

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.

# NEWSLETTER



## April 2020

“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 LXX

APRIL 2020

NO. 4

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**Our cover photo** features a picture of egrets taken by Coleen Perilloux Landry of Green Acres Garden Club in District II. She calls it "Springtime."

If you would like to submit drawings, paintings or photos for the cover of the Newsletter, please email them (or good copies) to [lgcfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lgcfnewsletter@gmail.com) or mail to one of the co-editors listed below.

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

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO SUMMER ISSUE, JULY 2020, IS JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 2020**

Please send all information for this issue to [lgcfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lgcfnewsletter@gmail.com) or mail to one of the Co-Editors:

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## “Plant America-Bring Nature Home with Native Plants”



LGCF started 2020 with an impressive ceremony to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the I-10 Welcome Center in Slidell. The marker was dedicated by NGC President Gay Austin. The list of participants included Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser; DSGC Director Lena Bateman; LGCF members Elizabeth McDougald, Patricia Ortalano, Mary Ellen Miller and Reba Mackey; Blue Star Mothers of Baton Rouge President Janet Broussard; and the “Bug Lady” Linda Auld. Your president was honored to be the emcee. Thanks to Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman Mary Hazen for planning and orchestrating the event.

The Executive Council met in late January at the Headquarters House in Lecompte. Business was conducted and good fellowship was an added benefit. The wording was changed in several award descriptions. Those changes have been made on the website.

In February, Pam Langley, and I attended a meeting of the Washington Garden Club. I, also, spoke to the Altar Society of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church in Lake Charles.

March activities included a visit to the annual fundraiser luncheon as “Covington Garden Club Goes Hawaiian!” Little did I know that this would be my last gathering for an unknown time period.

The fast-paced last quarter of our garden club year came to a sudden halt. The much anticipated 86<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Metairie, the DSGC convention in Tampa and the NGC convention in Milwaukee were planned and ready to go. But that is as far as it got.

Special thanks to Elizabeth McDougald, Reba Mackey, Patricia Ortalano and members of District II for working so diligently to put on a great convention that will not happen.

Cities across the state were doing special clean-ups as they prepared for the 2020 Cleanest City Contest. Please continue to keep things clean for the 2021 contest. The June LGCF tour to Oberammergau has been rescheduled for 2022.

Remember to make plans for Summer Board July 13-14 and pray that it will actually occur. I am so ready to meet with my garden club friends. Please practice caution in taking care of yourselves and those around you.

All the while, spring is making its glorious appearance spreading its beauty in living colors. The silver lining to this dark cloud that we are under is having time every day to go outside, work, and enjoy!!

“Homegrown national park” is a new term that I’ve recently learned. In order to do our part in conservation, we might consider devoting at least one-half of our lawns to native plants (trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers) that will appeal to and create a habitat for the bugs, birds and other wildlife that they support. The reward will eventually be a greater number and a greater variety of birds and butterflies in our gardens. We can each do our part to “Bring Nature Home with Native Plants” by adopting this individual conservation concept. Please join me in this effort.

*Linda Finley*



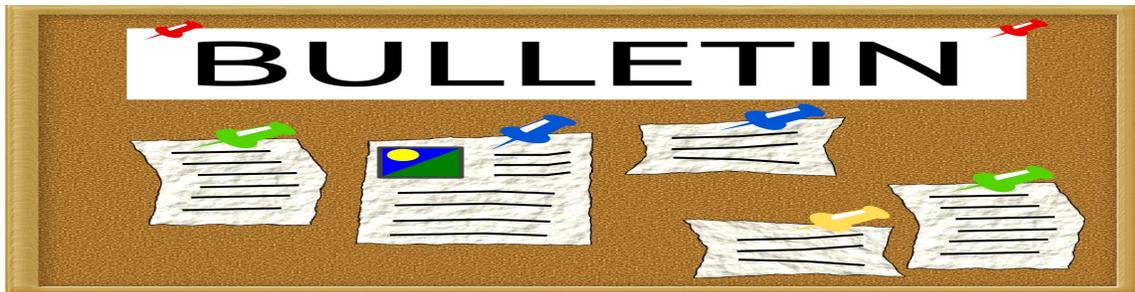
PHOTO BY COLEEN PERILLOUX LANDRY

## EDITORS' CORNER



We urge everyone to take all necessary precautions to avoid the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, it has caused the cancellation of our state convention as well as the Deep South and National Conventions. Although we will have to curtail most of our scheduled local activities, we hope that you will take this opportunity to read about the many projects that have been accomplished by garden club members throughout the state during the last three months. We will have more time at home to work in our own gardens! Be safe and remember to send in articles for the next newsletter by June 1, 2020. We hope, by that time, the health crisis will be over, and things will get back to normal.

