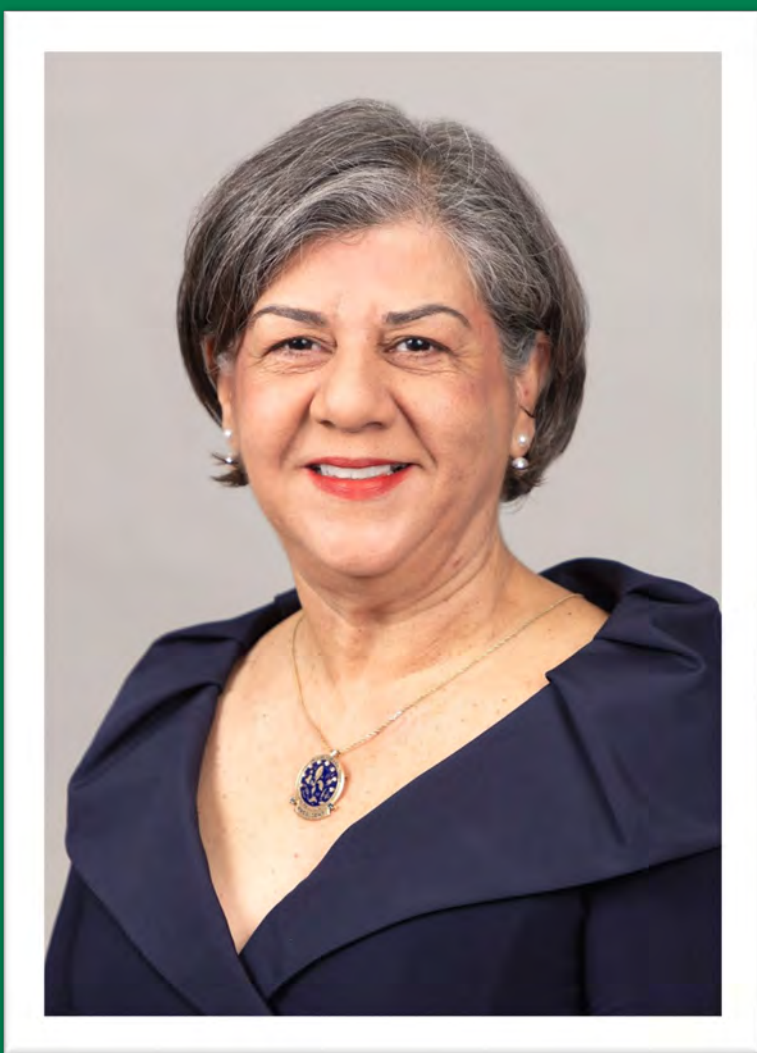


Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.

Newsletter

July 2023



*Louisiana Goes
Emerald—Plant
Wildflowers*



Thank You Sponsors

Deep South Garden Club, 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.

THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

Newsletter

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Louisiana Goes Emerald—Plant Wildflowers"



VOLUME LXXIV

July 2023

NO 1

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LGCF 2023-2025

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portalano3@gmail.com

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kylemartin@charter.net

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patsyhebert1968@gmail.com

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On Our Cover: Pictured on our cover is Patricia "Tricia" Ortalano, Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. President 2023-2025. Tricia lives in Marrero, LA and joined the Terrytown Garden Club in 2004, where she held the positions of Recording Secretary (2005) and President (2009). Chairmanships held were: Arbor Day, Wildlife, Bunco Fundraiser, and Blue Star Memorial Marker. She was President of Terrytown Junior Garden Club (1971) and President of Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs (2015-2017). Her involvement soon expanded beyond her local club and she served as LGCF District II Director, held multiple terms as State Treasurer and served as 1st Vice President. Her outstanding contributions led her to be chosen President Elect of LGCF. She has now been officially installed as the President of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc., 2023-2025.

