16
Flower Power Fundraiser .....	17-18
DSGC News	
Deep South Life Membership .....	19
Deep South Scholarship Fundraiser .....	20
Deep South Cup Fundraiser .....	21
LGCF Tours .....	22-25
Circle of Roses.....	26-28
Calendar of Events.....	29

**On Our Cover:** Thanks to Joan DeMille of Terrytown Garden Club, District II for the photo of the Red Maple Drummond tree, *Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii*. The Drummond or swamp red maple is native to our state. The leaves are light green on the upper side and silvery on the back. As seen in our cover photo, red flowers in clusters mature in late winter to early spring and are an important food source for pollinators. By late Spring female flowers are replaced with pairs of Samara (helicopters) that are about 3/4" long). The tree attracts birds, small mammals and is a larval host for Sphinx Moths.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE SUMMER ISSUE, JULY 1, 2024, IS JUNE 1, 2024 AND SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR.** We welcome drawings, paintings, or photos for the cover of the Newsletter.

Please email all information for this issue to [lgcfnews@gmail.com](mailto:lgcfnews@gmail.com)

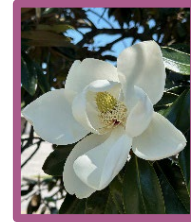
**Editor:** Donna Cline, 826 Evergreen Dr., Gretna, LA 70053. Phone: C (217) 778-2513

# President's Message

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## *Louisiana Goes Emerald— Plant Wildflowers*



It's really hard to believe a year of my Presidency has gone by. I've been able to travel the roads of Louisiana with much pleasure, getting to see my friends, meet new ones but mostly being able to belong to a great organization as Louisiana Garden Club Federation. I appreciate the warm welcomes from your Club Members at District meetings, functions and celebrations.

Here are a few highlights to celebrate since my term began:

LGCF was fortunate to have completed the following courses: Flower Show School, Course I; Landscape Design School, Course IV; and Environmental School, Course IV. At the completion of ES Course IV, Tommie Andrews, a member of Farmerville Garden Club became a Consultant at the age of 101. She's an inspiration and a rather young Lady at heart. All four schools and a Symposium are scheduled to take place before the end of 2024.

In January, National Garden Clubs announced two LGCF Garden Clubs were recipients of a PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant. These Clubs are Bulb & Blossom Garden Club (District VII) and Shady Oaks Garden Club (District II). I'm looking forward to seeing their completed projects.

**Blue Star Memorial Markers:** The BSMM at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans was relocated and rededicated in May. In October, a Marker was dedicated at the Southwest LA Veterans Cemetery in Jennings. In November, a Marker was dedicated at the Southeast LA Veterans Cemetery in Slidell and a Marker placed in Mt. Herman LA. Two more are being scheduled soon.

**Tours:** LGCF Members have continued racking up traveling miles. In April 2023, Members traveled to 'Holland for the Tulips' at the Keukenhof Gardens in Amsterdam, Brugge Belgium, Gouda and the Van Gogh Museum plus more. Two weeks ago, 34

Members attended the Philadelphia Flower Show, Independence Hall, Amish Country, Longwood Gardens, The Barnes Foundation and enjoyed the famous 'Philly Cheesesteak' sandwich. If you haven't experienced an LGCF Tour, try it out, it's a good time.

**Live Oak Society:** So far #10,093 Live Oaks have been registered to the Live Oak Society, #311 since I began my term. Two prominent Oaks have been named, #1. "The Paul Soniat Oak", in honor of the Retiring Founder & Director of the Botanical Garden after 41 years of service at City Park in New Orleans. #2. "The Reed J. Perilloux Oak" honored by the Police Jury of Grant Parish for his years of service as a coach, teacher, principal community leader and founder of the Pecan Festival. This honor was presented to him in ceremonies on his 100th birthday. Do you have any OAKS to register in your District?

**Cleanest City Contest:** In 1958, LGCF began sponsoring a Statewide "Cleanest City Contest." To date, Louisiana is the ONLY member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to sponsor such a contest. Anti-Litter Poster Contests are held in Louisiana Public Schools for grades K- 5th to instruct students in litter prevention and awareness. So far, 20 cities have submitted entry forms to compete. District judging will take place April 1-5 and State Judging will take place April 23-May 3rd. Be on the lookout for those Judges!

Last week I attended the **Deep South Garden Club Convention in Gatlinburg TN**. It was enjoyable being with my Sister Presidents from Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Georgia along with Debby Cooper, Deep South Garden Club Director. Also in attendance was Brenda Moore, National Garden Clubs President. I was able to chat with her for some time discussing current issues being felt by many Clubs and States, membership and having costly conventions. On the final evening at the Awards Banquet, I sat on the stage with my Sister Presidents as we received a food item every time our State won a Deep South Award. You'll be happy to know, LGCF collected a wheel barrel full of food! A good time was held as our very own, **Roxanna Champagne**, Deep South Awards Chairman read out the award winners. Job well done, Roxanna!

