

*October 2021*

# LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC. NEWSLETTER



*Plant Louisiana—Practice Sustainable Gardening*

# THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

## Newsletter

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

*"Plant Louisiana—Practice Sustainable Gardening"*



VOLUME LXXII

October 2021

NO 2

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**On Our Cover:** The beautiful artwork on our cover was sent in by Pam Langley. It is a watercolor painting of some sunflowers that she did during the Pandemic shut down. Pam is a member of the Diggers and Weeders Garden Club of Lake Charles and is currently serving as the District Director of LGCF District VII.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE WINTER ISSUE, JANUARY 2022, IS DECEMBER 1, 2021 AND SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR.** We welcome drawings, paintings, or photos for the cover of the Newsletter.

Please email all information for this issue to [lgcfnews@gmail.com](mailto:lgcfnews@gmail.com)

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

# President's Message



*Plant Louisiana—Practice  
Sustainable Gardening*

*“Autumn is the time of year when Mother Nature says, ‘Look how easy, how healthy, and how beautiful letting go can be.’”  
— Toni Sorenson*

Fall is here and I am looking forward to cooler temperatures and the District Fall Meetings. Traveling throughout the state and getting to visit with members in their “territory” is a delight. Every district is unique and special, making these meetings fun and educational. I hope to see you at your District Meetings. Hopefully the COVID surge has reached its peak before our Fall Meetings.

NGC is undergoing numerous changes. The website has been revamped, incorporating innovative features. Members are able to participate in NGC President Mary Warshauer’s theme “Plant America-Play Outside” by discovering the Play Outside Activity Log that you can share with your children or grandchildren. NGC is promoting the concept that we spend more time outdoors as outdoor activities improve health and happiness for adults and children. A free printable *Play Outside Workbook* is on the home page. The workbook has coloring pages for old and young as well as suggested activities and a playtime log. The link to the workbook is:

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/play-outside-booklet.pdf>

Each week there is a new blog on the NGC Homepage with varied topics submitted by NGC officers, chairmen, state presidents, etc. The topics range from environmental concerns, pollinators, health and wellness, gardening, human interest stories, landscape design, wildlife, endangered species, floral design, leadership, youth, etc. There is something to interest every NGC member. I recommend that you visit the website and read the blogs that interest you.

The Plant America Grants has a fillable PDF form on the NGC website which must be used to apply for the grant. Deadline to register is October 15, 2021. Up to \$1,000.00 is made available to be used for direct expenses of projects.

NGC First Vice-President Brenda Moore has written a new children's book, *Network with Nature*. The book is for children in grades K-5, but the book's lessons apply to all ages. This story tells of Grandparents who help their visiting grandson learn to put down and set aside his electronic devices. In doing so he learns the joy of discovering nature and playing outdoors.

I have initiated a project called "Quarters for Waters." As I travel around the state you will see me with a blue jug to collect those quarters, I'll take dollars also! What is this project all about? NGC has partnered with Global Partners Running Waters, Inc., a nonprofit organization working with the United Nations to increase access to safe water in Latin America. My project for the next two years will be to collect monetary donations from LGCF members for this worthy cause. At the end of my term, all donations will be sent to NGC as a gift from LGCF. More information on Running Waters is posted on the LGCF website under the PROJECTS tab, look for "Quarters for Waters."

For my theme I have chosen, "Plant Louisiana—Practice Sustainable Gardening." The first time I heard the word "sustainable" was at a Landscape Design School in Baton Rouge. I had no clue how that related to landscaping. Fast-forward and now it has become a buzz word for "doing no harm" and preserving and protecting our natural resources. Sustainable gardening is forward thinking and gardening not only for now, but making things better than when you found them. You work with nature, not against it.

Exactly how do we go about making our gardens sustainable? There are many practices we can incorporate as we tend to our gardens and landscapes. You will note that these practices are interrelated and result in multiple benefits.

### ***Plant Selection***

Use native plants as they have adapted to the local climate and soil conditions where they naturally occur. They support pollinators and other wildlife of the area. A contributing factor to their sustainability is that they require less watering and fertilization than non-natives.

### ***Plant Trees***

Trees purify the air by removing carbon from the atmosphere. They can keep your home cooler in the summer and let the winter sun in, if they are deciduous. Trees along waterways hold soil in place and reduce polluted runoff into those waterways. Trees provide a home for birds and insects, especially if they are native trees.

### ***Conserve Water***

Utilize rain barrels, rain chains and collection systems to provide water for plantings. When using rainwater, you are not drawing down on our natural reservoirs by using municipal water for plants. Drip irrigation is a very efficient way to water plants as the water

is applied directly to the root zone and there is less evaporation. Water in the morning when there is less evaporation and supply plants with water to make it through the day.

### ***Limit Use of Herbicides or Pesticides***

Herbicides can contaminate our surface water and ground water. Applying insecticides indiscriminately can affect beneficial insects. Search for natural, organic options.

