

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.
Newsletter
January 2026



**“Our Roots Run Deep at LGCF-
PLANT AMERICA for Another 250 Years”**



THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

Newsletter



Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Our Roots Run Deep at LGCF-PLANT AMERICA for 250 More Years"

VOLUME LXXVI

January 2026

NO 3

LGCF 2025-2027
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1 MARCH, 2026
IS THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE 1 APRIL, 2026
SPRING ISSUE.



On Our Cover: Violas, courtesy of Snoann Willett, Covington Garden Club, District VI.

Editors Corner:

The Winter Solstice is behind us which means the days are growing longer. Time to think about starting spring herbs and vegetables from seeds, if you haven't already. Or planting trees and shrubs for Arbor Day, celebrated January 15, 2026 in Louisiana. Pictured left, sasanqua "Snowman", courtesy of Snoann Willett, Covington Garden Club, District VI.

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As LGCF President, I am pleased to reflect on my first seven months, which have been truly enjoyable. While I began my term feeling a bit unsure, the support from LGCF club members and family quickly made me feel confident that no task was too large.

Following the Summer Board meeting, I teamed up with Kyle Martin, our President-Elect, her Sunshine Girls, and our District Directors to strengthen our network. Together, we made sure club presidents received important updates to share with all 1,669 of our club members.

LGCF Initiatives and Projects

Club Membership \$250 Challenge: This project aimed to boost club engagement and attract new members.

Hum Zinger Scholarship Fund: Designed to support aspiring students, this fund helps members pursue their passion for horticulture through education.

Garden Club \$100 Scholarship Challenge: This initiative is a challenge for any garden club to match the donation of \$100 that was started by the Moreauville Garden Club to fund LGCF Scholarships.

Independence Celebration Oaks Series: This initiative commemorates America's 250th birthday on July 4th of 2026. I have asked each club to register a live oak in the Live Oak Society. One live oak will be given a special name to honor the occasion, as well as being featured on the LGCF website homepage.

LGCF Newsletter \$50 Photography Contest: Encouraging creativity; this contest gives members the chance to highlight their talents. Look for the winning photo on the cover of our 2025 Winter Newsletter.

We also promoted opportunities from NGC and Deep South Garden Clubs. With help from our LGCF Webmaster, Vicky Fannaly, I set up a dedicated Projects Page on our LGCF website Home Page—visit it for more details.

LGCF Website Highlights

- Easy access to forms, award lists, and rules
- Calendar of events
- Scholarship information
- Information about available NGC schools
- Current and archived Newsletters, edited by Snoann Willett
- LGCF tours organized by Naomi Cardill
- A directory updated monthly by Linda Brashier
- District Deeds and Doings webpages for all District clubs
- Live Oak Society information from Coleen Perriloux Landry
- NGC and Deep South Garden Clubs Awards lists and forms
- DSGC Regional Director, Denise Thorne's Projects on website, deepsouthgardenclubs.com
- NGC President, Donna Donnelly's Projects on website, gardenclub.org
- NGC Video Café and much more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Our Roots Run Deep at LGCF—
PLANT AMERICA for Another 250 Years"*

In September, our garden clubs resumed regular meetings. This is always an exciting time, as members share plans for the next two years and renew our collective energy for upcoming projects. I received many club yearbooks and was amazed at how unique each was.

Late summer featured well-attended Flower Show School, Landscape Design, and Gardening Schools, giving valuable learning opportunities to our members.

Fall brought District meetings across our great state. I, along with several LGCF officers, attended six district gatherings and enjoyed a variety of entertaining programs.

December 1, marks the beginning of [LGCF](#) award applications and scholarship opportunities, followed later by NGC and DSGC application dates.

January brings the Winter Council meeting to Cottonport, my hometown, for LGCF Executive Council members.

Deep South Garden Clubs Convention Eastern Caribbean Cruise date is March 16-21, 2026; information can [be found](#) on the DSGC website and LGCF website.

The LGCF 2026 Convention [is scheduled](#) for April 13-15, 2026 in Houma. Convention [Chairman](#), Gail Aycock, and her committee are hard at work with "Sunshine on the Bayou" Convention plans. A High Tea honoring NGC President, Donna Donnelly, will [be held](#) at South-down Museum on Monday, April 13. Registration and hotel reservation forms are on the January Newsletter and the LGCF website under the EVENTS tab. Success depends on our support, so please make every effort to attend.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and that the New Year brings health and happiness to all of you that are part of my LGCF family.



