

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



April 2021

“Plant America-Bring Nature Home
with Native Plants”

THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

Newsletter

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

"Plant America-Bring Nature Home with Native Plants"



VOLUME LXXI

April 2021

NO. 4

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Our cover photo was taken by **Roxy Blanton of Azalea Garden Club, District III**. *Papilio glaucus*, common name Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, is a species of swallowtail butterfly native to eastern United States. It flies from spring to fall, during which it produces two to three broods. Adults feed on the nectar of many species of flowers. *P. glaucus* has a wingspan measuring 3.2 to 5.5 in., with females being the larger sex.

If you would like to submit drawings, paintings, or photos for the cover of the Newsletter, please email them (or good copies) to

lqcfnews@gmail.com or mail to the new editor listed below.

Co-Editors..... Ruth Delhomme and Roxy Blanton

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO Summer ISSUE, July 2021, IS June 1ST, 2021

Please send all information for this issue to lqcfnews@gmail.com or mail to the new Editor:

Donna Cline, 826 Evergreen Dr., Gretna LA 70053 Phones: C (217)-778-2513 H (504)-702-8521

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Plant America-Bring Nature Home with Native Plants"



When my term as LGCF President began in 2019, I chose to view the next two years as an adventurous journey. Oh, what an adventure it has been—and not exactly as planned. Some roads were permanently blocked. Detours were taken. Nothing followed the map. However, new trails were blazed and new ideas took shape. The destination is in view. Two years is not really a long time after all.

We had great plans. Many of those plans were placed on hold. The goal of installing Blue Star Markers at the Louisiana Welcome Centers started successfully in January 2020 at the I-10 Welcome Center in Slidell. I am happy to report that a Blue Star Memorial Marker has been ordered for the I-10 Vinton Welcome Center. We hope to be able to install it in April 2021.

"Bring Nature Home with Native Plants" is still good advice. After multiple hurricanes and snow and ice, the native plants are surviving better than the non-natives. It's never too late to add them to your landscape.

The business of the Federation continued through emails, postal mail, phone calls, conference calls, Zoom meetings and a few in-person meetings. The most recent meeting was the Winter Executive Council Meeting on February 23. Because the 2021 Convention will not be held, a decision was

made about the method of voting by the Board of Directors. Ballots were due on March 29. The results will be announced later this month. The current Native Plant List will be replaced by the Louisiana Native Plant Society's Louisiana Certified Native Plant List. Future Convention sites are: 2022—Baton Rouge; 2023—Vidalia; and 2024—Lake Charles.

Instead of an installation, Roxanna and I will meet at the end of April to transfer the President's files, the President's pin and gavel, and all that goes with the office. We hope to have photos of the occasion to post. Other 2019-2021 officers and chairmen should make plans to transfer materials to their successors. The 2021-2023 administration will begin their duties on May 1. I extend my best wishes and support to them.

This is my final President's message for the Newsletter. Serving as LGCF President is a great honor and privilege. My only regret is that we were not able to do more. "Thank you" must be extended to many—to District VII for allowing me to represent them and for supporting me on the LGCF Board for several years; to all officers and committee chairmen for their cooperation and willingness to do whatever was necessary; to club presidents for leadership on the local level and finding creative ways of keeping clubs going during difficult times; to every club member for sticking with us for without members there would be no LGCF; and, to LGCF Past Presidents who were always in my corner.

Naming individuals is usually risky because those not mentioned may feel left out, but I am going to do it. Special thanks and honor go to Sara Marshall who is retiring from LGCF leadership positions after more years than we can count. She has served in several capacities. Sara's recall of past actions and her words of wisdom on the Finance Committee have served us well. Sara can add the figures in her head faster than most can enter them in the calculator. Also, special thanks to Newsletter Co-Editors Roxy Blanton and Ruth Delhomme who are retiring from their Newsletter positions upon publication of this edition. Thank you for the many beautiful Newsletters you have produced over the last four years. I look forward to joining my friends in the esteemed club of LGCF Past Presidents.

Linda Finley

EDITORS' CORNER



This will be our last issue as co-editors. There are three changes for your next issue.

- 1. Your new editor is Donna Cline. Her information is on the Table of Contents page.*
- 2. Change of email for the newsletter. The new email is lgcfnews@gmail.com*
- 3. Deeds and Doings will no longer appear in the newsletter, but articles and pictures will appear on the website and should be sent to webmaster Vicky Finally at www.lgcfinc.org*

Ruth Delhomme and Roxy Blanton, Co-editors



The 2021 Convention has been rescheduled for April 26 & 27, 2022.
We will also have the Tour on April 25, 2022.
We are looking forward to having a great convention in 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA.
Please mark your calendar.
We will keep you informed going forward.

Regards,
Ruth Delhomme

Article from LGCF Tours Chairman, Naomi Cordill lgcftours@aol.com 318-498-0094

2022 HOLLAND WITH THE TULIPS

The special, private tour for Holland to see the Tulips, is still on schedule for **April 10 to 19, 2022**. Information will be mailed to ALL of the Districts in April, and **deposits need to be made by July 15, 2021!** Deposits are refundable until 2022, other than \$150 as of October 2021. I am very excited about this tour, as I am working with one Guide who lives in Holland, and every activity we do will be just for our group. You will see actual Tulip Farms and fields; go on Day Trips to different locations in cities every day. If you have not received any information about this or any of these tours, please contact me directly, and I will send to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me as well.

2022 Passion Play

June 12, 2022! Some of you have told me that you wish you had booked this tour, so there are some availabilities currently for this once-every-ten-year event that takes place in Germany. Just contact if you have any interest in going with the group.

2022 Biltmore Tour in November

After discussion with the Biltmore, our President, Linda Finley and our President Elect, Roxanna Champagne; it has been decided that this tour to the Biltmore, Gibbs Gardens and Callaway Gardens will be postponed until **November 7 to 11, 2022**. Thanksgiving again will be late, November 24, 2022.

Environmental School is back on LGCF's calendar in 2021

The challenges of the pandemic may still be with us, but we remain cautious and optimistic. Jan Lemoine, Local School Chairman, is moving ahead with plans for Courses 3 and 4. Safe, in-person classes will be held in Mansura, LA, Sept. 27-30, 2021.

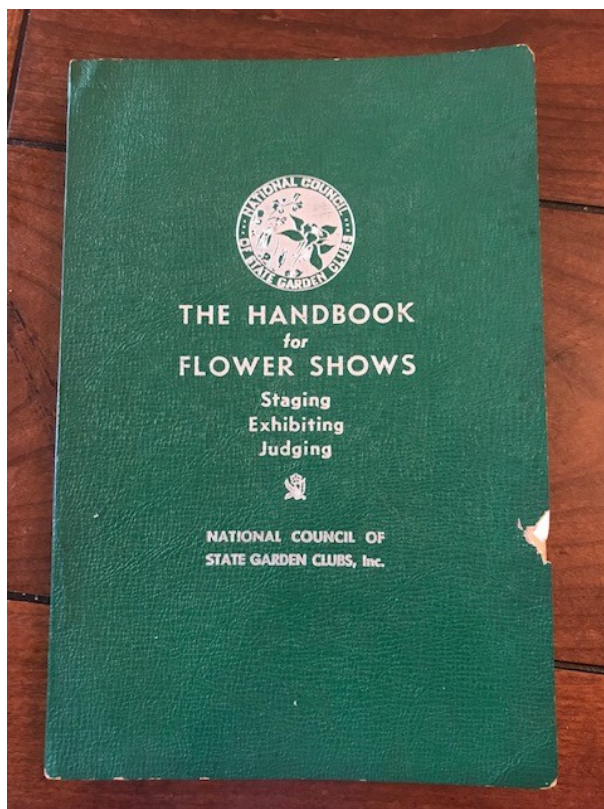
Registration forms will be available on the LGCF Schools website.

A reminder will be sent to students and Consultants who must complete a course or refresher in 2021 to maintain "good standing" status. If you have questions concerning your ES status, please contact me by text or email.

Gwen Lanoux
ES State Chairman
gwendym1@gmail.com
858-414-3015

While volunteering at the Botanical Garden, one of the employees called me to say she had something for me I might like because I judged flower shows. She gave me a book, the 1949 First Edition of "The Handbook for Flower Shows, Staging, Exhibiting, Judging" by National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. I was so excited to get it and share it with the judges in the New Orleans area. I will bring it to our next convention to share with you all. It will be included in our local archives.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Miller



MARK your calendars! Plans are being made for a Gardening School to be held in Lafayette September 1 and 2. For additional information contact co-chairs Anita Petitjean at 337-366-4080 or Linda Broussard at 337-288-3214. Attendees of the first course are pictured below.



RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE

Enjoy a Dinner or Luncheon on the Bayou

From the deck of a private yacht to Headquarters in Lecompte, Gwen Milby has been preparing culinary treats of all kinds for all who were fortunate enough to sample them.

Now is your chance to have this talented young lady perform her culinary magic for you.

