

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.
Newsletter
April 2026



Passiflora incarnata "Passionflower"

Darnelle Delcambre, New Iberia Garden Club
Winner of the 2025 LGCF Photography Contest

**"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.

VOLUME LXXVI

April 2026

NO 4

LGCF 2025-2027
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1 JUNE, 2026
IS THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE 1 JULY, 2026
SUMMER ISSUE.



Editors Corner:

Runner Up is Connie Moore, Covington Garden Club. Thank you to everyone who submitted an image for the contest. The three independent judges who are active, professional photographers had a very difficult time choosing and was impressed by all of the entries. I'm already looking forward to seeing your talented creations for the next contest.

See details on page 5.

Email: LGCFNews@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As LGCF President, I am pleased to reflect on my first year in office, which has been truly enjoyable, thanks to the support of club members and family. My first task was to team up with Kyle Martin, President Elect and our Webmaster, Vicky Fannaly to strengthen our networking capabilities and communication. Anything of importance can be found on the LGCF website or the dedicated President's Project page; it is updated regularly to keep our 1500 club members informed of what is going on at LGCF as well as Deep South and NGC activities. Look for the details in this Newsletter.

Our Hum Zinger Scholarship fund, along with our \$100 Garden Club Scholarship challenge designed to support aspiring students pursuing their passion for horticulture through education, allows us to fully fund our scholarships.

We will easily meet our goal of registering 250 live oaks to celebrate America's birthday on July 4th of 2026. In February, Coleen reported that she registered 72 more new trees during that month; many coming from District VI. We will announce the winning live oak, that will be given a special name to honor the occasion, at our Summer Board meeting.

I am also so pleased to announce that we have established a partnership with Keep Louisiana Beautiful like NGC's partnership with Keep America Beautiful. For the last fifty-plus years, Louisiana has sponsored the Cleanest City Contest, which was unique to Louisiana. Our long-time chairman, Jean Gilstrap is no longer with us, but we felt we should keep her vision alive.

Thus, our partnering with Keep Louisiana Beautiful will ensure that our Cleanest City legacy will continue. Our focus will be on keeping our many schools clean. The initiative program title will be "Litter-Free Louisiana Schools". We all know that our youth are our future. When new Chairman Joyce Greer and Keep Louisiana Beautiful liaison, Patsy Hebert, ask for help please respond.

Look for the winning photo posted on the cover of the April Newsletter; the recipient received \$50.00. Our next photo contest will focus on floral designs for the home or flower shows. The contest rules can be found in this Newsletter. A special thank you to Snoann Willett for her outstanding work as Newsletter Editor.

I attended both the DSGC zoom meeting in March and the DSGC cruise a few days later. I'm really looking forward to the NGC convention in St. Louis, Missouri to celebrate America's birthday.

We are very excited about our upcoming State convention in April in Houma, Louisiana, the heart of Cajun country. All pertinent information can be found on our website. NGC President, Donna Donnelly, will be our special guest. She and her husband are planning a two-day visit with us. I hope they experience that "laissez les bon temps rouler" feeling!



Photo courtesy of
Coleen Perilloux Landry

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

Carla S. Gauthier

LGCF PHOTO CONTEST

2026-2027

LGCF Photography Contest Rules

The contest will run from August 1, 2026, to December 1, 2027. Any club member is eligible to take part. The winning photograph will appear on the cover of the 2027 April-Spring Newsletter, and the winner would receive \$50.00.

The following rules apply:

- Two (2) photos per club member will be accepted.
- Subject matter must be A COMPLETED CREATIVE DESIGN; some plant material must be used.
- Single, color entries must include a brief description of the design chosen, design type, selected plant material, or event (flower show or design for the home).
- The contest will run from August 1, 2026, to December 1, 2027.
- Must be an image file. Pictures of pictures or a screenshot of a photo or a pdf file will not be considered.
- Any club member is eligible to participate.

All photos received by September 1 will appear in the 2026 October-Fall Newsletter.

Those received by December 1 will appear in the 2027 January-Winter edition of the Newsletter.

In January 2027, all photos will be judged and the winning photo will be announced as a surprise on the cover of the 2027 April Spring Newsletter along with a \$50.00 prize.

