Table of Contents

LGCF 2013-15 OFFICERS:
President
Yvette Hebert
ybear330@gmail.com

President-Elect
Jeanette Gatzman
jgatzman@bellsouth.net

First Vice-President
Pattie Killen
grangrumps@netzero.net

Second Vice-President
Mary Jane Peters
maryjanegarden@comcast.net

Recording Secretary
Dottie Hebert
dottiesh@cox.net

Corresponding Secretary
Libby Dupuy
randylibby@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Betty Foret
bgforet@yahoo.com

Historian
Nancy Click
ndc_no@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian
Lena Bateman
Lbateman5@bellsouth.net

Message from Our President ................................................... 3
Gardening Consultant Newsletter.............................................. 4
In Memory of Eleanor M. Talley............................................... 4
LGCF Officer Reports ............................................................... 5
Circle of Roses ........................................................................ 8
LGCF 2014 Summer Board Registration Form ........................... 11
LGCF 2014 Summer Board Hotel Information............................. 12
LGCF 2014 Hotel Reservation Form .......................................... 12
LGCF’s Tour of Costa Rica ...................................................... 13
NGC Executive Committee Tour of Jean Lafitte ........................ 14
Book Review .......................................................................... 15
LGCF’s Future Tours Planned.................................................... 15
Eagles in Southeast Louisiana .................................................. 16
LGCF Gardening Study School ............................................... 17
LGCF Flower Show School .................................................... 17
Live Oak Society News ........................................................... 18
Deeds and Doings .................................................................. 19
Calendar of Events ................................................................. 25

Our cover photo this quarter was submitted by Daria Vincent, President of the Rambling Rose Gardeners in District II. Shown in the picture is a beautiful Salmon Christmas Cactus from Daria’s garden. Thank you for sharing with us, Daria.

If you would like to submit drawings, paintings or photos for the cover of the Newsletter, please send them (or good copies) to LGCF Newsletter, 1750 Bilbo St., Lake Charles, LA 70601, or email pamxyz@bellsouth.net.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO SUMMER ISSUE (JULY 2014) IS JUNE 1ST, 2014.
Please send all information for this issue to Pam Langley,
1750 Bilbo St., Lake Charles, LA 70601-6061 • 337-842-2995 (phone) • pamxyz@bellsouth.net
It is without hesitation that I can say “WELCOME SPRING”! Even with all the allergies that I know it will bring. I want to see green things again and not the BROWN “stuff” all over my yard from all the snow and ice and freezing temperatures! Oh, well, as we all know, seasons come and seasons go. Thank goodness!

In January, the LGCF was honored to host NGC President Linda Nelson and the NGC Executive Committee for several days in New Orleans. Mary Jacobs was Chairman of this event and she and her helpers did a fantastic job of providing all the amenities one could want. President Nelson was met at the airport and whisked off to lunch followed by a picturesque tour on the way to the Indigo Hotel on St. Charles Avenue in the heart of Uptown New Orleans. The next day was spent conducting business. In the evening, a wine and cheese hour hosted by Mary’s next door neighbors was followed by a sit down dinner in the lovely home of our Immediate Past President Mary Jacobs. And what a lovely dinner it was!

Ready for seeing more of Louisiana, the group spent their last day touring the Jean Lafitte-Barataria area with Joe and Cindy Baucum at the helm of the pirates’ sahip. The group did enjoy their first-hand view of the legendary Jean Lafitte at Lafitte’s Barataria Museum and Wetland Trace “featuring a multi-media theatre presentation, an animated museum exhibition and a nature study trail. The museum led visitors on a journey through the life of pirate Jean Lafitte, the stories and folk traditions of wetland dwellers and the realities of coastal erosion and natural and man-made disasters”. Of course, more delicious food and a tour of Uptown New Orleans on the way back to the Hotel Indigo. What a tired group we were that night! Thank you Mary Jacobs, Joe and Cindy Baucum and all the helpers too numerous to name who made President Nelson and the NGC Executive Committee feel very welcomed.

In January two schools were offered to members. Gardening Study School in Lafayette, LA began Series 9, Course I and Landscape Design School ended Series 18, Course IV in Baton Rouge, LA. Thanks to all who helped present these schools so LGCF will have continuing education for its members. Please check the website and the Newsletter for future schools to be held. I hope that all members take advantage of these educational opportunities not only to increase one’s own knowledge but to share that information with other members of your clubs and communities.

Environmental Studies School, Series III, Course III & IV in Jean Lafitte, LA will take place on June 3-6, 2014. Mark that date and plan to be there. The first two courses were spectacular and I can hardly wait for the last two. Information will be appearing on the website soon.

Look to the website for information on the Flower Show Judges School series. Here is where you will learn the secrets for making an award winning design and how to properly display horticulture in a flower show.

I will be winging my way to the Deep South Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida, April 12-14, 2014 and to the National Garden Club Convention in Norman, Oklahoma, April 30-May 3, 2014. I will be a busy “hummer” and hope to bring back lots of information to the members.

Please remember that the LGCF Summer Board will be held on July 21-22, 2014 and our National President, Linda Nelson, will be with us. I know that all of you will show her what “our ‘Southern Hospitality’” is all about!
Message from Our President
Legends say that hummingbirds float free of time,
carrying our hopes for love,
joy and celebration.
The hummingbird’s delicate grace
reminds us Life is rich,
Beauty is everywhere.
Every personal connection has meaning,
and that laughter is Life’s sweetest creation.
Author Unknown

Until next time in “Nature’s World Where Everything Belongs”...