Photo courtesy of
Coleen Perriloux Landry

LGCF President 2025-2027
"Our Roots Run Deep at LGCF—
PLANT AMERICA for Another 250 Years"

Carla S. Gauthier

BOOK REVIEW

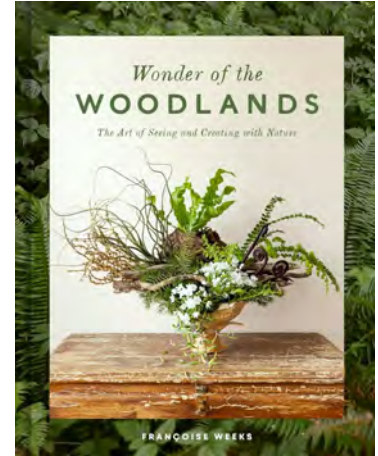
Cissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair

This book is cover-to-cover inspiration! With gorgeous photos throughout, you will be drawn into the world of responsibly foraging in the natural world for components with which to create designs to bring the forest indoors. And if you don't frequent forested areas, Ms. Weeks shares other sources for finding naturalistic items in other places.



From creating your own containers to fashioning wall-hangings, jewelry or table centerpieces, there's lovely information about all. Chapters include components such as Bark, Logs, Branches, Moss, Mushrooms, Acorns and Seedpods, Lichens and Ferns, and how to not only LOOK at them, but to use them in floral designs and arrangements. There are also instructions for numerous projects, with or without actual flowers!

On your next walk outdoors, you might just see things differently than before.



Wonder of the Woodlands

The Art of Seeing and Creating with Nature

By Francoise Weeks

Photography by Theresa Bear

Published by Clarkson Potter

New York

2024

237 pages

ISBN-13: 978-0-593-57838-4



2026

- January 8-11 Nashville TN Tour
- January 16 Deep South Design Luncheon Fundraiser [INVITATION](#)
- January 19 Winter Council, Cottonport, LA
- March 16-21 Deep South Garden Clubs Inc. Convention CRUISE - **Deadline Dec 12** Port Canaveral, FL [INFORMATION](#)
- April 1 Dues Due - State, District
- April 2 Covington Garden Club presents "A Taste of the South" NGC Standard Flower Show
- April 13-15 LGCF Convention, District III Houma [Registration](#) - [Hotel](#) **Deadline Mar 14**
- May 4-6 NGC Convention (St. Louis MO)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[LGCF website/Events/Calendar](#)

Covington Garden Club presents

A Taste of the South



An NGC Standard Flower Show

April 2, 2026 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Located at Bogue Falaya Hall

317 N Jefferson Ave, Covington, LA 70433

Located at the corner of W 23rd and

N Madison Ave, behind Covington City Hall

Members of National Garden Club, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc., District VI

Free Admission and Open to the Public

LGCF SCHOLARSHIPS

Susan Finney, LGCF Scholarship Chair

LGCF, Inc. is proud of its long history of supporting the education of young people.

Do you know a student planning a career in these or allied fields at a Louisiana school?

- ◆ Botany
- ◆ City Planning
- ◆ Crop Science
- ◆ Environmental Health
- ◆ Environmental Law / Policy
- ◆ Environmental Soil and Water Science
- ◆ Floraculture
- ◆ Forestry, Agronomics
- ◆ Landscape Design
- ◆ Land Management
- ◆ Natural Resources Management
- ◆ Oceanography / Coastal Sciences
- ◆ Plant Pathology
- ◆ Plant Biology

Applications Guidelines and Application Forms are available at the lgcfinc.org website

Application Deadline is April 1st

Information or Questions
Contact

Susan Finney, LGCF Scholarship Chair
smbfinney01@gmail.com



LGCF Award #17 Arbor Day Certificate of Merit Award

The state of Louisiana designates the THIRD THURSDAY of January as Arbor Day. Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Though usually observed in spring, the date varies, depending on climate and suitable planting season.

See award rules on the LGCF website.

