



Louisiana Garden
Club Federation, Inc.

Newsletter

April 2023

THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

Newsletter

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Plant Louisiana—Practice Sustainable Gardening"



VOLUME LXXIII

April 2023

NO 4

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LGCF 2021-23

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On Our Cover: The image on our cover is a close-up of a photo taken by Daria Vincent, Metairie Garden Club, District II, of her white mandevilla plant. It has taken two years to get this full.

Mandevilla boliviensis: Also known as white mandevilla, this species is notable for its delicate white blooms. A fast-growing flowering vine, the mandevilla is a sun-loving perennial that will bloom all summer long. The common name is Rock Trumpet.



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE SUMMER ISSUE, JULY 1, 2023, IS JUNE 1, 2023 AND SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR. We welcome drawings, paintings, or photos for the cover of the Newsletter.

Please email all information for this issue to lgcnews@gmail.com

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

Thank You Sponsors

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

March 8-10, 2023

GOLD SPONSOR

Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs

GOLD SPONSOR

Federated Council of New Orleans Garden Clubs

SILVER SPONSOR

St. Martinville Garden Club



HOST CLUB FOR CONVENTION

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.

President's Message



*Plant Louisiana—Practice
Sustainable Gardening*



These last two years really have gone by so quickly. As they say, time flies when you are having a good time and I did indeed have a good time these past two years.

LGCF hosted three conventions during the past two years. Having two conventions five weeks apart was definitely a challenge! It was tough to keep them straight in my mind. I would like to thank Ruth Delhomme, Clara Earl and their committee for hosting the 2022 Convention and enduring the stress of having to cancel and reschedule. Thankfully it went off without a hitch. Elizabeth McDougald, Donna Clark and their committee have worked diligently for two years to bring the Deep South Convention to fruition. They have left no detail to chance, as they faced many obstacles along the way. I personally received many compliments for the convention. Many remarked that this was the best ever DSGC Convention. Elizabeth and Donna Clark did an amazing job along with all of their committee members. The crawfish boil awards ceremony was a hit and made receiving awards so much fun. The registration and credentials committees were spot on! Thank you to Patsy Hebert, Kathy Van Ness, Kenny Van Ness and Donna Moran. Kyle did an outstanding job as treasurer and also printed the new DSGC logo for the voting cards, which impressed attendees. Marlene Alvarez's alligator vignette was spectacular! I am pleased that we were finally able to showcase that gator. Marlene has had that gator since 2020, as it was created for the 2020 Convention that was cancelled due to the Pandemic. Donna Clark's table decorations were so imaginative and fun! Donna toiled away in the floral room for three days, only to take a break for

meals. Thank you to Karen Hoyt who chaired the fabulous, fun and informative Tri-Refresher. I had to keep reminding myself that I was on a Tri-Refresher, as I felt as though I was on vacation. Where else can you start the day in a serene swamp and end the day at a winery with a wine tasting and delicious assortment of appetizers?

Next on the calendar is our upcoming LGCF Convention April 18-19. Jean Gilstrap, Cindy Galloway and the committee are striving to make this convention a grand event. They only need you to make it successful. Please attend to show your support of LGCF.

Since I became President over 400 live oak trees have been registered. I am pleased to mention that six of my grandchildren have registered live oaks named after them on their grandparents' property. Live Oak Chairman Coleen Landry has a full-time job registering the oaks and rallying the troops when a live oak is threatened. When you name a tree, you take ownership of that tree and do everything possible to protect it and allow it to continue to grow and flourish. They are truly living antiques and as such we should do everything in our power to protect them.

During the past two years, we offered four Environmental courses, one gardening course, two landscape design courses and a Flower Show Symposium. A Tri-refresher was offered in conjunction with the Deep South Convention. I appreciate all of the LGCF members that attended our schools, the Flower Show Symposium and the Tri-Refresher. When you attend these events you not only gain knowledge, but you make wonderful friends throughout the state as an added bonus.

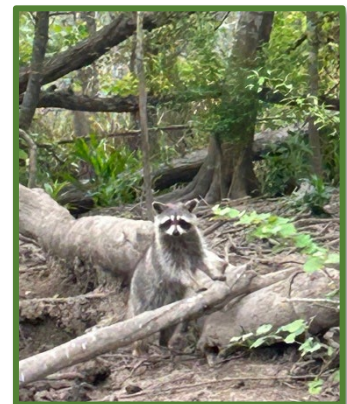
Three Blue Star Memorial Markers and one Gold Star Memorial Marker were dedicated these past two years. Louisiana has dedicated over 95 Blue or Gold Star Highway or Byway Memorial Markers since 1952. In 2017, a Blue Star Memorial Marker was dedicated at the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Rayville. Under our continuing project "Freedom Isn't Free" we are collecting funds so that the remaining Louisiana Veterans Cemeteries will have Blue Star Memorial Markers. Funding is going strong for a marker to be located in the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Jennings. When you send a donation

to the Freedom Isn't Free Project you can designate which Cemetery you would like your donation to go towards. The three other cemeteries are Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Keithville, Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Leesville and Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Slidell. Please consider a donation in memory of a beloved veteran.