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

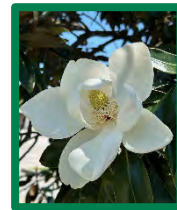
Please email all information for this issue to lgcfnews@gmail.com

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

President's Message



Louisiana Goes Emerald— Plant Wildflowers



My term as LGCF President began with a bang, celebrating by having my Family in attendance at the LGCF Convention in Vidalia, and my Districts' support meant the world to me. The convention was well attended, fun was had by many and the memories will hold a special place in my heart.

In early May, I travelled to White Sulphur, WV to attend the National Garden Club Convention. My stay at The Greenbrier, a historic landmark was quite a treat! The resort was entertaining, offering many activities, tours, shopping, and even Afternoon Tea & Concert and much more. The décor was designed by Dorothy Draper, who used bright, exuberant colors and large prints. It was entertaining looking at different rooms to see the color of the walls/wallpaper, the rug patterns, the bed coverings, furniture, lamps/chandeliers, curtains even the floral designs. Did you know the 600-pound crystal chandelier used on the 1939 movie set for *Gone with the Wind* is housed in the Greenbrier's Lobby Bar? Everything about The Greenbrier was spectacular.



While touring Lewisburg, WV, I visited one of the four Carnegie Halls still in use; Old Stone Church, the oldest church west of the Alleghany Mountains that has remained in continuous use; Greenbrier College for Women; and A Civil War Cemetery followed by lunch at *Food & Friends* and shopping. I also had the opportunity to tour *The Bunker*, a former U.S. Government relocation facility that was kept top secret during the Cold War. It was designed to accommodate both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in the event of a national

emergency. The secret of its location was held for 30 years until The Washington Post published a story exposing it. The day after the story was published, the facility began to phase out. If you get the opportunity to visit The Greenbrier, tour *The Bunker*.

The National Garden Club Convention was delightful, visiting with old friends and meeting new friends. Many meetings were held and decisions were made as Mary Warshauer, NGC President 2021-2023 concluded her term. National Awards were presented, Brenda Moore was installed as NGC President and I OFFICIALLY became President of Louisiana Garden Club Federation. The Convention was concluded with everyone in attendance singing *Take Me Home, Country Roads* by John Denver, accompanied by Blue Grass musicians; What a night!

As soon as I arrived home, I began planning our Summer Board meeting in Baton Rouge, July 17-18. Garden Study, Landscape Design, Environmental and Flower Show Judges Councils will all meet. State Chairman will report at the Board of Directors meeting: therefore, Club Presidents should attend to hear the latest news and any upcoming events!

I'd like to take this opportunity to THANK all of you for your prayers, cards, text messages, and emails sent to me for my Husband. He did have a stroke on June 5th and has been struggling with his speech. In the beginning of July, he will see a Vascular Neurologist then hopefully a final treatment will be determined. He's not able to drive or continue his regular routine around the house at this moment, so please bear with me if I'm delayed in responding to a message.

I look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge!

Patricia Ortalano

LGCF President 2023-2025

"Louisiana Goes Emerald – Plant Wildflowers"

Editor's Corner



Welcome to all 2023-2025 LGCF Officers and Chairmen, those new and continuing. When I first viewed the LGCF Directory, I was struck by the number of positions needed to make the organization run smoothly. Everyone involved contributes their skills, time and hard work, each in their own way.

If you attended the LGCF Convention in April, you saw Patricia "Tricia" Ortalano as she was installed as LGCF President for the next two years, while her beautiful family was there to show their love and support. I have known Tricia for several years as she is a fellow member of Terrytown Garden Club. I have seen her leadership abilities and attention to detail firsthand.

The 2023 LGCF Summer Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on July 17-18 in Baton Rouge, LA. This newsletter includes the agenda and registration information for the meeting. Additionally, the newsletter features a touching article about the rededication of the Blue Star Marker at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. Also, you might like to take a look at some of the gorgeous photos from the Holland tour and get a glimpse at upcoming trips that are being planned.

We are always looking for material of interest to include in the Newsletter. We do appreciate any articles and pictures we receive.

Donna Cline

WHAT'S GROWING IN MY GARDEN?



A good year for tomatoes!



Five years ago, I started a pineapple in a pot. I now have 3 pineapples ready to enjoy once they ripen.