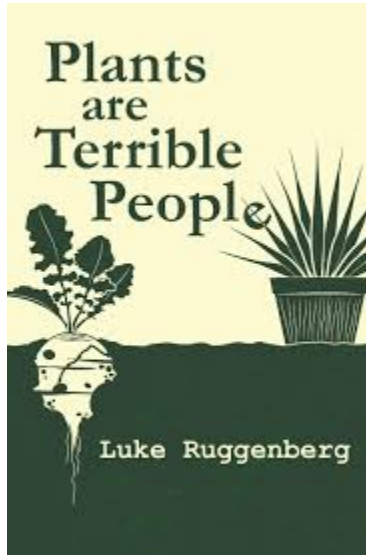
Take a chance – buy one – and if you are lucky, Gwen will prepare a delight of your choice for a dinner party or luncheon of six, at LGCF Headquarters, on a date you can set.

Proceeds from this drawing will go to repair the damages to Headquarters caused by the recent ice storm. Our insurance did not cover ice, snow, or cold weather.

Please be generous, take a chance, to enjoy a fun experience and wonderful food.

Chances are \$25 and will be available from district directors and club presidents. The drawing will be held in Lecompte on Thursday May 20th. We know this trip may be too far for some members, but just know that we will gladly accept and appreciate any donations. If you have questions or concerns please contact Janet Moriarty, local chairman, at 318-308-0394 or jantmmoriarty@gmail.com. Thank you.

BOOK REVIEW



Plants Are Terrible People **By Luke Ruggenberg**

Independently Published, Coppell, Texas 2019

189 Pages

ISBN-13: 9781095576250

They say laughter is the best medicine, right? Well, here you go...open wide...

A dose of this quirky book will probably make you an addict. With his particular brand of humor, the author will lighten your spirits and provide lots of insider gardening information through his narratives of his own outdoors journey.

From choosing your “spirit plant”, to sharing interesting (to say the least) recipes, to the story of his seed catalogue hangover, and on to Kevin the rutabaga, you’ll not want to put the book down!

Ruggenberg’s “voice” is part what goes on inside our own heads at times, and part your energetic, eccentric neighbor 3 doors down who constantly talks to themselves. Try out this fun little book, and you’ll see!

Submitted by Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair



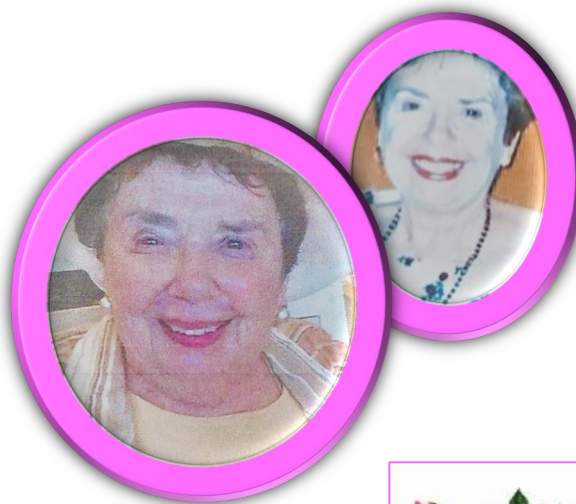
Circle of Roses



Joy Lozes

Shady Oaks Garden Club

District II



At a young age, Joy Wille Lozes showed a strong interest in gardening. She used a small space in her parents' backyard to start growing flowers from seed packets. After much success, she moved on to the love of azaleas, camellias, caladiums, mandevillas, roses and many more varieties of plants.



She married her best friend, Felicien Lozes, and they had three boys. Between being a wife, mom, and friend to all, she always found time to garden. She had a keen eye for making her yard and gardens look neat and strikingly attractive. Joy was gracious enough to patiently work with her daughter-in-law to get her started in her deep interest in gardening as well.

Joy joined Shady Oaks Garden Club in 1990 to enhance her gardening knowledge and socialize with fellow gardeners. Her yard was selected and put on the Shady Oaks Garden Club "Under the Oaks" Garden Tour in 1990. She frequently received the "Garden of the Month" award. Joy always entered multiple specimens in the "Shady Oaks Flower Show" which earned her several notable awards.

Joy received such great pleasure attending the monthly meetings of the Garden Club to exchange gardening ideas and visiting with the many friends she has made through the years.

At the age of 89 Joy does not do much of the "heavy lifting" in her yard anymore but she does sit on her porch daily and takes time to "smell the roses."



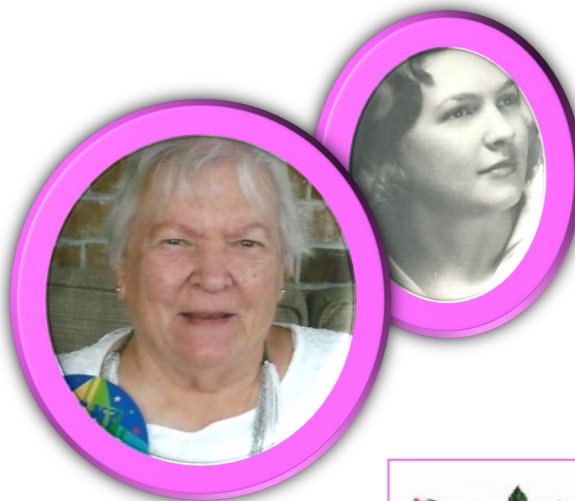
Circle of Roses



Lillie Bent Latham

River Ridge Garden Club

District II



Lillie Bent Latham was born on October 18, 1940. She attended Saint Rita Catholic grammar school in New Orleans, LA and graduated from Saint Mary's Dominican High School in 1958. Lillie worked until she married Phillip A. Latham on February 29, 1964. They were married for 49 ½ years until Phillip's death on September 10, 2013. Lillie and Phillip had 3 children - Petrea, Steven and Warren - and 5 grandchildren – Colin, Cady, Wyatt, Jane, and Cora.

Lillie has been an active member of her community. She has been a member of Saint Matthew Catholic Church in River Ridge since 1975 serving as a Sacristan and Eucharistic Minister. Her children attended Saint Mathew's School. Lillie also participated in St. Matthew's School Parent's Club and was a Committee Member for Boy Scout Troop 263.

Lillie has also been an active member of the River Ridge Garden Club for 30 years. She has held many offices within the garden club including President from 2002 – 2004. She has also participated in many committees and Flower Shows throughout her tenure with the River Ridge Garden Club. Lillie has also hosted many flower shows in her home in River Ridge for the River Ridge Garden Club and has received several Awards for Flower Shows. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time in the River Ridge Garden Club.

Lillie has also been a member of a Jefferson Parish Homemaker club - Domestic Engineers of Bissonet – (D.E.B.) since April 1970 (over 51 years)! She has also served in many capacities in local and state committees affiliated with the Homemaker's Council and offices and was President of the Jefferson Association for Family and Community Education (J.A.F.C.E.) for 2 years.

Among Lillie's numerous hobbies are sewing, jewelry making, playing cards, bunco, and dominoes. Lillie has learned so many skills along the way – she has taught people craft skills in the New Orleans area and also at other club meetings in Alabama. She is currently a member of several card and domino groups.

Lillie has been and is always willing to help others – she has been there to assist driving people to appointments or other events whenever needed.

Lille is thankful for the knowledge and friendships that she has gained throughout her years in the River Ridge Garden Club.



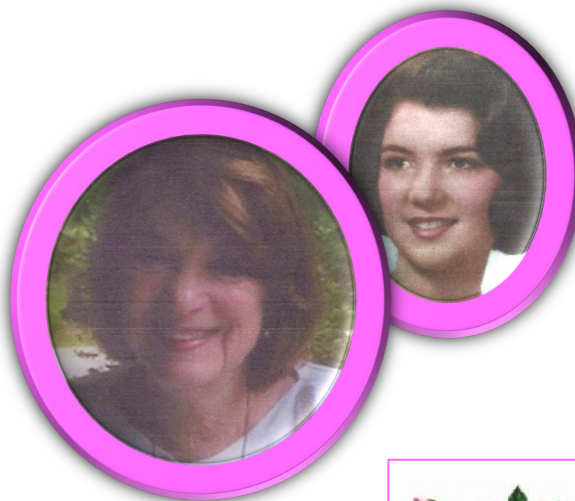
Circle of Roses



Mary Ellen Miller

Shady Oaks Garden Club

District II



Mary Ellen first joined National Garden Clubs in 1969 as a member of the newly founded Lake Forest Garden Club. The club was a group of mostly young mothers with an interest in community development and friendship. In a three-year period, the group canvassed the newly developed neighborhood for request for trees in their front yard. This resulted in over 3,000 trees being planted in the area.