### ***Limit the use of Fertilizer***

Use fertilizer with discretion. Whatever fertilizer the plant cannot absorb can leach into groundwater and runoff into watersheds.

### ***Mulching***

Use of mulch helps to retain moisture in the soil, prevents erosion, moderates the temperature of the soil and keeps weeds down. As mulch decomposes it adds nutrients to the soil. Pine straw mulch is one of the best mulches to use as it is a renewable resource.

### ***Composting***

Composting yard and garden wastes in addition to raw organic kitchen scraps means less material going to the landfill and more organic material for your soil.

### ***Save Seeds***

By saving seeds from plants that did well in one season you'll be sure to have another successful season the following year. Start with easy seeds to save: peas, beans, peppers, tomatoes, and dried flower heads.

### ***Garden Design***

Consider light and water requirements when placing new plants. Place shade loving plants under taller sun loving plants. Plant drought tolerant plants in areas that get the least amount of water and water-loving plants in areas that collect moisture.

I am sure many of you are already incorporating these practices, making your garden sustainable!

I encourage LGCF chairmen and members to submit reports to the newsletter for publication. If your club has completed a special project, we want to hear about it. Your project just might inspire another garden club to initiate a new project.

*Loyanna*



American Beautyberry  
*Callicarpa americana*,

This Louisiana native plant is a woody, deciduous, perennial shrub that produces showy purple fruits in the fall.



## Editor's Corner

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I had my first hurricane experience since moving to Louisiana in dealing with Hurricane Ida and all it entailed from evacuation, power outages, and returning home to find roof and interior damage. But I consider myself fortunate in that I was able to evacuate and had far less loss than many other families.

There is much to look forward to in October like cooler weather and, of course, our District Meetings. You will find the dates for the meetings in the calendar section of this newsletter (last page), along with links to your district's invitation and registration form. I encourage you to attend to familiarize yourself with the other clubs in your area and meet some of their members.

There are several articles in this issue that support native habitats and inspire us to see the value in "planting native." This aligns well with President Roxanna Champagne's theme: *Plant Louisiana—Practice Sustainable Gardening*.

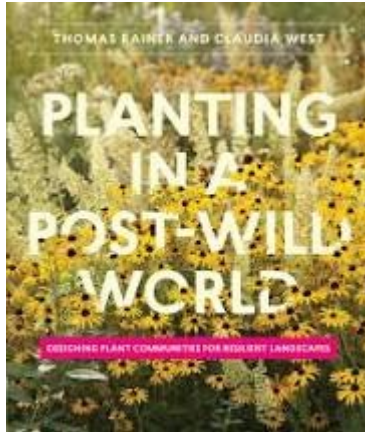
Please continue to send in your pictures, articles, and any information you would like to share.

Wishing you a healthy and happy Fall.

*Donna Cline*

## Book Review

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### Planting in a Post-Wild World

By Thomas Rainer and Claudia West

Timber Press, Portland, Oregon 2015

255 Pages

ISBN: 9781604695533

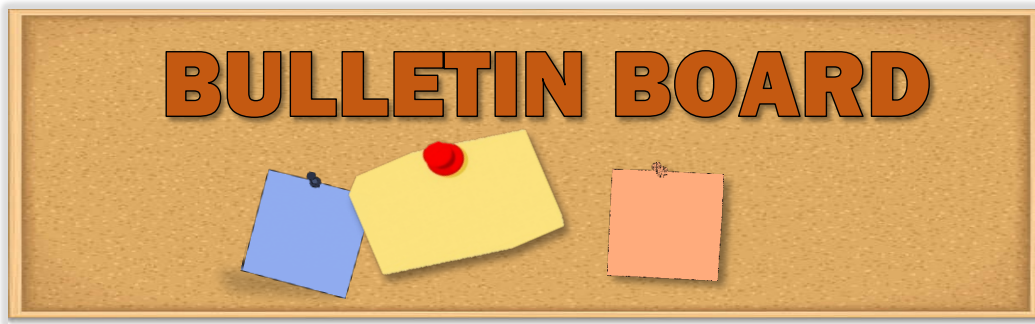
Natives, anyone?

As the author states upfront, there is “No Going Back” to the pristine Eden that the natural Earth once was.

But all is not lost. This book is far from a lighthearted look at going back to the basics. More, it is the introduction of a thought process about how the natural world was arranged, and how it flourished without human hands; and how we should not focus on mourning what is no more, but using our time and energy to design and create resilient “plant communities.” It’s not so much about WHAT to plant, but HOW to plant. And this thought process is a bridge between purely native plantings and what exotics actually adapt or perform well, without much tending, because we have indeed irrevocably changed our natural landscape.

Within a large rural space or a tight urban spot, we can recreate the lush abundance of nature that our spirits long for.