Yvette Hebert, LGCF President

In Memory of
Eleanor M. Talley

Eleanor Murray Talley, 84 of Vidalia, Louisiana passed from this life Thursday, February 6, 2014. Mrs. Talley was born July 9, 1929 to the union of John Leslie and Lola Vivian Matthews Murray. Funeral services were held on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 2:00 pm with Rev. Clyde Ray Weber officiating.

Mrs. Talley retired from the Natchez Adams County School district after 30 years of service. She belonged to the Audubon Society, and was an avid birder. She was a member of the Concordia Parish Library Board since 2002, and on the Vidalia Planning Commission. She was a member of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, a life member of National Garden Club and Deep South Garden Club, served as a Cleanest City Judge on numerous occasions. She was chairman of numerous projects of the LGCF, District V Director and local president of Vidalia Garden Club. She was well known as a Louisiana Garden Club Federation parliamentarian. She is and will be missed.

Gardening Consultant Newsletter
If you would like to receive the Louisiana Garden Club Federation Gardening Consultant Newsletter, "What's Growing", please send your E-mail address to Eleanore Capretto at ecapretto@cox.net.
LGCF REPORTS

LGCF President Elect Report
By Jeanette Gatzman - LGCF President-Elect

Some of you might have already heard me say that I have the best job in the Federation, but know that I feel I really do.

Our seven District Directors (YaYas) are a great group. They have been prompt in responding to any requests made of them by me (Mama YaYa) and others in the Federation.

After being installed at the 2013 Convention, it has my pleasure to attend Summer Board 2013, all six District Fall Meetings, and Winter Council Meeting. I'll be at our 2014 Convention in Baton Rouge, the Deep South Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the National Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

One of my duties will be to judge Cleanest City 2014 – I look forward to it.

It has also been my pleasure to work with our President Yvette Hebert. She’s teaching me “the ropes”, but I will have some really big shoes to fill in 2015-2017.

2014 District III Spring Report
By Roxanna Champagne – District Director

I can hardly believe I have been District Director for almost one year. Having never wanted this office, I can truly say I am enjoying my term. So if you are asked to be District Director, please consider saying yes. I have gotten to know and love more of my “garden club sisters” this past year and that is definitely a plus!

In August, by popular demand a District III Awards Workshop was held in Lafayette, sponsored by District III and hosted by Lafayette Garden Club. The workshop had representatives from all but one garden club in our district. I am looking forward to District III bring home many awards this spring. The workshop conducted by Lafayette Garden Club Awards Chair Babette Werner was extremely informative.

Since Summer Board, I have attended Environmental Study School in Jean Lafitte and Landscape Design Study School in Baton Rouge. In January Garden Study School was held in District III in Lafayette. I not only attended as a student, but also chaired and hosted the school with a great deal of help from Lafayette Garden Club members. In attending all 3 schools, I am thrilled to report that District III members attend and support these NGC Schools.

For the first time I was invited to attend Winter Council in Lecompte. It was a wonderful experience to witness firsthand the inner workings of LGCF and hard work done by our LGCF Officers and Chairmen.

In October, Patterson Garden Club hosted the District III Fall Meeting in Morgan City. It was a great fall meeting with 100 garden club members in attendance. We passed a good time “Raising Cane on the Bayou!”

I was invited by 2 clubs to attend their Christmas Socials and I thoroughly enjoyed their warmth and hospitality. The food wasn’t too bad either!

District III garden clubs definitely maintain a presence in their communities by educating the youth on environmental and agricultural issues, planting trees for Arbor Day, getting ready for Cleanest City Contest, planning and holding Flower Shows, and planting and maintaining gardens in public gardens.

I am proud to be Director of District III and I look forward to more adventures in my last year.
**2014 District V Spring Report**

By Beth Erwin – District Director

Four District V garden club members and one spouse enjoyed a wonderful trip to Costa Rica in January. The thermometer was hovering around 15 degrees as a crew sprayed deicing fluid over the plane waiting to take off from the Monroe airport January 7. Those travelers, MeMe Johnson (Palmetto Garden Club), Beth Erwin (Collinston and Palmetto GC), Jean Gilstrap (Bayou DeSiard and Farmerville GC), LGCF Tour Chairman Jan Smith and her husband, Roger (Garden Gate Study Club) and Sara Burroughs (District IV; Pierremont Hills GC), were excited thinking about their tropical destination and leaving the cold weather behind. It was truly a remarkable trip. We had a total of 16 people from around the state and we all made wonderful new garden club friends. Garden club people are lots of fun to travel with.

Two more members from Palmetto Garden Club, Sandra Banks and Carolyn Whitman, will join Jan and Roger on the WAFA trip to Ireland in June. Jan had two more great trips planned after Ireland. Check them out!

Melissa Smith (Clarklea Garden Club), MeMe Johnson, and Beth Erwin finished the Landscape Design Study School in January. Virginia Lee (Palmetto Garden Club) joined them and began the series.

Clarklea Garden Club has adopted the Blue Star Marker in Bastrop that was placed by the Bastrop Garden Club about 50 years ago. The city did some rearranging at the original location so the marker has been moved to the grounds of the Snyder Museum. Clarklea will be hosting a rededication ceremony featuring LGCF President Yvette Hebert as the speaker. Collinston Garden Club will help with refreshments for the reception afterwards. Clarklea members have been busy sprucing up the museum grounds and planning and publicizing the program throughout the area.