I also want to give a shout out to our LGCF Members that were also able to attend the Deep South Convention. They are: **Elizabeth McDougald**, Adopt-A-Park Chairman & my Page; **Linda Finley**, NGC Nominating Committee; **Ammy Taylor**, Public Plantings/Gardens; **Julia Gilmore**, DSGC Historian; **Mary Sue Colvin**, Former Deep South Director & Bylaws Chairman; **Jean Gilstrap**, Cleanest City Chairman; **Nancy Love**, **Connie Snell**, **Joyce Grier** (Page for Brenda Moore), **Shirley Key** (my paparazzi), **Linda Beyt**, **Noreen Bienvieu**, **Susan Wilhelm**, **Susan Wilhelms' Sister**, **Margaret O'Pry** (Page for Debby Cooper) and **Georgia McMurry**. As you can see, LGCF was well represented and THANK YOU for your support.

Reminder, **Flower Power Spring Fundraiser ends May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Check out the best-quality bulbs and plants available from growers in Holland and the United States. They also offer an unconditional, 100% replacement guarantee! LGCF receives HALF of the profits (40% until sales reach \$500 and then increases to 50%) from everything we sell and there is NO cost to LGCF. Visit <http://LGCF.fpfundraising.com>

## **NGC NEWS!**

**May 31, Espoma Grants are due.** Grant applications are accepted from

October 1—May 31. Apply, Apply, Apply!

**June 2-5, 2024:** The Westin Westminster in Denver, Colorado. Registration, hotel and other information may be found on the Home page of the NGC website. Tentative schedule is available. Register early and parking at the hotel is complimentary.

**June 2-8, 2024:** National Garden Week

**April 1 – October 15:** Plant America Community Project Grant applications are open to NGC Member clubs. Grant recipients are notified in December.

**Path of Success:** Support the NGC fundraiser, Path of Success, by donating a monetary gift, or you/or your garden club purchasing a brick.

And let's not forget the National Garden Club Presidents' Projects found on the NGC website, <http://gardenclub.org>

1. **PLANT AMERICA - FEED AMERICA**
2. **PLANT AMERICA – LANDSCAPE FOR WILDLIFE**
3. **PLANT AMERICA – PLANT FOR POLLINATORS**

Question? Have you or your Club been planting NATIVE PLANTS and WILDFLOWERS? There's a Grant for that.....**Operation Wildflower!** A grant of up to \$500 is available to be used towards direct expenses for an educational program on the subject of Native Plants and Wildflowers! State Garden Clubs, Districts, Councils and Individual Garden Clubs may co-sponsor a symposium with state agencies, arboreta, native plant societies, or similar organizations. Gardeners are eager for information on native plants; state highway or transportation departments need publicity and support for their planting programs. For more information, go to NGC website and APPLY!

Don't forget to register and attend the LGCF 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Lake Charles and experience the **Lake Effect Fun at the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LGCF!** I hope to see you soon!

*Patricia G. Ortalano*

LGCF President 2023-2025

"Louisiana Goes Emerald – Plant Wildflowers"

# Editor's Corner

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Spring is here and I am sure we are all happy to be outdoors again, getting our hands dirty and renewing our gardens.

Spring also brings us garden club conventions. The Deep South Convention was held March 19-20 at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The L'Auberge Casino Resort in Lake Charles, LA is this year's location for the LGCF Convention. It will be held April 16-17, and details of the convention are included in this newsletter along with a link to the registration form if you have not sent yours in yet.

I always appreciate your pictures and articles and welcome any suggestions that may improve the newsletter.

*Donna Cline*

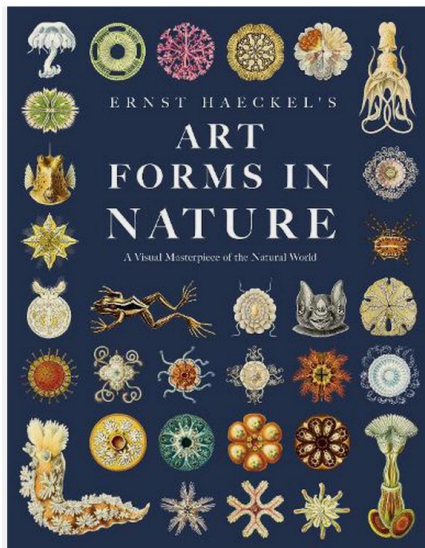


Louisiana attendees at the Deep South Convention in Gatlinburg, Tennessee

To see more pictures, click [here](#).