Mary Ellen was enlisted to the Executive Board of the New Orleans Clean City Committee. Representing the Community aspect of the group, she visited community organizations across the city with the message of keeping our neighborhood clean. She also developed a play for schools based on "Puff the Magic Dragon" designed to teach children the importance of not littering. She taught children the character rolls then they would perform the play for their peers. The play was also a main anchor of Environmental Day at NO City Hall and became an anchor for the school environmental program. The City of New Orleans dancing garbage can and a replica of Puff lived at her home. She was honored by the city with the Via Carnation Award, Outstanding Volunteer in New Orleans in 1972.

Mary Ellen served as President of Federated Council of New Orleans Garden Clubs, 2005-07, 2014-16, 2019-21. She was honored as Woman of the Year in 1979. She has served as President of Lake Forest Garden Club several times. She joined Shady Oaks Garden Club in 1995. She served as Shady Oaks President 2008-10. She was President of Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs 2011-13.

With LGCF, Mary Ellen served as Youth Chairman several years and LGCF Convention Chairman in 2010 and in 2017. She was Tour Chairman for the Deep South Convention in New Orleans in 2017. She was President of the N.O. Council of NGC Flower Show Judges in 2017-19. To teach others, she co-chaired a New Orleans NGC Flower Show School in 2012 and chaired a school series in 2018-19. She was President of the LGCF Gardening Consultant Council and was founder, Editor and Chief Contributor of a statewide LGCF Gardening Consultant and general gardening newsletter, "What's Growing". She was NO Cleanest City chairman 1971, 72, 73 and River Ridge Cleanest City Chairman 2014 and 2020.

She has been Award Chairman for Shady Oaks several years and delights in sharing with others all the great work of Shady Oaks members. Her special interest in Shady Oaks is her work with the Little Shadows Junior Garden Club, Community Beautification, and their Bi-annual flower shows.

Mary Ellen is proud of the educational opportunities of NGC becoming a Landscape Design Consultant, a Master Gardening Consultant, and a Master Flower Show Judge.



Circle of Roses



She loves the New Orleans Botanical Garden and City Park. She has served as Decorating Chairman of Celebration in the Oaks for 15 years giving over 100 NGC garden club members the opportunity to decorate for the 6th largest Holiday Light display in the United States and visited by over 150,000 people each year. She also founded the Scarecrow Trail in the Botanical Garden and chaired the event for 11 years. She served as a Trustee of the Botanical Garden for 8 years. She was honored by the City Park Improvement Association, the governing body of City Park, with the President's Award in 2014. She was honored by Catholic Charities as Volunteer Activist in 2014.

She served as President of Friends of Longue Vue House and Gardens and served on their Governing Board.

Mary Elle is a retired Registered Nurse. She began with working at Mercy Hospital's Emergency Room and Intensive Care Unit. She was Inservice Education Director at Baptist Hospital teaching nurses for the opening of their Code Blue Team and the first Coronary Intensive Care Unit in New Orleans. She was the School Nurse for The Academy of the Sacred Heart for 20 years.

The years of garden club involvement has given her treasured friends across the state.

Most important to Mary Ellen is her family, her husband of 54 years, Cliff (CA), her children Stephen and Julie, their spouses Jen and Stuart and her 6 grandchildren. Her family gives her the proudest moments and have awarded her the greatest titles of wife, Mom and Mimi.

52 years of garden club fun!! It has been fun and educating. In the late 60's we learned flower arranging the traditional way. How long we practiced with three pieces of line and a few flowers! Today I am a Master Flower Show Judge. I still feel comfortable with three sticks and a few flowers but now I can make them "creative". Some people are born with this talent, others can learn. If I can learn all of you can.

Working with children. Back in the 60's and 70's my friends and I worked to teach children that litter wasn't just something to do with cats. Today we teach them environmental awareness. Working with children and seeing them grow and understand has been one of the great pleasures of my life.

I served as President of the Gardening Consultant Council of LGCF. In an effort to revitalize and gain public recognition for Gardening Consultants I started, with Eleanore Capretto by my side, a newsletter "What's Growing?". This may have helped other learn who we were but mostly it was a learning opportunity for me. I learned about Palm trees in the freeze, what is "raw" soil and why it isn't good, how an inland lake in a park or neighborhood could be brackish, and a host of vegetables and annuals to plant. I felt like a child listening to Melinda Taylor of the Botanical Garden teach about annuals as she planted.

We have had so much fun over the years. We have planned great flower shows at the Botanical Garden and small ones in our homes and neighborhoods. Carrie Martin has pushed me and so many other to be a better designer.

One activity that has helped me to know so many of our members is Celebration in the Oaks decorating. It all happened by chance after Katrina when I was told "If you don't do it, no one will." Since then, we have built a team assisted by Debbie Corales, Jackie Cuiffi, Donna Clark and extending to over 100 garden club members who join for the fun each year.

I think we have done some good over the years. We have planted thousands of trees in New Orleans East so that on many streets the oak trees form a tunnel in an area once barren. We have planted trees in our neighborhoods and the Botanical Garden. We have developed a strong relationship with the Botanical Garden especially decorating for Celebration. We have planted gardens in our neighborhoods which increases community pride. I had a Little Shadows Junior Garden Club member tell me that her family had never had a wreath on their door at Christmas and how much they appreciated the one she had made and brought home. It's the small things as well as the large scale that are important. There have been many.

I have made so many special friends from my original club, Lake Forest Garden Club to my newer club (1996), Shady Oaks Garden Club, to all my friends from Flower Show Judges Council to LGCF. I treasure each and every one.

My family, my husband Cliff, my children Stephen and Julie, their spouses Jen and Stuart and my six grandchildren give me my most wonderful memories. This one you may like: I was driving my then 8-year-old son somewhere when he told me, "Mom, I'm so mad at you I'm going to throw this candy wrapper out of the window!" I guess he was just a child of an NGC member.



Circle of Roses



Myrna Meyer

Shady Oaks Garden Club

District II



Myrna Meyer of the Shady Oaks Garden Club, Inc. grew up in the New Orleans area and has been married to her high school sweetheart, Charles “Chubby” Meyer for 64 years. Myrna has remained a constant support of her three sons’ athletic, academic, and family endeavors. She has two daughters-in-law, seven grandchildren and is currently awaiting the arrival of her ninth great-grandchild. Myrna, being an athlete herself, has been a member of many championship tennis teams and loves to watch tennis in person as well as on TV. She also enjoys attending baseball spring training in Florida every spring.



Myrna did not join Shady Oaks Garden Club until after she settled in River Ridge in 1969.

For fifty years she has hosted meetings, been the chairman of various committees and contributed to the garden club whenever called upon. Her favorite Committees were the Phone, Social and Celebration in the Oaks. She loves getting to know members as well as helping bring the New Orleans City Park to Life for the Holiday Season.

Myrna’s love of plants and flowers are quite evident in her home’s landscaping in River Ridge. She attributes much of this to her years in Shady Oaks.



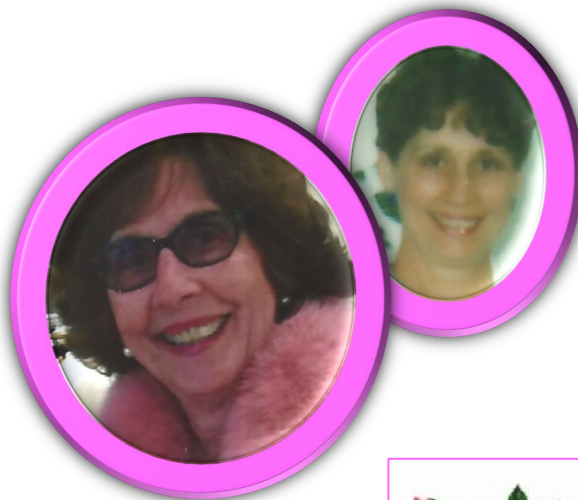
Circle of Roses



Nancy Holland

Shady Oaks Garden Club

District II



Nancy Holland has been an active member of Shady Oaks Garden Club in River Ridge for 42 years. Over those years she has won many awards in the horticulture and artistic divisions of the club's bi-annual standard flower show. She has served leadership roles on several committees including Ways and Means, Civic Beautification, Social, Garden Therapy, Telephone, and Arbor Day and most notably in 1985 and 1986 she was the club's President. Nancy has also represented Shady Oaks on the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs and enjoys decorating the carousel every year in December at New Orleans City Park for Celebration in the Oaks. She has a beautiful yard and has won "Garden of the Month" many times.

Nancy was married to John Holland for 58 years and had three children, John Jr, Michael, and Lynn Carol.



Circle of Roses



Patricia “Pat” Arrington Besselman

Shady Oaks Garden Club

District II

In 1972 Patricia “Pat” Arrington Besselman and her husband, Jim Besselman, Sr., moved to their home in River Ridge. Their neighbor Ms. Ellen Lentini, urged Pat to join the local Shady Oaks Garden Club. The young mother of six became deeply involved, devoting herself to its many activities, monthly meetings and participating in the annual Christmas Door Contests and Flower Shows. In 1978 Pat was President of the Shady Oaks, balancing her family life with her civic and other duties.