Our clubs have sponsored numerous NGC Standard and Small Standard Flower Shows, planted trees for Arbor Day, presented Garden of the Month and Business of the Month awards to encourage pride in our communities, civic beautification projects, maintain Blue Star Memorial Markers, established and maintain butterfly gardens, and worked with junior garden clubs to name a few of their projects.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served LGCF these past two years as your President. I want to congratulate Tricia and her administration as they undertake their new offices and wish them all the best in their guidance of LGCF for the next two years.

Joyanna



Manchac Swamp and some of its inhabitants. This was the first stop on the DSGC Convention Pre Tour.

— Pictures by Donna Cline, Newsletter Chair

Editor's Corner



This is the last issue of my first two-year term as Newsletter Chairman. Yes, I have accepted the position for another two years and look forward keeping you informed on the happenings of LGCF and sharing interesting, educational articles related to gardening and the environment.

When I was first asked to edit the Newsletter, I wasn't sure I was up to the task. But now I find that I enjoy working on each issue. It has been a pleasure to communicate with those who have sent in articles, and I have been able to put some of those names to faces as I attend garden club conventions. Having just attended the Deep South Garden Clubs Convention, I now look forward to the LGCF Convention, which will be held in Vidalia, LA, April 17-19.

I am always open to any ideas on ways to improve the Newsletter, and, of course, welcome any pictures and articles you would like to share.

Donna Cline

At the DSGC Convention:



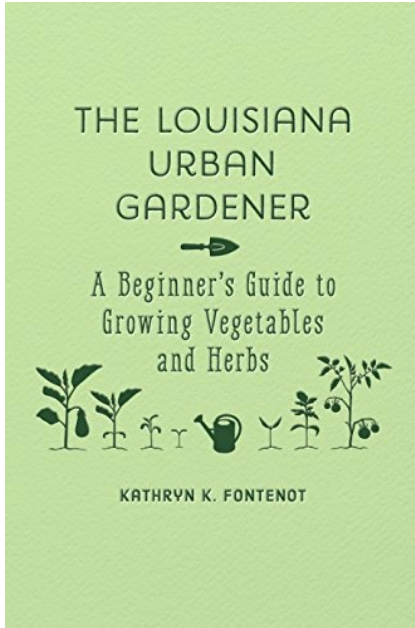
Table Decorations created by Donna Clark, DSGC Convention Co-Chairman



A fantastic design on display in the Grand Ballroom Foyer by Marlene Alvarez, District II Director

To see more pictures from the DSGC Convention, click [here](#).

Book Review



The Louisiana Urban Gardener

A Beginner's Guide to Growing Vegetables and Herbs

By Kathryn K. Fontenot

LSU Press, Baton Rouge, 2017

192 Pages

ISBN-13: 978-0-8071-6679-6

What could be better than a gardening book written by a local?

I was pleased to find this bright green book at a wonderful bookstore in Hammond.

With her background as LSU Ag Center assistant professor and extension specialist, “Kiki” Fontenot shares her gardening tips and tricks in language we can truly understand. The information is not new or “groundbreaking” (pardon the pun), however, this seems to be a solid, trustworthy guidebook, taking into account the gardening challenges that we deal with in Louisiana. I’m glad to have it in my personal library.

Along with information about soil, pest and weed management, design and techniques, the author gives us lists of seasonal crops that can thrive in our own back yards.....or front yards. Thank you, Kiki!

Submitted by Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair

LGCF Annual Convention

Vidalia Conference and Convention Center

112 Front Street, Vidalia, LA

April 17–19, 2023

Pre-Convention Tour – Monday, April 17th

Leave the Clarion Inn at 9:30 a.m. for the pre-convention tour that will take you across the Mississippi to historic Natchez, Mississippi. Tour the beautiful Bluffs, “Under the Hill” and other interesting sights.

Convention Highlights

Our speaker for the luncheon on Tuesday, April 18 will be Robert Dobbs of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. His topic will be “The Brown Pelican.” That evening we will have a reception honoring President Roxanna Champagne followed by the Awards Banquet. Our luncheon on Wednesday, April 19 will feature Alan Futch who will speak on “Floral Designs.” An evening reception honoring President-Elect Patricia Ortalano will precede the installation of 2023-2025 officers at the banquet.

Workshops

- **Website** presented by Webmaster Vicky Fannaly
- **Yearbooks** presented by Millie Comeaux
- **Espoma “Organic Gardening”**
- **Native Louisiana Plants** presented by Tevah Cardneaux
- **Bees** presented by James Gauthier

[**SCHEDULE**](#)

[**HOTEL INFORMATION**](#)

Officers' Reports

LGCF President-Elect

To all the LGCF Members,

As my term began, the 2021 LGCF Convention in Baton Rouge was cancelled which meant the presentation of LGCF Awards would be postponed, a huge disappointment for me after having all the certificates ready to present to the winning clubs. Such excitement would take place at Summer Board in July at Smith's Landing in Lecompte as Awards were handed out in sealed plastic bags to each club and Special Awards were presented by Linda Finley, LGCF President 2019-2021.