# Book Review

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## ART FORMS IN NATURE

**A Visual Masterpiece of the Natural World**

**By Ernst Haeckel**

**First Edition 1904**

**2023 Edition, Read and Co., UK**

**125 Pages**

Timeless. A century-old collection of delicate, detailed drawings of the natural world from a most unique perspective. A page-turner with few words that illuminates the elemental beauty of creation.

The artist/author, though educated as a physician, abandoned his medical career to devote his life to the study of nature, successfully incorporating his talents in, and love of, art. This edition, faithfully reproduced from the original, contains 100 of Haeckel's highly detailed plates.

Coming of age on the ground floor of new biological theory, Ernst Haeckel was an apostle of Darwinism and was fascinated by the concept of evolution, expounding his own theories to the point of great controversy.

This one fascinating book represents a small portion of his body of work, and merely contains his illustrations of plants and creatures of all types, but in absorbing the beauty of his observations and study, one can appreciate in a new way the design perfection of the Master of All Creation, the Architect of the Universe.

*Submitted by Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair*

# LGCF Convention

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Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. is celebrating our 90th Emerald Anniversary! District VII Officers and their Membership have been planning and working on creating a memorable Convention in Lake Charles.

On February 14th, Brenda Moore, NGC President wrote an NGC Blog titled, "**Why should I attend NGC Conventions**". What she wrote referencing a National Garden Club Convention is the **same for a State Convention**.

- Attendance is estimated by Convention committees because meals must be guaranteed
- Meeting rooms and audio/visual equipment are costly.
- A budget is based on ESTIMATES

## WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND THE LGCF CONVENTION?

- The future of LGCF is decided at the General Meetings.
- Governing documents are constantly changing and voted on.
- Leaders and projects are voted on. It's important for our Members to have a VOTE on LGCFs future.
- Board of Director members already have a vote, so does EVERY CLUB President or Club Delegate. These votes are vital for LGCF to know the thoughts of our Members.
- Conventions are a time of FELLOWSHIP amongst our Membership. We make friendships during these meetings that often form life-long relationships.
- It is a time to NETWORK with like-minded individuals.
- Conventions should inspire our Members.
- Conventions are a great way to visit other Districts in Louisiana and SUPPORT them.
- Conventions are a time you can meet with LGCF Officers and speak face to face. It's time you can interact with or get to know them.
- Conventions are educational. We should leave conventions with more knowledge than we had before.
- Attending these conventions helps us STEP OUT of our comfort zone. We often need to push ourselves to get out in the real world.
- Club officers and Club members that attend conventions often have a STRONGER organization than those that don't. That's because ideas and concerns are shared. It creates a connection. Conventions often give membership and leadership TIPS to make clubs stronger.

With that being said, are you attending the Convention in Lake Charles, April 16-17? Have you sent in your registration form and payment? AND don't forget to wear your 'GREEN' celebrating our anniversary!

*Patricia G. Ortalano*

LGCF President 2023-2025

REGISTRATION, HOTEL INFORMATION,  
MENU AND AGENDA FOLLOWS



**LGCF 2024 CONVENTION REGISTRATION**  
**April 16 & 17, 2024**  
**L'Auberge Casino and Resort, Lake Charles, LA**  
**Come enjoy some Lake Effect Fun at the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LGCF!**  
 Hosted by LGCF District VII

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CIRCLE THOSE THAT APPLY**

**LGCF:**           Officer (Includes District Directors & Representatives-at-Large)   Chairman (or alternate)  
                   Former LGCF President   LGCF Life Member           Club President (or alternate)  
                   Delegate (Clubs with 50 or more members)   Club Member           Guest

**DEEP SOUTH:** Officer           State President           Chairman           DS Life Member

**NGC:**           Officer           President           Chairman           NGC Life Member

Item	Price	Your Selection
<b>Full Registration</b>		
Package Deal for Tues & Wed (Excludes Mon. Reception)	\$285.00	
<b>Partial Registration</b>		
Registration Tues. April 16 (must include for any Tues event)	\$48.00	
Lunch Tues. April 16	\$45.00	
Banquet Tues. April 16	\$60.00	
Registration Wed. April 17 (must include for any Wed event)	\$48.00	
Breakfast Wed. April 17	\$35.00	
Lunch Wed. April 17	\$45.00	
Banquet Wed. April 17	\$60.00	
<b>Extras</b>		
Monday, April 15 Welcome Reception	\$20.00	
Late Fee (after March 26, 2024)	\$40.00	
<b>Total</b>		

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks payable to District 7 LGCF** and mail completed form and check to Linda Finley, 4101 Mary Ann Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70605-4101

Registration **deadline is March 26, 2024.** If registering after that date, include late fee of \$40.

## 2024 LGCF Convention Hotel Registration Information

April 16-17, 2024

L'Auberge Casino and Resort, Lake Charles, LA



To make reservations visit [www.lakecharles.com](http://www.lakecharles.com) and use offer code SLGCF24, or call 1-866-355-7111 and use the same offer code.