In addition to her activities with Shady Oaks, Pat remained heavily involved with several other community organizations. Through the years, Pat dedicated her time to many efforts, including leukemia research with the Ladies Leukemia League (president, 1982-1983) and promotion of aviation education and safety with the New Orleans Chapter of the 99s (Past Chairman), an association of female pilots. Pat has also remained active in her church, St. Matthew the Apostle, and was able to apply the knowledge and experience gained through Shady Oaks to her time on the church’s Flower Committee.

In the late 1980s, due to their extensive civic involvement, Jim and Pat were encouraged to establish the Louisiana Chapter of Operation Smile, a nonprofit dedicated to providing free medical service for needy people around the world. In January of 1992, the couple began fostering a child from Colombia, who suffered from a bilateral cleft lip and palate and hypertelorism. Jose was instantly adored and soon was legally adopted by the family as the seventh Besselman child. Though he still faced challenges, having to undergo 34 surgeries and procedures throughout his young life, he was the apple of his parents’ eye and continues to be surrounded by a loving and supportive family.

Pat and Jim Besselman were married 54 years when Jim lost his battle with Parkinson’s in 2017. Pat still resides in River Ridge and is the proud matriarch of a wonderful family. Throughout her storied life, her children and fifteen grandchildren have remained her greatest joy.



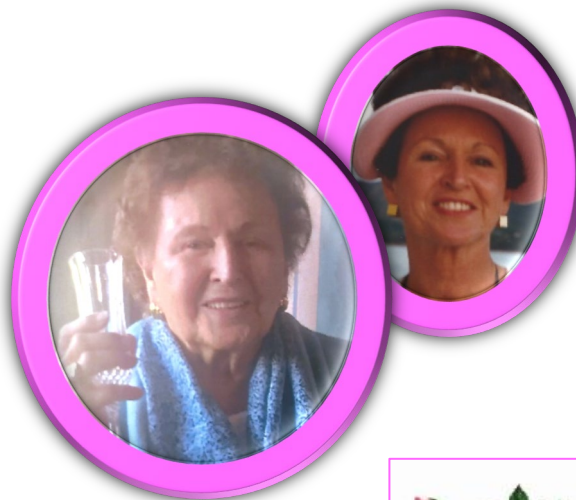
Circle of Roses



Olga Day Maynard

Shady Oaks Garden Club

District II



Olga grew up in Baker, Louisiana. She attended SLI (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette) where she majored in home economics. It was there that she met her husband George. The couple moved to Jefferson Parish in 1951 where Olga raised their five children and George flew for Delta Airlines. Olga has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Olga, a lifelong gardener, joined Shady Oaks Garden Club in 1990. She excels in gardening as well as flower arranging. Olga has won numerous blue ribbons for her floral designs both within and outside the club. She has participated in large regional shows sponsored by both the Federated Council of New Orleans Garden Clubs and the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs. Olga has also participated in Art in Bloom held at NOMA, won multiple blue ribbons in holiday doorway contests, and is known for her floral designs presented at monthly meetings. Although her fellow members look up to her for her creative style and intense attention to detail, she is also admired for her kind and friendly manner.



Circle of Roses



Barbara Breaux

Plaquemine Garden Club

District VI



Barbara joined the Plaquemine Garden Club in 1993 after working professionally at Shelter Insurance for many years.

She chaired the Christmas Lighting Contest committee in 1993-1994 and graciously opened her home for the October 1995 fall flower show.

She served as the Club's recording secretary from 1994-1995, treasurer from 2001-2006 and then corresponding secretary from 2010-2014. She is currently chairing the meeting greeters' committee for 2019-2020. She also co-chaired the Founders' Day committee for 2020.

In addition, Barbara took care of registration when the Plaquemine Garden Club hosted the District VI fall meeting in 2019.

Barbara and her husband, Sidney "Zeke," have been married for 67 years. They have 4 children (Keith, Kevin, Kraig, and Karen), 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



Circle of Roses



Gwendolyn Gum

Plaquemine Garden Club

District VI



Gwendolyn joined the Plaquemine Garden Club in 1992 after having taught English and speech at Plaquemine and St. John High Schools from 1959-1964. After having her children, she got her certification in library science and returned to Plaquemine High in 1973 as librarian until 1987.

Gwendolyn served as President of the Plaquemine Garden Club in 2004-2005 and hosted the Christmas Tea in 1997. She served as Recording Secretary from 1996-1999, Publicity Chair, 1st Vice President in 2003-2004 and has been a judge for the State Garden Club Essay Contest. She has been an active member continually through her leadership as well as chairing flower shows in 1993-1994. She also chaired the Club's hosting of the District VI meeting.

She was chosen as a Louisiana Garden Club Federation Outstanding Member in 2007-2008, an honorary program at that time, and is a Louisiana Lifetime Garden Club Federation member.

She is an active member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and strong supporter of St. John Interparochial School by either chairing their capital campaigns or being part of the teams. In addition, she has been an avid table tennis player competing in many tournaments throughout the country.

She and her husband Johnny are former owner of several nursing homes, have 2 children, one grandchild and 4 great-grandchildren.



Circle of Roses



We have many ladies in their senior years who have given their time and talents over the many years and we would like to honor them in the newsletter. In order to do this, we are asking each club that wishes to honor a senior member or members this way please submit both a “then” and “now” photograph with a short write-up on the member’s garden club activities. This quarter we would like to welcome to our “Circle” these special ladies.

If you have a deserving member of your club that you would like to nominate for the Circle of Roses, please send a short write up along with a ‘then’ and ‘now’ picture to

LGCF Circle of Roses Chairman

Sarah LeBlanc

307 Bluebonnet Dr.

Lafayette, LA 70508

nanalovespops@gmail.com

337-540-7223 (Cell)

Note from the newsletter co-editors:

We think 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 extremely helpful if the biographies could be sent to Sarah 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! We must digitize them also. Please use as large a picture as possible to scan. Please 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 we must crop someone out of a group picture the resulting quality of the picture is often poor. Please clearly label which picture is “then” and which is “now”.

LGCF OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT ELECT

I have to say that my term as President-Elect has not been the experience I had hoped for. The lesson I have learned from 2020 is that nothing is certain. When we make plans, we pray for the best and prepare for other options.

Despite all the cancelled meetings, I did have some memorable experiences. Thankfully in 2019 I was able to attend all of the LGCF District Fall Meetings. They were all unique and special. It was wonderful to visit with LGCF Members in their home Districts. Each meeting expressed the visions and uniqueness of each District. Each District worked diligently to make their Fall District Meeting a success and they succeeded.

It was very disappointing when COVID-19 reared its' ugly head at the beginning of 2020. With the onset of the virus, many meetings and the 2020 Convention had to be cancelled. I know that District II was preparing a wonderful convention and it was disappointing that after a year of hard work it was not to come to fruition. I would like express my appreciation for all of the time and effort that was given to ensure a memorable convention.

As the Fall of 2020 approached, each District decided what type of District Fall Meeting they felt was the safest to hold. Some Districts held meetings with limited participants and one had to cancel any meeting due to two hurricanes devastating their District. 2020 was a historic year, one that we hope not to repeat in our lifetime. Three Districts decided to hold Fall District Meetings and I was able to attend those. The first District Fall Meeting that I was invited to attend was the District VI Fall Meeting hosted by the Denham Springs Garden Club. The venue, meal and speaker were all excellent! It was wonderful to visit with garden club friends again. The program on Purple Martins was fascinating and informative. The following day I traveled to New Orleans for the District I & II Fall Meeting under the magnificent oaks at City Park. We were blessed with shade and gentle breezes. The program was unforgettable. When Donna Clark is in charge you never know what will happen. Some of us, including me, were fooled into thinking there was a real speaker. That made it even more hilarious.

My last District Fall Meeting was in District III, my home District. Linda Brasier and Franklin Garden Club outdid themselves in this time of COVID-19. We were treated to fabulous fall décor, a delicious meal, unending door prizes and an insightful program on Heirloom Plants, many of which I discovered I have in my garden. Although most heirloom plants are not native, I have memories of them in my grandmothers' gardens. When I see Shasta daisies or smell gardenias, I remember times spent with my grandmothers, both of whom were avid gardeners.

Unfortunately, the 2021 LGCF Convention had to be cancelled. It was a difficult decision, one not made lightly. We will miss the installation of our LGCF Officers as well as Council Officers. Such is life in the time of COVID-19. President Linda Finley has made preparations for the election of LGCF Officers and other items that have to be approved by the LGCF Board of Directors. May 1, 2021 has been set as the date for the transfer of LGCF Officers and Chairmen.

Thank you for hanging in there in these historic times.

I am looking forward to serving as LGCF President,

Roxanna Champagne
LGCF President Elect, 2019-2021

LGCF OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

To all the LGCF Members,

It has been my pleasure serving as LGCF First Vice President and have enjoyed working with so many amazing women. As Award Chairmen, I would like to THANK all the Chairmen for taking time to gather a committee to judge applications, and choose winners.