The town of Rayville also has a marker from an older club, the Rayville Garden Club. It was one of those unlisted/unknown markers until recently. Blue Star Marker Chairman Mary Hazen has made arrangements for a company to come from Florida to restore markers that need it around the state. Palmetto Garden Club elected to participate in this and is already over half way in their fundraising efforts.

February 6 marked the passing of Mrs. Eleanor Talley from Vidalia. Mrs. Eleanor retired from teaching school and joined a garden club. She spent the next 30 years teaching us how to hold better meetings, work with Cleanest City Contest, appreciate native plants and birds, and encourage our clubs to participate in LGCF projects and reap the rewards. She provided steady, sound advice to LGCF officers and club members all over the state. We will all miss her very much.

**2014 District VI Spring Report**

By Gail Lonibos – District Director

Since Summer Board much has happen. District VI Fall meeting was a huge success thanks to the Washington Parish Council of Garden Clubs (Bogalusa Garden Guild, Franklinton Garden Club, Home and Garden Club, Mt. Hermon Garden Club, Northeast Garden Club, and Southeast Garden Clippers). In the meantime Garden Clubs were sending their yearbook. I received 21 out of 23 yearbooks. As they arrived I read and was moved by what the clubs were preparing to accomplish this year. In their meetings each month, they were having
programs, power points, and guest speakers discussing the importance of our planet earth. Clubs want to encourage and promote greater interest in and knowledge of horticulture, the art of arranging flowers, and promote civic beautification in their city.

Generosity, sharing, encouragement, cooperation, teaching, and doing so in a friendly and warm environment is what I have witnessed in the District.

District VI is looking forward to the 2014 Convention in March. Diane Dufour, Chairman and Janice Hickey, Co-Chairman are working diligently with a team of great workers to make this Convention one you will remember in years to come.

2014 District VII Spring Report
By Jennifer Granger - District Director

It has been a cold, wet and busy winter. Hope all of your plants made it through.

The District VII Clubs, Bulb and Blossom(Eunice), Crowley, Diggers and Weeders(Lake Charles), Iowa, Jennings, Lake Charles, Magnolia(Ville Platte), Oakdale, Opelousas, Rayne, Sulphur, Washington, and Welsh, have been busy trying to keep all of their continuing and new projects going. Most of the clubs, if not all, have included projects such as Arbor Day, Bird, Butterfly and Community Gardening, Cleanest City Contest, Blue Star Memorial Markers and many others, while keeping the themes of LGCF, Deep South Region and NGC in mind when doing their projects.

Iowa Garden Club welcomed a new member. She is Marian McNabb from the state of Iowa. Marian is the National Butterfly Chairman, living in Johnson Bayou during the winter months and doing great things for our state.

We would also like to welcome a new Garden Club to District VII. Welsh Garden Club has joined us and received their Certificate of Federation at State Convention in March. We are very happy to have them.

The date of our District Fall Meeting has been set for October 15, 2014 and will be held in Rayne hosted by Rayne Garden Club. I plan to visit more of District VII Garden Clubs this year. Have a great Spring and Summer!

Live Oak Society Report
By Coleen Landry – Chairman

Since May 2013 some 215 live oaks were registered with the Live Oak Society of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation according to its chairman, Coleen Perilloux Landry. Of the newly registered oaks some 75 of them were located, measured and forms completed for registration by the Rayne Garden Club and the Franklin Garden Club. This brings the total registry as of March, 2014 to 7,350 oaks registered in 14 states in the United States. To be eligible for membership a live oak must have a girth (waistline) of 8 feet or greater. Trees over 16 feet in girth are listed as Centenarians.
Barbara Dailey
Garden Gate Study Club (District V)

Barbara Dailey has enjoyed being a member of the Garden Gate Study Club since 1985. During her years Barbara, known as “Bobbie”, has been an active contributor in her club. She participated in flower shows and enjoyed winning a first place blue ribbon in her division one year. Bobbie Dailey served as the vice-president of her club in 1986 and as president from 1987 to 1989.

During her term as president, she was most proud of her accomplishment in supplying the town of Winnsboro with sturdy decorative trash containers. She brought the idea from New Orleans and coordinated with the local trade school with the construction of these durable containers. The garden club members funded the project along with local donations. The trash containers can still be seen lining the streets of Winnsboro to help keep the city clean. During her term, the club won their division in the Cleanest City contest.

This year the club is celebrating the twenty-nine years of Barbara Dailey’s active role and friendship within the Winnsboro District Five Garden Gate Study Club. She continues to be an active member today.

Doris Kinkaid
Garden Gate Study Club (District V)

Doris Kinkaid has been a member of the Garden Gate Study Club for 36 years. She has served as club secretary and was treasurer of the club for many years. For the last 14 years, Doris has served on the telephone committee with the responsibility of contacting members prior to each meeting.

Doris served as District V Treasurer for two years and has remained an enthusiastic participant in district activities. During the 2001-2001 NGC “Million Trees” project, Doris was instrumental in the planting of thousands of trees on her farms in the Conservation Reserve Program. Through the years, Doris participated in preparation for Cleanses City contests, club flower shows, and applying for awards.

Doris married Aubrey Kincaid in 1950 and moved to the Fort Necessity community becoming a member of the Boeuf Prairie Methodist Church. Doris was very active in the United Methodist women, serving as Treasurer. Doris and her late husband were the parents of three daughters. Today, Doris has three grandchildren and one great-grandson.
Sue Nugent
Garden Gate Study Club (District V)

Sue Nugent is a devoted member of the Garden Gate Study Club of Winnsboro, Louisiana. Sue helped create the Garden Gate Study Club in 1968 which originated with 12 members. The club has now grown to 26 members with 3 original members still active. Sue has accomplished many outstanding achievements while a member of the Garden Gate Study Club, which include working with the Cleanest City Contest, Environmental Education, LGCF memorials and honors, and highway beautification. While actively working with the Cleanest City and National award, Sue was presented with the Outstanding Improvements award and a trip to Washington C. C. with the mayor of Winnsboro, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and other city officials.