***Ruth Delhomme and Roxy Blanton, Co-editors***



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## BLUE STAR MERKER DEDICATION AT SLIDELL WELCOME CENTER

Louisiana Garden Club Federation and the Blue Star Mother Chapter 1 of Baton Rouge.

On January 4, 2020 a Blue Star Marker was dedicated at the Slidell Welcome Center sponsored by the Chairman of the event was Mary Hazen who is LGCF's and the Deep South Garden Club's Inc. Blue Star Memorial chairman.

LGCF president Linda Finley delivered the welcoming address followed by an invocation by Mary Ellen Miller of the Federated Council of Garden Clubs in New Orleans. Flag Bearer Frank Hazen of the VFW held the colors while the National Anthem was sung and then Patricia Ortalano, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president of LGCF led the Pledge of Allegiance. The guest speakers were Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and Janet Broussard, president of Blue Star Mother Baton Rouge Chapter. A tribute to our armed forces was read by LGCF District II Director, Elizabeth McDougald. A history and dedication of the Blue Star Marker was given by Gay Austin, president of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Reba Mackey, president of the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs presented a tribute of flowers.



*Blue Star Dedication. Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and Blue Str Mothers of Baton Rouge.*



*Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, LGCF President Linda Finley, Deep South Regional Director Lena Bateman, Mary Hazen, LGCF Blue Str Marker Chairman, and Gay Austin, National Garden Club President.*

## LIVE OAK SOCIETY

We have passed the 9,100-membership mark. When I became chairman, membership was 3,767. The interest in honoring and protecting our Live Oak trees is growing rapidly. Please spread the word.

Two LGCF garden clubs have done remarkable work recently to promote and protect the Live Oak. The St. Martinville Garden Club's project "Save our Evangeline Oak" was the brainchild of former president, Nicole Bradley, who, unfortunately, is moving. It has been picked up by the new president, Mary Desormeaux. The club decided on a very wise move to involve the entire community in their project. Local schools of 1,205 children sold paper acorns for primary, Early Learning Childhood and the banks in St. Martinville area. A drawing contest of the Evangeline Oak by school children was supported by the City Council. 5<sup>th</sup> graders of the area participated in a digital postcard contest. Recitation of Longfellow's poem of Evangeline was presented by high school students. A donation jar in the Acadian Memorial Park allowed the community and tourists to donate to the project. On March 24<sup>th</sup> there were speakers on the history of the Oak, refreshments and giveaways. All monies raised will help with the cutting and removal of the vines that are strangling this historic tree, mulching the tree, and refurbishing the existing barrier around the tree. Tree specialists of the area, Stuart Gauthier and Jim Foret have offered their help. The Club began in 1953 and has 30 members.

The Gardenettes in Pontchatoula, under the guidance of LGCF Representative at Large Kathy Bedenbaugh, registered four Live Oaks at the Spirit Life Center in Rosaryville, the historical motherhouse and grounds of the Order of Dominican Sisters. They measured the oaks and completed the forms for registration. Participating were Sonya Avery, president, Margaret Hardin and Ellen Pusey.

Submitted by Coleen Perilloux Landry



*Gardenettes Sonya Avery, Margaret Hardin, and Ellen Pusey.*

# Louisiana's Natural Treasure: Margaret Stones, Botanical Artist

LSU Libraries Special Collections presents "Louisiana's Natural Treasure: Margaret Stones, Botanical Artist," on exhibition at Hill Memorial Library from February 10 – June 27, 2020. Selected works from the Native Flora of Louisiana watercolor drawings, as well as archival materials associated with the project, will be on display.

A native of Australia, Margaret Stones (1920-2018) achieved an acclaimed international career that spanned three continents. Stones's art has been featured in an impressive array of exhibitions and been recognized with distinguished awards and honors. Of the three major multiyear endeavors undertaken by Stones during her long professional career, the final one – the native flora of Louisiana – resulted in one of the most remarkable collections of botanical art created for a U.S. state. Commissioned by LSU and funded by private donations, more than two hundred watercolor drawings of Louisiana plants produced by Stones during the 1970s and 1980s are among the most treasured holdings of LSU Libraries Special Collections.