Deep South Award #7 Tree Planting Award (Most outstanding tree planting project) and Award #23 Arbor Day Award

Review award rules/criteria carefully at <https://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com/awards>

Book of Evidence is required for both. Remember to take several pictures document the process.

"You know me, I think there ought to be a big old tree right there. And let's give him a friend. Everybody needs a friend."

Bob Ross





LGCF 2026 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

April 13-15, 2026

Holiday Inn Houma

Join us for "Sunshine on the Bayou"

Hosted by LGCF District III

DUE DATE MARCH 14, 2026



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Garden Club _____ District _____

Email Address _____

Local Club	Member	Club President	Delegate	Guest
LGCF	Officer	Chairman	Life Member	Former President
Deep South	Officer	Chairman	Life Member	Former President
National Garden Club	Officer	Chairman	Life Member	President
			Price	Amount
Pre-Convention Extra – High Tea - Honoring Donna Donnelly, NGC President, Southdown Museum and Plantation Monday April 13, 2026 Time: 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM			35.00	
Full Registration—Package Tuesday & Wednesday (Excludes Monday Reception)			\$ 300.00	
Partial Registration				
Registration—Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (must include for any Tues. event)			50.00	
Breakfast—Tuesday, April 14, 2026			25.00	
Lunch—Tuesday, April 14, 2026			35.00	
Banquet—Tuesday, April 14, 2026			50.00	
Registration—Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (must include for any Wed. event)			50.00	
Breakfast—Wednesday, April 15, 2026			25.00	
Lunch—Wednesday, April 15, 2026			35.00	
Banquet—Wednesday, April 15, 2026			50.00	
Total				
Late Fee (AFTER March 14, 2026)			50.00	

Food Allergies:

Make Checks Payable: **District Three LGCF Convention 2026**

Mail Check and form to: Sherri Labbe, 701 Wellington Dr., Houma LA. 70360-7124; shedigsdirt@att.net

Deadline is March 14, 2026 If registering after that date, include late fee of \$50

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL RESERVATION 2026 LGCF STATE CONVENTION
1800 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Houma, Louisiana 70360

MONDAY, APRIL 13th – HIGH TEA HONORING
DONNA DONNELLY, NGC PRESIDENT
Southdown Plantation and Museum
1208 Museum Drive, Houma, 70360
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – Convention, Holiday Inn, Houma, LA

Wednesday, April 15, --- 2026 – Convention, Holiday Inn, Houma, LA

GUARANTEED ROOM RATE IS \$149.00 (INCLUDES TAXES AND FEES)
RATE GOOD THROUGH MARCH 14, 2026
Phone Number 985---601---4500, (Preferred Method Of Registration)
REGISTRATION CODE – GAR

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS ONLINE:
2026 LA GARDEN CLUB CONVENTION HOLIDAY INN HOUMA BLOCK



“Sunshine on the Bayou”

Louisiana Garden Federation, Inc. 2026 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

12:00 PM-6:00 PM *Registration hotel lobby*

4:30 PM-6:30 PM *Pre-Convention Event-High Tea honoring Donna Donnelly,
NGG National President
Southdown Museum and Plantation
1208 Museum Dr. Houma, La. 70360*

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

7:30 AM-5:00 PM *Registration -hotel lobby*

7:30 AM-8:50 AM *Breakfast Buffet-Ballroom
HOSTED by Landscape Design Council*

9:00AM *Ways and Means & Vendors – hotel concourse*

9:00 AM-9:50 AM *Finance Committee Meeting - Ballroom*

9:00 AM-11:50 AM *Workshops-Cypress Room*

10:00 AM-10:50AM *District Directors Meeting - Ballroom*

11:00 AM-11:50 AM *Executive Committee Meeting - Ballroom*

12:00 PM-2:00 PM *Lunch Buffet – Ballroom
HOSTED by Gardening Consultants Council
HONORING CLUB PRESIDENTS*

2:10 PM -4:00 PM *Workshops – Cypress Room*

2:10 PM-3:00 PM *LCNFAS Judges Council Meeting – Ballroom*

3:10 PM-4:00 PM *Gardening Consultant Council Meeting – Ballroom*

6:00 PM-7:00 PM *Happy Hour (cash bar), Light Hors-d’oeuvres- hotel concourse*

7:00 PM-9:00 PM *Buffet Dinner-Ballroom
HOSTED by Flower Show Judges Council*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