As President Elect, I had the privilege of mentoring the District Directors naming them, *Magnolia Girls* and gifted them their pins. The Districts were represented by Marlene Alvarez, II; Versa Dore', III; Ann Smith, V; Cynthia Moran, VI; Pam Langley, VII and Anne Dorgant, VIII. Although their experience with LGCF was at different levels, they were eager to learn, sometimes giving me a hard time as their "Mama," but in the end, we had fun as LGCF business was taken care of. Both years in October, their Fall Meetings were well attended by their district members and exciting speakers kept the meetings interesting. Thank you, *Magnolia Girls* for your hard work and for keeping your districts informed when information needed to be passed along from National Garden Clubs, Deep South Garden Clubs and LGCF!

I was able to attend the following meetings and events:

LGCF meetings:

July 2021 - Summer Board in LeCompte

October 2021 – District Fall Meetings in Mansura, Farmerville, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Metairie and Lafayette.

January 2022 – Winter Council in LeCompte

April 2022 – LGCF Convention in Baton Rouge

July 2022 – Summer Board in Baton Rouge (Feeling back to normal)

October 2022 – District Fall Meetings in Morgan City, Jennings, Harvey, Farmerville, Mansura and Baton Rouge

January 2023 – Winter Council in LeCompte

April 2023 – Plan to attend LGCF Convention in Vidalia!

LGCF Schools:

September 2, 2021 shortly after Hurricane Ida, leaving my home in darkness, no electricity, I attended Gardening School in Abbeville / Refresher. Electricity restored the same day I returned home, Yay!
September 28, 2021 - Environmental School / Refresher / Mansura
November 17, 2021 - Landscape Design School/ Course II / Baton Rouge
September 23, 2022 – Environmental School / Refresher / Farmerville
October 4, 2022 – Landscape Design School / Course III / Baton Rouge
March 8, 2023 – Environmental School / Refresher / Kenner
April 2023 – Plan to attend Zoom Gardening School / Refresher / Massachusetts

LGCF Travel:

May 2022 – Judged Cleanest City Contest at the State level along with Karen Hoyt and Jan Lemoine. It was a treat to meet so many LGCF members and people from the different communities throughout Louisiana who have the same interest in keeping Louisiana Litter Free!
November 2022 – The Biltmore, Gibbs & Calloway Gardens Tour

Conventions:

March 2022 - DSGC Convention in Natchez MS
May 2022 – NGC Convention in Orlando FL
March 2023 – DSGC Convention in Kenner LA
May 2023 – Plan to attend NGC Convention at The Greenbrier in WV

In my District, I worked closely with **Elizabeth McDougald & Donna Clark, Co-Chairmen of the 2023 DSGC Convention** as they planned for two years. Numerous meetings were held, a shoe fundraiser occurred, and a Bunco fundraiser erupted raising funds to support the Fabulous, Fun-Filled Convention, an LGCF event. On my behalf, thank you to ALL the LGCF members throughout the State for your time, talent and dedication to a successful Convention!

With all this being said, I've thoroughly enjoyed training under Roxanna's leadership, as she and I have worked and spent a lot of time together traveling and discussing many aspects of LGCF and hope to continue our friendship as I look forward to serving as LGCF President.

Hope to see y'all in Vidalia!

Patricia G. Ortalano
LGCF President Elect 2021-2023

2nd Vice President

The past two years as LGCF Second Vice President (Deep South and NGC Awards) has certainly been a learning experience for me. It quickly became a rewarding experience thanks to the help of many awards chairmen at all levels—LGCF, Deep South and NGC. For the most part, my responsibility was to compile, not to judge the awards to be sent onto Deep South and National. We will learn at Convention and Summer Board who those winners will be!

Because of the many changes in NGC awards and rules, a special thanks goes to Babette Werner, LGCF Awards Advisor for her knowledge in getting our State awards in sync with Deep South and National. Thanks to Carla Gauthier, LGCF First Vice President, for helping to identify those state award winners that could go onto Deep South and/or NGC. Thanks to those LGCF clubs and members who applied for Deep South and NGC Awards. Your projects are wonderful and you deserve to be rewarded for your hard work!!! And thanks to Roxanna Champagne, our LGCF President, for her never ending enthusiasm and support.

I am grateful to continue to serve as LGCF First Vice President (LGCF Awards Chair) for 2023- 2025.

As always, I am here for you.

Kyle Martin
LGCF Second Vice President 2021-2023

Recording Secretary

As Recording Secretary, I have kept records of all Executive Board Meeting and Business Meetings and sent minutes to members in accordance with the LGCF bylaws.

Kathy Tell
LGCF Recording Secretary 2021-2023

District Directors' Reports

District II

It is with great honor that I have had the opportunity to be your LGCF District II Director. Club presidents and members have made my two years very rewarding. Despite the challenges of Covid, hurricane Ida and my learning curve we persevered. I could always count on you to participate in events, while having fun in the process, laughing and smiling. So many of you volunteered your precious time freely and were willing to help and participate in each other's projects, sharing your knowledge and talents. The District II Fall Meetings were a success due to your spirit and dedication.