The Native Flora of Louisiana project was grounded in a long historical tradition of botanical illustration. Stones only worked from live specimens, requiring the collection of the plant through all of its stages and seasons to include flower, fruit, and seed. Many intrepid collectors navigated swamp and forest to secure representative species, their endeavors documented by the artist on the finished drawings. The completed body of work serves as a catalog of over 200 native and endemic species of Louisiana flora that is of great interest to botanists specifically and scientists generally, especially in light of efforts to restore our coastal wetlands and protect endangered plants. Just as past works of natural history instilled pride in their audiences for the abundance and beauty of flora within their nation's realm of influence, these exquisite watercolor drawings continue to be a source of pride for Louisianans.

Asked about the importance of balance between art and science in her work, Margaret Stones once replied that focusing too much on the artistic aspect could result in something "silly," while devoting one's attention solely to scientific accuracy could be "deadly." Following established conventions of botanical illustration, Stones brought her subjects to life with a deft brush and an eye for detail, creating drawings that are both aesthetically pleasing and botanically correct.

The Louisiana project forged a special relationship not only between Margaret Stones and Louisiana State University but with numerous Louisiana residents as well. Funded entirely by private donations, the over two hundred watercolor drawings by Stones known as the Native Flora of Louisiana Collection are held in LSU Libraries Special Collections as a treasured legacy for the entire state. All of the works have been made available online in the [Louisiana Digital Library](#). In the centennial year of her birth, we celebrate the story of Margaret Stones and the Flora of Louisiana both in tribute to her legacy, and with the hope of introducing her work to new audiences.

As was the case with John James Audubon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Stones was inspired by the natural beauty of Louisiana to produce some of her best work. She often described her time in Louisiana as the happiest years of her life. Enchanted by the landscape, the food, and the culture, Stones was even more captivated by the people she came to know. On many occasions, she affectionately referred to the state as "MY Louisiana." It is with great pride and admiration that we reciprocate, claiming her as "Louisiana's Natural Treasure."

Hill Memorial Library is open Monday through Friday, and some Saturdays.

## Message from Gay Austin, National Garden Club President

Due to the world-wide Covid-10 outbreaks, our country and world are changing on an hour to hour basis. After several weeks of difficult, but necessary decisions for National Garden Clubs, Inc. I am reporting that the NGC Executive Committee voted yesterday, March 17, 2020 to cancel the **2020 Perfect Vision** Annual Convention, May 12 – 15, 2020, hosted by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

After many conversations with Michelle Eggert, Conference Direct Representative and Kitty Larkin, Convention Chairman, the decision was made to cancel our contract with the hotel, therefore cancelling the convention. This decision was not taken lightly, nor without hours of thought and consideration for the well-being of not only our members, but our organization. The safety and health of NGC members would be jeopardized if this meeting were to take place as presently scheduled. Plus with increased CDC mandates, the Potawatomi Hotel is being forced to close, indefinitely.

With the cancellation of the convention, the hotel has agreed to automatically cancel current hotel reservations within the NGC room block. Full convention registration fees will be refunded in a timely manner. All NGC hotel deposits are to be refunded to NGC by the Potawatomi Hotel without loss. Clubs and individual members who gave so generously to promote this convention, will have their donations returned. We ask that you be patient with our Headquarters staff, who is handling all of our financial obligations for this meeting.

We are grateful to all garden club members who have worked tirelessly, generous with both their time and talent to organize this convention. A very special thank you to the Wisconsin Garden Federation members who have made created this outstanding convention.

In closing, I want to remind our members to look to our future. As garden club members, we are strong, committed and dedicated to NGC and our world. This historic National emergency is causing us to step back, slow down and reorganize activities within our homes, communities and volunteer efforts. Let's be positive and receptive to new technologies, in continuing to grow as garden club members.

*Gay Austin*

# OFFICERS' REPORTS

## Treasurer

It has almost been one year since I was installed as LGCF Treasurer 2019-2021. Because of the impeccable records and guidance of my predecessor, Tricia Ortalano, the transition has been seamless. Thank you Tricia.

I decided to use QuickBooks accounting software for the financial recordkeeping of LGCF. It is excellent for inputting and tracking deposits and expenses, preparing bank reconciliations and generating financial reports.