Last day to make reservations is April 5, 2024.

Room Rates \$109 per night, additional taxes and Resort fees will be charged, bringing the total to \$141.68 per night.

# 2024 LGCF Convention Menu



## Monday April 15

- Welcome Reception 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Reception Hors Oeuvres:

- Cajun Meat Pies
- Crispy Vegetable Spring Roll
- Bahn Mi Meatballs

## Tuesday April 16

- Landscape Design Council Luncheon 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Lunch Package:

- Soup- Chicken & Andouille Gumbo & rice
- Entrée- Cajun Shrimp Pasta
- Dessert- Strawberry Shortcake

- Judges Council Banquet 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Dinner:

- Soup: Loaded Potato Soup
- Entrée: Shrimp and Spinach Stuffed Chicken Breast
- Dessert: Café au Lait Crème Brulé

## Wednesday April 17

- Garden Council Breakfast 8:00 – 9:50 am

Breakfast:

Breakfast breads on table, Fruit & berry salad, All American Breakfast (Scrambled eggs, Southern style potatoes, smoked bacon, roasted tomato), Orange & cranberry juice, coffee, hot tea

- Environmental Council Luncheon – 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Lunch

- Salad: Southern Greens Salad
- Entrée: Herb Roasted Chicken Breast
- Dessert: Key Lime Pie

- Awards Banquet 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Buffet Barbeque Dinner

- On buffet: Ribs, Hamburgers, Chicken Breast, Andouille Sausage
- Corn on the Cob, Veggies, Breads
- Brownies, Cookies, Fruit salad

# 2024 Convention Schedule

## Monday, April 15, 2024

Registration Open	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Promenade Area
Welcome Reception	5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	
Dinner on your own		

## Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Breakfast on your own

Headquarters Meeting	7:00 am – 7:50 am	Ballroom B
Registration Open	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Promenade Area
Vendors/Ways and Means	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Corridor
Finance Committee Meeting	8:00 am - 8:50 am	Ballroom B
<i>Workshop</i> - Dr. Mark Merchant 'Color Change in Crocodilians: A Croc of a Different Color '	9:00 am – 9:50 am	Ballroom C
<i>Workshop</i> - The Down and Dirty of LGCF led by Patricia Ortalano	10:00 am – 10:45 am	Ballroom C
Nominating Committee Meeting	10:00 am – 10:50 am	Ballroom B
Executive Council Meeting	11:00 am – 11:50 am	Ballroom B
<i>Workshop</i> - Taylor Lyons 'Magic Worms in the Garden'	11:00 am – 11:50 am	Ballroom C
<b>Lunch</b> Honoring Club Presidents Hosted by Landscape Design Council Speaker Mary Ann Armbruster 'Medicinal Plants and their Uses'	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Ballroom DEF

Gardening Council Mtg Presentation on Native Plants for the Landscape	2:10 pm – 3:00 pm	Ballroom C
<i>Workshop</i> – TBA	2:10 pm – 3:00 pm	Ballroom B
Landscape Design Council Mtg Presentation	3:10 pm – 4:00 pm	Ballroom C
Cash Bar	6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Ballroom DEF
<b>Banquet</b> Sponsored by LA Flower Show Judges Council Speaker Kathy Maffei and Bonnie Matrel	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Ballroom DEF

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

Registration Open	8:00 am – 4:00pm	Promenade Area
Vendors/Ways and Means	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Corridor
<b>Breakfast</b> Meeting Sponsored by the Garden Council Speaker Celeste Finney “Farm to School”	8:00 am – 9:50 pm	Ballroom DEF
Business Meeting – open to all	10:00 am – 11:50 am	Ballroom B
<b>Lunch</b> sponsored by Environmental Council Honoring Life Members Speaker Polly Campbell “The Fountain of Youth in the Garden of Eating”	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Ballroom DEF

<i>Workshop</i> – Connie Keppinger Kokedama	2:10 pm – 3:00 pm	Ballroom C
Environmental Council Mtg Presentation	2:10 pm – 3:00 pm	Ballroom B
Flower Show Judges Council Mtg Presentation	3:10 pm – 4:00 pm	Ballroom B
<i>Workshop</i> - Coushatta Basket Weaving Demonstration	3:10 pm – 4:00 pm	Ballroom C
District Director’s Meeting (closed meeting)	4:00pm – 4:30 pm	Ballroom C
Cash Bar	6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Ballroom DEF
Awards Banquet	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Ballroom DEF



**National Garden Clubs**  
OFFICIAL WEBSITE

# Plant America Month



## April 2024

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**



## Message from NGC President, Brenda Moore

# April is Plant America Month

## Some suggested ways to celebrate:

-Print off and hang flyers around town

-Write an article for your local newspaper

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Nature Day, Read *Network with Nature* to a child in your life