7:30 AM-2:00 PM *Registration- hotel lobby*

7:30 AM-8:50 AM *Breakfast Buffet – Ballroom
HOSTED by Environmental Consultants Council
HONORING CIRCLE of ROSES MEMBERS*

9:00 AM *Ways and Means & Vendors open – hotel concourse*

9:00 AM-11:50 AM *Workshops-Cypress Room*

10:00 AM-10:50 AM *Environmental Consultants Council Meeting - Ballroom*

11:00 AM-11:50 AM *Landscape Design Council Meeting - Ballroom*

LGCF TOURS

Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman



*“I lost myself among
wildflowers, forgetting to
return home.”*

Ryokan



SPRING TOUR FOR NASHVILLE'S ANTIQUE AND GARDEN SHOW

January 8-11, 2026

I had mentioned that I was looking into planning a trip to the Rose Bowl Parade in 2026, where we could work on the *Louisiana Float*. Louisiana has not even started planning for that event; and after speaking to several groups and persons in that area, I was advised to wait until 2027, as the area would have a better chance to have recovered from the devastating fires earlier this year.

So in January, the Antique Show announces its dates of January 8-11, 2026. Not sure why they chose this early date every year, but they do. We would attend the show, and I am searching for a hotel that will allow us to go back and forth from the show, much like we were able to do in Philadelphia. We will also tour the *Belmont Mansion*, and probably the *Music Hall of Fame and Museum* and take in a show at the *Grand Ole Opry* in Ryman Auditorium. Looking at touring the famous Studio B. I will also try to get a reservation to eat at Lainey Wilson's restaurant, *Bell Bottoms Up!!* Also looking at Andrew Jackson's *Hermitage Museum*.

TOUR TO MACKINAC ISLAND

Fall 2026—Sep 18-22?

We will fly and travel to Mackinac Island, tour the island and we will tour other highlights that are in the area, since the island is not very large.

THERE IS THE OPTION TO TAKE A CRUISE AROUND THE GREAT LAKES, BUT IT IS A LITTLE EXPENSIVE, BUT IS A SPECTACULAR CRUISE!!

Still developing the tour, so if you have suggestions, please get in touch.

**IF I DO NOT HAVE ATLEAST 20 PEOPLE TRAVELING,
I WILL NOT DO THE TOUR!!!**

TOUR TO ROSE PARADE

Dec 29, 2026—Jan 3, 2027

We will go to Pasadena, CA to work on the *Louisiana Float* for the New Year's Day, Rose Parade. We will also tour area interests and the beautiful area. This is just in the planning stage as well. **We again will have to have 20 people traveling!**



I have been asked to stay as Tour Chairman until 2028—so please be thinking of suggestions for 2027 and 2028!!! Have had touring the Mississippi River on the Steamboat. Also Columbia River out west. If do not tour the Great Lakes in 2026, I can look into that!

Ph: 318-498-0094

naomicordill@aol.com

Check the [Tours](#) tab on LGCF website for updates





Patricia Hammaker Ayala District VI, Gardenettes

CIRCLE OF ROSES

Patricia Hammaker Ayala, better known as Cricket, was born in Hammond. Cricket grew up in Ponchatoula and graduated from Ponchatoula High School and Southeastern Louisiana University. After college she moved to Ville Platte to pursue what would be a lifelong career with the Department of Family and Children Services.

By the time Cricket retired from the Department of Family and Children Services she moved to New Orleans. It was there that she met and married the late Luis Ayala. Together they enjoyed a life full of all that New Orleans had to offer in the 1970's and 1980's. As proud members of the Tulane Alumni Association, they were avid supporters of the boys' basketball team. Cricket quickly became their "Team Mom". She earned this unofficial title by making small bags of homemade cookies for each player and coach which she gave to them for each game.

As with so many, 20 years ago while living in New Orleans a few blocks from the 16th Street canal breach, Hurricane Katrina's flood waters reached the attic of their home. They lost everything. Cricket was Katrina(ed) full circle back to Ponchatoula.