REVISED CONVENTION ORDER OF ROTATION

Beginning in 2023, the following plan of rotation will be in effect and each District will become responsible for hosting the LGCF Annual Convention, and a Flower Show if feasible, in the year stated, with the District selecting the town or city.

2024	District VII	2027	District II
2025	District VIII	2028	District VI
2026	District III	2029	District V

Please make note of these changes in your LGCF Handbook, p. 92 #2.

REVISED ORDER OF ROTATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE LGCF PRESIDENT

Beginning in 2023, the suggested order for the office of President of the LGCF will be as follows:

2023-25	District II
2025-27	District VIII
2027-29	District VI
2029-31	District V
2031-33	District VII
2033-35	District III

Please make note of these changes in your LGCF Handbook, p. 93 #3.

2023 LGCF SUMMER BOARD AGENDA

July 17-18, 2023

Embassy Suites

4914 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA

Monday, July 17, 2023

8:00am – 8:50am	Headquarters Committee, Senate
9:00am – 5:00pm	Registration, Meeting Rooms Hall
9:00am – 10:50am	Finance Committee, Senate
11:00am – 11:50am	Executive Council Meeting, Senate
Noon -1:00pm	Lunch Break, Atrium
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Ways and Means, Meeting Rooms Hall
1:00pm – 1:50pm	Gardening Consultants Council, Senate
2:00pm – 2:50pm	Landscape Design Consultants Council, Senate
3:00pm – 3:50pm	Environmental Consultants Council, Senate
4:00pm – 4:50pm	Flower Show Consultants Council, Senate

Dinner is on your own

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

8:30am – 9:30am	District Directors' Meeting, Senate
8:00am – 10:00am	Registration, Meeting Rooms Hall Ways and Means, Meeting Rooms Hall
10:00am – Noon	Board of Directors Meeting, Senate

[HOTEL REGISTRATION](#)

We have a room block reserved at Embassy Suites by Hilton Baton Rouge for July 16, 2023 through July 18, 2023. Booking your room is simple. Just follow the link above. Cutoff date to book your room with group rate is Sunday, June 25, 2023.

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.
Summer Board 2023
July 17-18

Registration Form
Due Date June 30, 2023

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Phone (_____) _____

Garden Club _____ District _____

Please circle the box that indicates your status for Registration and Credentials:

Local Club	Member	Club President	Delegate / Alternate	Guest
LGCF	Officer	Chairman	Life Member	Past President
Deep South	Officer	Chairman	Life Member	Past DSGC Director
NGC	Officer	Chairman	Life Member	

		Price	Amount
Mon., July 17	Registration	\$20.00	\$
Mon., July 17	Box Lunch* Circle choice of meat: Ham Turkey Roast Beef *Includes chips, fudge brownie, soda or water	\$30.00	\$
Tues., July 18	Registration	\$20.00	\$
Late Fee	If you register after June 30, 2023 there will be a late fee of \$10.00	\$10.00	\$
Total	Amount Enclosed		\$

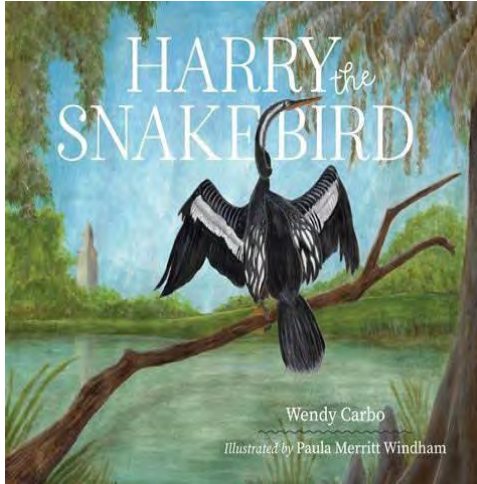
THERE WILL BE NO SAME DAY REGISTRATION ACCEPTED

Make checks payable to **LGCF, Inc.** Include Summer Board on the memo line.