Patricia (Tricia) Ortalano, LGCF President-Elect and District Directors' mentor and counselor, was our "Magnolia Mama." She has helped guide all of her "Magnolia Girls" along the way, patiently guiding us through our terms and reminding us of all the steps needed to accomplish our duties. Without her guidance we would not have felt as confident, or achieved all that we needed to for our districts. We appreciate that she gave so much of herself and her precious time.

Roxanna Champagne, LGCF President, her officers and chairmen—your unfaltering dedication and caring for all of the LGCF family was felt by all of us, without a doubt. My heart is full of thanks, gratitude and unending appreciation for all of you and the acts of service you choose to do for our LGCF family. All of you are very considerate and unselfish in all that you do. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me fulfill my term as District II Director. I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to be your 2021-2023 District II Director.

With sincere gratitude,

Marlene Alvarez
LGCF District II Director 2021 - 2023

District III

My term as District III Director started on the heels of the covid pandemic and devastating hurricanes. Some clubs stayed busy by planning and preparing for future activities, while some had too much devastation and had to completely suspended all garden club activity. Although some clubs had a slow return, all 11 clubs worked hard and overcame all obstacles to come back even stronger. Working with our club presidents as their liaison between LGCF and NGC was an honor. I have made many more wonderful friends who share the same love of nature, our environment, and the future of our beautiful state.

As some of you know, my term also came after the loss of my husband of 45 years. Your phone calls, cards, hugs, condolences, and donations in Ronald's name in the Book of Remembrance helped me through that first year. I'm sure I missed thanking some of you, so I wanted to take this time to let you know how much I care and appreciate you all.

I wish to thank Roxanna, LGCF President, Tricia, LGCF President Elect and my "Magnolia Mama," my fellow District Directors, whom I had a lot of fun with as well as learning experiences, and my District III Presidents for all their work and dedication to our clubs and state. I also want to thank the nominating committee and those who had faith that I could fulfill this position, especially Donna Bucci, whose kind words helped me overcome my anxiety and made me believe in myself.

I leave our District as director knowing that you will be in great hands with our incoming District Director, LGCF President Elect who will be her "Mama" and guide, and her fellow LGCF District Directors who will share their knowledge and ideas. I look forward to their endeavors under the leadership of our incoming LGCF President.

Versa Dore'
District III Director 2021-2023

District V

It is with much gratitude and appreciation that District V choose me as their director for the past two years! It has been fun and gave me much satisfaction in being able to help and guide our twelve clubs. I met so many outstanding people!

With our great leaders, President Roxana Champagne, President Elect Patricia Ortalano and the Presidents of the clubs and members, my job was much easier. I thank you for making my years as Director successful. Together we came back from the Covid pandemic and are going strong!

My experience as the District V Director enlightened me on the full operation of LGCF; it isn't just about gardening, it is run just like any other business! I will never forget my experience as Director and am looking forward to many more years of being involved with LGCF!

Wishing each of you the very best and many happy years of gardening!

A garden friend forever,
Ann McKinney Smith
District V Director 2021-2023

District VI

District VI was host to a successful spring convention in April, 2022. Thanks to the co-chairs Clara Earl and Ruth Delhomme and their committee, agreements with the hotel from the cancelled convention of 2021, were maintained. The well attended convention created a profit for both the state and district treasuries and the district treasury completed the period with a total surpassing its 2021 balance.

Two district meetings were held in Baton Rouge. The Fall 2021 meeting was hosted by the Country Club of Louisiana Garden Club, and this was their first and a very successful district gathering with more than 70 guests. The Fall 2022 meeting was hosted by the West Baton Rouge Home and Garden Club whose theme "How Sweet It Is" inspired some beautiful sugar cane based table arrangements.

District VI now counts 15 clubs affiliated, having lost one club, Community Gardeners of Baton Rouge, who disbanded during the year. The district looks forward to the upcoming term of District Director-Elect, Donna Moran, a member of the Covington Garden Club.

During this period District VI established and now funds a new State Award, #36. In accordance with national goals, this award encourages the planting of oak trees by clubs in the state. To be eligible for the award, a club must plant at least one oak for every member. Each One, Plant One!

Cynthia Moran
District VI Director 2021-2023

District VII

Serving as District VII Director for two terms has been a trying but rewarding experience for me. Trying in that part of my term covered the height of the COVID pandemic, and my District was hit by two hurricanes. Rewarding in that I got to know more garden club members in my district. There are amazing members in our clubs. I encourage all of you to attend district-wide and state-wide events so you can also come to know more of these amazing club members.

I presented several talks to clubs in my district over the past 4 years. I would like to thank those clubs that welcomed me to their meetings. I really enjoyed seeing how each club is unique, but at the same time, united in their purpose. These talks also gave me a chance to promote growing native plants, which is my passion. I know members are well stocked with native plant seeds!

I would like to take this time to thank the District Officers that helped me during my terms: Kathy Tell has served as District Secretary, Sissy Gall has served as District Treasurer and is our representative on the state nominating committee, and Margo Racca has served as our Parliamentarian. And a special thanks goes to Ammy Taylor for accepting the nomination for our next District VII Director.