Submitted by Sissy Gall, LGCF Book Review Chair



## ARE YOU AN LGCF LIFE MEMBER?

Take the guesswork out of trying to find the perfect gift for that special someone that lasts a lifetime. There are Life Membership programs at all levels of Garden Clubs— NGC, Deep South and LGCF, Inc. These programs raise money for scholarships given at each level. In Louisiana, the donation to join the program is \$100.00 and your Life Membership pin and card are included.

Many clubs give a life membership to a member as a gift or to honor them. However, a club member may choose to purchase a membership for themselves. This tax-deductible purchase shows your interest and devotion to the ideals and high standards of LGCF, Inc. Life Members at all levels are recognized at State Conventions and Fall Meetings. There is a benefit for your club as it gets to keep more of your dues. Currently LGCF dues are \$5.50 but you only send \$1.00 for life members to cover NGC dues.

There are currently over 475 names on the alphabetical master list of members and names will never be removed. This list has last name, first name, LM#, garden club and district number. If you wish to become a member or give a membership to honor someone else, complete the Life Membership Application and mail to **Linda Brashier, Chairman**, along with your check payable to LGCF, Inc. If you have any questions, please email me at [940frame@gmail.com](mailto:940frame@gmail.com).



Plumeria

*Photo by Margaret  
Melanson, Azalea Garden  
Club, District III*



# Louisiana Garden Club Federation Tours

## LGCF TOUR OF TULIPS

Spring - 2022 (April 10 to 19) 10 days

(REMINDER: EASTER IS  
APRIL 17, 2022)



1. Travel to Holland for the prime Tulip time!
2. Fly into Amsterdam from your airport to Atlanta and over. (Hope Groups Tickets purchased!!??) \*
3. Stay in Utrecht City Center. (**Hampton Inn by Hilton**)
4. Local Guides and transportation will be provided for our customized, private trips. (Tips included)
5. Use of “whispers,” (individual earphones where you can hear the guide at all times).
6. Tour Amsterdam, take private canal ride, visit museums, etc. (**Will have opportunity to visit Anne Frank House**) (\$24 per ticket) \*\*
7. Visit Tulip farm and Kurkenhof Gardens.

8. Visit interesting cities and sites near Utrecht on day trips (Delft, Gouda, Kinderdijk (canal ride), The Hague, Giethoorn, palaces and gardens, museums, national park and Brugge, Belgium).
9. Tour Utrecht and take small, private canal ride from Utrecht.
10. **Newly added** the Floriade, every-10-years "World's Fair of Horticulture."
11. Can purchase trip cancellation insurance options as an extra.  
(Cancellation Any Reason and/or Pre-existing Condition - Insurance has to be purchased when deposit is placed on the trip) \*\*\*

**MINIMUM: 24 PERSONS at this price (and we have only 18)**

**RESERVATIONS: By October 5, 2021**

**DEPOSIT: By October 15, 2021 — \$300 per person (\$100 not refundable)**

**ALL ESTIMATES!! PRICE IS PER PERSON BASED ON TWO TO A ROOM  
(2022 increase 5%??)**

**YOU MUST HAVE A VALID PASSPORT — AS OF NOW-YOU MUST HAVE A  
VACCINATION**

**ESTIMATED TOTAL: \$5500 to \$5900 including estimated Air fares\* +  
Insurance \*\*\***

**Includes:** Flights (\$2000\*), transfers, transportation, all tours and entrance fees and tips. Breakfasts and some meals- (8 lunches, 3 dinners, 8 snacks and 1 reception).

**\*Estimated cost of air fare.** Will secure flights after **OCTOBER 15, 2021.**  
Prices are estimates so will owe for tickets when booked- based on the \$2000 estimate. (May make your own arrangements if you have points??)

**Extra expenses:** Evening meals (5), drinks, wine/liquor, shopping and possibly luggage fees.

**\*\*Possibly Anne Frank Tickets and**

**\*\*\*Insurance (Estimation —\$500 to \$750 pp??)**

**Timetable and payment schedule to be provided when you sign up for the trip!**

**Checks payable to: Cordill Enterprises, Inc.**

**Send to: Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman**  
**156 Botany Bay Road, Saint Joseph, LA 71366**  
**318-498-0094 [lgcftours@aol.com](mailto:lgcftours@aol.com)**

**SOLD OUT**

**TOUR TO PASSION PLAY IN OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY**  
**Visit Munich, Vienna and More**  
**June 12, 2022**



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**THE BILTMORE, FALL COLORS AND CHRISTMAS**  
**(Biltmore, Blue Ridge Mountains, Gibbs Gardens,**  
**Callaway Gardens)**  
**November 11-15, 2022**

This is a wonderful tour that will offer us the chance to see beautiful scenery, not normally seen in Louisiana! Returning home on **November 15** allows you plenty of time before Thanksgiving, which will be late November 24, 2022.