Mail form and payment to:

Vicky Fannaly, PO Box 23, Ponchatoula, LA 70454-0023 c. 985-974-1677 Vicky_fannaly@yahoo.com

Book Review



HARRY THE SNAKEBIRD

By Wendy Carbo

Illustrated by Paula Merritt Windham

Ally-Gator Bookbites Publishing House, 2022

28 pages

ISBN # 979-8-9860811-1-3

Harrythesnakebird.com

Here you go, Readers! Another book from a Louisiana author, written for children and adults alike.

Based on a true story, and supported by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the State Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana Stormwater Coalition and the Office of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, “Harry’s” story is being widely distributed to Louisiana libraries and bookmobiles.

This tale was inspired by the actions of Marie Constantin and Brian J. Boudreaux, who happened upon an Anhinga (aka Snakebird) at Capitol Lake in Baton Rouge, whose beak was wrapped in a binding piece of litter, keeping the bird from eating.

The story is simply written and beautifully illustrated to raise awareness of the dangers of litter in our waterways.

It’s a must-have; factual testimony to a real problem, not just in Louisiana, but everywhere.

Well done, Ms. Carbo!

Submitted by Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair

2023 LGCF AWARD OF COMMENDATION WINNER

CURTIS HILBUN



Garden Gate Study Club nominated Mr. Curtis Hilbun for the LGCF Award of Commendation. The Executive Council unanimously approved his nomination for the 2023 LGCF Award of Commendation. Mr. Hilbun was nominated for his work in the fields of

civic development, beautification and roadside development. In 2012, Curtis, a well-known local grower of tulips, proposed to the town of Winnsboro in Franklin Parish that a non-functioning fountain be repurposed as a tulip bed for the benefit of the community as well as those passing through the area. The fountain is located on Hwy 15, a major north-south highway in northeast Louisiana. A Blue Star Memorial Marker is located adjacent to the fountain. There is also a windmill located on the property.



Tulip Layout

Winnsboro Main Street, the Franklin Parish Tourism Commission, town officials, local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and Garden Gate Study Club, as well as private citizens, supported the project with their funds and enthusiasm. Mr. Hilbun ordered the tulips from his suppliers in the Netherlands and in late winter 2013, he supervised the preparation of the bed and the planting of



2500 to 3000 bulbs to be in bloom for Easter. The first year was a success with the tulips providing a beautiful background for family photos. Each year after that, Mr. Hilbun

continued to order the tulip bulbs, prepare the beds, and plant the bulbs as a community volunteer.

Because the tulips were so well-received and anticipated each year, Mr. Hilbun proposed that a summer planting of SunPatiens be added to the fountain display. Once again community



support provided funds to purchase the plants and Mr. Hilbun provided the expertise and the sweat equity to make the planting a reality. Weekly watering was done by Mr. Hilbun throughout the summer season.

The spring and summer plantings were continued annually. The garden club donated concrete benches to accommodate the photographers and their subjects as the fountain plantings became even more popular. The windmill on the property was dismantled and rebuilt. Garden club members and men from Redemption House cleared the area of overgrown brush and trash trees and tidied up the area in general. Because of the upgrading of the windmill/fountain area, the adjoining Baldwin Park has been given a facelift and a new playground installed.

In the fall of 2021, Curtis added another planting of mums funded by donations and grown by a local nursery.



and grown by a local nursery. Because of the success of the plantings at the fountain location, similar plantings have been added at

the Post Office Museum building in downtown Winnsboro.

Without the determination and enthusiasm of Curtis Hilbun, these areas would not have been transformed from the ordinary to the extraordinary—bringing beauty and pleasure to local citizens as well as those passing through.