I'm so happy I gathered the results and didn't have to judge because after reading some of the applications, EVERY CLUB IS A WINNER! Thank you for submitting your applications and for all the time your members put into these projects during this very difficult garden club year.

All the Award Certificates have been printed and signed by our President, Linda Finley. Awards and applications will be presented at Summer Board the same way it was done last year.

A special THANK YOU to Babette Werner, Award Advisor for all her knowledge in getting our State awards clarified, and in line with Deep South and National awards. Hopefully more Clubs will apply for more awards and get the recognition they deserve. Thank you Linda Finley for all the hard work you put into LGCF behind the scene. You missed out on many of your travels as President but know I appreciate your guidance and friendship; Muchas Gracias!

In the meantime, I look forward to working closely with Roxanna Champagne as President, and all the newly elected District Directors.

With much gratitude,

Patricia G. Ortalano, First Vice President

TREASURER

The past two years as your LGCF Treasurer has truly been a rewarding experience for me. Even though I was in my comfort zone, because of my accounting background, I was glad to learn more about the inner workings of LGCF. At the beginning of my term, I set up LGCF financial records on QuickBooks. It has proven to be an excellent tool for entering income and expense items; reconciling LGCF checking account and keeping the history of LGCF's financial data. In using Excel, I was able to prepare accurate and up-to-date financial reports for LGCF Summer Board, Winter Council and Convention meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the LGCF Officers, District Directors, Finance Committee, and club members throughout the state for helping me throughout my term and having the confidence in me to take care of your financial matters.

I wish the best for my successor, Ruth Delhomme. Ruth is eager to begin the 2021-2023 term as LGCF Treasurer. Ruth also has an accounting background and I know she will do a great job!

I am grateful to continue to serve LGCF as 2nd Vice President (Deep South and NGC Awards Chair) for 2021-2023. As always, I am here for you.

Now for a gentle reminder: Please get your dues in early! The LGCF Dues form can be found on the LGCF website. Click on Home; Dues/Membership; Annual Dues Form.

Kyle Martin, LGCF Treasurer 2019-2021

LGCF OFFICERS' REPORTS

PARLIAMENTARIAN

As a gentle reminder, the official Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12 Edition, available in August 2020, is the official document for use. The 11th Edition, with a dark brown cover, was officially retired.

As the LGCF Parliamentarian, I was available and confirmed that actions taken at the Winter Council meeting in January 2020 regarding the changes presented by the Awards Committee Chairman were valid as they were adopted and could be used since there was no Board of Directors meeting or Convention in 2020 to ratify the actions of the Council. (Reference: LGCF Bylaws, Article VIII-Executive Council, Section 2. LGCF Handbook, page 87)

Clara Earl, LGCF Parliamentarian



This is one of our registered live oaks taken at the home of Azalea Garden Club President Versa Dore. The picture was taken by Roxy Blanton.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

District I by Donna Clark

The end of my term as District I Director also brings the end of District I. It is with sadness that I was unable to secure my replacement but I am happy to say all 7 clubs will be joining District II. Keeping these clubs associated with LGCF was paramount.

A big thank you to Elizabeth McDougald the District II Director, for assisting with this smooth transition. Also thank you to the clubs in District II for welcoming us into their District. And best wishes to Marlene Alvarez as she takes on the task of directing a larger District II.

As clubs still manage to safely gather, some fun was had by those able to attend. **Aurora Plantation Gardeners** held a fun, socially distancing, bromeliad and succulent mounting workshop. The supplies were provided by Barbara, the driftwood hunter and her MG husband Don Hanson, the bromeliad whisperer.

Belle Chasse GC held their annual White Elephant auction to the pleasure of all. The funds collected help fund scholarships to local high school students.

Lake Terrace GC had guest speaker Dr. Willis, who shared a program on gardenias.

Ronald McDonald House, serving the New Orleans region, reached out to LGCF for help. I was happy to have help from gardening friends from Districts I & II. I formulated a plan and together we gave them a sprucing up. In a year or two, they will be moving to a new, modern facility adjacent to Children's Hospital. We were happy to show them some love, in the meantime. Thank you to District I clubs for providing the funds needed.

District II by Elizabeth McDougald

I am happy to report the District remains strong despite many challenges. For the most part, clubs have found ways to meet safely and continue their work in the community. District II clubs are very actively participating in Butterfly Gardening, Blue Star Dedications, Workshops and Schools, Flower Shows, Arbor Days, Junior Garden Clubs, Community Gardening, Cleanest City Contest, Energy Education, Conservation Projects and much more. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had a club resign in good standing from LGCF. We are hopeful they will return in the near future.

Sadly, District I was unable to provide a candidate for District Director for the 2021-2023 term. These clubs, these members have been part of LGCF for many years. We in District II have worked and played side by side with District I for years. We do joint Fall Meetings, volunteer at the others conventions, share projects and offer support. They are our friends. With the consent of the necessary parties and the unanimous vote at Winter Council, as of May 1, 2021 District I clubs will become part of District II. District II will retain its name, banking account, and the 501c3 remains in place. We welcome District I clubs and look forward to what we can accomplish together.

Thank you to Donna Clark, District I Director. Sometimes life sends you a friend when you did not know you needed one! She has been a joy to work with, particularly on our Fall

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Meetings. Her ideas and talent are only outmatched by her heart.

Thank you to our District II Director-elect, Marlene Alvarez for agreeing to take on this challenge. Marlene has been an active garden club member all her life. I am confident her energy and creativity will make her an excellent District Director.

Thank you to Dottie Hebert, Reba MacKey, and Patricia Ortalano for your willingness to share your knowledge and expertise. Your mentorship has meant more than you know.

Thank you to the many members of the District that were only too willing to roll up their sleeves when it was necessary, particularly in the planning of the 2020 non-convention. Your faith and words of encouragement have always been appreciated.

Thank you to my District II Officers and Chairman for jobs well done. Your support, advice, and generosity of time have been invaluable.

Thank you, Roxanna Champagne, LGCF Vice-President. As a new District Director, your guidance, infinite knowledge of LGCF, and unending patience was always very reassuring. I will certainly miss your emails!

Thank you, Linda Finley, LGCF President. Your perseverance, integrity and kindness are qualities that inspire. You have been the "calm in the storm," managing a state organization through a pandemic while rebuilding your home and community. I regret that so much of your presidency was affected by these natural disasters and the pandemic, but it will certainly be one that is remembered.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as District II Director for the 2019-2021 term. My term was not quite the journey I had expected, for all of us for that matter, but am grateful for the experience. It has been a time marked by challenges, triumphs, and sadness. I will certainly treasure the many friendships and the knowledge I have gained along the way. Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of the story.

District III by Linda Brashier

The Executive Board is hard at work bringing our bylaws, checking accounts, and 501(c)3 status into compliance. After the Fall Meeting, New Iberia President Ashley Philen filed with the State of Louisiana to incorporate District III. This was required by banks since the district is part of LGCF, Inc. In November, the paperwork was filed with the State Treasurer, Kyle Martin, to include District III under the umbrella of the State for 501(c)3 status. At present this is pending.

In late January, I attended the Winter Council in LeCompte, Louisiana. It was held at LGCF Headquarters. The meeting and topics set the tone for moving forward in our Districts. Reports by Chairman outlined activities for the coming year.

In early February, we were able to divide District III funds into two accounts, Operating and Scholarship. The Scholarship Chairman will have additional duties outlined in Standing Rules.

Brenda Gautreaux is District III Cleanest City Contest Chair. There are four cities that have entered the contest. They are Lafayette, Kaplan, Abbeville and St. Martinville. They are being judged on March 23rd and 24th.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

District V by Julia Gilmore

It has been an honor to serve as 2019-2021 LGCF District V Director. It has been two years of joy and adaption for the Director and for the members of District V garden clubs. We faced more challenges than we ever thought possible as we moved forward by creating new venues to communicate, share and learn. Our clubs explored new ways to continue in our “new normal”.

My theme “Nurture Nature” was well carried out by our members during their months of stay at home time. They were able to work in both their flower and vegetable gardens and to share their bounties with others. Many clubs posted their floral creations via Facebook and social media and encouraged others to “show and tell”. Quite a few district clubs found YouTube floral designers to follow and share with others.

Zoom meetings, Facetime and emails replaced in-person garden club meetings during the spring and fall. Our District V 2020 Spring Meeting was cancelled, but we were able to have our 2020 Fall District Meeting with only myself, as director, and the club presidents in attendance.

LGCF District V utilized its newly established Facebook page as a way to communicate and share our activities. I hope all District V members and LGCF members will take the opportunity to search for our activities on this page. The District V Facebook page is a means to inform members of happenings in NGC, DSGC and LGCF and our own District V - all on one convenient site.

As we look back at 2020, let us take time to celebrate the launching our new Facebook page, keeping our organization going through virtual meetings, and creating learning opportunities through new avenues. Clubs were able to continue outdoor Arbor Day and Plant It Pink Projects while practicing social distancing guidelines.