Sue has worked professionally in landscape design and horticulture and has landscaped many homes in Franklin Parish. She has judged many flower shows throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. Sue served as District V Director as well as the state president of the LGCF Judges Council and vice-president of the Garden Club. She organized a memorial service in memory for the deceased members of the district.

Sue graduated from Northeast Louisiana University with a MS+ degree in education in 1974. She retired from the LSU Extension service after 38 years of service.

Mary Belle White
Garden Gate Study Club (District V)

Mary Belle White began her membership in 1961 as a member of Garden Gate Garden Club, a club that disbanded in the late 1960s. In 1977 she helped organize the Garden Gate Study Club and has served as president for one term.

In 1987 the Club chose to enter the Cleanest City Contest which she chaired until 2001. During that time the club several District and state titles. Franklin Parish Chamber of Commerce presented the 1988 Spirit Award for work in the Cleanest City Contest.

At present time she is chairman of the Winnsboro Beautification committee, working with the grounds along Highway 15, the north-south highway through town.

She graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in Home Economics. She has been married to Owen White for 62 years. She credits his help for making it possible for her to accomplish the success many of the projects sponsored by the Garden Club. They are the parents of two sons, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. They have been residents of Winnsboro for 57 years, operating the Ford dealership for all of those years.
She has been Chairman of the Flower Committee for First Baptist Church for (in her words) “for more years than I care to think about” until stepping down in 2013. She has also taught Sunday school for over 50 years at First Baptist Church.

She has also worked at the Princess Theatre, and old restored theatre used for performing art, serving on the board for six years, then as the first President of the Princess Theatre Foundation. She was honored last year as an Honorary Director.

She has also served as State Corresponding Secretary for the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution and is presently serving as Regent for the Oakley Chapter of the DAR.

Virginia (Jinx) Vincent
Sulphur Garden Club (District VII)

Jinx was married to Halton H. Vincent and they had two children: Jamie Bono, a registered nurse, and Capt. Ramsey Vincent who was killed rescuing wounded Soldiers in Viet Nam. Jinx worked as a registered nurse at the Calcasieu Cameron Hospital in Sulphur until she retired.

She joined the Sulphur Garden Club in 1953 and served as President for the years 1979-1981 and 1993-1995. She served as chairman and member of various committees and strove to promote the goals of our club. She was a model member for these 60 years.

Jinx is a faithful member of the Henning Memorial United Methodist Church where she has held many positions of leadership and service. She is held in high esteem and loved by all who know her.

The Sulphur Garden Club is proud to honor Virginia (Jinx) Vincent as she takes her place in the 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” four 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
Georgie Petitjean
1006 East 5th Street
Crowley 70526-3952
(337) 783-4545, gmpetitjean@cox.net
Louisiana Garden Club Federation
Summer Board 2014
July 21 & 22
Embassy Suites Hotel, Baton Rouge
Registration Form

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________________ State ____________ Zip __________________

E-Mail __________________________________________ Phone (___) __________________________

Garden Club ____________________________________ District _____________________________

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Club</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Club President</th>
<th>Delegate / Alternate</th>
<th>Guest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGCF</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Life Member</td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep South</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Life Member</td>
<td>Past DSR Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGC</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Life Member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Date July 4, 2014

Please make an (x) in the desired boxes.          Price   Amount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 21 - 22nd</th>
<th>Entire Summer Board registration/meal package</th>
<th>$122.00</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I want to register for a portion of the meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Registration for Monday only</th>
<th>$20.00</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Banquet</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Registration for Tuesday only</th>
<th>$20.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>$37.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Late Fee | If you register after July 4, 2013 there will be an extra $20.00 charge | $20.00 |

| Total | Amount I am enclosing: Total Amount: | $ |

Dietary: Special Diet ________ Vegetarian ________ Allergies ________________________________

THERE WILL BE NO SAME DAY REGISTRATION ACCEPTED

Make checks payable to LGCF Summer Board

Mail form and payment to: Diane Lawton, 324 Holiday Circle, Pineville, La. 71360
LGCF Summer Board Info
Information regarding Hotel Reservations
SUMMER BOARD
Embassy Suites Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA

Attached is the information along with **CODE LGC** in order to book your room for summer board. This rate has been agreed on and no other discounts are allowed. You cannot request the government rate, military or AAA along with this group rate. The 3 room suite with King sized bed; the 3 room (one bathroom, one bedroom, and one living room) suite double has two full sized beds. Included with room rate are a Cook-to-Order Breakfast, Complimentary Evening Reception, Lemonade Stand, Indoor Pool Fitness Room and Complimentary Airport Shuttle Service.

You may make reservation at (1-800-EMBASSY) **1-800-362-2779** or GO On-Line to [www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com). If you have question or require additional information regarding hotel, please do not hesitate to contact them:

**Your 3-Digit Code, Courtesy Group Reservation Block** has been created here at the Embassy Suites of Baton Rouge, please be sure to indicate it when making reservation otherwise you will not secure this hotel rate.