I enjoy taking care of LGCF's finances and I appreciate the trust that you have in me. If at any time you have a question or need help, please send an email or call me. I am here for you and I am happy to help.

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

# DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

## District III

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 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday, June 10, 2020, there will be a working meeting for voting members of District III at the Cypress Bayou Casino. There are several items on the agenda, including adoption of Standing rules, changes to current bylaws and reception given by District III for our incoming LGCF President Roxanna Champagne at the 2021 State Convention in Baton Rouge. District III will host the event.

Babette Werner, President of Lafayette Garden Club, will report on changes to Award applications.

Linda Brashier

District III Director

# DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

## District V

It is an honor to serve as LGCF District V Director. District V Garden Clubs strive to support LGCF, DSGC and NGC projects. Their goals are to cultivate projects that will support NGC's theme Plant America. These projects include, Adopt-A-Park, Arbor Day, Butterfly and Pollinator Gardens, Civic Development, Cleanest City Contests, Conservation, Horticulture Therapy, Litter Control in schools, Native Plants, Roadside Improvement, Social Media and Website.

NGC awarded eighty-two Plant America Grants for 2017-2019. Four awards were given to Louisiana Garden Clubs, including Ferriday Garden Club and Garden Gate Study Club in District V for one thousand dollars each.

Garden Gate Study Club partnered with Fort Necessity Jr. High and was selected as one of twenty recipients nationwide of the 2019 Espoma 'Plant America' grants for organic products for use in the butterfly/pollinator garden at the school.

Bayou Desiard Garden Club was instrumental in the new flagpole, lighting and dedication of the new Blue Star Memorial Garden in West Monroe. Other club projects in the district include refurbishing Blue Star Markers and maintaining the landscaping.

District V had four state Cleanest City Contest winners: Delhi, Marion, Winnsboro and Monroe. Marion had the distinguished honor of receiving the Dorothy Anne George Travelling silver tray.

Plant It Pink is very important to the clubs in our district. Garden Gate Study Club has been awarded The Beauty of Life traveling plaque for two consecutive years for their breast cancer awareness plantings. Collinston Garden Club planted pink and white tulips in the shape of a cancer survivor ribbon at a local church and Ferriday Garden Club added pink plantings at an area medical center.

Several members participated in Gardening Schools and Environmental Schools.

District V Clubs sponsor high school scholarship awards and also sponsor three LGCF awards.

A special thank you to all District V members who helped with the planning, decorations and refreshments for the Fall meeting "Nurture Nature" in October and to all District V Club Presidents, District V Members, LGCF Officers and Chairmen and DSGC Director and Chairmen who attended.

It has been a busy first year for this District V Director - a learning experience most definitely. I appreciate all my District V Officers, and Club Presidents for their patience and hard work. I urge all of our members to continue to support NGC classes and projects, and to stay involved with their local and state organizations.

*Julia Gilmore, District V Director*

# DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

## District VI

After being installed at the 2019 LGCF Convention in Lafayette, my calendar quickly began filling up with dates of garden club related activities. I was grateful to be invited to install the club officers of the Covington, Plaquemine, and Baton Rouge Garden Clubs during their 2019 May meetings.

Surrounded by my District VI dedicated officers and support team, we held our Spring Presidents' Meeting at Middendorf's Restaurant, where the importance of promoting club membership was one of the topics in our informational meeting. The 2019-21 theme for District VI is **ROOTS: Remembering Our Original Treasured Seeds**, forever being mindful of our Louisiana native plants, as well as our members who have a wealth of information and knowledge of our clubs' treasured histories.

Our Fall Meeting was held on October 22, 2019 and was hosted by the Plaquemine Garden Club at the historic Nottoway Plantation. Club President, Donna Carville, and fellow club members had creative table arrangements and an outstanding program. Plaquemine club member, Ramona Perrin, demonstrated how to create our own nostalgic holiday decorations using Louisiana native plants. It was also at this meeting the announcement was made that Dr. Evva Wilson, past president of the West Baton Rouge Garden and Civic Club, graciously accepted the invitation to serve as our District VI Director Elect.

As evidenced by each District VI Garden Club Achievement Award No. 1 application, clubs have promoted civic beautification by maintaining community gardens in parks and school grounds. Individual and business gardens have both been recognized with the Garden of the Month awards. Litter prevention education is ongoing in the schools, in order to help promote their towns in the Cleanest City Contest each year. Clubs are also planting trees in recognition of Arbor Day. Many members are attending the schools offered in order to further their education in landscaping, gardening, flower show judging and environmental issues, promoting the goals of LGCF, Deep South and NGC.