In addition to the officers, I would also like to thank all of my club presidents! Bulb and Blossom (Eunice) was led by April DeRouen and Celeste Gomez, Crowley

Garden Club was led by Christie Brammer and Georgie Petitjean, Diggers & Weeders was led by Susan Caldwell, Iowa Garden Club was led by Teeter Longtain, Jennings Garden Club was led by Nookie Miller, Lake Charles Garden Club was led by Loretta Guzman and Thelma Fontenot, Oakdale Garden Club was led by Frannie Richardson and Carolyn Kaleel, Rayne Garden Club was led by Desiree Casey and Dianne Sonnier, Sulphur Garden Club was led by Edith Keys, and Washington Garden Club was led by Ammy Taylor. You all made my job easy.

Fall Meetings are always challenging, and I would like to thank all clubs that served as host clubs during my term. They did an excellent job and made my job so much easier. A special thank you to Diggers and Weeders who sponsored the very first Fall Meeting, the second was cancelled due to the pandemic. The third Fall Meeting was sponsored by Lake Charles Garden Club and a special thanks goes to Diane Lafargue for spearheading that meeting. Our most recent Fall Meeting was hosted by Jennings Garden Club. The club and their President, Nookie Miller, did an excellent job! Thank you all for making our meetings successful and fun!

Our District has taken on the task of sponsoring a Blue Star Memorial Marker to be placed at the Veterans Cemetery in Jennings, LA. We are still in the process of collecting monies toward that effort. I would like to thank the clubs that donated to the marker and Jennings Garden Club for donating and working to get donations from the community. At this time we are close to our goal and a marker should be going up soon.

I would like to say that I'm retiring from my duties, but I am Chairman of the 2024 LGCF Convention, so my work is not done just yet. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to attend the convention in April of 2024 in Lake Charles. Please keep your eye on the web page and newsletter for more details coming soon. We will have a GOOD TIME!

Even though I joke about serving two terms, it was an honor to serve as Director of District VII. I thank all of those who made it possible.

Pam Langley
District VII Director 2021-2023

District VIII

What an adventure! When I was asked to take on the duties of District Director, I was not expecting all of the important duties involved. I am thankful we saw an end to the closures of the pandemic and were able to meet again. I know I really missed it.

I am grateful for all the guidance provided by the other garden club members, former district directors and most of all our “Magnolia Mama,” Tricia. She helped me to keep on track and to realize the importance of the many decisions I had to make. I am grateful I had the other “Magnolia Girls” to get ideas and advice from and I think we will be lasting friends because of it. I would have never been able to “put the face with the name” if not for the meetings and conventions we attended.

I am proud of all the work of our District VIII Garden Clubs who continue to work hard to improve and beautify the communities where they are located. I know the new director, D.D. Lamartiniere will do a great job. Thank you to everyone for this wonderful experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dorgant
District VIII Director 2021-2023



Artwork by Pam Langley,
District VII Director

Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication



A Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication was held on January 5, 2023 at Chalmette National Cemetery, 8606 W. St. Bernard Highway, Chalmette, LA. The ceremony took place at 3:00 p.m. and was held as part of the Battle of New Orleans Reenactment. The marker was sponsored by the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. in cooperation with the St. Bernard Tourist Commission and the National Park Services.

Blue Star Memorial Markers are a tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America. Markers continue to be dedicated each year on highways, Veterans' facilities, National Cemeteries, parks, and civic and historic sites, showing our appreciation for those who defend our country.



Joan DeMille, Marlene Alvarez, Isabella Wax, Mary Hazen, Amelia Wax, Michelle Wax, Mary Ellen Miller



Color guard—Chalmette High School Air Force Junior ROTC; Mary Hazen, Blue Star Chairman; Chuck Hunt, Superintendent of Jean Lafitte Natl. Park; Lt. Col. David Farley, Commander Chalmette HS Air Force ROTC; Katie Tomasseo, Ex.Dir of Tourism, St. Bernard Tourist Commission



Vietnam Veteran's group at Chalmette National Cemetery on 12/17/2022 for Wreaths Across America ceremony.

Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers

Please note below price changes in effect May 1, 2023 thru May 1, 2024. It is important that you pass along these effective price changes to your state officers and all of your garden club presidents.

Blue/Gold Star Pricing

Pricing Effective May 1st, 2023 good thru May 1st, 2024

Marker, post, shipping	\$1,995.00
Byway Plaques	\$665.00
Replacement Posts	\$375.00
Refurbishment	\$1200.00
Extra Shipping (western states)	\$100.00
Memorial/Highway markers only	

Respectfully,

Candace Fleming Wells
NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chairman

LGCF Tours

UPCOMING TRIPS

LGCF Tour of Tulips

April 23 to May 2, 2023) 10 days

Wish you were coming along with us to Holland! The weather is cooperating perfectly, and predictions are for perfect viewing of the tulips!



PROPOSED TOURS THROUGH SPRING 2025

FALL 2023

North/South Louisiana Swap NOVEMBER 6 –11

North members will tour Southern locations/South members will tour Northern locations. The Garden Clubs will assist me by suggesting restaurants, sites, gardens and hotels to visit. Both areas will tour Alexandria area November 8th.