*PLEASE DO NOT BOOK A PRE-PAID RESERVATION NOR OTHER ANY OTHER RESERVATION OUTSIDE OF THE BLOCK-THEY: <*>CANNOT BE REFUNDED*<Cannot be moved into the block<Cannot be counted in the block.*

Group Name .............................................................. Louisiana Garden Club

GROUP CODE ............................................................. LGC

Arriving As Early As ................................. 07/18/2014

Departing As Late As ................................. 07/25/2014

Room Types Available ......................... Non-Smoking, Kings and Doubles

Room Rate (Per Room, Per Night, Plus Tax) ........... $94.00

Reservation Cut Off Date ......................... 07/18/2014

Reservation Method .................................. Individual call in and pay

Notes:
LGCF’s Tour of Costa Rica
By Sara Burroughs

Sixteen Louisianans flew south in January on a Louisiana Garden Club Federation tour, ably planned and led by Jan Smith of Gilbert. We learned that Costa Rica produces crops that are dear to us: cocoa and vanilla (put them together and you get chocolate) and coffee.

Near the Pacific coast we visited a small farm called Villa Vanilla, run by Hank Karczynski, who was born in Germany to Polish parents and raised in Chicago. He settled in Costa Rica after serving in the Peace Corps and getting interested in farming. After two years of hurricanes almost wiped out the country’s vanilla industry in the 1990s, he turned to organic farming and became passionate about biodynamics, an agricultural method whose philosophy is healthy soil, healthy plants, healthy people.

Vanilla beans grow on a vine that has wrapped itself around a host tree. It needs plenty of water, which it gets during Costa Rica’s May-to-November rainy season. Cultivating it is labor-intensive, as it must be pollinated by hand (it is in the orchid family). Then the plump green pods are harvested and dried for several weeks before they become the dark, stiff beans that you can buy. Many of us bought vanilla beans or extract, turmeric and cinnamon at the on-site shop. (Add vodka to vanilla beans to make extract; directions are on YouTube.)

Our second lesson on Costa Rica’s crops was at Finca Rosa Blanca, a small (42 acres) coffee plantation near San Jose that grows, washes, dries, roasts and grinds coffee for hotels. All Costa Rican coffee is hand-picked since ripe red berries are on the same stem as green berries. At Finca Rosa Blanca it is organically grown, meaning in the shade of banana plants and mango, pineapple, poro and lime trees. The banana plants and the fruit trees provide shade, and their leaves are composted for the coffee trees. An advantage of having banana plants around is that in the rainy season they suck up water and release it in the dry season. Our guide, Ulises, ripped a piece from a banana plant, rolled it up and squeezed it; huge drops of water fell out.

A side benefit of the variety of trees is that Finca Rosa Blanca is a stopover or home for many birds; we saw a Montezuma oropendula in a poro tree. The website has a list of 103 birds seen there and some of their photos and calls.

Growing in the shade is important for coffee trees because there they grow more slowly than in the sun and have time to pull more nutrients from the soil. The shells get harder, so that they are better for roasting. The trees we saw produce berries at two years and can live for 50 or 60. In contrast, Ulises said scornfully, Brazilian trees are in the sun, need fertilizers and do not live as long as Costa Rican trees. (As Beth Erwin of Collinston said, “live fast, die young.”)

Each coffee berry has two beans and mucilage around them that must be washed off, an eight-hour process. The beans dry on outdoor tables for
several days, until they are only 10 to 12 percent water, so they do not burst during roasting. A machine sorts them, and then they are roasted for 50 to 60 minutes at 400 to 500 degrees F; length of that period determines whether they are dark or medium roast.

Both Villa Vanilla and Finca Rosa Blanca offer tours, and the latter also has a restaurant and boutique hotel. More information is at www.fincarosablanca.com and www.rainforestspices.com.

NGC Executive Committee Tour of Jean Lafitte, Louisiana
By Joe and Cindy Baucum

During the National Garden Clubs Winter Executive Board Meeting in New Orleans (January 21 and 22), Better Swamps and Garden Club (BS&GC) hosted the ladies (and a few husbands) --- 27 folks total --- to a tour of the Town of Jean Lafitte and its wetlands environment. Led by BS&GC President Joe Baucum and Treasurer Cindy Baucum, the bus trip highlighted several NGC projects and programs: Blue Star Memorial Markers, Live Oak Society arboreal members, school gardens, municipal reforestation projects, Greening the Gulf Coast (Katrina Recovery) Awards --- but mostly focused on coastal preservation and restoration. The group was given a running commentary on storm levee protection, man’s impact on the environment, the natural causes of land subsidence and erosion, the crucial economics yet the negative aspects of oil and gas exploration, and related subjects.

At the Jean Lafitte Tourism Center, the visitors enjoyed a continental breakfast, observed the mechanized marionettes tell the story of the Privateer Jean Lafitte and toured the community garden sponsored and maintained by the local garden club. Arriving at the Leo Kerner Multipurpose Center in the town, the group enjoyed a cultural film featuring the lives of the historic settlers of the area, walked through the wildlife and fisheries museum, and trooped along the mile-long raised boardwalk through a cypress swamp. Lunch was a treat at Restaurant des Familles, where one eats wonderful New Orleans-style food and observes nature through the large windows opening onto Bayou des Familles. After lunch, the bus ride stopped briefly at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, saw a matched pair of Blue Star Memorial Markers in the town of Westwego, observed a recent municipal planting of forty-two Live Oak Trees, and enjoyed the sights of St Charles Avenue on the way back to the event hotel. All participants appeared blissfully tired, somewhat sleepy, but enamored by the experience. On the subject of wetlands preservation and coastal restoration, each person seemed to understand more fully that Choices Matter and Make a World of Difference!
**Book Review**

By Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair

*The Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World’s Grandest Garden*

by Alain Baraton  
Translation Copyright 2014 Christopher Brent Murray  
Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.  
290 pages  
Available at Amazon $18.45

Reading gardening books and seed catalogues is one thing, but getting into the minds of those who are in tune with the earth, and passionate about gardening and good stewardship, is a completely different kind of inspiration!