It was a pleasure attending the Joint Meeting of the four clubs in Tangipahoa Parish in February. The entertaining meeting was hosted by Belle Oaks Garden Club of Hammond. Their theme was "Birds of a Feather."

The District VI planning team is in the process of organizing the 2021 LGCF Convention, under the leadership of Chairman, Ruth Delhomme, and Co-Chair, Clara Earl. We are working diligently with great support team members Gail Lonibos, Jeanette Gatzman, and Cindy Moran to provide an exceptional 2021 Convention.

District VI has a total of 20 active clubs in the following parishes: five in Washington, four in St. Tammany, four in Tangipahoa, three in East Baton Rouge, two in Ascension, one in Livingston, and one in West Baton Rouge.

I'd like to thank Roxanna Champagne for her continued guidance and encouragement. The main goal of having District Directors is to serve as liaison between individual clubs and LGCF. Club Presidents, please know that I look forward to assisting and visiting with you and your club members. Please email me at [carolyntodd1221@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyntodd1221@yahoo.com) for any assistance needed.

Carolyn Todd

District VI Director

# DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

## District VII

District VII clubs were busy recently with Arbor Day activities. Crowley, Lake Charles, and Diggers & Weeders planted trees for the occasion. Iowa hosted an Arbor Day celebration in honor of a member who had recently passed away. Oakdale is planning on planting seedlings in a local park. I'm hoping photos were or will be taken and awards will be applied for this coming year.

Washington Garden Club is busy preparing for their high tea event which will be held Sunday April 26, at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to join in the fun. Contact Ethel at 337-945-0948 or Ginger at 337-831-1055 for further info.

Lake Charles area clubs are busy planning for the City's 2020 Earth Day in April. Clubs will have booths with children activities that promote 'going green'.

As District Director, I have been visiting with clubs since taking office. I've presented talks to Rayne Garden Club, Lake Charles Garden Club, Oakdale Garden Club, Washington Garden Club and Sulphur Garden Club. I've concluded my visits this garden club year and hope to visit the remaining District VII clubs next year. I've focused my talks on the benefits of using native plants in our landscapes. I'm hoping to convince some of our members that native plants are not really weeds.

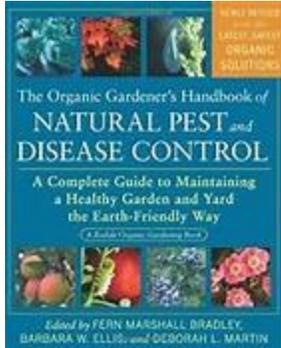
Definition: A weed is a plant growing out of place. How could plants that were growing in our area long before we were ever here be 'out of place'?

District VII is scheduled to host the LGCF State Convention in 2022. We are beginning the planning stages now. The meeting will be held at a location to be announced at a later date, but please be prepared to come join the fun in Southwest Louisiana in 2022!

Pam Langley

District VII Director

# BOOK REVIEW



## The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest and Disease Control

Edited By: Fern Marshall Bradley, Barbara Ellis and Deborah L. Martin

Rodale, Inc., PA 2009

ISBN-13: 978-1-60529-677-7

This is the type of book that every gardener should keep in her/her library. It is the go-to for answers to all of the common challenges in our outdoor spaces. Alongside broad and general guidance about soil health, pest and disease control, you will also find specific plant-by-plant advice for keeping your garden a beautifully functioning ecosystem.

**Submitted by Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair**



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Peggy Hatch**

Community Garden Club

District VI



Peggy Hatch of the Community Garden Club of Baton Rouge was born in Bunkie, Louisiana. She graduated from Bolton High in Alexandria and attended Northwestern State University where she received a BS degree in mathematics. She earned a master's degree from LSU. She taught math in the East Baton Rouge school system for 15 years and computer science at LSU for 15 years.

Peggy has been a member of the Community Garden Club of Baton Rouge for 20 years. She has twice served as vice president and president. One of her favorite projects has been working with Claire Fontenot at the Baton Rouge Botanical Gardens. She says, "We helped with the beautification of the grounds but even more important we learned so much from Claire."

Peggy enjoys gardening at her home and serves on the flower committee at her church where she designs the flower arrangements in the sanctuary several times a year.