Travel to Atlanta via Delta and travel vans or bus to Biltmore, Ashville NC (about a 4-hour drive).



1. Tour the Biltmore and Gardens (spend 2 nights).
2. Travel Blue Ridge Parkway and then travel to Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground, GA (3 hours). Gibbs Gardens is a place of beauty near Atlanta. In the mountains of North Georgia, this is a world-class destination garden just waiting to be discovered.
3. Tour Gardens (spend 1 night).
4. Travel to Callaway Gardens about an hour south of the airport. Tour upon arrival and dinner.
5. Breakfast and travel to airport and then home early evening.

Will view the Fall colors; as well as having the Biltmore and Biltmore Village decorated for Christmas!!!

**ESTIMATED TOTALS:** \$1,250 to \$1,500. (All are estimates, as prices are not confirmed since Covid nor for 2022!)

**Extra expenses:** Food, drinks

**We must have 12, 24 or 40 persons to make the vans or bus work out!  
And the more we have, the better chance for "group tickets" for Delta!**

**Naomi Cordill, Tours Chairman**  
**156 Botany Bay Road, Saint Joseph, LA 71366**  
**318-498-0094**  
[lgcftours@aol.com](mailto:lgcftours@aol.com)



## TERREBONNE GARDEN CLUB

### THE FUNERAL THEY NEVER HAD

On the morning of May 29, 2021, there was a certain air circulating around Jim Bowie Park in Terrebonne Parish. For a usually quiet, peaceful place, the hum of voices, the shuffling of feet, and music filled the customary silence. Yes, the Presentation of Colors, the 21-gun salute, the speeches, the tears filled the normal solitude of the park. For on this day a Gold Star Marker was dedicated in honor of all who have lost their lives defending freedom. Seventy-five years after WWII, finally there was closure for some Gold Star Families and the ninety Terrebonne men who lost their lives in that war. And some said it was the funeral they never had. The Terrebonne Garden Club is proud to have been the catalyst in that project. Many thanks to Linda Brashier for her research, dedication, and hard work for initiating this historic event. Also, much gratitude to Mary Jane Peters for propelling the Gold Star Committee into action.



Members of Terrebonne Garden Club and other LGCF clubs. Attending were the current LGCF President Roxanna Champagne and three past Presidents, Donna Bucci, Linda Finley and Lena Bateman.



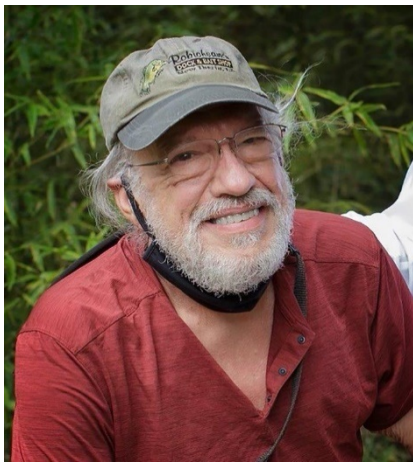
## **CAROLINE DORMON AWARD WINNER**

### **WILLIAM “BILL” FONTENOT**

LGCF Master Naturalist Liaison Barbara Morris gave the following report at the 2021 LGCF Summer Board Meeting. \*

Barbara is president of the Southwest Chapter of Master Naturalists.

District VII Director Pam Langley is a Board Member of the Southwest Chapter.



The Louisiana Master Naturalists presents the Caroline Dormon Award each year to recognize someone who has made a significant impact on preserving our natural environment. The Caroline Dormon Outstanding Louisiana Naturalist Award 2021 was presented to William R. “Bill” Fontenot at a Zoom assembly on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Bob Thomas, president of the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association. The statewide award is made annually

by the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association. Fontenot was nominated for the award by the Acadiana Chapter of LMNA.

In 1986 Fontenot began his career with Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government, working first as Curator of Natural Sciences at the Lafayette Natural History Museum, then as manager of the Acadiana Park Nature Station. He has dedicated his career in biology to restoring ecological integrity to land, from the smallest urban gardens to the largest wildlife management areas. As a local columnist, for over two decades he helped educate the public about our natural heritage.

Since 1987 Fontenot has operated his own wildlife management design, and ecological restoration consulting business, specializing in ecological assessment, biological inventory, land-use planning, and wildlife-friendly native plant-oriented landscape planning. His consulting work has taken him to hundreds of sites throughout the midwestern and eastern U.S., serving wildlife management and conservation agencies, landscape designers, community planners, ecotourism

interests, and private landowners. His workbook “Native Gardening in the South” is a resource for landscaping your yard with native plants.

Bill lives in the Lafayette area and is a member of the Acadiana Master Naturalists. He is also active in the Louisiana Native Plant Society. Bill would be a wonderful speaker for your garden club or even a District Meeting. Email Bill at [natrldlite@cox.net](mailto:natrldlite@cox.net).