- Bellingrath Gardens (Alexandria to Mobile, AL) November 9 to 11
(Cascading Chrysanthemums)

BY THE TIME THIS NEWSLETTER COMES OUT, I SHOULD KNOW THE LOCATIONS FOR OUR “SWAP!” SO, WATCH THE WEBSITE SOON TO SEE WHERE WE ARE GOING!!

SPRING 2024

Philadelphia Flower Show MARCH 2–10

What a wonderfully beautiful time to be a part of the Philadelphia Flower Show. The Flower Show is the nation’s largest and longest-running horticultural event and features stunning displays by the world’s premier floral and landscape designers. Described as “the country’s oldest, largest and most prestigious celebration of flowers!” We will also visit Lancaster for the Pennsylvania Dutch Country and Amish attractions. One of the other places we will visit will be the Barnes Museum. Mark your calendar and make this beautiful tour.

FALL 2024

Portland and Washington Wine Country` SEPTEMBER 24–30

Restore your spirits and satisfy your inner wine enthusiast with some of the most scenic wineries and tasting rooms in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley. See the beauty of Oregon and Washington and see the interesting sights of Seattle. Possible visit to Butchart's Garden while in Seattle.

KNOW THAT ACTIVITIES AROUND AREAS PROPOSED WILL DETERMINE IF TRAVEL TAKES PLACE.

SPRING 2025

Texas Bluebonnets

MARCH 31 TO APRIL 5 (Easter is April 20)

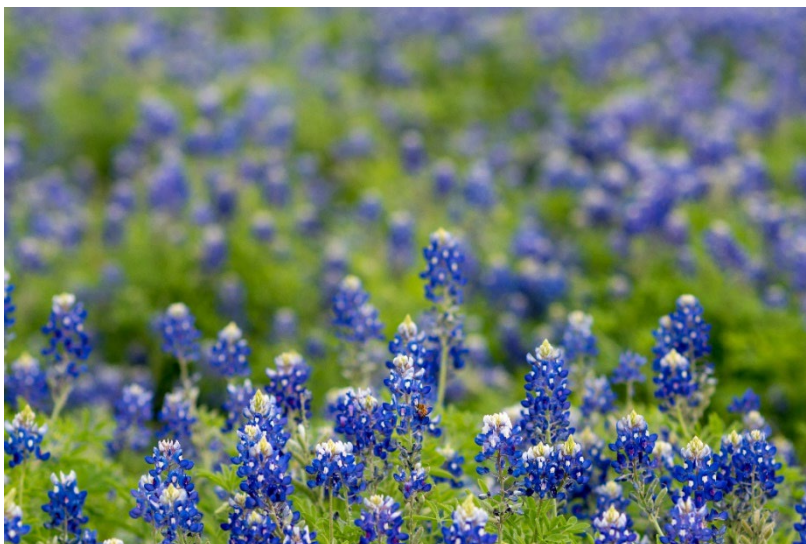
It is the time of year when wildflowers are popping up all over the countryside painting Texas in shades of red, blue, yellow and white. Texas respects the beauty of all wildflowers, but the bluebonnet is the best. So, to make sure that you get your fill of bluebonnet beauty, I've planned the ultimate Bluebonnet Road Trip through the heart of Hill Country.

MANY HAVE BEEN BEFORE, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS NEW BEAUTY AND FUN TO SEE AND DO!

Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman

318-498-0094

lgcftours@aol.com





CIRCLE OF ROSES

Kathy Bedenbaugh
River Ridge Garden Club
District II



Kathy Bedenbaugh grew up in Jefferson Parish in southern Louisiana. She currently resides in Hammond on a family home site with her husband Garnett. She has held many roles in her life including working as a “candy striper” in her early years and, later, a career as a buyer and model for DH Holmes. She is a woman of strong faith and the proud mother of 5 children, 3 stepchildren and is also a grandmother.

Kathy actively manages and maintains the grounds of her beautiful home. Kathy’s love of gardening and natural habitats is evident in the astounding types of native plants on her property. You can find her there “deep in the dirt” weeding, planting, and caring for her beautiful gardens - providing a nourishing environment for the butterflies, bees and other animal life that share her home. She is also well known for generously sharing “cuttings” of her beloved plants to foster love of gardening to others.

Kathy has been an active member of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc. community for over 20 years. Her dedication and commitment to the state of Louisiana, local civic organizations, schools, and philanthropic projects have been evident through the many roles she has been engaged in. She is a firm believer in “volunteerism.” She has engaged in numerous activities such as supporting the homeless – working with local city organizations to improve a homeless center in Ponchatoula. She has actively given her time as an outspoken advocate of litter control writing editorial comment on the subject and has not been above picking up more than her share of litter along rivers and other scenic spots marred by people’s garbage to make the Tangipahoa parish a “clean parish.”

The list of her many civic and charitable causes is impressive. She has worked in her church, in the Hammond Junior Auxiliary, Regional Arts Board, Longue Vue House and Gardens, Ginger Ford Habitat for Humanity Board, and other organizations. She was

president of both Friends of Longue Vue House and Gardens and Ginger Ford Habitat for Humanity Board. She was on the board of Friends of Ronald McDonald House.