Peggy has been married to Gayle Hatch for 59 years. They have two daughters, five grandchildren and two great granddaughters.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

## Yvette Gaines Gagnet

Acres of Green Garden Club

District II



Yvette is a New Orleans native and graduated from Dominican High School and Louisiana State University. She followed her husband's military career to Pennsylvania State University where she witnessed the true meaning of "four seasons" and its effect on the environment.

Settling down in Metairie, Louisiana in 1960, she became involved in garden club work with Acres of Green Garden Club and helped beautify the brand-new subdivisions springing up in the area. Her club also beautified the churches in the area and did butterfly gardens workshops in the middle schools. Yvette was a docent in the New Orleans Botanical Garden's Butterfly Garden for fifteen years giving tours and lectures to school children about the importance and uniqueness of the butterfly.

In her 63 years as a member of Acres of Green she has served 4 terms as treasurer, 4 years as president, 8 years as chairwoman of the member's gift exchange and judging of gifts for the Battered Women and Children's program and she organized a program for PBS garden show. As a talented Stained-Glass artist, she donated many windows for the club's fundraisers for civic beautification. As a naturalist artist she has painted landscapes of Louisiana and Colorado scenes. Her paintings have been exhibited in shows in Leadville, CO where she has a home on the mountain. Her artistic talents as a "bow maker" also help decorate Lafreniere Park Foundation Center at Christmas with the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs. She won Garden of the Month at least 4 times a year and won "Garden of the Year" twice in her Club.

She and Lawson have 3 children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Marguerite Thomas Lipani**

Franklinton Home & Garden Club

District VI



Marguerite Thomas Lipani was born September 12, 1936, to Johnson and Louise Thomas in Tylertown, MS. She was married to Dr. John Lipani of Brooklyn, New York, now deceased. They had two children, Antoinette and John. Marguerite graduated #2 in her class at New Zion High School and was salutatorian of her class. She then enrolled in Touro Nursing School in New Orleans from 1954 to 1957 and has been in nursing for over 60 years. She worked at Turo Hospital about 15 years and at Riverside Hospital in Franklinton, LA for many years. She retired from Washington Parish Health Unit after 27 years and still holds a current nursing license.

Marguerite has won many awards: The Great 100 Nurses, Honor Roll of Stars at the Washington Parish Fair, Mile Branch Honoree in 2017, Franklinton Citizen of the Year, and too many more to mention.

She is presently historian of her garden club and chairman of the Garden and Business of the Month. Marguerite loves gardening. She always remembers her grandmother's four o'clocks and offers seeds to her fellow garden club members.

According to the Home and Garden club of Franklinton that proudly submitted her to be a recipient for the Circle of Roses, "She is a great friend, a hard worker and a role model for all of us. We just can't imagine a better 'Rose' than Marguerite."



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

## Gail Lonibos

Creative Planters Garden Club

Baton Rouge Garden Club

Gonzales Garden Club

Districts II and VI



Gail Lonibos has been a member of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation since her teaching days. She wanted to be a Garden Club member so much that she found a substitute teacher for her class so she could attend the Creative Planters Garden Club when she started in 1995.

She served as an officer prior to her presidency in that Club. Active in the Jefferson Parish Council, she served as President and attended many LGCF conventions.

After moving to Gonzales from Marrero after Katrina in 2005, she joined the Baton Rouge Garden Club and a little later joined the Gonzales Garden Club. In the Baton Rouge Garden Club, she served as the Nominating Committee Chair and has served on the hospitality committee for either club meetings or for BRGC Flower Show. In Gonzales, she has participated in the spring small floral arrangement members make for the library and on other committees. She continues her membership in all 3 clubs.

She is a Gardening Consultant and Landscape Design Consultant. Gail has served as Registrar for the Louisiana Landscape Design School for many years.

Gail served as District Director of District 6, later as district treasurer, and district nominating committee chair. She will be registration chair for the 2021 LGCF Convention.

She loves keeping her garden at home beautiful with flowers blooming frequently. Gail has 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

A loyal and committed member, Gail Lonibos has a beautiful smile and is a beautiful person. We are happy to enter her name into the Circle of Roses.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Madeline Marsiglia Polizzi**

Acres of Green Garden Club

District II



Madeline, a New Orleans native, began her garden club career as a pioneer in Metairie, Louisiana where she and her husband opened the first drugstore in the area and new subdivisions were springing up overnight. As a member of Acres of Green, she helped develop programs at churches and schools that would beautify the new landscape.