As we have learned to nurture our gardens, we have also learned to nurture our garden clubs. Our members have remained steadfast, maintained their garden club relationships, and kept coming back even stronger, with dedication to our district and state.

District V Officers and Chairmen accepted their responsibilities and performed their duties to the best of their ability. I have appreciated their support and guidance during my administration.

District V Club Presidents have led their club members to participate in service projects for their communities and educational projects in spite of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. They have encouraged their members to participate in LGCF, DSGC and NGC projects. I have enjoyed working with each one. I appreciate all of our members who are committed to the betterment of our district.

District V welcomes 2021 – 2023 District Director Ann Smith, of Marion Garden Club. She will continue to keep LGCF District V zooming in the right direction.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

District VI by Carolyn Todd

“Once upon a time.....” Let me spare you the suspense! Like most tales, District VI has a happy ending, even though the past two years, 2019-2021, have been filled with trials and tribulations due to navigating uncharted territories. Most clubs in our district cancelled in-person meetings, holiday gatherings, and fund-raising events. However, due to imposed COVID-19 restrictions, we Gals in District VI proved that we could embrace change, as evidenced by emails received from a few of the presidents.

The incoming Gardenettes’ president, Vicky Fannaly, made use of the Zoom format, since her club wasn’t socially gathering for her club’s installation of their 2021 officers. As I installed each officer, I held up props of gardening tools to my computer camera and shared how each office was as valuable as each of our trusty gardening tools. After a recent survey inquiring about her members’ comfort level of gathering again, Vicky is currently preparing for an outdoor picnic in March in her spacious, tranquil garden with many “rooms” for seating. Her garden showcases her talents as an artist, as well as a published author, where I witnessed several “writing nooks” tucked into various locations.

Plaquemine’s president, Donna Carville, has kept her club members engaged in numerous community activities, even though she determined that the best plan of action for the safety of her members was to postpone meetings until governmental guidelines gave the approval to gather in larger groups, since they have 75 members. In small groups, they donned masks that Donna made for them, as well as a group of military servicemen, and continued with their Yard of the Month, Arbor Day planting, delivering goodie bags to members, applying for LGCF awards, and currently engaged in helping the City of Plaquemine prepare for the 2021 Cleanest City Contest to be held in May 2021.

Sue Parrill, Hammond Garden Club President, has done an outstanding job leading her members, even though she faced the challenges that COVID-19 brought during her first year serving as president. After much deliberation, it was decided to continue meeting. Selecting a larger venue where members could abide by the suggested social distancing of spacing chairs at least six feet apart was important for in-person meetings to continue. In March, Sue’s club members will be traveling to the Great Mississippi Tea Company in Brookhaven, MS, to tour the fields, nursery, and processing facility followed by a tea tasting currently available on the farm.

As my term as your 2019-21 District VI Director comes to an end, I’d like to thank each District VI Club President for their support and cooperation and to my District Officers: Donna Moran, Kyle Martin, Clara Earl, Linda Ryan, Sonya Avery, and Gail Lonibos. Vicky Fannaly has been highly organized in passing on information of prospective members for our district clubs. Also, it has been a pleasure working with Roxanna Champagne and Linda Finley.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

As I stated in the beginning, District VI has a happy ending.....or should I say new beginning! Baton Rouge Garden Club President, Cynthia Moran, will be the incoming 2021-23 District VI Director. Please join me in welcoming Cindy to your club meetings, social gatherings, and club fund-raisers.

District VII by Pam Langley

Serving as District Director for the 2019-2021 term has been a bitter sweet experience. My term started out with a busy and exciting few months in 2019 and early 2020. I visited 5 of the 11 district clubs and presented talks to Rayne Garden Club, Lake Charles Garden Club, Oakdale Garden Club, Washington Garden Club and Sulphur Garden Club. I was in hopes to visit the remaining District VII clubs during the time left in my term but that was curtailed by the pandemic and the two hurricanes that visited my part of the state.

Many of our clubs have suspended meeting in wake of Covid-19. A few others have had guarded meetings and activities taking care to wear masks and keep safe distances. Refreshments have also been a casualty of the pandemic which is depressing. I know my club members always looked forward to sampling others cooking and baking skills!

We've been keeping touch through email and social media. I know that all of District VII is looking forward to the days when we can resume our regular meetings and activities. Not only has the pandemic slowed District VII, but hurricanes Laura and Delta delt many members trying blows. Lake Charles, Diggers and Weeders, Sulphur, Iowa and Oakdale Garden Club members all had varying degrees of damage from the hurricanes. Trees in this district are now few and far between. We will have plenty of replanting to do when we do resume our activities.

In spite of everything that has happened, I have enjoyed my time as District Director. I've enjoyed getting to meet members of the district I hadn't met before. And I hope we all get to meet again in the near future!

District VIII by Carol Steckler

Alexandria Garden Club: In January, a program on camellias was presented by Dr. James Burnette who shared secrets on cultivating them. Another interesting program came from Mr. Thibodeaux from the Live Oak Society. The presentation included the history, purpose and goals of the Live Oak Society. The club's final meeting was in March before the suspension of meetings due to COVID.

Lecompte Garden Club: Their club cancelled meetings in February, March and April. However, a garden tour was held in May when members were able to social distance. Their flower show in November was beautifully executed and was accessible to the public by social media platforms. One of the special projects was making floral arrangements and delivering them to the local shut-ins during this difficult time.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Marksville Garden Club: Ligs and Gigs: Native Plants of Louisiana was the program for January. During that meeting, the design team for that month focused on framed spatial designs. Special committee reports occupied the February agenda, and all meetings thereafter were suspended because of COVID.

Mansfield Garden Club: Learning about soil and water conservation and the many flower designs filled their monthly meetings before COVID. Mansfield Garden Club elect to suspend meetings until further notice.



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STATE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

Publicity Press Book Award Report by Margaret Melancon

Keeping a Publicity Press Book is a means of cataloging what your club has done for the year. It also a good reference for past years. It is a great means to helping you with information for other awards.

In 2019, there were only 8 entries state-wide. District III had 4 entries, District V had 1 and District VI had 3 entries. The average score for all entries was 90.7.

In 2020, there were 7 entries state-wide. District III had 2 entries, Azalea Garden Club and Lafayette Garden Club; District V had 1 entry, Ferriday Garden Club; and District VI had 4 entries, Gardenettes Garden Club, Magnolia Forest Garden Club, Baton Rouge Garden Club, and Plaquemine Garden Club. The average score for all entries was 93.4, which is a 3% improvement over 2019.

Life Membership Report by Linda Brashier

During the years of 2019 and 2020, twenty new members were added to the rolls of Life Members bringing the total number to 474.

During this two-year span, the Executive Board allowed me to compile an alpha list of all members starting with number one. This list has five entries, last name, first name, membership number, Garden Club name and District number. This allows members to quickly find their name and other information.

Club Yearbook Chairman by Millie Comeaux

In 2019 there were 46 clubs that entered their yearbooks for an award. There were only 32 submitted for 2020. Two other garden clubs entered late just to have them graded. As everyone knows, the Covid virus and the hurricanes had a tremendous impact on club activities. Hopefully, we will get back to having at least 46 out of 78 clubs submit books for next year.

LGCF Newsletter by Roxy Blanton Co-chairman

I have enjoyed producing the LGCF Newsletter for the past 4 years. During that time it has grown significantly. Our goal was to foster communication among all our members, recognize those leaders who are willing to share their ideas and achievements, and let everyone keep up with what is happening in the gardening world. We feel we have achieved that goal. Beginning in July, the Deeds and Doings section of the newsletter will no longer appear in the newsletter but will be on the website. We encourage you to continue to send in articles and pictures to share.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

THIS IS THE LAST LGCF NEWSLETTER THAT WILL CONTAIN DEEDS AND DOINGS. YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR SENDING IN DEEDS AND DOINGS HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING! IT IS WONDERFUL THAT YOU ARE SHARING YOUR PROJECTS AND EVENTS.

DEEDS AND DOINGS WILL BE DISAPPEARING FROM THE NEWSLETTER, BUT IT HAS A NEW HOME ON THE LGCF WEBSITE. THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING DEEDS AND DOINGS ON THE LGCF WEBSITE IS THAT YOUR EVENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU SEND THEM TO WEBMASTER VICKY FANNALY. THIS ENABLES YOU TO PUBLISH YOUR EVENTS IN A TIMELIER FASHION. IF YOU ARE PREPARING A PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK THIS NEW FORMAT ALLOWS YOU TO PRINT THE ARTICLE IN THE MONTH YOUR EVENTS OCCURRED. YOU CAN ALSO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENTS IN ADVANCE WHICH WILL ALLOW OTHER CLUBS TO KNOW OF UPCOMING EVENTS, SUCH AS PLANT SALES, GARDEN TOURS, FLOWER SHOWS, ETC. THIS CHANGE SHOULD BE A WIN FOR ALL!