Submit photograph image files to lgcfnews@gmail.com

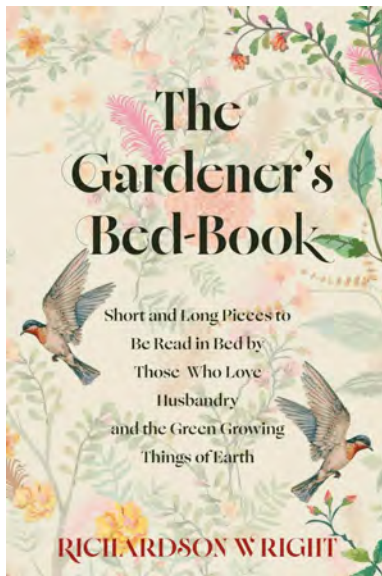
Any questions, contact Snoann Willett, LGCF Newsletter Editor

Calling all Creative
People!



BOOK REVIEW

Cissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair



The Gardener's Bed-Book:

Short and Long Pieces to Be Read in Bed by
Those who Love Green Growing Things
(Modern Library Gardening)

By Richardson Wright

Published by J.B. Lippincott Co., 1929
Philadelphia

First Warbler Classic Edition, 2025
201 pages

ISBN-13: 978-1965684-71-9

How about this one for an “oldie”, but (I do believe) a “goodie?”

Truth be told, I haven't read this in its entirety yet. That's the fun part! This book timelessly guides and entertains on a 365-day journey, with reflections and musings in a calming “voice” that's perfect for starting or ending a day.

I've started down this lovely garden path.
Would you care to join me?



UPCOMING EVENTS

[LGCF website/Events/Calendar](http://LGCFwebsite/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

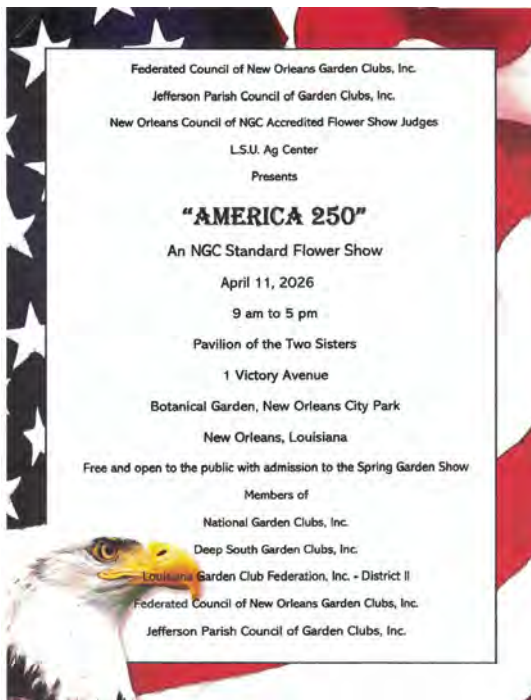
317 N Jefferson Ave, Covington, LA 70433

Located at the corner of W 23rd and
N Madison Ave, behind Covington City Hall

Members of National Garden Club, Inc., Deep South

2026

- April 1 Dues Due - State, District
- April 2 [Covington Garden Club](#) presents
“A Taste of the South” an NGC
Standard Flower Show, at the
Bogue Falaya Hall
- April 11 Lafayette Garden Club Flower Show
at [Festival des Fleurs de Louisiane](#),
Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
- April 11 New Orleans Council of NGC
Accredited Flower Show Judges
“America 250” at the
[Pavilion of the Two Sisters](#)
- April 13-15 LGCF Convention, District III
Houma [Registration](#) - [Hotel](#)
Deadline Mar 14
- April 18-26 [Love the Boot Week](#)
- April 22 [Earth Day](#) registration/find an event
- May 4-6 NGC Convention (St. Louis MO)
- June 7-13 [National Garden Week](#) ideas & more
- July 19-20 Summer Board -
mark those calendars!
- August 11-13 Flower Show School Course I,
Lafayette



“Sunshine on the Bayou”

Louisiana Garden Club 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

9:00 AM 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-10:50 AM District Directors Meeting - Ballroom

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

12:00 PM-2:00 PM Lunch Buffet – Ballroom
Lunch presided over by Carla Gauthier, LGCF President 2025-2027
Speaker Donna Donnelly, NGC President

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 LIFE MEMBERS AND 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

12:00 PM-2:00 PM Lunch Buffet – Ballroom
Hosted by Gardening Consultants Council, HONORING LIFE MEMBERS

2:30 PM-5:00 PM Business Meeting – Ballroom

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Happy Hour (cash bar), Light Hors-d’oeuvres - Hotel Concourse

7:00 PM-9:00 PM Awards Banquet



Safe Travels Home!