The Louisiana Master Naturalist Association founded the Outstanding Louisiana Naturalist Award as a tribute to the legacy of Caroline Dormon and to recognize people who personify her commitment to conserving and appreciating the rich biodiversity of Louisiana. Fontenot is the fourth recipient of the award.

The Louisiana Master Naturalists are looking every year for someone in Louisiana who may be a candidate for the Caroline Dormon Award. If you have a suggestion, please send the person’s name and information to Barbara Morris, LGCF Liaison to the Louisiana Master Naturalists.

*\*Most of the information regarding Bill Fontenot was obtained from the Louisiana Master Naturalist Association’s website [www.louisianamasternaturalists.org](http://www.louisianamasternaturalists.org)*



Sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*

*Photo by Margaret Melanson,  
Azalea Garden Club, District III*

*This past July, I opened my Louisiana Native Plant Society Newsletter and was delighted to see an article by Linda Barber Auld. Linda was the 2019 LGCF Award of Commendation recipient. This award is given to an individual, organization or institution, not affiliated with LGCF for outstanding work in the field of horticulture, conservation or furtherance of other Garden Club objectives. Linda was to be recognized and presented with a plaque at the 2019 Convention. As we all know, COVID-19 caused the convention to be cancelled. Linda will be recognized at the 2022 Convention in Baton Rouge at the Wednesday evening Awards Banquet. I contacted Linda and asked for permission to publish her article in our newsletter. She responded that she was pleased to have her article in the LGCF Newsletter.*

*Enjoy,  
Roxanna Champagne*

## THE NEW LOUISIANA CERTIFIED HABITAT PROGRAM

by Linda Barber Auld, NOLA BugLady

In January 2016, I purchased a new location for my three-generation old family business, Barber Laboratories, at 6444 Jefferson Highway in Harahan. At that time, the front garden consisted of St. Augustine grass, boxwood hedges and non-native azaleas. I knew that a big change must happen! In the last four years, I've planted with a purpose, transforming this space into a wildlife-friendly garden consisting of a combination of native and non-native annuals and perennials. Each side flower bed covers about 120 square feet and is packed with an assortment of caterpillar host plants and butterfly nectar plants mixed with some human eye-candy. This little oasis has attracted a wide variety of butterflies, moths, bees, and wasps. Since I began adding more native plants, I have noticed an influx of more native bees that I've



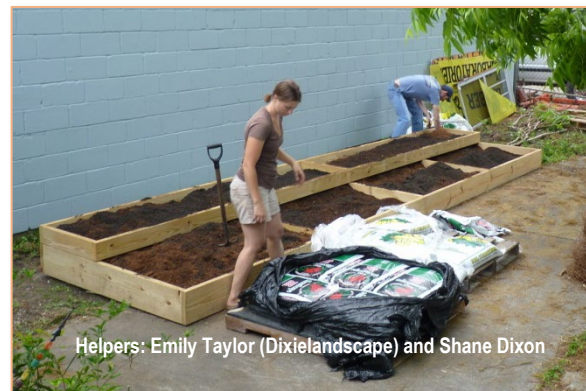
**"Before: Grass, boxwood and azaleas"... and**



**"After: Four years of planting the garden invitation!"**

never seen before! "Plant it and they will come " really is true and really does work. The native plants are more disease resistant plus most have a deep tap root and are more drought tolerant. The annuals re-seed and the perennials sprout new leaves after a cold winter. Sometimes I plant native and non-native next to each other just as an experiment to see which plants the pollinators will choose. I also like to show folks that native plants can easily be added and blend-in well with non-natives in existing gardens. Through my last forty-three years of raising butterflies, my plant buying and usage has definitely changed, selecting more native than non-native simply because our native insects recognize these plants as "real food."

I display my live caterpillars and butterflies inside my store to show folks how bugs can be interesting and fun to study. Having the plants growing at the office helps provide flowers for the butterflies and host plant foods for the many caterpillars I tend every day. Folks enjoy looking at the colorful flowers and the array of insects visiting their fuel stop. Two-spotted long-horned bees and honey bees are regularly seen visiting the penstemon, purple coneflowers, stokesia, baptisia, blue lobelia, monarda, mistflower, ironweed, slender mountain mint, garden phlox, red lobelia, rudbeckia, and the big-leaf mountain mint. In the front gardens, partridge pea (for sulphur butterflies) plus both aquatic and swamp milkweeds (for monarchs) are the caterpillar host plants available for the little munchkins.