April 4<sup>th</sup> - National Carrot Day

April 5<sup>th</sup> - National Dandelion Day

April 6<sup>th</sup> - California Poppy Day

April 7<sup>th</sup> - Walk to work day

April 8<sup>th</sup> - National Zoo lovers Day

April 10<sup>th</sup> - Hug your Dog Day

April 13<sup>th</sup> - International Plant Appreciation Day

April 14<sup>th</sup> - National Gardening Day

April 16<sup>th</sup> - National Orchid Day

April 20<sup>th</sup> - Volunteer Recognition Day

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day

April 25<sup>th</sup> - National Zucchini bread Day

April 26<sup>th</sup> - Arbor Day -plant some trees

April 26<sup>th</sup> - National Audubon Day

April 28<sup>th</sup> - Stop Food Waste Day

Brenda Moore,  
NGC President

[Bmoore@gardenclub.org](mailto:Bmoore@gardenclub.org)

**GO GREEN - PLANT AMERICA**

[Download the PLANT AMERICA Month Poster](#)

**National Garden Clubs**

[4401 Magnolia Ave.](#)

[Saint Louis, MO 63110](#)

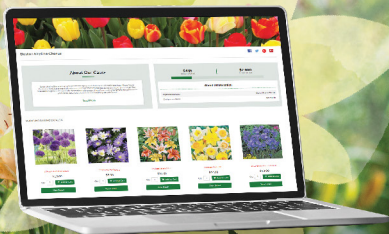
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)



# Fundraiser!

## Spring Flower Bulbs

Dahlias • Lilies • Perennials • Seed Mats • More!



**Order Flower Bulbs &  
Support Our Cause!**

Visit Our Personalized Website By 05/15:

Contact For More Information:

Turn In Paper Order Forms By:

# *LGCF Fundraiser!*

*LGCF has a NEW & EXCITING fundraiser.....*

## *Flower Power Fund-Raising Program!*

*It's a way to help raise funds for LGCF AND  
we are buying something we love.....FLOWERS!*

*What do you think? It's easy.*

*Just click on the link. <http://lgcf.fpfundraising.com>*

*Fill your basket.*

*Your purchase will be shipped directly to you.  
You pay \$6.99 for shipping per order, no matter how large or small.*

*Orders begin shipping April 1st. Last day to order is May 15, 2024.*

*Don't forget to forward the link to your Family and Friends!*

*LGCF will receive 50% of sales over \$500!*

*This information is also posted on the LGCF website.*

*Please let me know if you have any questions.*

*Thank you for your support!*

*Tricia Ortalano  
LGCF President 2023-2025*



# Deep South Life Membership Application

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a gift? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
Date the gift card is to be presented to recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Honored by: \_\_\_\_\_

If gift, address to send Membership card:  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Deep South Life Membership (\$50.00) \_\_ Deep South Life Patron (\$100.00)

Please make check payable to Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Mail with completed form and check to:

Bess Hartley, DSGC Life Membership Chairman  
250 Cotton Hill Road, Fort Gaines, GA 39851  
Email: [besshartley@gmail.com](mailto:besshartley@gmail.com)

*Deep South Life Memberships are used for funding scholarships for deserving college bound high school seniors pursuing garden related study within the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi.*

*Giving someone a Life Membership in the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. provides an excellent means of honoring those who have made valuable contributions to your garden club, council, or district.*

WEB: [www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/life-member](http://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/life-member)

# **SHARE a Quarter --- To Show you CARE !!**



State Presidents:

The future of the **Deep South Scholarships** begins here.

**Make every QUARTER count!**

In order to perpetuate the Deep South Scholarship Program, we desperately need to increase the the amount in the designated Fund.

This is one of the most rewarding projects of our organization. So, we are asking our six Presidents to please promote this fundraiser.

**The scholarships redefine possibilities where education meets ambition to deserving students.**

Scholarships lessen the financial burden of school; help decrease the number of student loans; and reduce how much a student needs to pay for their education out of pocket. Scholarships help students have more time to focus on their studies. Research shows that work can take up more than 15 hours per week, and become an obstacle to academic success. For some students, the work/study life is unsustainable, and they discontinue their studies altogether.

**If each club will send a donation to the Deep South Scholarship Fund, in the amount of \$.25 for each member, we can award scholarships at least one more year!**

**As reported by the six state presidents, we have 28,422 members.**

**The math is -  $28,422 \times \$.25$  - - or = \$7,105.50**

**Certificates may be given at the 2025 Deep South Convention.**



Bonnie Borne Stockel, 2023-2025 DS Scholarship Chairman

Valerie Tipps, 2023-2025 DS Vice- Scholarship Chairman



## *Deep South Garden Clubs Cup Fundraiser*



**ORDER YOUR CUSTOM COFFEE CUP TODAY!**

Custom Deep South Garden Clubs coffee cups are for sale as a fundraiser.