In 2008, Charlotte Faller, a high school classmate, invited Cricket to join Gardenettes. She has been an asset to our club serving as Parliamentarian and numerous committees. In particular she has carried out the duties of Garden of the Month and Genesis awards. She and Margaret Bailey have co-chaired compiling the Publicity Yearbook for 2 years. Their efforts achieved 1st and 2nd place awards. She has also helped Margaret design and paint the Gardenettes' Quilt Trail Square. It is displayed at Kiwanis Park where the Gardenettes tend the Butterfly Garden. She has helped the group of Gardenettes that sponsored the City of St. Gabriel win 1st place when they participated in the Cleanest City contest but had no garden club of their own. She actively participates in many scheduled activities such as fund raising, plant and rummage sales, field trips, planting trees for Arbor Day, distributing cancer awareness pink ribbons for Make a Difference Day, sewing Bosom Buddy bags, caring for the Butterfly and Collinswood Museum flower beds, and also decorating the Youth Oaks Christmas Tree.

Cricket usually gravitates to the back row or tries to be the one taking the photo as she dislikes being in photos and Gardenettes takes a lot of photos. Her claim to fame however is her homemade brownies and 7-up pound cake. She graciously offers these to the hostess of any of our gatherings. Cricket also serves Ponchatoula as Treasurer of the Northshore Quilt Trail and member of the Ponchatoula Housing Authority.



Donna Moran District VI, Covington Garden Club

Donna Knight Moran is a true garden enthusiast. She has been engaged with flowers and plants all her life because both grandmothers to whom she was very close, were proficient growers and plant specialists who often used botanical names. Born in New Orleans, she graduated from Newcomb College and received her MSW from Tulane and her MBA from UNO. She worked 34 years with the Louisiana welfare department as Regional Program Manager and Parish Administrator. In retirement she became a tax preparer for 13 years.

Donna and her husband were married 48 years. She was a member of the Lakeview Botany Guild until Katrina flooded their home. She searched for a "Federated" club when she settled in Mandeville and was delighted when asked to join the Covington Garden Club. She enjoys visits from her nephew and his family who have their home in the state of Washington.

As a person of deep faith and service, she is active in Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist in Lakeview. She served on the restoration committee following Katrina, and more recently, she managed the FEMA application for Hurricane Ida damage at her church.

As an avid member of the Covington Garden Club, Donna has served on the Board of Directors, Arbor Day Chairman, Parliamentarian and Club President. She is a Past District Director. She is a Nationally Accredited Flower Show Master Judge, a Landscape Design Consultant, a LGCF Life Member and a Master Gardener.





Ellen Pusey District VI, Gardenettes

CIRCLE OF ROSES

A member of two garden clubs in the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Ellen Marie Larsen Pusey has served in different capacities as an officer in both the Community Garden Club and the Gardenettes.

Ellen is the second of nine children born to Ernest and Pauline Larsen in the sleepy little town of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Ellen received her love for gardening from her beloved parents, who were always in the yard planting and growing some of the most beautiful plants, delicious fruits and vegetables. From the scuppernong and tomato vines to the fig and pecan trees, there was always something yummy created in the kitchen from the delicious items grown in their garden.



Growing up in a large, loving family, Ellen's fun-loving personality made her a popular figure at home, in school and around town. Her father would always say, "Every family should have an Ellen!" In the fall of 1958 Ellen met her future husband, AJ Pusey. They were married on Halloween Day in 1959, and settled in Pascagoula. Their household quickly grew with the arrival of Robyn in 1960, Michael in 1962, Kevin in 1963, and finally, Cathy in 1964.

The family relocated to Chalmette, Louisiana in 1963 and Ellen had one of the toughest jobs around, as a stay-at-home mom! When all 4 children were finally in school, Ellen started a new career as a bank teller, working for People's Bank in Chalmette. Then in 1979, Ellen's husband had an opportunity for a job transfer, so they took a big leap of faith and moved the entire crew to Lima, Ohio. This is where Ellen found her love of gardening once again. Every spring and summer she and AJ would start a garden that was the envy of their neighbors. They grew beautiful tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, string beans - you name it, they grew it and then bottled it or canned it, so it could be enjoyed all year long.