In this captivating and entertaining memoir, we learn from a man who has spent his life tending one of the world’s most famous gardens. He pays tribute to the gardeners who came before him, the artists who captured moments of time in the gardens, and the forces of man and nature alike that have shaped the land into what it is today. Baraton’s own experiences, combined with written history, provide us with a window into the lives of not only the monarchs and royal families of France, but of the impact Versailles has had on history.

The creation of the Palace and Gardens of Versailles were the dream of King Louis XIV, who had no small impact on the American colonies, particularly our own beloved Louisiana.

This is a very enjoyable read; “A love letter to the Versailles Palace and gardens, from the man who knows them best.”

---

**LGCF’s Future Tours Planned**

By Jan Smith, LGCF Tour Chair

This year our first trip will be to view the beautiful mansions and gardens of a gilded era of our past preserved for us in Newport, Rhode Island. The trip is September 4-10, 2014 and I plan to take the first 24 people that sign up. All inclusive price of $3000. $1500 deposit by June 1.

We will fly out of Monroe or New Orleans into Providence and stay at the Hotel Viking (www.hotelviking.com) for the week. Our transportation will be provided by Viking tours throughout the week. A detailed itinerary may be found at http://www.lgcfinc.org/tours.html.

Please email me at lagardenclubtours@gmail.com to reserve your spot on this tour.

In May of 2015, we will travel to the Northern CA coast to see the rugged beauty of the Mendocino County. Mendocino County — Mendocino County — Mendocino County Home www.co.mendocino.ca.us/
Famous nurseries such as Digging Dog, and Flowers by the Sea will fit nicely with trips to the Navarro Winery and cheese tasting, organic restaurants, the Avenue of Giants in the Humboldt Redwood State Park, and Fort Bragg Botanical Gardens. We will also see the Point Arena light-house. The fun of being together with new friends will be the added bonus of this wonderful trip. Husbands and friends welcome. This all-inclusive trip is estimated to be $2500. Final cost pending as I hear back from transportation and hotels. Exact trip dates will be published later.

Sign up by January 1 with your $1200 deposit to LA Garden Club Tours, c/o Jan Smith, 138 Jackson Lane Gilbert, LA 71336. Please include a copy of your driver’s license and your preference of flight: out of New Orleans or out of Monroe.

EAGLES IN SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
By Coleen Perilloux Landry

For many years the eagle population in the United States and particularly in southern Louisiana had declined almost to the point of extinction because of pesticides and the lack of control of other chemicals that caused eagles' egg to deteriorate and not hatch. Since DDT was banned there is a hopeful come back of the eagles.

One pair has been nesting in St. Charles Parish for more than ten years now. They migrate to Canada in June and return in late September to their same nest. In 2012, Hurricane Isaac destroyed the tree and their one ton nest and they built a new one in a cypress tree just yards away. The eggs are laid in late November and usually hatched between Christmas and New Year's Day. Also, noted this year is the return of some of their "children", who, when old enough, will also find a mate and nest and reproduce in southeast Louisiana.

The parents, thought to be about 18 years old, stay close by the nest to keep predators from harming their eaglets.

Shown at right, the Mother eagle flies into the nest with a nutria for lunch. Shown below, the Mother eagle protects her nest as her eaglets grow.
LGCF Gardening Study School

Pictured above are attendees at the Gardening Study School Course I held in Lafayette under the watchful eye of Roxanna Champagne and the Lafayette Garden Club. This was informative, fun, and given with true Louisiana hospitality!

Garden Study School Course 2 will be held August 19th and 20th, 2014 at the Ira Nelson Center in Lafayette. For more information see http://www.lgcfinc.org/gardening-study-school.html

LGCF Flower Show School

Flower Show Judges School Course I at Longue Vue House and Gardens, New Orleans. Course II will be held March 31, April 1st with testing on April 2nd. This course will be held in the Botanical Garden of New Orleans. We are trying to bring you to the most beautiful gardens in New Orleans as well as have outstanding instructors. Please mark your calendars and come and enjoy your days here. Pictured from left to right are Harriet Charles, Secretary; Carrie Martin, New Orleans Council President School Co-Chair; and Carla Gautier, LGCF Judges Council President. Course III is planned for September 24 and 25 at Lafreniere Park. See you in the gardens!!

For more information see http://www.lgcfinc.org/flower-show-school.html
Live Oak Society News
Coleen Perilloux Landry of Acres of Green Garden Club and chairman of the Live Oak Society delivered her Power Point Presentation on "The Beauty of the Wetlands and our Need to Preserve Them" to two large AARP chapters in Metairie and to the East Jefferson General Hospital Auxiliary recently. The photos used in the presentation were taken by her in the wetlands of southeast Louisiana and she has spoken to more than 1500 people in organizations in the past 10 months.

Pictured from left are Lorraine Cucchiara, president of East Jefferson General Hospital Auxiliary and a member of Chateau Estates Garden Club, Mrs. Landry, and Katherine Landry, president-elect of the Hospital’s Auxiliary.

Designs of the LGCF 2014 Convention
District I


District I and II members decorating Celebration in the Oaks, New Orleans

Decorating the Carousel

Taking a break from decorating

Districts I and II celebrate finishing decorating Celebration in the Oaks, City Park, New Orleans.