***"Create the oasis in the sea of St. Augustine grass and concrete"***





The backyard was all concreted with a spirea and a lantana at the base of a huge pecan tree. My son constructed a raised bed frame so that I could create the backyard butterfly haven. I used an assortment of trees in pots leftover from previous caterpillar rearing that I wanted to finally get into the ground. Many folks don't know that many types of moth and butterfly caterpillars eat specific tree leaves as their diets. Cooking bay (for Palamedes swallowtail), camphor (for spicebush swallowtail), cherry laurel (for cecropia silk moth), cottonwood (for viceroy), elm (for question mark), hackberry (for 4 butterflies: question mark, hackberry emperor, tawny emperor, and snout), maple (for rosy maple moth), pawpaw (for zebra swallowtail), sassafras (for spicebush swallowtail), tulip poplar (for tiger swallowtail), and willow (for viceroy) are all growing together in harmony. Red lobelia, buttonbush, ironweed, garden phlox, and bee balm make a good nectar smorgasbord alongside the coral honeysuckle curling its way up the back corner fence.

I have enjoyed watching ruby-throated hummingbirds nectaring on penstemon flowers, honey bees gathering pollen from hop tree flowers and giant swallowtail caterpillars eating the leaves. A female great southern white butterfly stopped by to lay a clutch of eggs on the cleome. Painted lady, monarch, gulf fritillary, cloudless sulphur, long-tailed skipper, along with many of the swallowtails--black, giant, spicebush, and tiger --have all found refuge in the BugLady's garden oasis.





In 2019 I promoted the use of native plants with my "Geaux Grow Natives" project. You can view the list of plants on my website and buy these plants at my store. The announcement of the new Louisiana Certified Habitat Program piqued my curiosity to know just how many native plants are growing here. I checked out the list and am happy to report that my garden has 100 species and is level GOLD!

[nolabuglady@gmail.com](mailto:nolabuglady@gmail.com)

[www.nolabuglady.com](http://www.nolabuglady.com)

[www.barberlaboratories.com](http://www.barberlaboratories.com)

## LOUISIANA CERTIFIED HABITAT DESIGNATION

**LGCF District VII** Director, Pam Langley, has received the silver level Louisiana Certified Habitat designation for her yard from the Acadiana Native Plant Project. Her gardens surround a hundred-year-old house in Central Lake Charles. The gardens are bursting with life featuring beebalm, blanket flower, Stokes' aster, multiple types of coreopsis, rattlesnake master, gaura, mamou plant, and a myriad of other native tree and flower species. Like many people in Southwest Louisiana, her gardens have been through a lot over the past year and have many new sunny spots where trees fell or were removed. Even after recent storms, freezes, and floods, her gardens are thriving and are a true picture of resilience.

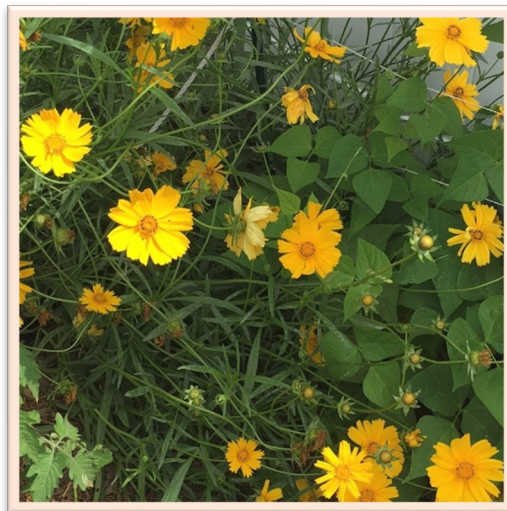


Her plants are sourced from personal wild collections, gifts, society memberships, cultivated sources, rooted plants, and seeds, making for a display that should be the envy of any gardener in the city.

Planting native plants is important for the health of our ecosystem and Pam challenges all members in her district to obtain a Certified Habitat designation for their yards also. Planting natives also promotes our State President Roxanna Champagne's theme of "Plant Louisiana – Practice Sustainable Gardening."

If you are in Southwest Louisiana or Acadiana, visit [www.greauxnative.org/louisiana-certified-habitat-program](http://www.greauxnative.org/louisiana-certified-habitat-program) to download an application or email us at [mail@greauxnative.org](mailto:mail@greauxnative.org). If you are not in Acadiana, visit [lnps.org/louisiana-certified-habitat](http://lnps.org/louisiana-certified-habitat) to link to the general state application or for Southeast Louisiana.

Together we are connecting habitats, one property at a time.



**Coreopsis**

*Photo by Donna Cline,  
Editor*



## SAVE OUR TREE

Saint Martinville's historic landmark **Evangeline Oak** is located in Oak Park at 121 S New Market Street, Saint Martinville, Louisiana. She is registered with the Live Oak Society as Oak # 111. For many years she has been struggling to survive due to the fig ivy vine that was planted underneath her years ago as a ground cover. The club took on this major project for two reasons. The first reason is the majesty of a live oak tree. Oaks are beautiful and strong trees that stand for hundreds of years proudly and are a force to be reckoned with. They withstand hurricanes, floods, droughts and abuse. The second reason is the importance of our history and culture here in our home town. The **Evangeline Oak** tells a story of the first Acadians and a love so strong between Evangeline and Gabriel that began in joy and ends with heart-breaking death. She is referenced to as being the most photographed tree in the world. People come from all over to visit her and just to stand in her presence. Our mission is to give the **Evangeline Oak** every opportunity to survive. We have completed the most critical phases already.