Every year members looked forward to the club's meeting at her house where she displayed her doll collection and served the members delicious Italian cuisine

She served for two years as president and held various offices in the club in the past 45 years. During that time she participated in decorating the huge urns in the Great Hall of the New Orleans Museum of Art, worked on the committee to keep up the gardens at St. Philip Neri Church and Wagner Library and also raised funds to build and upkeep the Parterre gardens at Lafreniere Park.

Madeline is a talented poet and each Christmas members look forward to her poem written for a member where she begins by "A Christmas Poem by Madeline M. Polizzi".

Madeline and her husband, Richard, now deceased, were great supporters of the Pharmacy School at Ole Miss. They have two children who are also talented artists in television and video production. She stays busy overseeing her beautiful properties in the Vieux Carre' in New Orleans where her grandmother began the tradition of strong women running businesses, helping the community and keeping families together.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Janice Gibson**

Community Gardeners Garden Club

District IV



Janice Gibson of the Community Garden Club of Baton Rouge grew up in Kingsport, Tennessee where she was taught by her mother to plant spring bulbs such as tulips and jonquils. Dogwood trees are her favorite and she enjoys seeing them in the early spring, especially in East Tennessee where they grow well.

Janice graduated from Memphis State University. She had a career in hospital administration and public relations in Pascagoula, Mississippi before moving to Baton Rouge thirty years ago. She worked in the chemical industry after moving to Baton Rouge.

Following her retirement, neighbors noticed her planting flowerbeds in the front yard, and invited her to visit one of their meetings of the Community Garden club. She soon joined and has now been a member for over 15 years. She has served as secretary and president and has served as treasurer for the past several years.

Janice has been married to Dan for 56 years. Together they have 2 sons, 2 daughters-in-laws and five grandchildren.

She says her garden club experiences “have been a fun and educational. I have learned so much about gardening from our members and treasure their friendships very much.”



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Alma Dunlap**

Colonial Garden Club

District II



Colonial Club would like to honor Alma Dunlap. She joined our club in 1968. That's a total of 52 years. Alma has served as Colonial's president for 4 terms. She has held every office in the club and served on the executive board for many years. Alma has been responsible for our yearbook forever. She does it year after year. Colonial has won many awards for it. She has been our publicity Chairman for too many years to count. We enjoy our pictures in the newspapers. She has held all chairmanships. She is our Woman of the Year. She is smart, kind and understanding and helps us so much. We are now celebrating 62 years.

Alma was married to John Bettes Dunlap Jr. "Jack" now deceased. She has a daughter, Anne Dunlap Honeywell, a son, John Bettes Dunlap III, 5 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Mary Crumb**

Acres of Green Garden Club

District II



Mary began her work in garden clubs as a young wife and mother when she joined Twilight Garden Club on the west bank of Jefferson Parish where she served for 18 years.

Years later she joined Chateau Estates Garden Club and in 2002 was elected president and held the post for four years. As president she chaired the club's first cookbook which became a huge fundraiser for the Club. She also started seasonal decorations programs and horticulture programs at a retirement home in Kenner where her club worked with the residents.

In 2010 she spearheaded "The Cleanest City Contest" in Kenner, Louisiana and worked with the mayor's office in procuring a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Kenner's Veterans Park. Mary was chairman of the LGCF convention in 2013.

She has been first vice-president of the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs for six years and chairman of the JPCGC's Memorial Service for that period. She served as Yearbook judge Chairman for LGCF for three terms.

Mary joined Acres of Green Garden Club in 2017 and currently serves as Courtesy Chairman. She assisted with decorating the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center at Christmas time.

She and her husband, Bill, have four children and several grandchildren. She assists her husband with his productions of theatrical performances in schools throughout the South.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Barbara Mabbott Sandeman**

Acres of Green Garden Club

District II



Barbara has been a member of Acres of Green Garden Club for 35 years. Hailing from Wisconsin, she soon learned that one could garden any time of the year in southeast Louisiana and also learned that Louisiana women were very sophisticated in their gardening ways.

Barbara served as president of the club in 2004-2007, having had her term extended by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. During that time, she helped with the rebuilding of much of the New Orleans area including the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. She worked on the club's building of an inside garden at the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau. Keeping up the gardens at St. Philip Neri Church and School, where she is a Eucharistic Minister, is a priority of hers. She has done fundraising for the Club's building and upkeep of the Parterre Gardens at Lafreniere Park and for the civic beautification projects of the Club.