While living in Lima, Ellen worked for Lazarus Department Store. She spent many years working in the cosmetics and shoe departments and her warm demeanor and dedication earned her multiple awards as a top salesperson. She made friends easily and belonged to several groups and clubs.

Years later, after all their children had moved, Ellen and AJ returned to Louisiana, settling in the Pusey family home in Ponchatoula, famously home to the majestic Sentinel Oak. Not long after arriving, Ellen was invited to join the Community Garden Club in Ponchatoula. She has worked on many committees for the club, including finding homes for the Garden of the Month, volunteering to put up Christmas trees at North Oaks and participating in planting flowers around town. She has been the secretary for the Garden Club and is currently the Treasurer for the group. She enjoys attending garden club meetings and has met many wonderful people.

Ellen attends St. Joseph Catholic Church and is a member of the Kaycee Ladies, and a local prayer group. Ellen and AJ will be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary this October 31st. Besides her four children, she has six granddaughters and three great grandchildren, all of whom love and adore her. Ellen's funny personality, kindness, compassion and willingness to help in any capacity has endeared her not only to her family, but to many others.



Wendy Wilcombe District VI, West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club

Wendy is a native of Port Allen, La. and a resident of West Baton Rouge parish for 58 years. She has been married to Adrian Wilcombe for 49 years and they have two children. Wendy and her husband are avid LSU Baseball fans with season tickets and attend most games. Wendy has been a member of the WBR Garden and Civic Club since 1995.

Church of the Nativity in Grosse Tete - Member

Live Oak Tree Society - Her Oak tree is currently being registered. Wendy's Live Oak tree started as an acorn from the Episcopal Church in New Orleans given to her by her father-in-law.

Brighten Your Day Arrangement - volunteers on the committee yearly, visiting local businesses helping to assure that the community is aware of the Garden Club activities and achievements.

Hospitality Committee and Special Events - Yearly Wendy chairs one of the hostess committees. She organizes her team to prepare beautiful decorations and food that is always outstanding!

Community & Gardening Projects - The WBR Garden & Civic Club has been working to prepare different gardens at the LSU AG Center in Port Allen which has won many awards, Wendy is part of that team.





Janell Woods

District VI, West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club

CIRCLE OF ROSES

Janell was raised in Winterville (Port Allen, Louisiana) and still lives there. Janell was raised in a family of ten girls and two boys. Her mother AnnaBelle Landry called her girls the “The Debutants of Winterville”. On the large tract of land where they lived, they grew produce to sell in Janell’s family’s store. Still today Janell and Larry have a large garden that provide produce for their entire family and others. From her Mom, who had a degree in Home Economics, Janell learned the value of healthy eating, her Mom’s motto was “A colorful plate is a healthy plate”.

Janell graduated from Northwestern with a degree in teaching, she taught for 35 years in the WBR school system, her favorite being kindergarten, second grade and Pre K. She met her husband Larry while attending Northwestern. They have been married fifty-one years! Larry retired from Exxon, but returns to assist with special projects. They have three children, two boys and one girl and eight grandchildren, five boys and three girls.



Janell has been a member of the West Baton Garden & Civic Club for 17 years. Her interest spiked in flower gardening. Having extensive experience in vegetable gardening she joined the club to improve her knowledge about flower gardening and flower arranging.

Garden Club Activities:

Community Gardening Project—Janell assist with the planting and upkeep of the gardens at the WBR AG Center. These gardens have won many awards both state wide and national awards.

Sugar Fest Decorating - Every year the local museum has a fair called the Sugar Fest. It celebrates the important role of sugar cane in our parish. Janell helps decorate for the event.

Garden Club Hostess-Yearly Janelle chairs one of the hostess committees. She organizes her team to prepare beautiful decorations and food that is always outstanding!

Keep WBR Beautiful- Janell helps to improve her community through beautification assisting in litter pickup.

Community Activities:

St Vincent de Paul- serves lunch every Monday, and assist with special projects throughout the year.

Holy Family Catholic Church in Port Allen- Janell has been a lifetime member of Holy Family where she is a Eucharistic minister, providing Eucharistic support to her church, the Homebound and parish members in the hospital. She is also a member of the Respect of Life Committee at Holy Family.

WBR Museum Historical Association Board - for many years Janell was a board member helping to promote interest in history.