- **Price \$10 + \$6 shipping for one mug.**
- **Shipping will hold at \$6 per box shipped.**
- **Buy 10 mugs and receive free shipping!**

**TIP! Gather your friends and purchase 10 mugs, have them shipped to one location, and get free shipping. Send 10 checks or one payable to DSGC.**

If interested, hit the 'buy now' button and send Debby Cooper an email with your request for how many cups and to what address.

**BUY NOW**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PHILADELPHIA TOUR      March 3-8, 2024



Twenty-six of the 34 making this tour arrived all together with SW airlines, five from Shreveport, two from Alexandria and one drove in from Maryland! Many of us knew each other, but many of us became friends during the tour. As always, spouses, friends and relatives are always invited to be a part of the LGCF Tours!

In its 195<sup>th</sup> year, the award-winning PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is a one-of-a-kind marquee event known the globe over for its exquisite and immersive floral exhibits, world-class plant competitions, family-friendly activities, educational offerings, and shopping. Proceeds from the show go to provide “horticultural education” for the schools of Philadelphia. Several of the schools enter exhibits annually. Our first day was spent at the show—what an experience! I think none of us had seen so many exceptional examples of horticulture that were all in one space!! An event worth experiencing!! And what a great dinner at McGillin’s Old Ale House (the oldest in Philadelphia) AND the day we went there was voted the “Best Pub in US!”

### DAY 2 — Patriot, guided tour of our early history



Beginning before 1776, heard stories of the people, places and things that made Colonial Philadelphia the seat of government for the young nation and one of the largest English-speaking cities in the world. We saw the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, First and Second Bank of the US, Betsy Ross House, Franklin’s grave, Christ Church, Elfreth’s Alley Museum and the neighborhood of Society Hill. Embracing the modern day, we visited

neighborhoods where the Founding Fathers lived and saw how contemporary Philadelphians have made them their own.

Going beyond the colonial period, we explored the bustling business district, Museum Mile of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and the famous Rocky steps. We had lunch at *Oh Brothers* to experience the Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich!! Boy, was it good!!!! In the afternoon some returned to the Flower Show and some of us went to Macy’s for a wonderfully-beautiful Organ Concert—on the largest organ in the US! Spectacular! We all enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Maggiano’s which was just around the corner from our hotel.



We so enjoyed an exciting day in Lancaster County – about 95 minutes from Philadelphia – for an Amish country backroad and ‘cottage industry’ tour. Several different shops were visited to find cheeses, soap, baked goods,

leather and see the goat farm. We visited Lancaster County's only officially designated *Heritage Site* Amish House. The scenic country setting, surrounded by Amish farms, is but one reason why the Homestead is the only Heritage Site Amish house tour. This prestigious distinction has been earned for its ... **Authenticity** – the “lived-in” look of the house as you walk through nine rooms, including a one-room school ... and its **Interpretation** – Our guide, Dana, answers the ‘how and why’ questions that baffle visitors (and locals). Why do the Amish dress so plainly? How do they power their appliances? Why don't they have churches? AND we shopped!!! Lunch was a bountiful smorgasbord of traditional and Amish favorite foods. We ended the day with a tour of an Amish Country Homestead & One-Room School. We did eat very well on our tour—and dinner was at the Iron Hill Brewer.

#### DAY 4 — Trip to Longwood Gardens & Barnes Foundation



Less than an hour's drive from Philadelphia lies the beautiful **Brandywine Valley**, immortalized on canvas by many artists, including the Wyeth family. We visited the world-renowned **Longwood Gardens**. America's premier horticultural center captivates with 1,050 acres of majestic gardens, natural woodlands, and colorful meadows. Twenty spectacular outdoor gardens awaited us while indoors 4 acres of heated greenhouses contain 20 unique garden settings. We began with a 45-minute guided *highlights tour* of Longwood Gardens. What exquisitely beautiful examples of so many different specimens which were showcased so differently and with so many plants that I would never had displayed together!! We had the opportunity for **free time** to visit the conservatories, outdoor gardens, and gift shop—and to enjoy lunch. I have to say that our tour of *Longwood Gardens* may have been my favorite!!

Later, we visited the *Barnes Foundation* where we had a 30-minute private lecture about the collection prior to free time to explore the galleries and gift shop on our own. Established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts," the Foundation is home to one of the world's largest collections of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, and early Modern paintings—unsurpassed in breadth, quality, and depth, with extensive holdings by Picasso, Matisse, Czanne, Renoir, and Modigliani. It is enhanced by Greek, Roman, and Egyptian antiquities, Chinese painting, African sculpture, retablos from New Mexico, Native American pottery, and American decorative arts.