(Pictures submitted by Mary Ellen Miller)
District II

Mrs. Mary Jacobs, past president of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, hosted the ladies of Acres of Green Garden Club of Metairie at her home in Chateau Estates in Kenner in February. The program "Backyard Gardening" was modified slightly because of inclimate weather of 37 degrees temperature and rain. Mrs. Jacobs spoke on her interest in gardening and how it came to be. Her beautiful gardens were viewed from upstairs windows. Lunch was prepared by a committee of Acres of Green and a delicious pumpkin/andouille soup was cooked and delivered by Mrs. Mary Crumb of Chateau Estates Garden Club.

December was fun! A most enjoyable JPCGC Christmas Tea hosted by Debbie Corales and Mary Jacobs, along with other ladies, had us bringing our own special Tea Cup and filling the crowd in on why that Tea Cup was so memorable to us. Answers were both funny and heart warming. Great idea Ladies!

Rambling Rose Gardeners got together for our Christmas Party that our Chairman, Billie Massa, always flawlessly organizes. It was at Chateau Country Club which we were served delicious food and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Making the Mr. Bingle wreath for the New Orleans City Park Christmas in the Oaks to be displayed in the Carousel, whose theme was Mr. Bingle Reads Fairy Tales to the Royal Baby, added merriment to December. Rambling Rose Gardeners, Daria Vincent, President and Betty Gibbs, Vice-President, after much collaboration, came up with the theme "Jack Jumped Over The Candlestick" , pictured on right. A very simple wreath, but it conveyed the message and afforded Rambling Rose Gardeners to participate in the event. We both went to decorate under the Tent at City Park also.

Angie Cole and Lynne Cashio hosted our January Meeting with a delicious catered menu of Chinese Food. Angie made a mouth watering cake.

A most rewarding part of the meeting was listening to Mary Hazen’s informative, descriptive life cycle of the Butterfly which consists of four parts: egg, larva, pupa and adult (see picture at left, which also includes Billie Massa and Curtis Perez). Mary also spoke about the migration of Butterflies. They migrate over long distances. Particularly famous migrations are those of the Monarch Butterfly from Mexico to northern USA and southern Canada, a distance of about 2500-3000 miles. Butterflies have been shown to navigate using time compensated sun compasses.

Mary Hazen also spoke about PLANT IT PINK in support of Breast Cancer. All of the ladies had something pink on as encouragement. Whether a pink feathered boa, headband, or our clothing depicting the color of pink,
Deeds & Doings

we were all very PRETTY IN PINK. Remember to plant a lot of pink flowering plants in your garden such as pentas, lantanas, hibiscus, periwinkle, etc.. Also, Mary is organizing an event scheduled in April 2014 at New Orleans City Park featuring PLANT PINK. Stay tuned for more info at the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. meetings.

Pictured on the right is Little Shadows Junior Garden Club sponsored by Shady Oaks Garden Club, Dist II. They are pictured admiring the garden in front of their school that they planted and maintained.

District III

The beautiful, seasonally decorated Alumni House of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, was the setting for Lafayette Garden Club members and guests afternoon Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 11. New Club President Cynthia Risinger recognized Suzanne Ambler for her 38 years of service with Lafayette Garden Club (photo on right), and President Risinger introduced Claire Moody, 2013 honoree for Louisiana Garden Club Federation’s Circle of Roses, and presented Claire a bouquet of red roses in commemoration of her many contributions and tenure as a former Lafayette Garden Club President and Membership Chair. Roxanna Champagne, Membership Chairman, introduced new Lafayette Garden Club members being honored at the Tea: Sandra Ellender, Dean Kopfler, Emily Bailey, Eleanor Henry, Ruby Armbruster, Rachel Babino, Loraine Allain and Manda Harson. A donation of $200 from the Christmas Tea Silver Bowl collection at the Tea, has been presented to Hearts of Hope, a child’s advocacy center.

Gretchen Stewart, Chair of Lafayette Garden Club’s Arbor Day Committee, welcomed everyone and introduced Joey Durel, City-Parish President of Lafayette Consolidated Government. Durel, who greeted the attendees, stated he was glad to see so many tree huggers at this event. Ms. Stewart then introduced Cynthia Risinger, Lafayette Garden Club President, who noted that we’re making Lafayette’s more beautiful one tree at a time; Tom Carroll, Director of Public Works; and Heather Warner-Finley, President of Trees Acadiana. In the photo below, Lafayette Garden Club members attending the Arbor Day celebration, pose with City-Parish President Joey Durel.

Family members of deceased Lafayette Garden Club members or a spouse, attending the Arbor Day event, are shown at the ceremonial live oak tree planting at the Park in the photo on the left.

A Seminar on Aquatic ecosystems “Get Smart About Water,” cosponsored by the Lafayette Garden Club and the League of Women Voters, was held on Saturday, February 8, at Lafayette Regional Library. This Seminar focused on water quality, landscape features and guidelines to address water issues. Babette Werner, Co-Chair of Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems, commented on the interest and good turnout for this water forum.

The February Lafayette Garden Club meeting’s program was “Amazing Gourds by Margaret Brinkhaus.” Margaret, shown in the photo on the right, displayed her artistic craftsmanship in designing gourds and treasures found in nature to create purses, vases, bowls, baskets and kaleidoscopes. She also explained how, when and where to plant gourds for effective growth. Mrs. Brinkhaus, a member of numerous guilds and associations, is now serving on the Board of the Louisiana Crafts Guild, has a jelly business, and is an owner/operator of La Caboose Bed & Breakfast in Sunset.

Manda Harson, Chair of the Memorial and Honorary Gardens announced a Cleanup Day for the Bridge Garden on the ULL campus, set for Thursday, March 13, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. All Memorial and Honorary Gardens Committee members and Youth Horticulture Education/Daisy Scouts Committee members, as well as any other
Deeds & Doings

Lafayette Garden Club members, are invited to don their garden gloves, bring their garden tools for this work day, and help beautify the garden grounds.

Everything’s abuzz about the upcoming Flower Show “A Kaleidoscope of Colors,” at Festival des Fleurs - Garden Show and Sale, to be held at Blackham Coliseum on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13, 2014. All Garden Club members are invited to participate by entering a flower design and/ or a horticulture exhibit, and any interested gardener may enter in the horticulture division. Festival des Fleurs promises to be a great show, with its flower show, A Kaleidoscope of Colors, is chaired by Lafayette Garden Club’s Margaret Hargroder, with Betty Foret and Cecille Revels as Co-Chairs. Entry forms can be obtained by emailing Mhargroder@aol.com.

District VI

Magnolia Forest Garden Club, recently accepted two new members into the club. Pictured on the right is Jane Freeman, Membership Chairman, Charlotte Campbell & Janet Bernard, new members, and Sandy Solar, President.

The Baton Rouge Garden Club members have been very Busy Bees, Pollinating for the Future.

October found us having fun and raising some funds with a card party and tea cohosted with the GFWC Lagniappe Woman’s Club of Baton Rouge. The party included tea at its highest and cut throat game playing. A very fun combination chaired by our Past President, Della Sinclair.

November was very busy, thanks to the inspiration of Jeanette Gatzman, (LGCF President Elect,) who chaired the WIZARD OF OZ, our yearly standard flower show and tea. The designs and interpretations were incredible.

January brought us another opportunity for a fund raiser. Club President Elect Beth Rush put together lunch and a tour of the newest Casino in Baton Rouge, La Berge. Oh the goings on of the rich and famous...

February came upon us very quickly. Our guru of Horticulture Hints, Cindy Moran chaired our Tablescapes event. This year high school students from the LSU Lab School paired their art work with a member who designed a floral interpretation. All proceeds from this event are for the annual scholarship that the Baton Rouge Garden Club gives out each year. Elaine Umphrey chairs the scholarship.

March madness, a longing for spring found the club hosting a Butterfly day, open to the public. Master Gardener Sarah Rayner, was guest speaker. Attendees learned how to build a butterfly garden, which plants were for host and nectar, how to find eggs, and how to protect chrysalis. A butterfly costume contest, plant sale, and seek and find butterfly plants in the attached botanical gardens, rounded the day.

Several Baton Rouge members also served at the State Convention. Planning for the April Small Flower show “All That Glitters Is Not Gold” is well under way...and you are all invited! Friday, April 25, 10:00 am chaired by Della Sinclair. See you!
District VII

The Federated Garden Clubs of Southwest Louisiana held their annual Flower Show in conjunction with the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners’ Conference and Expo. Members from six clubs; Crowley Garden Club, Diggers and Weeders Garden Club, Iowa Garden Club, Lake Charles Garden Club, Sulphur Garden Club, and Welsh Garden Club; participated in the show. The Designers Choice Award was awarded to a small design (8”X8”), shown on the right, by Pam Langley, Diggers and Weeders president.

The Diggers and Weeders Garden Club of Lake Charles celebrated Arbor Day by planting two saucer magnolia trees and a native red maple tree with members of CARC, Calcasieu Association of Retarded Citizens. CARC has recently built 6 new houses in downtown Lake Charles for their residents. The trees were planted in front of two of the houses. Other local businesses have volunteered to plant trees in the yards of the remaining houses.

Center Pieces from the LGCF Convention
Calendar of Events

2014

Mar. 31 – Apr 2  LGCF Flower Show School, New Orleans City Park
April 12 - 14  DS Region Convention - Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, St Petersburg FL
April 30 - May 3  NGC Convention - Norman OK
June 1  Newsletter Deadline
June 1  Scholarship Applications Due
June 3-6  Environmental Studies School, Series III, Courses III & IV, Jean Lafitte, LA
June 1-7  National Garden Week
July 21-22  LGCF Summer Board, Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge
August 19-20  LGCF Gardening Study Course, Ira Nelson Center, Lafayette, LA
September 1  Newsletter Deadline
September 24 - 28  NGC Fall Board Meeting - Des Moines IA
October  LGCF Fall District Meetings
  9  District I & II
  14  District III
  15  District VII
  16  District VIII
  28  District V
  30  District VI
October 31  Deadline - Yearbooks - sent to YrBk Awards Chairman
November 1  Awards in hands of proper awards chairman by Dec 1
December 1  Newsletter Deadline
December 1  LGCF Awards Deadline for ALL LGCF awards except where noted in awards.

2015

January 19-20  LGCF Executive Council Meeting, Headquarters House, Lecompte
March 1  Newsletter Deadline
March 10  Report of Expenditures due to LGCF Treasurer (Officers & Chairmen)
March TBD  DS Region Convention, Birmingham AL
April 21  Pre-Convention Tour - Lake Charles
April 22 - 23  LGCF Convention - Lake Charles LA
May 11 - 18  NGC Convention - Louisville KY
TBD  NGC Fall Board Meeting - St. Louis MO
June 1  Scholarship Applications Due