Bed Preparation



Maintenance by Curtis Hilbun



A popular setting for family photos



Garden Club Helpers

ARMED FORCES DAY COMMEMORATION AND REDEDICATION OF BLUE STAR MARKER The National WWII Museum May 20, 2023

The National WWII Museum hosted an Armed Forces Day Commemoration Ceremony on May 20, 2023 to honor all past and present members of the Armed Forces. Many of the members of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc (LGCF) and Jefferson Parish Council of Gardens Clubs (JPCGC) were in attendance on this special Blue Star Family Day kickoff and to share in the rededication of the Blue Star Marker that had been gifted to the museum in 2010. It was an honor on behalf of all the garden club members and guests to rededicate this marker on May 20, 2023, Armed Forces Day. The marker stands on Magazine Street and serves as a constant reminder of those who have served, are serving and will serve to keep America “the land of the free and home of the brave.” Mary Jacobs, LGCF and JPCGC Past President lovingly handed out poppies for all the garden club members to wear next to their hearts in remembrance of the fallen soldiers who gave their life for our freedom.



BLUE STAR DAY ALL THE WAY

The National WWII Museum kicked off the **BLUE STAR MUSEUMS PROGRAM, A SUMMER OF MILITARY HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS** by saluting Blue Star military families and community. BLUE STAR MUSEUMS is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star families in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America. The program offers free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families from Armed Forces Day through Labor Day. The commemoration honoring our military families was followed by a rededication of the Blue Star Marker and then a Blue Star Museums Kickoff Cookout on the Museum's Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground for everyone to enjoy.

ARMED FORCES DAY COMMEMORATION

Armed Forces Day Is a National Holiday celebrated in America and is the day set aside to recognize all branches of the military—Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. President Truman established Armed Forces Day in 1949 and it was first observed on May 20, 1950. In 1961, President Kennedy officially declared Armed Forces Day a National Holiday on every 3rd Saturday in May.

The 2023 Armed Forces Day Commemoration began its celebration in the US Freedom Building: Boeing Center. Featured speakers shared the podium, awards were given to honor those who go above and beyond to serve their communities, the Victory Bells performed, and Medal of Honor recipient Jim “DOC” McCloughan shared his experience of his tour in Vietnam as a combat medic. He received his Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump for his bravery during the May 13-17, 1969 battle at Tam Ky, Nui Yon Hill.



Col. Peter Crean



Jim McCloughan



The Victory Bells

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER REDEDICATION

It is humbling that the LGCF, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. rededicated the Blue Star Marker to the National WWII Museum on Armed Forces Day. Since the National WWII Museum opened its doors over 8 million people have visited to learn about the American experience in the “war that changed the world.” The museum aims to educate visitors about why the war was fought, how it was won, and what it means today, ensuring that all generations understand the price of freedom and are inspired by what they learn.

American Legion Post 56 of Tylertown, Mississippi Color Guard led the way to the Blue Star Marker on Magazine Street for the unveiling of the marker.



Donna Bucci 2009-2011 LGCF Past President welcomed the attendees as she welcomed them in 2010, and gave a brief mission statement of “Freedom Isn’t Free” which is an on-going project to place Blue Star Memorial Markers at military installations, cemeteries and historical sites in Louisiana. She noted that this marker was gifted to the National D-Day Museum (later renamed WWII Museum) on June 6, 2010 and at that time was the only marker the museum had.

Mary Hazen, Blue Star Chairman who dedicated the marker on D-day 2010 rededicated the marker to the honor and glory of all those courageous men and women who have served, are serving and will serve in the Armed Forces of this great nation.



Michele Wax, Fleur de Lis Garden Club President and mother of a sailor and airman, delivered the history of the Blue Star Flag which originated in 1917 during WWI. The flags are displayed in homes and businesses denoting that a family member or employee is serving our country. During the presentation, Caitlyn Eiffert held the Blue Star Flag which hung in her great-great-grandmother’s window for her three boys who all came home after WWII. Dr. Robert McCord held a Gold Star Flag which pays tribute to all gold star families offering honor – hope – healing.

Colonel Peter Crean, Vice President of Education and Access at the National WWII Museum, accepted the Marker sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc and Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. He said he will see this everyday as the marker stands on the corner of Higgins and Magazine, which goes directly to the Museum entrance.



THE UNVEILING OF THE MARKER



The marker was unveiled for all to see by Members of American Legion Post 56 of Tylertown, Mississippi. Pictured are Commander Harold Smith, 2nd Vice Commander Mike Abate and Post Chaplain Bill Crosby.



Medal of Honor recipient Jim "Doc" McCloughan sang God Bless American (acapella) inviting everyone to join him. The voices together brought the meaning of what the marker stands for.

Ann Smith, President of Unit 56 American Legion Auxiliary, closed the program with the reading of the American Legion Auxiliary charge.



Blue Star Memorial Markers across the United States and year on highways, veterans' parks and civic and historic appreciation for those who



extend thousands of miles continue to be dedicated each facilities, national cemeteries, sites showing our defended our country.

Highlights of Holland Tour, April 22 to May 2, 2023

We could not have timed it better to go to Holland to see the tulips!! The weather was still cool, but only had rain two times. We were very blessed that we had no delays and no cancellations!! We all arrived in Amsterdam and made our way to Utrecht, where we stayed the entire time and made day-trips out from there.

Our first day was spent among the tulips at the Keukenhof, a very large garden that has tulips showcased over the entire property. If you have a color you can imagine—there is a tulip that is that color!! We took a boat ride along the canals around the gardens. My favorite was seeing the tulips still in the fields—spectacular. And as we rode around on the bus, these tulip fields would just seem to pop up and surprise you with their beauty. *The Tulip Experience* was a large warehouse-type building that housed the history of the tulip industry. Also had rows of tulips planted, which allowed for picture taking without destroying the tulips.

Other excursions were to Amsterdam and the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum, as well as touring Anne Frank house. We also had a private canal-ride with wine and refreshments included. We traveled to Brugge, Belgium and enjoyed the walking tour and the beautiful canal ride. April 27, was the King's Birthday celebration and was a national holiday. We were all reminded to wear "Halloween Orange," as everyone in the country was dressed in orange in celebration of the King! And there really was a lot of orange!! This day may have been my favorite, as we went to Naarden, a very old, walled city that had been a fort. Because it was not a large city, the crowds were not as bad, and it was fun celebrating with the village. We then traveled to my newest favorite small city—Giethoorn, a small village built on all the canals in the town. You could arrive at the city-center in a car, but you could go nowhere else without being in a boat. ALL the houses were reached by boat. It was very different and unusual.

We next traveled to Gouda (g'HOW DA) where the cheese is made and another very old city that has a plaza around which the town is built, and of course canals. Traveling from there to Kinderdijk, a World Heritage Site, that has dozens of working windmills—having persons living in them all the time. We took a boat ride on the canals to experience the windmills up close. Very interesting. Made a trip to the Hague, the capitol, and to Delft, where the famous blue porcelain is made. We toured the beautiful Delft Blauw Museum

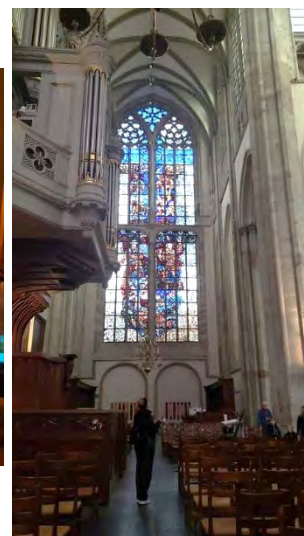
to view the beautiful porcelain. We also visited the Kroller Muller Museum and Paleis het Loo. We were fortunate that the Museum and Paleis had just been entirely renovated and had just re-opened. It was lovely.

Our guides were great and very informative, the tulips were exceptional, the group was wonderful to share the trip and lots of great memories were made.

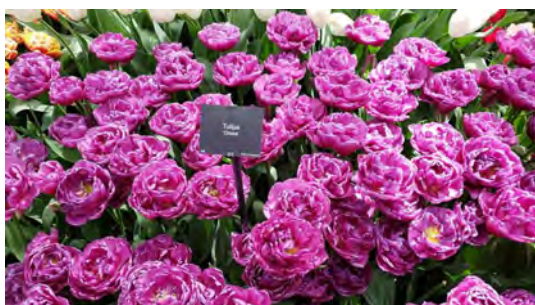
Submitted by Naomi Cordill – Photos by Naomi Cordill and Kyle Martin