The Museum is one of the most interesting, private collections I have ever toured. Well worth a visit. After our trip, it was back to our hotel; then a very special dinner at Positano Coast. We had to say goodbye to our wonderful Guide, Lynn and to Mark, the person with whom I worked very closely to develop this tour.

**DAY 5** Very early departure after our fantastic Driver, Petros, took us to the airport. What a wonderful time we ALL had. And we all left as good friends!!

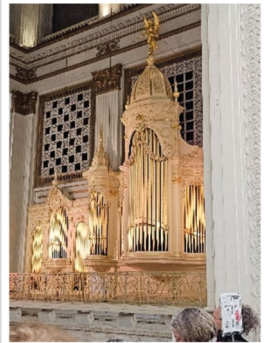
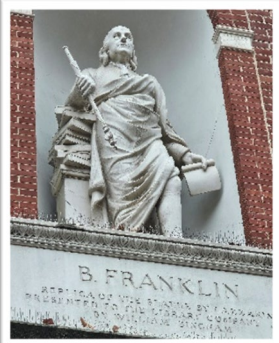
**Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman**

Enjoy these pictures from the Philadelphia Tour (To see more, click [here](#) and scroll down)

**Day 1 – Flower Show**



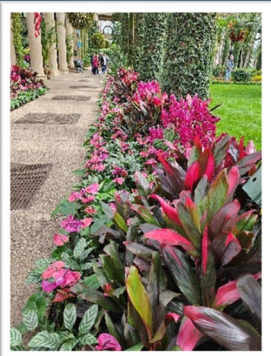
**Day 2 – Patriot / Organ Concert at Macy's**



**Day 3 – Amish Country**



**Day 4 – Longwood**





## PROPOSED TOURS THROUGH FALL 2026

### FALL TOUR TO SEATTLE AREA AND VICTORIA ISLAND

September 26-Oct.2, 2024

Plans are in the making to fly into Seattle, tour downtown and the markets, the Space Needle, “Beneath the Streets of Seattle” tour, etc. We will restore your spirits and satisfy your inner-wine enthusiast with some of the most scenic wineries



and tasting rooms in the area. Will tour Snoqualmie Falls and Wine region and make our way by ferry to Victoria Island to visit the lovely town and the beautiful Butchart Gardens. Even if you have been there before—it never looks the same!!!

### SPRING TOUR OF TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

March 31-April 5, 2025

It is the time of year when wildflowers are popping up all over the countryside, painting Texas in shades of red, blue, yellow and white. Texas respects the beauty of all wildflowers, but the bluebonnet is the best! So, to make sure that you get your fill of bluebonnet beauty, the plans are to take the ultimate bluebonnet road trip through the heart of Hill Country. We will head to Houston beginning in Monroe, and continue on to Alexandria, Lake Charles, Sulphur to Austin and on to Fredericksburg and the Texas Hills. If you have been before—the area is ever-changing and the wildflowers are always exceptional.

### FALL TOUR OF BOSTON AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

OCTOBER 9-13, 2025

Will fly into Boston, do the Harbor Tour, take the Hop-on/Hop-off Bus Tour, follow the “Freedom Trail,” visit Cheers and tour Faneuil Hall. We will travel into the hills of Massachusetts and New Hampshire to see the exquisite colors of Fall. Will have a great breakfast in the hills of Massachusetts at a small maple farm.

### SPRING TOUR FOR NASHVILLE’S ANTIQUE AND GARDEN SHOW

TBD (JAN/FEB), 2026

### TOUR TO MACKINAC ISLAND

Fall 2026

*Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman*

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# CIRCLE OF ROSES

Metha Smith Arnold

West Baton Rouge Garden Club

District VI



Metha Smith Arnold is a native of north Louisiana and has been a resident of West Baton Rouge for 55 years. Metha was married to Clyde Arnold for 58 years, Clyde passed away in July 2023. They moved to West Baton Rouge where Clyde farmed Smithfield Sugarcane Plantation and Metha taught school at Chamberlin Elementary. She retired after 34 years of teaching elementary school. They have one son, daughter and grandson.

Through a joint passion for old Oak Trees Metha met Mary Jane Kahoo. Per Mary Jane's suggestion Metha registered the four old oak trees in her yard in the Live Oak Society. Mary Jane, a West Baton Rouge Garden and Civic Club member, invited Metha to join the Garden Club. Metha was still teaching and after retiring from teaching in 2002, she joined the Garden Club.