Safe Travels Home!

“Sunshine on the Bayou”

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.
2026 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



All workshops will be held in the Cypress Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

9:00 AM-9:45 AM

Corrine Martin is a native of Houma and a resident of Maine. She is a Certified Clinical Herbalist. Retired from teaching holistic and integrative health at the University of Southern Maine nursing school, she is the author of 3 books on the use of medicinal plants for personal health and ecological stewardship. Her presentation will be “Louisiana Healing Garden - medicinal plants for a sustainable future”. This is the title of her new book which is available at her vendor’s table.

10:00 AM-10:45 AM

Paige Mizell is Vice President of Mizell’s Camellia Hill Nursery. She has worked full time at the nursery since 2014. She has a B.A. in psychology, a Master’s Degree in Special Education and Applied Psychology and a Ph.D. in Applied Clinical Sports Psychology. She is president of Southeast Louisiana Nursery Association. Her topic is “Azaleas”- history, terminology, and important breeders.

2:15 PM-3:00 PM

Natalie Waters is the BTNEP Wildlife Conservation Coordinator and has worked for the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program since 2014. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. She works for conservation efforts for native birds, plants, pollinators, fish and shellfish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammal populations. Her presentation is “Native Plants for Pollinators in Backyard Gardens”.

3:15 PM-4:00 PM

Dr. Quenton Fontenot, Director of Research and Professor and Head of Biological Sciences at Nicholls State University. His topic is “Incorporating Native Plants into Coastal Restoration” to repair and restore Louisiana’s coastline.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

9:00 AM-9:45 AM

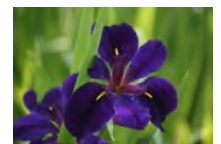
Jeffrey Carbo, received bachelor’s degree from LSU in Landscape Architecture. He has over 35 years of experience in Landscape Architecture. He is a Registered Landscape Architect in Louisiana and several other states. He is the recipient of several commendations and awards including the LSU Hall of Distinction. His topic is “ Integrating Culture, Art and Science in Contemporary Design”.

10:00 AM-10:45 AM

Elisa Tubbs and Leah Praether are our “Dynamic Duo” from the West Baton Rouge Garden and Civic Club. They will speak on the program they created around native plants in your own environment “Certifying Native Habits in Your Own Backyard”.

11:00 AM-11:45 AM

Kerry Heafner is an Associate Extension Agent in horticulture for the LSU AgCenter. He has a B.S. In Botany and an M.S. in Biology. After a watermelon seed discovery, he started the North Louisiana Seed Preservation Program. He has a very informative program on the preservation of Heirloom Seeds. The title is “Heirloom Seeds”.



LGCF TOURS

Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman



“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.”

Saint Augustine



TOUR TO MACKINAC ISLAND Sep 20-25, 2026

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

See Brochure on the following page.

I MUST HAVE 20 PEOPLE!!!!!!

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 areas. We will also tour area interests and beautiful areas. We will stay at the lovely boutique hotel Amaranos in Burbank as hotels area half the cost of Pasadena.



TOUR TO ROSE PARADE Dec 27, 2026—Jan 2, 2027

There will be a reception provided by the State and two lunches. All going will be able to take part in these activities. And they will be able to observe the “final judging of the float” on December 31. All will be able to watch the Rose Parade “live” from the stand!! Only in person does the parade justice!!! We will also tour Hollywood and the area.

I WILL HAVE TO KNOW FOR SURE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND BY APRIL 15, 2026 so that I can be among the first to request decorating spots!!! We will again need 20 people to travel. Submit your \$100 deposit to secure your spot - this will also ensure you’re eligible to decorate if there is a limit on participants. I hope to have an estimated total cost available by the Convention.

DATE CANNOT BE CHANGED!

Suggestions for 2027-2028: Touring the Mississippi River on the Steamboat. Also Columbia River out west. Victoria Island and Butchart Gardens. Gardens in the London Area. Attending the International Garden Show again in Philadelphia!!

ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS????