(To see more photos of the Holland Tour, visit the LGCF Website [here.](#))

Utrecht



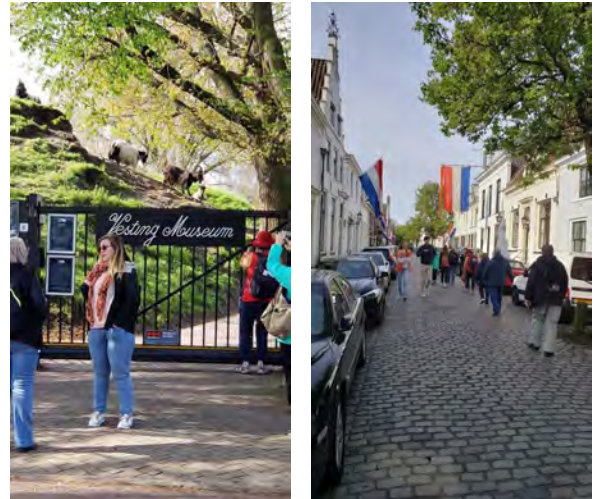
Keukenhof – 4/25/2023



Brugge



Naarden



Delft



The Hague



Giethoorn



Gouda



Mauritshuis Museum



Paleis het Loo



Proposed Tours Through Spring 2026

FALL TOUR TO MOBILE, ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 6-9, 2023

The bus will begin in Monroe, travel to Alexandria, Opelousas, Baton Rouge, Hammond (have lunch) to Slidell on to Mobile. We will tour the Bellingrath's Gardens and Home during their Cascading Chrysanthemums Festival. Will also visit the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Antique Mall and have Tea at *the Spot of Tea*. On the third day we will visit the Botanical Gardens, have a picnic; drive around the beautiful Mobile downtown and go to the Plant Nurseries in Simms and end the day having dinner. Then we will travel back in reverse order to our homes.

SPRING TOUR TO PHILADELPHIA, PA

MARCH 4-8/9, 2024

The group will all fly to Atlanta, and then all of us will fly together to Philadelphia. We will stay close to the Flower Show location. 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. It is described as "the country's oldest, largest and most prestigious celebration of flowers!" We will also have a day to tour some of America's oldest historical buildings and history while in Philadelphia, and visit the Burn's Museum. A necessity is to visit Lancaster to tour the Dutch Amish area. I am not sure if this will take one or two days, so that is the reason for the return date being the 8th or 9th.

FALL TOUR TO SEATTLE AREA AND VICTORIA ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 26-OCT.2, 2024

Plans are in the making to fly into Seattle, tour downtown and the markets, Space Needle, "Beneath the Streets of Seattle" tour, etc. We will restore your spirits and satisfy your inner-wine enthusiast with some of the most scenic wineries and tasting rooms in the area. Will tour Snoqualmie Falls and Wine region and make our way by ferry to Victoria Island to visit the lovely town and the beautiful Butchart Gardens. Even if you have been there before—it never looks the same!!!

SPRING TOUR OF TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

MARCH 31-APRIL 5, 2025

It is the time of year when wildflowers are popping up all over the countryside, painting Texas in shades of red, blue, yellow, and white. Texas respects the beauty of all wildflowers, but the bluebonnet is the best! So, to make sure that you get your fill of bluebonnet beauty, the plans are to take the ultimate bluebonnet road trip through the heart of Hill Country. The bus will start in Monroe and take Hwy 165 south to Alexandria and Lake Charles, then stop for lunch in Sulphur. We will head to Houston, visit Fredericksburg and other locations, making our way to the Texas Hills. If you have been before—the area is ever-changing and the wildflowers are always exceptional.

FALL TOUR OF BOSTON AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

OCTOBER 9-13, 2025

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

SPRING TOUR FOR NASHVILLE’S ANTIQUE AND GARDEN SHOW

TBD (JAN/FEB?), 2026

Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman

318-498-0094

lgcftours@aol.com

Butchart Gardens





CIRCLE OF ROSES

Ruth Stanley
West Baton Rouge
Garden and Civic Club
District VI



Ruth Stanley is a native of Brusly, Louisiana, a lifetime resident of West Baton Rouge and is one of twelve siblings. She has resided in Port Allen, Louisiana since marrying Bobby Stanley in 1963. Bobby passed away in July 2020. They have three daughters, six grandchildren and one precious great-granddaughter.

One of the founding members the West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club asked Ruth to join in 1968; she has been a member for 55 years! The club has been active since January 17, 1928; 95 years of "Blooming, Grooming & Growing." The initial goal of the club was to emphasize growing flowers and shrubbery and promoting the betterment of the community. Ruth has supported this goal by her involvement in multiple projects for her parish and community through the years.

Ruth has held every office in the club (and many more than once), always striving to help the club grow in number of members and for the benefit her community. She has participated in flower shows by preparing arrangements and judging events and has received many awards for the presentation of her arrangements.

Ruth has been a member of the Cleanest City committee for many years and a committee member for the Live Oak Society. She is always striving to help club members grow in their knowledge and skills. She developed and presented numerous programs to her fellow club members to increase their knowledge. Ruth is part of the yearly Garden Club Planning Committee, using her experience to help guide the selection of programs that will promote interest and growth for the garden club.

Other civic involvement includes:

- West Baton Rouge Museum. In the beginning the museum was very small, having first started as a library in a room of the old courthouse. When the library moved, the museum took over the area. Ruth was part of a team that could see the need for the future growth of the museum. She helped to guide the museum's growth to become the Smithsonian Accredited Museum we have in Port Allen today. She has served as chairman of the museum and as a board member multiple times.
- West Baton Rouge Historical Association. This organization promotes an interest in history, especially West Baton Rouge Parish history, by encouraging research, collection, and preservation of materials illustrating past and present activities of the parish, and by presenting programs and exhibitions at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Ruth helped achieve these goals by guiding the board as chairman and board member.
- West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau. Ruth could see the potential for tourism growth in West Baton Rouge Parish. She was part of a team that pushed for the development of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Bureau has stimulated the growth of visitors to our parish.
- Holy Family Catholic Church, Port Allen. Ruth has been a parishioner since moving to Port Allen. She was a member of the Church Council, long time provider for Homebound Communion and Hospital Ministry.
- Port Allen Lions Club. Ruth was a member for many years.
- West Side Women's Club—an organization that promotes study, service, sociability and the general welfare of the community. Ruth has been a member for many years, serving in several of the offices and on many committees that help improve the community and education of its members.

During the Covid Pandemic years of 2019-2021, West Baton Rouge Garden Club continued to meet using the safety guidelines, so as not to lose members due to inactivity. Ruth supported and guided the president during this time and not only was there increased attendance at meetings, the membership grew! She continues to be a mentor to every new president, supporting and guiding them, helping them to grow in their roles. West Baton Rouge Garden Club is thankful for her help and support.



CIRCLE OF ROSES

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

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

LGCF Circle of Roses Chairman

Kathy Bedenbaugh

42366 South Range Rd

Hammond, LA 70403-1416

katieb3@charter.net

985-507-3066 (Cell)

985-345-1566 (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 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

July 17–18	LGCF Summer Board Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA SCHEDULE -- REGISTRATION -- HOTEL
September 21	NGC Fall Board Meeting, Virtual
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 6–9	Fall Tour to Mobile, ALa

2024

January 8–9	LGCF Winter Council Meeting, LeCompte, LA
March 4–8/9	Philadelphia Flower Show Tour
March 19–20	DSGC Convention, Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN
April 16–17	LGCF Convention, District VII, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, LA -Celebrating LGCF's 90 th Anniversary
June 2–5	NGC Convention, The Westin Winchester, Denver, CO
September TBA	NGC Fall Board Meeting
September 26–October 2	Seattle Area and Victoria Island Tour

2025

March 31–April 5	Texas Bluebonnets Tour (Easter is April 20)
May 19–2	NGC Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
October 9–13	Boston and New Hampshire Tour

2026

TBD (Feb/Mar?)	Nashville's Antique & Garden Show Tour
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