A "stalwart keeper of the books", she has served as the Club's treasurer for almost 20 years, along with having served as first vice-president and recording secretary.

She is active in other community organizations in the New Orleans area, among them being the Newcomers Club where she served as Queen of the Carnival Ball. She and her husband, Tom, have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren to whom she is devoted.



## *CIRCLE OF ROSES*

**Gwen H. Baxley**

Plaquemine Garden Club

District VI



Gwen joined the Plaquemine Garden Club in 1977 (43 years of service) and is still an active participant in its activities. She and her husband, Hugh, co-own Baxley and Associates, an accounting firm in Plaquemine LA and are the parents of 3 children.

Gwen was recording secretary from 1983-1985 and treasurer from 2014-2019. As treasurer, she converted the Club's budget and financial records to use correct accounting methods. This greatly improved the financial records of the Club. She also hosted one of the meetings at her home and chaired Arbor Day tree planting in 2019.

Professionally Gwen received her certification as a Financial Planner and worked in this field for 25 years after she had been the Administrative Assistant at Baxley and Associates.

In addition, Gwen taught the women's Sunday School class at First Baptist Church for over 50 years! She and Hugh now spend a lot of their time in North Carolina where their grandchildren live.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

**Dianne Grace**

Plaquemine Garden Club

District VI



Dianne joined the Plaquemine Garden Club in 1977 (43 years of service). Very soon after she hosted the Club's annual Christmas Tea at her antebellum home in 1978. In 1988-90 she chaired the Civic Development Committee, City Planting and in 1991 hosted the annual May Hat Luncheon at her home. In 2002 she participated in the Club's tablescape presentation. She again hosted the Christmas Tea in 2015 and is hosting the May Hat Brunch in 2020. As a member of the American Hemerocallis Association, the flowerbeds at Dr. James and Dianne Grace's home are always brimming with seasonal flowers and shrubs accented by a large grape arbor overlooking a backyard of English designed flowerbeds. Throughout her membership, Dianne has humbly offered her expertise in decorating and floral design at many of the events.

Dianne holds a license as a floral designer and has operated a home decor shop in the Plaquemine Railroad Depot Market for many years. She has created beautiful designs for many weddings, Mardi Gras balls, St. Joseph altars and parties over the years.

As an active member of St. John, the Evangelist Catholic Church, Dianne created the beautiful Christmas decorations that began in earnest in 2002. They include garland on the 10 main lights hanging in the cathedral-designed church that are hung with a commercial lift. Hugh decorated wreaths adorn the Greek columns on either side of the nave of the church. A large decorated garland drapes across the cupola above the altar in the sanctuary with garland wrapped around the front 2 columns accented by the red velvet covered Greek columns. Many come to see the "cathedral on the bayou" at Christmas season. A similarly beautiful spring floral garland adorns the altar at Easter complimented by a bank of Easter lilies at the base of the altar and an array of spring flowers surrounding the baptismal pool for Easter Vigil Mass.

She and her husband, Dr. James Grace, have 7 children, 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. They continue to stay active with their civic involvement and assist their son in his catering business located next door to their home in "The Barn" that hosts many receptions and parties.



# CIRCLE OF ROSES

Jaynel Nadler

Plaquemine Garden Club

District VI



Jaynel joined the Plaquemine Garden Club in 1988. She served as Awards Chairman from 1988-1989 and became its President in 1990-92. As President, she changed the annual potluck luncheon to a May Hat luncheon at a member's home which greatly improved the event to one of beautiful spring hats and dresses, salads and desserts. Attendance more than doubled.

Another change she made as President was to bring back the annual flower show and chaired it in 1993-95 using the National Garden Club rules. Much research into the rules and regulations was necessary to host a Standard Flower Show.

She also chaired the newsletter committee in 1990-92, the Founders Day in 1992-93, Arbor Day in 1996-99 and publicity in 2006-7. She opened her beautiful home for the annual Christmas Tea in 2000.

Jaynel and husband, Andrew, have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Although her health has been failing in recent years, she continues to participate as best as she can in the activities of the club.



# 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](mailto:nanalovespops@gmail.com)**

**337-540-7223 (Cell)**

**337-534-0187 (Home)**

## **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 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! 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”.