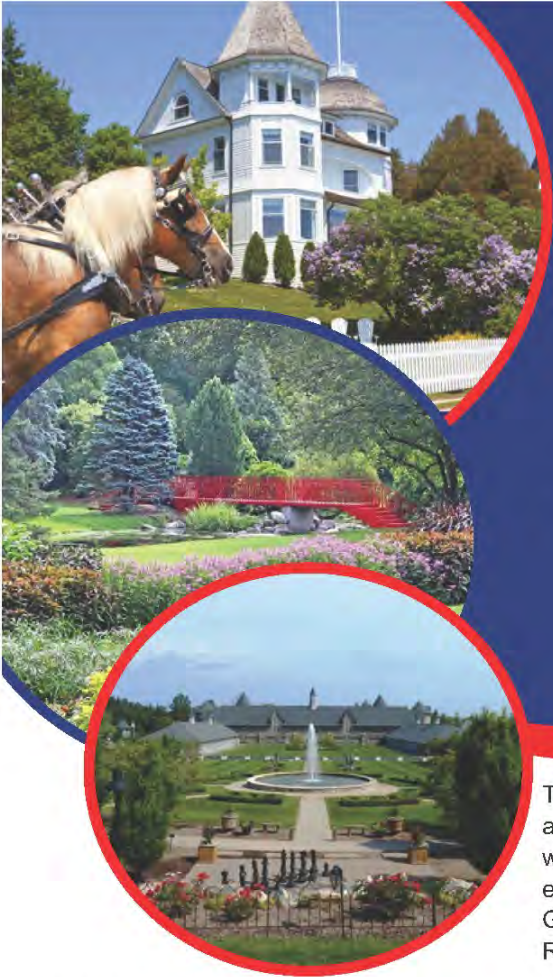
Check the Tours tab on LGCF website for all updates

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





Louisiana Garden Club Federation

Michigan Gardens & Mackinac Island

6 Days September 20-25, 2026

There's no better place to celebrate the fall season than in botanical gardens across Michigan. Throughout the state, master gardeners brighten the landscape with flowers and foliage ranging from Michigan's heartiest native varieties to exotic gems. This tour also features a full day on beautiful Mackinac Island, a Grand Hotel lunch, a tour of the luxurious Castle Farms, an Elk Viewing Carriage Ride, and a Gourmet Dinner and Wine at the Thunder Bay Resort.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Michigan Gardens
 - Botanic Gardens at Historic Barns Park
 - Dow Gardens
 - Beal Botanical Gardens
- Full Day on Mackinac Island
 - Round Trip Ferry to Mackinac Island
 - Horse-Drawn Carriage Tour
 - Lunch at the Grand Hotel
 - Free Time on the Island
- Castle Farm Museum & Gardens w/lunch
- Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Show
- Free Time at Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino
- Thunder Bay Resort
 - Elk Viewing Carriage Ride
 - Gourmet Dinner & Wine Tasting
- Five Nights Lodging
- Five Breakfasts, Two Lunches & Three Dinners
- Luggage Handling (as available)
- All Taxes & Tips on Above Services & Driver's Gratuity
- Motorcoach Transportation in Michigan
- Airport to Hotel Transfer (Sept 20)
- Hotel to Airport Transfer (Sept 25)
- *Itinerary Subject to Change*

PER PERSON PRICES (BASED ON MINIMUM 20 PAID)

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY **\$2,600-\$2,800**

SINGLE OCCUPANCY **+ \$600**

****Airfare is not included in the above pricing.
Air is estimated at \$800 per person.**

****Those interested in spending the night of September 21 at the Grand Hotel with dinner and breakfast, contact me for information**

**\$250 per person deposit due with reservation
(Deposit is non-refundable)**

Final Payment due by June 20, 2026

MAY BE PAID VIA VENMO, ZELLE OR A CHECK

CANCELLATION PENALTIES

First Penalty - July 1, 2026 - \$200.00 Per Person

Second Penalty - August 20, 2026 - 50.00% Per Person

Third Penalty - September 1, 2026 - 100.00% Per Person

For Reservations or More Information Contact:

Naomi Cordill

(318) 498-0094

naomiccordill@aol.com

Naomi's World Travel

156 Botany Bay Road

Saint Joseph, LA 71366-4407

Michigan Gardens & Mackinac Island

6 Days September 20-25, 2026

Day 1 – Mackinaw City, MI – Arrive today in Michigan and make your way to Mackinaw City, MI where you enjoy a two-night stay at a local hotel. On arrival in Mackinaw City, a motorcoach will be waiting to transfer your group to your hotel for the evening. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 2 – Ferry to Mackinac Island – Horse-Drawn Carriage Tour – Grand Luncheon Buffet – Free Time - After breakfast, meet your motorcoach this morning for a transfer to the dock and your ferry ride to Mackinac Island. Board Shepler's Ferry for a journey to Mackinac Island. Accessible only by boat, this summer resort has the feel of life in the 1890's.