Kathy was a member of the Gardenettes in Ponchatoula beginning in 1993. She transitioned to the River Ridge Garden Club in 2017. She is currently an active member and mentor of the River Ridge Garden Club sharing her knowledge and experience from all of her endeavors with its members. She is highly valued across these and other organizations.

She is a past President of the Gardenettes. She was active in turning “blight into beauty” when in 2002, she had interacted with the Ponchatoula city government to turn the unused swimming pool at the Kiwanis Park into a Butterfly Garden which Kathy at a later time had donated several rose bushes in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2007.

Kathy has been working in the LGCF, Inc. from her days as District VI director and former Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc. second vice president. As Director of 26 garden clubs, she coordinated three events for Hurricane Katrina victims - bringing food and Christmas gifts in 2005 and school supplies in 2006 for about 100 children. The District received National “honorable mention” in the Parade Magazine for their participation in Make a Difference Day. Kathy served as District VI Cleanest City chairman for several years and also served as the LGCF, Inc. Historic Trails and State Parks Chairman before becoming LGCF, Inc. Second Vice President.

Kathy has a deep commitment to her work in the Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Deep South Region and on the Louisiana State Parks Commission and her Garden Clubs. Her organizational and gardening talents as well as her civic consciousness are all attributes that these organizations as well as her Garden Clubs see as examples of an individual who gives of herself. Her concern for making things better for others shines through!

Kathy has completed the Landscape Design Consultant course and has assisted clubs besides the Gardenettes and River Ridge Garden Club to place their trees and shrubbery. She has also landscaped several homes for the local Habitat For Humanity chapter doing much of the work herself.

Kathy is currently Deep South Chairman at Large for the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. She is chairman of the Deep South Garden Clubs Project and as such, is actively engaged in motivating garden clubs to commit time and energy to work with local civic organizations, home residences, and cities in efforts to make communities better.

On behalf of the River Ridge Garden Club we are very proud to submit Kathy Bedenbaugh for the Circle of Roses.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

Bunny Jean Fortenberry Barlow
Vidalia Garden Club
District V



Bunny is a native of Tylertown, Mississippi where she grew up on the family farm. She attended school at Tylertown Elementary and High School. She was on the basketball team and a member of the 4-H Club. She attended Mississippi Southern University at Hattiesburg and graduated with an Educational Degree in the Summer of 1959.

In the Fall of 1959, she moved to Vidalia, Louisiana to teach elementary students at Vidalia Lower Elementary. She retired from the Vidalia schools after 40 years and then taught at Trinity Episcopal School for another 10 years. Overall she taught first grade for 50 years.

In 1967 Bunny was invited to join the Vidalia Garden Club. She has worked on many committees including: Yard of the Month, Christmas Décor Contest, Ways & Means, Nomination, President, Flower Shows and participated in planting flowers around town. She enjoys attending garden club meetings and has met so many wonderful people.

She enjoys working in her yard, attending to the flower beds, small vegetable garden and blueberry bushes.

Bunny is a member of First Baptist Church of Vidalia and attends Sunday School.

Bunny is married to Malcolm Barlow. They have two children, George Barlow and Angela Alice Barlow Cotton, and two grandchildren.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

Mary Knapp
Vidalia Garden Club
District V



Mary was born in Meadow Bridge, West Virginia to a family of nine children. Mary had a twin sister, Margaret. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom raising children, planting gardens and flowers, and canning vegetables. Her Dad worked in a coal mine.

Mary graduated from Meadow Bridge High School in 1954 as Co-Salutatorian. She accepted a job with the FBI in Washington, D.C. where she met and married her husband Jimmy Knapp who was in the Air Force stationed in Washington, D.C.

Mary moved to Vidalia, Louisiana in 1976 from Lanham, Maryland where she spent time being active in her church and raising her children.

At the time Mary became interested in joining the Vidalia Garden Club, but there was a waiting list to join. She was able to join in 1991 and has been a member ever since. Years later in 2003 she entered the flower show and won a Blue Ribbon for her arrangement as well as Best Overall. She was the Corresponding Secretary for 25 years from 1996 until 2021.

Mary and her husband Jimmy currently reside on Lake Concordia and have three children: Ricky, David and Darla, eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

Ann Thompson
Vidalia Garden Club
District V



Ann Thompson of Vidalia Garden Club was born and raised in rural Rapides Parish. She moved to Vidalia in 1963. In 1974, she purchased Janel's Flower Shop in Natchez, Mississippi and her love of flower arranging was born.

Ann joined the Vidalia Garden Club in 1997, the year she retired from the flower business. Joining the Garden Club allowed her to be active in the community and continue her passion for flowers and plants. She was treasurer of the Vidalia Garden Club for several years and was in charge of the Blue Star Marker project in Vidalia. She sold caladiums for the Club's fundraiser and was chairman of the Caladium Committee for many years. She is currently the Club's parliamentarian.

She is an active member of Vidalia First Baptist Church and was a choir member for many years.