DEEDS AND DOINGS IS LISTED AT THE TOP OF THE HOME PAGE AND FEATURES A DROP-DOWN MENU LISTING DISTRICTS. CLUBS ARE LISTED UNDER THEIR DISTRICTS.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

DISTRICTS I and II

Serving the community through gardening doesn't get much better than helping those that help others. When Bob, Manager of Support Services for Ronald McDonald House, reached out to LGCF for help, we were glad to assist. Initially, I emailed District I Club Presidents for ideas and participants. Mabel Hymel, former DID, had the best idea of all, she thought it would be a great combined project for both Districts I & II. Elizabeth took the idea to her clubs and they also offered to help financially. After several meetings with Bob, he explained their plans to relocate to a new facility adjacent to Children's Hospital. Having that information, I then scaled back my ideas and District I picked up the tab. Weeding, trimming, deadheading, planting and mulching were needed. With corporate approval, a red frame was painted around their sign. It made a striking difference. When the approaching freezing temps were headed our way, I asked Bob for a favor. He did a fantastic job covering the four newly planted porch urns and 2 zanadus planted in the side yard. Thanks again to the ladies that joined in on the fun. Pictured are Lisa Ippolito Lake Terrace GC Pres., Nancy Click former DID, Ronald McDonnel, Donna Clark DID, Elizabeth McDougald DIID, Marlene Alvarez DIID-elect.



DEEDS AND DOINGS

DISTRICT III

Azalea Garden Club Presents Iberia Beautification Award

January Garden went to Jason and Nikki Peltier at 917 Main Street.



February Business Award went to Comfort Inn and Suites at 924 E. Admiral Doyle Drive. Pictured is manager Chase Romero.



March Garden went to Nguyen Tran of 917 Santa Clara Street.



DEEDS AND DOINGS



***Azalea Garden Club** members who attended the January meeting are Phyllis Cutrera, Millie Comeaux, Betty LeBlanc, Margaret Melancon, Patricia Tenette, Sherry Darcey, and Versa Dore. The photo was taken by Roxy Blanton.*



This was the door prize at the February meeting. It reminded members that spring is just around the corner!

DEEDS AND DOINGS



Azalea Garden Club held an Arbor Day ceremony and planted a live oak tree in New Iberia City Park near Devil's Pond. The tree was dedicated to all the first responders who have worked many long hours away from their families during this Covid-19 pandemic, those who have lost their lives due to the pandemic, and those who have recovered from this virus but are still suffering side effects. Azalea is a member of District III, Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs Inc., and National Garden Clubs Inc. Pictured are Lloyd Milliman from New Iberia Park and Recreation Department and club members Margaret Melancon, Millie Comeaux, Patricia Tenette, Sherry Darcey, Versa Dore, Roxy Blanton, Phyllis Cutrera, and Betty LeBlanc.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

Lafayette Garden Club



Members of Lafayette Garden Club meet at the Petroleum Club December 9 for the annual Christmas Tea/Luncheon honoring new members, members celebrating anniversaries, and Circle of Roses recipients.



New members recognized, from left, are Kenny Van Ness, Steve Johnson, Rusty Petijean, Becky Lege and May Vidacovich. Welcoming them are Lafayette Garden Club President Babette Werner; Linda Finley, Louisiana Garden Club President; and Linda Brashier, District III Director. Pat Nicholson and Elliott Grissom, also new members, were unable to attend.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



Betty Foret is recognized for her 25th anniversary. Having served as vice president of the Lafayette Garden Club, program speaker on floral and landscape design, District VII president, and Opelousas Garden Club president, Betty has also held every position on the Southwest Judges Council of the LA Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges, and has received numerous flower show awards. Pictured with Betty, left, are Babette Werner, LGC President; Linda Finley, LCGF President and Linda Brashier, District III Director.



Joann Pugh is presented the Circle of Roses award by Sarah Leblanc, LCGF Circle of Roses Chairman. Joann joined LGC in 1988 and has served the club as president, treasurer for 29 years and chairman of the Habitat for Humanity committee. Joann volunteers in many organizations, has received numerous awards and with her children established the Pugh Family Foundation to support educational programs to help alleviate poverty in Acadiana. From left are Linda Brashier, Linda Finley, Joann, Sarah Leblanc and Babette Werner.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



Madelyn Hoyt, left, is recognized for being a LGC member for 55 years (since 1965.) Madelyn celebrated her 95th birthday on December 14. Shown with Madelyn are Anita Petitjean, LGC president-elect, and Rusty Petitjean, new member.



Arbor Day Chairman Gretchen Stewart and Lafayette Mayor-President Josh Guillory plant a live oak tree at Maurice Heymann Memorial Park in memory of LGC member Aline Arceneaux and Honorary LGC Member Ann Justice.



Louisiana Master Gardener Candy Bienvenu speaks at the January meeting on do-it-yourself irrigation for beds and containers.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



The Civic Pride Award for January is presented to Sonic at 6804 Johnston St. in Lafayette. Pictured is Skye Royer, manager.



Lafayette Garden Club presents the January Garden of Month to Ted and Sharon Connelly, 179 Antigua Drive, in Lafayette.



The December Garden of Month is presented to Carolyn and Jimmy Rink at 307 Arlette in Lafayette.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



The Civic Pride Award for December is presented to Swoon Boutique, 1700 Kaliste Saloom Rd., Bldg 1, Suite 100 A, in Lafayette. Pictured are Natalie Guillory, owner; and Anna Masson.



Members of LGC meet with representatives from Lafayette Consolidated Government to plan the 2021 Cleanest City, Cleanest School and Anti-litter School Poster contests. Seated, from left, are LGC Cleanest City Chairman Dee Nolan, Sue Scott, city representative; Sarah Schoeffler, LGC member; Ariel Fisher, city representative; Julie Anna Ousse, LGC member; and Parish Proud Director Brianne Hendricks.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



Members of Lafayette Garden Club and of Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association participate in the Parish Proud / United Way Trash pickup by removing trash from the Beaver Park Vermilion River boat launch and park area. From left are Cinde Risinger-Johnson, LGC; Bess Foret and David Cheramie, BVPA, Babette Werner, LGC President; and Jeanie Richard, LGC.



The Southwest Louisiana Judges Council of LFCF hold a small standard Flower Show entitled "Floral Super Bowl" at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. The Lafayette Garden Club helped facilitate the show. A meeting followed judging of the petite designs and horticulture.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



Roxanna Champagne presents a program on "Flower Show Procedures" at the February 10 meeting. The flower show, "A Disney Spectacular!" will be held April 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ira Nelson Horticulture Center.



Linda Broussard presents the final report of the Fundraising/Membership committee at the February 10 meeting.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

DISTRICT VI

Magnolia Forest Club Garden Club member, Barbara Burgueno, decorated both the Fisher Drive and the Oak alley entrances for Mardi Gras. The Mardi Gras gnomes will catch the eye of all who drive by. Burgueno is a talented crafter artist who devotes her talents to the club in many ways.

The gnomes will make you smile every time you see them - take a drive by.



DEEDS AND DOINGS



Plaquemine Garden Club

Three St. John High students placed in the annual PGC High School Essay Contest. This contest is one of the many projects sponsored by the National, State and Local Garden Clubs. The theme for the 2020-2021 year was: “Adapting Our Actions to Protect Our Natural Habitats”. Junior, Colton Canella, son of Troy and Tara Canella won first place. His activities include:

baseball, football, fitness, hunting & fishing. Colton is a resident of Plaquemine. Junior, Isabella LoBue, daughter of Jared and Gina LoBue, won 2nd place. Her activities include: volleyball, basketball, golf, Student Council, MU Alpha Theta, National Honor Society St. John Choir and Beta Club. Isabella is also a resident of Plaquemine. Sophomore, Chloe Markins, daughter of Hutch and Christie Markins, won Honorable Mention. Her activities include: softball, volleyball, cheerleading, cross country, track and Student Council. She too is a Plaquemine resident. Pictured above: Yvette Johnson, St. John Counselor; Colton Canella, 1st place winner; Isabella LoBue, 2nd place winner; Katherine Desselles, Plaquemine Garden Club Essay Contest Chairman and Gwendolyn Gum, Co- Chairman.



Nestled down the winding Bayou Road outside the city of Plaquemine, LA, is the home of Scott & Sandi Stassi. It was gaily decorated around a “Country Christmas” theme. Lovely live hand-decorated Christmas trees stood majestically by the back breezeway entry where Plaquemine Garden Club ladies handed out Giving Plates full of goodies and peppermint punch as members drove through to see the numerous Christmas decorations as well as the hay bale snowman, created by Terri Giauque, Sandi’s sister. Pictured: Melissa Cain, Punch Chairman; LouAnna Canella, Food Chairman; Missy Bertrand, Decorations Assistant; Sandi Stassi, Hostess; Donna Carville, PGC President; and Terri Giauque, Decorations Chairman. Pictured on the steps: Madeline Kessler, Food Prep; Marla Bueche, Decorations Assistant; and Susan DuPont, Food Prep.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

Plaquemine Garden Club Door Decorations Contest



The first Plaquemine Garden Club Christmas Door Decoration Contest was a huge hit among the members.