Judy Gardiner

District VII, Lake Charles Garden Club

Dr. Judy Gardiner joined the Lake Charles Garden Club in 2008. She has enjoyed learning about plants and gardening, and has cherished the friendships made in our club. Over the years, she has served in various offices, including Corresponding Secretary and Remembrance Chairman. Judy has served as Club Hostess and worked on creating corsages and boutonnières to help celebrate birthdays for the elderly in a local nursing home. She has been a contributing member of numerous committees including Yearbook and Flower Show. She is always willing to work on yearly club projects such as flower box maintenance at a local park, landscape awards to local businesses and the youth gardening club.



She earned Bachelor, Master and Educational Specialist degrees from USL (now University of Louisiana) in Lafayette, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She has taught in public schools in both Lafayette and Fayetteville, and retired after 20 years as a professor in the Education Department at McNeese State University. Favorite pastimes include playing duplicate and party bridge, reading and gardening. She is married to William Gardiner and has one son.





Loretta Guzman

District VII, Lake Charles Garden Club

CIRCLE OF ROSES

Loretta Guzman received her love of gardening from her father who always had a vegetable garden to help feed their large family. She was reared in the Catholic Church and graduated from St Charles Academy. She attended McNeese State University for several years, then married and had three beautiful children. Loretta was a stay-at-home mom until her children were in high school, staying active in all their school events. During these years she developed her creative side by quilting, painting, home decorating and gardening. Loretta always considered herself a homemaker although she worked for many years in the medical billing and insurance fields.



In 2007 her journey into garden club began. On a chance meeting while biking by Loretta's home, Nan Himel introduced herself, admired the yard and invited Loretta to attend a Lake Charles Garden Club meeting.

As a garden club member, Loretta has held many club positions including president. During that time, she hosted the Lake Charles Garden Club for a tea party in her beautiful back yard. Her yard was featured with an article and pictures in the Lake Charles American Press. Loretta collects and dries flowers to assist club members make dried flower greeting cards to sell as an annual club fundraiser. She has also hosted workshops to teach others these skills.

Loretta works with the Small Standard Flower Show Committee as well as entering horticulture and floral designs in the show. She has received many ribbons and is our club's go-to for information on design entry. She enjoys attending local, district, and state meetings and conventions to interact with others who enjoy gardening and the yard as much as she does.

Loretta's husband supports her gardening efforts tirelessly working with her in their yard. He has built and donated items for our club raffle and plant sale as a potting table and birdhouses. Loretta stays active with her husband and their combined family of 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



Teeter Longtain-Scheufens

District VII, Lake Charles Garden Club

Teeter Longtain-Scheufens began her "gardening journey" as a child in the woods and yard of a beloved aunt. Teeter was born in 1945 in Lake Charles, LA and graduated from St. Charles Academy. She received degrees from McNeese State and Texas A&M Universities. She lived in Katy, TX with her two daughters where she was a member of a local garden club for over 10 years. She worked in the education field and then in educational sales. She returned to Lake Charles in 1999 and joined the Iowa Garden Club in 2000. Teeter served this club as Parliamentarian, Vice-President and then President for 3 terms. She enjoyed chairing many committees such as Blue Star, National Garden Week, Live Oak, Yearbook, Membership and Awards.



After the Iowa club disbanded in 2022, Teeter joined the Lake Charles Garden Club. She now spends her time enjoying many new friends and adventures. She is busy serving as Recording Secretary and Publicity Chair. She has chaired Circle of Roses, Outstanding Landscaping Award and Awards.

Teeter has 2 daughters who live in the Houston area with their husbands and her 3 grandsons. When not gardening she and her husband, C J Scheufens, run down I-10 to visit.

Nearing the age of 80, Teeter said that she is much slower in her yard but still enjoys a morning of playing in the dirt. What a blessing!





Earline Williams

District VII, Lake Charles Garden Club

Earline Williams lives in the town of Iowa and was an active member of the Iowa Garden Club for over 25 years. She served multiple terms as President, Vice-President and Secretary. She worked in every aspect of the club from chairing a committee to bring a Blue Star Memorial to the Iowa City Park in 1998 to developing an Arbor Day Program that honored citizens for their service to the town to fund-raising for projects through the club's plant sale and co-sponsoring a youth program. She was often seen picking up trash and guiding the town workers as Iowa prepared to participate in the Louisiana Cleanest City Contest. She coordinated with the library to offer programs and books on gardening.