There are no motorized vehicles on the island, horse drawn carriages will meet your ferry, and then with the clattering of hooves on cobblestones, whisk you off on a narrated tour. Enjoy a scenic ride around the Island on Horse-Drawn Carriages. Prepare yourself for a tour like no other. What you will experience is by far the most enjoyable and authentic way to view the Island.

Today, the Grand Lunch Buffet is included at the Grand Hotel, one of the finest hotels in the world, it is a truly lovely setting, and a memorable meal. Take a moment and enjoy a rocking chair view from the world's longest porch. Following lunch, you have time to visit the shops and boutiques near the Ferry Docks. Gather souvenirs, including a box of famous Mackinac Island Fudge. After spending a full day on the Island, take the return ferry back to the mainland where you spend a second night in Mackinaw City. Dinner is on your own this evening. **(B,L) **Or spend the night at the Grand Hotel and take the ferry to meet the group on Sept 22.**

Day 3 – Castle Farms Museum & Gardens Tour w/Lunch – Traverse City, MI - Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park – Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Show - This morning, depart for Charlevoix, Michigan to tour Castle Farms, a beautiful French Renaissance castle. Enjoy a guided tram tour of the soaring towers, stone buildings, and sweeping gardens inspired by European design. Vintage museum quality collections of castles, toys, and WWI artifacts are displayed throughout the buildings, along with royal family memorabilia. The Castle's Outdoor Model Railroad (seasonal), with an average of 40 G-scale trains operating on 2,500 feet of track, is the largest in the state of Michigan. Enjoy lunch at Castle Farms after your guided tour. It's not every day you get to eat lunch at a 100-year-old castle!

This afternoon, travel to Traverse City, MI where you enjoy a visit to the Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park. The Botanic Garden is a year-round sanctuary of environmental preservation, recreation and education. Its 25 acres nurtures the soul, enlivens our history and promotes Michigan's natural beauty. With an emphasis on plant species native to northwest Michigan, it creates and enhances habitats for various forms of wildlife.

Then check into the Hampton Inn for an overnight stay. Dinner is included this evening at Harrington's By The Bay. Following dinner, enjoy the Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Show. A band that replicates the songs, styles and moods of the Canadian singer-songwriter's best. Be ready for a visual, acoustic trip from the Great Lakes to the Canadian Rockies; through the pains of lost loves and haunting melodies. **(B,L,D)**

Day 4 - Guided Tour of Dow Gardens – Beal Botanical Garden – Soaring Eagle Resort w/Dinner – Start the day with a guided tour of Dow Gardens in Midland, MI. Experience a dazzling 110-acre display of annuals and perennials punctuated by distinctive bridges, towering pines, and delightful water features. Take a guided walking tour at Dow Gardens. (Tours last approximately one hour and may include up to one mile of walking.)

Next, take a guided tour of Beal Botanical Garden, 5-acre botanical garden located on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Beal is one of over 100 international botanical gardens that have demonstrated success in conservation of plant species, inspiring people, sharing knowledge, and addressing global challenges. Beal is the first and only BGCI-accredited garden in Michigan.

End the day by checking into the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt Pleasant, MI. Immerse yourself in luxury and escape inside a AAA Four Diamond rated room. Here you can unwind in the comfort of your room. Dinner is included this evening at the resort. The evening is yours to enjoy the Soaring Eagle Casino or the full-service spa. **(B,D)**

Day 5 - Thunder Bay Resort – Elk Viewing Carriage Ride – Gourmet Dinner & Wine Tasting – Today, you arrive at the Thunder Bay Resort for an overnight stay. The Thunder Bay Resort is a beautiful, all-season resort poised on 400 acres in the heart of Northeast Michigan. Included with your stay is an Elk Viewing Carriage ride through the Resort. Cross the Thunder Bay River to see newborn calves and world class bull elk in velvet. It's magical to see such large antlers in velvet up close. The ride ends at the beautiful Elk Antler Log Cabin where a blazing fire in the massive fireplace awaits you. You then enjoy a Five-Course Gourmet Meal and Wine Tasting. **(B,D)**

Day 6 – Depart for Home - After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport and your return flight home. **(B)**





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)



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