Metha has participated in many garden club activities. In 2002 the WBR Garden & Civic Club celebrated their 75th anniversary and Metha assisted with this celebration and soon she will be involved in the 100th anniversary of the club. She served as club historian for 9 years. She loved making scrapbooks and refreshed older scrapbooks to better reflect the Club's history and activities. From 2010 to 2012, Metha covered both the reporter and historian positions for the club. She continued as the reporter for the garden club and served in that position for 11 years. Metha reported activities to the local newspaper and the Morning Advocate. The community was more aware of the club's activities. Mertha has worked on the Club Presidents Archives and has compiled the information of all the presidents from 1928 until 2023 in a book that is housed in the archives of the West Baton Rouge Museum.

Beyond garden club, Metha has been involved in many civic organizations. She has been a member of the West Side Women's Club from 2006 to present. During that time, she served as Reporter for 7 years from 2010-2018, reporting news to West Side Journal and The Baton Advocate. She belongs to the Christmas Angels Crochet Club—a small group of ladies who crochet baby blankets for NICU patients and Afghans for the VA Hospital. She is a member of the “Dinner Belles,” a group of retired teachers who taught at Chamberlin Elementary in WBR Parish and who meet monthly at different restaurants and share in memories of teaching and friendship.

Metha has served as WBR Parish Chapter Co-Leader for the Born with Angel Wings Ministry and has been a Charter member since 2019. This ministry is made up of volunteers who make Angel Boxes for grieving parents who have a baby born sleeping. She is also a West Baton Rouge Historical Association member and served on the board for 2 years. She has been Chairperson of the Sugar Fest Sweet Booth for 3 years.

Metha’s Church Affiliation is the Holy Family Catholic Church in Port Allen, Louisiana.

Metha is a wonderful person, kind, always willing to help and shares her special touches on club projects. Our club has really grown and she welcomes the new members to the club with open arms. The above information speaks to her value as a club member and member of her community.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

The purpose of Circle of Roses is to recognize garden club members in their senior years who have given their time and talents to garden club work. We would like to honor them in the newsletter as well. In order to do this, we are asking each club that wishes to honor a senior member or members to please submit a short history of her garden club activities and achievements. This can include personal information such as husband, number of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, church and community activities, hobbies, etc. Enclose two pictures, a “then” and “now.” (One when she joined the garden club and one that is recent.)

If you have a deserving member of your club that you would like to nominate for the Circle of Roses, please send the information to:

**LGCF Circle of Roses Chairman**

**Kathy Bedenbaugh**

**42366 South Range Rd**

**Hammond, LA 70403-1416**

**[katiecb44@gmail.com](mailto:katiecb44@gmail.com)**

**985-507-3066 (Cell)**

**985-345-1566 (Home)**



**New Email**

## **Note from the newsletter editor:**

The Circle of Roses is a very special honor and we strive to make the presentation in the newsletter one that each recipient can print out as a keepsake. Since the newsletter is done in a digital format, it would be very helpful if the biographies could be sent in digitally. We do the newsletter in Word so that is the preferred format. We prefer that it not be sent in PDF format.

The “then” and “now” pictures are especially important and please clearly label which picture is “then” and which is “now.” If possible, please send in digital images or pictures that have been scanned. When scanning, use as large a picture as possible and scan each picture individually. The quality of the picture is greatly diminished when there is more than one picture in a scan and each one must be cropped and enlarged. If you are unable to scan the pictures, please send in the original photographs. Those will be scanned and returned to whomever you designate.



# Calendar of Events

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## 2024

April 1	Dues Due — State, District
April 1–5	Cleanest City District Judging
April 16–17	LGCF Convention, District VII, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, LA—Celebrating LGCF's 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a> -- <a href="#">HOTEL INFORMATION</a>
April 23–May 3	Cleanest City State Judging
May 4, 17	NGC Gardening Study School Course 4 <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a>
May 6–8	Flower Show School, Course II at Johnny Bright Playground
June 1	Summer Newsletter deadline for submission
June 2–5	NGC Convention, The Westin Winchester, Denver, CO
June 2–8	National Garden Week
July 8–9	LGCF Summer Board, Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA
August 20–22	Flower Show Symposium in Woodworth, LA <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a>
September 19	NGC Fall Board Meeting, NGC Headquarters, St. Louis, MO
September 26–October 2	Portland / Washington Wine Country Tour
October 15	District V - Farmerville
October 16	District VIII - Marksville
October 17	District VII – Rayne
October 22	District VI – Gonzales
October 23	District III – St. Martinville
October 24	District II – Jefferson/Orleans

## 2025

January 13–14	LGCF Winter Council, Lecompte, LA
March 11–13	Deep South Garden Club, Inc. Convention, Valdosta, GA
March 31–April 5	Texas Bluebonnets Tour
April 7–9	LGCF Convention, District VIII, Alexandria
May 19–23	NGC Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
June 1–7	National Garden Week
October 9–13	Boston and New Hampshire Tour

## 2026

April 13–15	LGCF Convention, District III, Houma
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