Earline holds a Life Membership to the Louisiana Garden Club Federation and served the state as the Historical Preservation Chairman for several terms. After Hurricanes Laura and Delta, and then COVID, the club she loved dissolved. In 2023 she joined the Lake Charles Garden Club to find a place for her gardening interests and to continue learning.



Earline was married to the late Paul Williams and lived in Iowa where they reared their two sons, Doug and Todd. She has two beloved grandchildren. She served Iowa as a teacher of special needs children for many years and even returned to the classroom to help after her retirement. Earline Williams is an active member of St. Raphael's Catholic Church, a member of the Alter Society and Delta Kappa Gamma. She enjoys quilting, reading, traveling and above all...gardening. Her yard and flowers are a beauty to behold. Congratulations and Keep Gardening!

CIRCLE OF ROSES

Kathy Bedenbaugh, LGCF Chairman

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 985-507-3066 (Cell) 985-345-1566 (Home)



LGCF PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Carla Gauthier, LGCF President 2025-2027

Snoann Willett, LGCF Newsletter Editor 2025



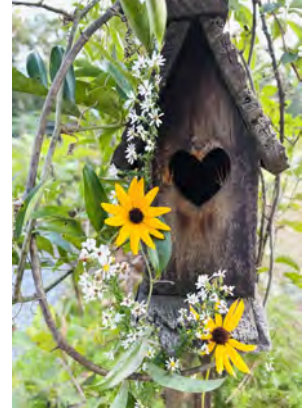
Amaryllis - *Hippeastrum*



Belinda's Dream - *Rosa*



Beggar's tick - *Bidens aristosa*



Birdhouse with calico aster and sunflower
- *Symphotrichum lateriflorum*



Pipeline swallowtail on cardinal
flower - *Lobelia cardinalis*



Gerbera - *Gerbera Jamesonii*



Lily - *Lilium*



Mantis preying on Lantana



Plumeria



Gulf fritillary on porterweed -
Stachytarpheta frantzii



Sunflower - *Helianthus annuus*



Rosa spp



Blackberry - *Rubus Allegheniensis*

LGCF Photography Contest Rules

Closed - thank you to everyone who submitted an image. I have thoroughly delighted seeing each of your beautiful pictures. Watch for the cover of the April edition to see the winning photo!

The contest will run from August 1, 2025 to December 1, 2025. Any club member is eligible to participate. The winning photograph will appear on the cover of the 2026 April - Spring Newsletter and the winner will receive \$50.00.

- Two (2) photos per club member will be accepted.
- Subject matter must relate to horticulture and gardening. Inclusion of animals, insects, aquatic, or persons is acceptable.
- Single-color entries must include scientific names; can include common names. If desired, please state where the photo was taken, whether in your own garden, a state or city park, etc.
- The contest will run from August 1, 2025 to December 1, 2025.
- Any club member is eligible to participate.
- Must be an image file. Pictures of pictures or a screenshot of a photo or a pdf file will not be considered.

All photos received by September 1 will appear in the 2025 October- Fall Newsletter. Those received before December 1 will appear in the 2026 January-Winter edition of the Newsletter. In January 2026, all the photos will be judged, and the winning photo will be announced as a surprise on the cover of the 2026 April-Spring Newsletter along with the \$50.00 prize money.

Submit photographs to lgcfnews@gmail.com Any questions, contact Snoann Willett, LGCF Newsletter Editor.

Parishes within each District



District I "Inactive at this time and has joined District II."

District II Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Orleans, St Bernard, Plaquemines

District III Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, St. Mary, St. Martin, Lafayette, Iberia, Vermillion.

District IV Caddo, DeSoto, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, Claiborne, Red River "Inactive at this time"

District V Lincoln, Jackson, Union, Ouachita, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, Tensas, Madison, Richland, Morehouse,

West Carroll, East Carroll, Franklin.

District VI West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Tammany, Livingston, Ascension, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge.

District VII Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, Saint Landry.

District VIII Sabine, Natchitoches, Winn, LaSalle, Grant, Rapides, Vernon, Avoyelles