**Phase 1.** Began when we contacted Mr. Stuart Gauthier, County Agent LSU Ag Center and he in turned contacted Mr. Jim Foret, licensed arborist. A plan was outlined and presented to Mayor Melinda Mitchell and the Saint Martinville City Council on December 16, 2019.



**Phase 2.** Project "Save Our Tree" was formed. Paper acorns were sold for \$1.00 each. On June 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, garden club members made the first cut into the fig vine to stop their source of food. As an outreach to the community to bring awareness about the **Evangeline Oak's** plight, the club had a digital and drawing contest with over two hundred 4<sup>th</sup> graders from our local schools in the parish. On October 5, 2020, the winners of the contest were recognized at the City Council meeting. A local florist shop Glenn's Flower Box assisted with a pumpkin patch. They held a pumpkin sale with all proceeds going towards the **Evangeline Oak**. The Live Oak Society under the auspices of Louisiana Garden Club Federation made a contribution to our club and letters were also mailed to local businesses for financial assistance.

**Phase 3.** Bob's Tree Preservation did an aerial inspection of the **Evangeline Oak** on December 18, 2020. Mr. Fred Thibodeaux with Bob's Tree Preservation sent in climber

Danny Bernard. Mr. Bernard inspected the oak thoroughly and their recommendations were:

- Fig vines need to be removed from trunk and canopy. Dig out excess organics in tree cavities, remove large dead and diseased wood and apply bio fungicide to manage against the spread of disease.
- Remove excess soil around the base of tree, remove ivy root below ground and apply herbicides on cut roots.
- Mulch base of tree with organic fertilizer to stimulate tree health.
- Repair lighting protection system.



**Phase 4.** Bob's Tree Preservation submitted a proposal of \$7,650.00 on March 15 ,2021. The garden club went back to Mayor Mitchell and the City Council and requested that they strongly consider the recommendations put before them. The City Council approved the request.

**Phase 5.** With funds that were generated thru Save Our Tree fundraisers and community involvement, the club was able to finance the cost of the arboricultural consulting and the first load of mulch. City of Saint Martinville covered the remaining balance of \$6,500.00. This major task was completed on April 15, 2021, and we are very happy to report that she is showing signs of new growth.

**Phase 6.** The garden club held another fundraiser May 2, 2021, "Dinner with Evangeline." Guests had entertainment from two young musicians playing French music. They also had the opportunity to hear from Mr. Stuart Gauthier, Mr. Jim Foret and Mr. Frank Thibodeaux about the **Evangeline Oak's** journey. Longfellow, Evangeline and Gabriel made an appearance while a few verses of the famous Evangeline poem was recited. Everyone proceeded to our historical Maison Duchamp building for a delicious dinner while the silent movie "Evangeline" played. It was a success and that evening raised \$5,000.00. With these funds two more loads of mulch with organic fertilizer have been ordered and we are waiting for it to be delivered at the cost of \$1,600.00.





**Phase 7.** The **Evangeline Oak** has a daughter tree on the side of her. It has been brought to our attention that she needs to be trimmed back to allow air circulation and to be able to receive more sunlight. We have received the proposal from Bob's Tree Preservation on June 24, 2021 and have accepted the bid. Work should begin at any time. The cost of this phase is \$2,500.00 and due to the club's success with the fundraising, we do have the funds to pay for this. Once we ensure that she is given the proper care we would like to have a new barrier constructed around her.

The garden club members have been active with this mission. We have cut vines, raked up dead debris, and were present when she was blessed by Father Coucou Sounou. Members were instrumental in organizing fundraisers to obtain much needed funds for the work and improvements. City of Saint Martinville has worked alongside the club every step of the way. Stuart Gauthier, Jim Foret and Frank Thibodeaux were instrumental in every aspect of this project. Follow up maintenance will be performed twice yearly by Bob's Tree Preservation. They will be inspecting her overall health, looking for any fig vines that appear and remove the vines. The garden club will watch her closely. Our civic beautification committee will be inspecting her regularly.



Thank you for letting us share our story about the **Evangeline Oak** with you. It has been a very lengthy and expensive task for our club to undertake. If you would like to contribute to her success it would be very much appreciated. Any questions feel free to contact me at [mbeth.talley1959@gmail.com](mailto:mbeth.talley1959@gmail.com). Donations may be mailed to St. Martinville Garden Club, 6882 A Cemetery HWY, St. Martinville, LA 70582. Please make checks payable to St. Martinville Garden Club.