Ann has enjoyed the many years she has belonged to the Vidalia Garden Club and is looking forward to another year of service as she approaches her 90th birthday next year.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

Vickie Dupuy
Marksville Garden Club
District VIII



Vickie moved way up north to Marksville from her hometown of Abbeville in way south Louisiana. The year was 1967 when she married a true native of Marksville, Robert S. Dupuy, better known as “Mr. Bobby.” As in all small French communities in Louisiana, your identity was associated with your ancestry. The first question a newcomer would get was “who’s ya’ daddy?” Vickie’s response was “you wouldn’t know him, I’m not from here.” She responded the same way to that same question for the first 25 years in Marksville. However, now with 56 years under her belt she is known by her first name or Mrs. Bobby or Ashley, Dirk, or Blake’s mother. Even on some occasion, she’s that lady with the “gray streak” in her hair.

Upon settling in Marksville Vickie jumped into any and all activities that could contribute to the enhancement of the new little hamlet she would now call home. After a short business career in promoting gas range cooking in public schools and appliance stores, she dedicated herself to her new career of family and community. In 1971 Vickie followed in the legacy of her mother-in-law and three sisters-in-law and joined in the activities of the Marksville Garden Club. This was her venue for encompassing the civic and community work she enjoyed. Her energies stayed local all these years.

Vickie’s forte is in design and she has accumulated many ribbons at both local and district levels. She is less excited about horticulture (probably because she could not spell those botanical names). However, her real passion is civic enhancement. Among many civic beautification projects she has worked on, one of the main ones was working with the Chamber of Commerce to secure a \$17,000 grant for litter abatement and education programs for “City Wide Pride.” She was awarded the Chamber’s “Public Service Award” in 1985 and in 2005. At present she is involved in four civic beautification projects funded by donated monies to the Club and the generous work of the fundraising committee.

Being from south Louisiana, Vickie learned to cook from her mother and grandmother, but a degree in Home Economics from USL didn’t hurt either. She fined tuned that skill daily, as way back when Marksville has very few restaurants and Mr. Bobby loved to come home for dinner at noon. (By the way, Mr Bobby was the horticulturist in the family, as he grew the biggest garden inside the city limits for many years.) Vickie loved putting that skill to good use for the members. One of her favorite things is entertaining the Club in her home, for flower shows, programs, and Christmas Parties where food was always center stage along with her original decorations. Vickie hopes to be active a few more years.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

Marina Gagic
Marksville Garden Club
District VIII



Marina Gagic has been a member of the Marksville Garden Club since 1981. She was a teacher of literature and history in her native country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She and her husband moved to Canada in 1970 and finally settled in Marksville in 1980. She has been involved in many projects with the Marksville Garden Club including beautification projects of the town, participation in the Cleanest City Contest, served as judge in Cleanest City Contest in Rapides parish and was on the committee for awarding the monthly civic award.

She is married to Dr. Pedrag Gagic. She has one daughter, Ksenija Belsley, who together with son-in-law Scott Belsley and grandson Miles Alexander Belsley, lives in New York.

Marina is an active member of the Marksville community having served as a board member of Arts and Humanities of Avoyelles for 35 years and remains a supporter. She is a member of the Avoyelles Parish Library Board of Control, serving as past president, and was honored to be chosen as one of two recipients of the American Library Trustee Association Award for Outstanding Services for Libraries. Because of her many civic activities, she was named as a member of the court for the Bicentennial Celebration for the town of Marksville. Her hobbies include gardening, reading and needlework.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

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

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

LGCF Circle of Roses Chairman

Sarah LeBlanc

2201 Verot School Rd, Cottage 15-A

Lafayette, LA 70508

nanalovespops@gmail.com

337-540-7223 (Cell)

337-534-0187 (Home)

Note from the newsletter editor:

The Circle of Roses is a very special honor and we strive to make the presentation in the newsletter one that each recipient can print out as a keepsake. Since the newsletter is done in a digital format, it would be very helpful if the biographies could be sent in 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 and please clearly label which picture is “then” and which is “now.” 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. It is better to scan rather than photocopy the photo. Photocopying can result in a grainy picture. If you are unable to scan the pictures, please send in the original photographs. Those will be scanned and returned to whomever you designate.



Calendar of Events

2023

April 1

DUES DUE – State and District

April 17

LGCF Convention Pre-Tour, Vidalia, LA

April 18–19

LGCF Convention, Vidalia, LA (Clarion Suites/Vidalia Convention Center) [SCHEDULE](#) [HOTEL INFORMATION](#)

April 23–May 2

Tulips of Holland Tour

April 24–29; May 1–5

Cleanest City State Judging

May 1–5

NGC Convention, The Greenbriar, White Sulphur Springs, WV

September 18–20

NGC Fall Board Meeting, Airport Marriot, St. Louis, MO

October 17

District V – Delhi

October 18

District VIII – Marksville

October 19

District VII – Oakdale

October 24

District III – New Iberia

October 25

District VI – Hammond, Ponchatoula

October 26

District II - Metairie

November 6–11

North/South Louisiana Tour

2024

March 2–10

Philadelphia Flower Show

March 19–20

DSGC Convention, Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

June 2–5

NGC Convention, The Westin Winchester, Denver, CO

September TBA

NGC Fall Board Meeting, Virtual

September 24–30

Portland / Washington Wine Country

2025

March 31–April 5

Texas Bluebonnets (Easter is April 20)

May 19–2

NGC Convention, Omaha, Nebraska