1st Place: Gwendolyn Gum, Plaquemine;

2nd Place: Mona Perrin, White Castle;

3rd Place: Julie Hebert, Plaquemine

Driver, Kathy D'Albor drove Judges, Shirley Blanchard, Dianne Grace and Betty Blanchard around the numerous member homes.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



Plaquemine Garden Club High School Essay Contest Honorable Mention Winner, Chloe Markin



The lovely home of Michael & Charlynn Coker was selected as the **Plaquemine Garden Club** Garden of the Month for March.

The beautifully landscaped design has plants that are easy maintenance and provide color during all seasons.

The landscape includes Knockout Roses, Agapanthus, Super Petunias, Aztec Grass & Bridal Wreath.

Michael & Charlynn are avid gardeners and maintain their own garden.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



The winner of the **Plaquemine Garden Club** Mardi Gras Door Decorating Contest was Susan DuPont (third from left). Susan received 4 herb pots and seeds. Pictured with Susan are judges: Michelle Sanders, Dixie Daigle (Chairman), Susan & Peggy Beilenson.



DEEDS AND DOINGS

Ponchatoula Gardenettes

Delivering Bosom Buddie Bags



Vicky Fannaly, Dottie Boudreaux, Margaret Hardin, Staci Arceneaux, Marilyn Wright

Many Bosom Buddie bags were sewn by shut-in **Gardenettes** during the COVID lock down. Over 75 were delivered to Staci Arceneaux at North Oaks Medical Center for cancer and surgery patients to hold their drip apparatus. "Each bag is a cheerful reminder that the ladies of the garden club are sympathizing with the patients and wishing them a speedy recovery," according to Marilyn Wright, chairman for this project. Wright also delivered a box of loom made infant caps which she made. The tiny hats were designed for the babies in the NICU nursery where premature babies receive care. Accompanying Wright were Vicky Fannaly, club president, Dottie Boudreaux and Margaret Hardin. The club is a member of District VI Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs Inc. and National Garden Clubs Inc.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

Coupons for Education February 22, 2021



Gardenette coupon chairman Sandra Haro presented coupons redeemable for cash by schools to Keondra Jackson, assistant principal of Tucker Elementary school February 22. Also attending was Vicky Fannaly, Gardenette president.

Throughout the year, Gardenettes saved Boxtops for Education, Community Coffee and other coupons that can be redeemed by schools. Each spring the club brings them in to a school to be used. The program was started about ten years ago.

The Ponchatoula club is a member of District VI, Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs Inc., and National Garden Clubs Inc.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

Arbor Day January 15, 2021



Mayor Bob Zabbia, Marilyn Wright, Gracie and Melissa Gueldner, Anna Poland, Vicky Fannaly, Kathy Bruce

Gardenettes met on January 15, the third Friday of the year 2021, to plant a Shumard oak in Memorial Park with city officials Mayor Bob Zabbia and Councilwoman Melissa Gueldner and her daughter Gracie.

Anna Poland, garden club chairman for the event, lead the program with a welcome and introduction. Club president Vicky Fannaly explained the meaning of Arbor Day. This is an annual celebration to encourage the planting of trees, emphasizing the caring for them as a means of sustaining this valuable resource. In Louisiana, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Friday in January. Dates vary in other states according to the optimum time to plant.

Past president Kathy Bruce read a poem on trees by an anonymous author. Gueldner read a new poem written by her daughter and inspired by the newly planted tree. Zabbia gave some previews of renovations being made to the Memorial park square, including a circular sidewalk being formed in the area of the new tree.

Gardenettes are members of District VI Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs Inc. and National Garden Clubs Inc. Attending the ceremony but not mentioned were Gardenette Marilyn Wright, columnist Pam Bankston and Bill Poland.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

DISTRICT VII



Crowley Garden Club is alive and busy! We've been very flexible, creative and cautious in our gatherings, with great success.

In September, we had a Lawn Chair and/or Drive-By meeting on the front lawn of President Christie Brammer's home, at which everyone received their 2020-21 Yearbooks accompanied by happy greetings and smiles. Our October meeting was cancelled due to hurricane Delta-induced power outages. In November we gathered al fresco again at Brammer's home where we discussed local bird sightings, with our questions answered by member and bird guru, Wylie Barrow. December's meeting evolved into a Drive-By Gift Exchange. Members dropped off much-needed gifts for the Assist Agency, a local women's shelter, and in turn received treat bags filled with homemade goodies from the officers of our club, who were ensconced in lawn chairs at the designated drop-off location.

At the start of the new year, our regular January meeting was not held, however CGC did purchase trees for the City of Crowley to be planted at our Annual Arbor Day celebration. Member and city Councilman, Sammie Reggie, served as representative of our club. In February, instead of hosting our annual "Faux Flower Show" at Southwind Assisted Living, we opted to gather at the First Methodist Church kitchen to prepare all the materials needed for floral arrangements, including award ribbons and favors, and delivered them to the front door of the Assisted Living facility. The Activities Director received our supplies and supervised the event on

DEEDS AND DOINGS

our Club's behalf, with staff helping each participant to create their lovely designs. Our March meeting, held at Reggie's Bar and Grill, included not only our usual Floral Design example, Horticulture Hints and Environmental Tips, but delicious food, beverages and desserts.

Plans for April and May are highly anticipated! On our schedule for April, members will each do a 12"x12" floral design which will be critiqued and discussed by the membership, then our designs will be placed in various locations around the city: City Hall, banks, library, post office and other businesses for the public to enjoy.

For our May meeting, plans are underway for a picnic-type social, at which time our new officers for 2021-22 will begin planning our new club year.

Despite sporadic attendance at our meetings, we are proud that our Club has accomplished much in the past year. It is our hope that we will be able to enjoy each other's company more fully in the coming months, including that of our sisters and brothers in other Garden Clubs both near and far.



DEEDS AND DOINGS



As a joint effort with the City of Rayne, the **Rayne Garden Club** hosted a small Arbor Day ceremony at Gossen Memorial Park to announce their efforts to assist with another beautification project for the community. Announcement of the new project was held during a small gathering due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions. RGC Chairman Lisa Soileaux announced the club's latest project, the addition of crepe myrtles and benches along the walking track at Gossen Memorial Park in Rayne, a endeavor proposed by Mayor Charles "Chuck" Robichaux some time ago. "We are always welcomed to have one of our community's organizations taking part and spear-heading a beautification project for the good of the city," stated Mayor Robichaux. "We thank the Rayne Garden Club for their assistance as they give us a jump-start for this project." Once sidewalks are replaced following drainage work, the initial plans for the beautification project is to install a number of crepe myrtle trees along the walking path of Gossen Memorial Park "We are also planning the installation of benches near the trees, giving the area a nice look while also providing a shady spot for walkers and visitors," Robichaux explained.



The **Rayne Garden Club** made a book donation of "The Saved Seed" to the Rayne Library. The book, written by Brenda Moore and illustrated by Emily Lackey, was donated to the library in conjunction with the Louisiana Garden Club Federation's annual theme. On hand for the presentation were, from left, Lisa Soileaux, Fran Bihm, librarian Trudy Ronkartz and Desiree Casey.

DEEDS AND DOINGS



*Charles Menard of Sadie's Flower Shop in Rayne, right, was welcomed to a meeting of the **Rayne Garden Club** to demonstrate a number of flower arrangements and designs. Welcoming Menard were, from left, new RGC member Becky Servat, meeting host, and Desiray Casey, RGC President*



*Members of the **Rayne Garden Club** once again enjoyed their annual December luncheon and plant exchange following their December meeting. The special event was held at the home of RGC member Margaret Comeaux of Rayne including a business meeting, plant exchange and delicious lunch by the host. Club members in attendance were, seated from left, Fran Bihm, Judy Guidry, Desiree Casey, Julia Breaux, Carol Trahan, Chris Simpson, Diane Sonnier; standing, Lisa Soileaux, Margaret Comeaux, Linda Ancona, Becky Servat and Martha Pierret.*

CALENDAR

2021

April 1 Deadline for Cleanest City Entries

April 26 2021-LGCF Convention Pre Tour **CANCELLED**

April 27 April 28-2021 -LFCF Convention - Baton Rouge, LA **CANCELLED**

May 17-20 NGC Convention, East Rutherford, NJ **CANCELLED**

July 12-13 Summer Board - Smith's Landing, Lecompte, LA

September 27-30 Environmental School Series VI, Course 3 &4 - LSU AgCenter,
Mansura, LA

October 12, Tuesday DISTRICT VIII

October 13, Wednesday DISTRICT V

October 14, Thursday DISTRICT VII

October 19, Tuesday DISTRICT VI

October 20, Wednesday DISTRICT II

October 21, Thursday DISTRICT III