Sincerely,  
Mary T. Desormeaux, President  
St. Martinville Garden Club



## NATIVE TREES FOR USE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Let's face it, most trees are just beautiful. I think I have liked or loved most every tree that I have seen in my lifetime and that is many! Just because a tree is pretty does not mean that it is the right tree for your yard. A native tree would be just the right tree for you to consider.

The state of Louisiana has lost many trees due to hurricanes and other disasters. Many are thinking of trees to replace them. Please think about a native tree. We do have trees that are native to Louisiana and the size goes from small to large. Flowering trees in the small category, to mention a few, are: crabapple, dogwood, flowering plum, fringe tree, mayhaw, snowbell, redbud, silverbell, sparkleberry. Some flowering trees in the medium to large category are: catalpa, honey locus, red maple, sourwood, southern magnolia, sassafras, yellow-poplar, witch hazel, sweetbay magnolia, big leaf magnolia. There are also native trees which do not flower.

Why plant a native tree? Native trees are generally easier to grow and cheaper to maintain. They are well adapted to our climate and soils because they evolved here. They also provide food for our birds and insects. If we want birds, bees, and butterflies we need to plant native. Birds and butterflies have looked to native trees and plants for food and shelter for years. When there are not enough native trees and plants around, these populations can quickly decline. Native trees are so important because they support our local ecosystems. They reduce water usage and they also reduce pollution.

In looking for a native tree to plant you must consider where you are planting it. There are native trees for shade and there are native trees that love sunny areas. When you plant a tree keep enough space between the tree and your house. Another thing to consider is your soil and when to plant. Of course, the best time to have planted was 50 years ago, but we have seen many of these trees destroyed. The next best time is November through February. This will allow the roots of your new tree to become established before our hot dry summer comes. When you take these things into consideration you can be assured of having just the right tree for just the right place. Plant native trees!!!!

Camille Stakes  
Arboriculture/Arbor Day Chairmen



Silverbell, *Halesia diptera*  
Native tree of Louisiana

*Photo by Joan DeMille, President  
Terrytown Garden Club  
District II*

## “DRIFTING FLAMES” CHOSEN TO APPEAR IN NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB’S VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR\*

In the spring of 2021, Frances Pellegrin, a member of the Terrebonne Garden Club, received a letter from the Calendar Committee Chair of NGC. Her design, *Drifting Flames*, was chosen to appear in the “Vision of Beauty” calendar for the 2022 edition of the National Garden Club Engagement Calendar.

The reds of Bromeliad and *Anthurium andreanum* add color contrast to a linear floor design formed by driftwood and palm spathes. The components also add textural contrast to the overall design.

Her floor design won a Designers Choice Award at a show titled “Opening Our Gates Since 1929.” It was held on March 26, 2019 to commemorate the club’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The show was chaired by Mary Jane Peters and Shanna Devens. A luncheon was held for all members and judges.



Design found before September calendar in “Vision of Beauty.”

*\*The Vision of Beauty Calendar is an NGC publication of floral designs from across the globe. Floral designs are submitted for consideration and the best are posted in a weekly calendar format. (From NGC Website)*

# Calendar of Events

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## 2021

October 12, Tuesday	District VIII Fall Meeting <a href="#">INVITATION</a> <b>CHANGE: Send Registration for District VIII to:</b> Anne Dorgant, 396 Pinks Lane, Mansura, LA 71350
October 13, Wednesday	District V Fall Meeting <a href="#">INVITATION</a> - <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a>
October 14, Thursday	District VII Fall Meeting <a href="#">INVITATION</a> - <a href="#">MENU</a>
October 19, Tuesday	District VI Fall Meeting <a href="#">INVITATION</a> - <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a>
October 20, Wednesday	District II Fall Meeting <a href="#">INVITATION</a> - <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a>
October 21, Thursday	District III Fall Meeting <a href="#">INVITATION</a> - <a href="#">REGISTRATION</a>

## 2022

January 10-11	LGCF Winter Council, LeCompte, LA
January 18-19	Symposium (Design)–Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, Lafayette, LA
March 6-9	DSGC Convention, Natchez, MS
April 10-19	Holland Tour (Private Tour, Floriade Expo and Horticulture Symposium)
April 25	Pre-Convention Tour, Baton Rouge, LA
April 26-27	LGCF State Convention, Baton Rouge, LA (Crown Plaza)
May 17-20	NGC Convention, Orlando, FL
July 11-12	Summer Board, Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge, LA
September 19-22	NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
November 11-15	Tour of the Biltmore, Gibbs and Callaway Gardens and Blueridge Mountain Fall Colors

## 2023

March 8	DSGC Convention, Pre-Tour, Kenner, LA (Hilton Airport Hotel)
March 9-10	DSGC Convention, Kenner, LA (Hilton Airport Hotel)
April 17	LGCF Convention, Pre-Tour, Vidalia, LA
April 18-19	LGCF Convention, Vidalia, LA (Clarion Suites/Vidalia Convention Center)
May 2-5	NGC Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV
September TBA	NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO