



NEWSLETTER

Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.

April, 2012



THE LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.

Newsletter

Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Region



"Continuing our Legacy of Beautification, Education, and Restoration"

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Congratulations to **Darnelle L. Delcambre**, a member of the **New Iberia Garden Club**, who received a 1st Place Award in the Lafayette Art Association Juried Photography competition on 2/26/12. The photo, shown on the cover, is of an old building in Lafayette, LA located on Maryviewfarm Road, out in the country north of Lafayette.

Darnelle is an avid photographer and watercolor artist. One of her paintings was donated for the 2012 LGCF State Convention Raffle.

Thank you, Darnelle, for sharing your beautiful photo with us!

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.

Editor Pam Langley, 1750 Bilbo St., Lake Charles, LA 70601-6061, 337-842-2995

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO SPRING ISSUE (July 2012) IS JUNE 1ST, 2012.

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

Message from Our President

Dear Garden Club Members,

Our mild winter has brought the Spring Extravaganza of flowering shrubs and budding trees, early this year for all of us to enjoy. I love this time of the year, as any gardener would, to connect us to what's going on with nature.



A Great Big Round of Applause to our Fifth Garden Club, Abbeville Garden Club.

We welcome you to our Garden Club Family. Our Membership Chairman, Roxanna Champagne has worked closely to help mentor this club in District III. Roxanna you have done a wonderful job!

Our ten delegates from LGCF are looking forward to traveling to Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the Deep South Convention. We are bringing our flutes (noisemakers) so the other 5 States will hear us, when the Deep South Awards are presented to our State!! "Who Dat" of Louisiana! Thank you to all the clubs applying for DSR Awards. Lena and Linda, your efforts make all this possible.

Our Memorial Chairman, Jean Taylor maintains THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE, which you may enroll in memory of Garden Club members, relatives, friends, and loved ones. When sending a contribution, please indicate the fund (ex: headquarters, scholarship, etc. to which it should be applied. The Memorial service honoring all loved ones is held each year during the State Convention.

Our Circle of Roses Members will be recognized and honored at the Landscape-Gardening Study Luncheon, also held at the time of State Convention, by Chairman, Jennifer Granger. I have received quite a few beautiful words of thanks from these ladies, when they read and see their lovely photos in our Newsletter. Thank you Jennifer and Pam for making this all possible

Jean Gilstrap is happy to report that up to 42 cities, towns and villages have signed up to enter our CCC. Thank you Jean for your enthusiasm and commitment to this program to help make Louisiana a much cleaner state!

Congratulations to Coleen Landry, Live Oak Chairman for registering 432 trees in 5 months, bringing the GRAND TOTAL of registered trees to 6815 trees—quite a record! Coleen's work throughout the State is, "Always on Call", to protect and conserve, our Majestic Oaks. Work in progress! Please send your Registrations to Coleen!

I am so proud to let you know Joe Baucum, Arbor Day Chairman, is going to work with Bob Thomas to serve on the Steering Committee for MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM TASK FORCE! Also, I am very happy to report Joe is being Honored at East Jefferson General Hospital Auxiliary at THE GREAT LADY/GENTLEMAN AWARDS Luncheon on April 22, 2012. Thank you, Joe for your help in making LGCF a statewide success. There seems to be no end to his energy. He and wife Cindy are working to bring an Environmental Studies School to his hometown of Jean Lafitte. Register NOW to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in late September, while we wait for final approval from National.

Have you heard that Dottie Hebert, our Scholarship Chairman and her committee is working very hard to submit a name to NGC for an Award. Please remember to send her your names of Students who qualify! Thank you, Dottie, for your dedication.

Message from Our President

Our Landscape Design Chairman, Clara Earl has spread the knowledge of our State, all the way to OHIO AND KENTUCKY. Yes, you are reading this....her school welcomed consultants to our state. And I am proud to say....Wait I have decided to let her give you the wonderful news at our Convention! You won't want to miss her report! Thank you, Clara and Gail Lonibos for making this possible.

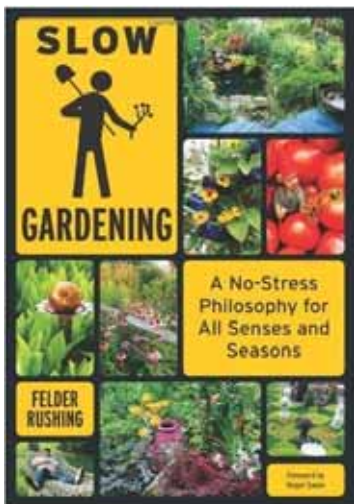
I have saved the best info for Last!!! Houma is known as HEART OF AMERICA'S WETLANDS. COME ON DOWN TO THIS CITY FOR A BAYOU OF TREASURES...OUR STATE CONVENTION IS ALMOST HERE! Our NGC 42nd President, Shirley Nicolai will be visiting us, and she welcomes any suggestions you may have. Please write her a note and bring this with you...APRIL 16, 17, AND 18TH. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS TIME FOR ALL OF US TO BE TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE OUR LOVE AND PASSION FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Love,

Mary

Book Review

By Dolla Farmer, 2011-2013 LGCF Book Review Chairman



Slow Gardening, A No-Stress Philosophy for All Senses and Seasons by Felder Rushing, White River Junction, Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2011. Paperback, 232 pp., ISBN 978-1-60358-267-4, \$29.95

This book is essentially about pleasing yourself, following your bliss and savoring everything that you do in your yard. The book focuses on getting more enjoyment, by slowing down and taking stock of your yard and following your own creative whimsy in the garden. As it promotes local food systems and biological and cultural diversity, the slow-gardening approach can help us all appreciate and enjoy our gardens more. This practical yet philosophical approach to gardening will help your don't-worry-be-happy attitude.

The direct link to the book on Amazon.com:

<http://www.amazon.com/Slow-Gardening-No-Stress-Philosophy-Seasons/dp/1603582673>

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST ADDITIONS!

We would like to say welcome to the newest additions to our Federation:

District II – **Wagmann Development Group**

District III – **Abbeville Garden Club**

District V – **Sterlington Garden Club** and **Union Parish Garden Club**

We are proud that you have joined our ranks. Congratulations and Welcome!



Raymonda Resweber Guidroz

Terrebonne Garden Club (District III)

Raymonda was born and reared in Port Barre, LA. She is married to Thomas Guidroz. They have lived in Houma, LA, his hometown, since he retired from the USAF, in 1975. They have five children and seven grandchildren.

Raymonda graduated from Opelousas Catholic as valedictorian. She received her undergraduate degree from LSU, her master's from U of L Lafayette and post graduate from Nicholl's State. She is a life member of Phi Delta Kappa and is a retired secondary vocational education/special education teacher. She was named Special Education Teacher of the Year in Terrebonne Parish.

Raymonda has been a member of Terrebonne Garden Club since 1976. She is a past president and is the club treasurer. She is a life member of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation and Deep South Region. She is a certified Landscape Design Consultant. She was instrumental in organizing the Terrebonne Enhancement Commission to address local enhancement and environmental concerns, and a charter member.

She is a member and past president of La-Terre Master Gardeners. She has been an active volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for more than ten years. She is active in her church, a past president and current secretary of the altar society, and serves on the pastoral council.

We have been very blessed by our Creator, but there is still so much to do to make this a better community, state and country, for our children and grandchildren. As my 90+ year old grandmother once told me, "I still have so much to do. I don't have time to die". My sentiments, exactly! Bloom where you're planted!



Rena Labat

Terrebonne Garden Club (District III)

Rena first joined the garden club to develop a better understanding of what types of plants to use in her yard. She quickly became an active member, serving as Vice President and then President in 1995 to 1997. She promotes the Cleanest City Contest by serving on committees and spearheading activities to clean up sections of her city, Houma. She has served as Parliamentarian for the club too many times to count and has also been on many nomination committees.

Rena was married to E.J. "Buster" Labat and has one son, Clark, who lives in Houma with his wife Mary.

Rena's interest in volunteer work has led her to membership in several national organizations. She has leadership roles in all of them. She loves to sew, fish, travel and decorate her home. The garden club has helped her skills in floral design and proper care of house plants. She enjoys the camaraderie of friends and members who have similar interest in gardening and community activities.



Circle of Roses



Dorothy Cenae Oubre

Terrebonne Garden Club (District III)

Dotsy is a native of Houma and has been a member of Terrebonne Garden Club since 1991. She was President of the garden club in 2003 – 2005. Dotsy has chaired and served on numerous committees; Civic Pride and Garden of the Month, Cleanest City Contest, Flower Shows, Blue Star Marker and was the LGCF Butterfly Chairman in 2005 – 2007. She is a life member of LGCF.



She has been an active and outstanding garden club member. Dotsy continues to pursue her love of family, her church and travel. Terrebonne Garden Club is proud and honored to add Dorothy Oubre's name to the LGCF Circle of Roses.

Dot Wu

Terrebonne Garden Club (District III)

Dot Wu is a lady of many talents and an asset to her garden club. She joined Terrebonne Garden Club in 1991, and served as Vice President 1995 – 1997. She served as Flower Show Chairman in 2010 and the show won an NGC award. Dot has served on numerous committees and has been Bird Chairman for several years. Besides her work in the garden club, she is an active member of the Terrebonne Orchid Society and Terrebonne Bird Club.



When Dot enters a flower show she takes top honors in floral design. She won the Maude Viskell Award in 2009. She is a talented, creative designer and is always looking to make our world more beautiful through floral design.

A loving mother of four children, and grandmother of four, and four great-grandchildren, Dot enjoys traveling to the orient several times a year with her husband, Philip. She loves entertaining and playing the piano.

Terrebonne Garden Club is proud and honored to add the name of Dot Wu to the LGCF Circle of Roses.



Peggy LaBarbera

Baton Rouge Garden Club (District VI)

A very active octogenarian, Peggy LaBarbera has been a member of the Baton Rouge Garden Club for 5 years. Though this is her first garden club, she has been gardening since 1967 when she moved to Baton Rouge from New Orleans. Peggy has been a widow since 1985 and has two sons, one daughter and 5 grandchildren. Only one son lives nearby - in Denham Springs.

She has served as Club Parliamentarian and is Chairman of Hospitality for non-study group members. She is always ready to lend a capable helping hand with refreshments. Peggy has taken part in our Tablescapes Shows and participates on the Cleanest City Committee. She is very active in several civic organizations and works on the church bulletin at her church.

A true asset to our club, the Baton Rouge Garden Club is proud to add the name of Peggy LaBarbera to the LGCF Circle of Roses.



Joyce Morris

Baton Rouge Garden Club (District VI)

Joyce Morris has been a member of the Baton Rouge Garden Club and the Lazy Daisy Study Group for 5 years. She lives with her daughter, Sharon Harley - a very active member of the BRGC. She has enjoyed sharing her many artistic talents by participating in the BRGC Flower Shows and Tablescapes Shows and is most proud of winning ribbons.

Joyce has been a flower grower and gardener since age 12, when she built her 1st wooden flower box (in 1940) and planted nasturtiums. The plants grew & flourished and Joyce was 'hooked on gardening.' From her early love of her grandmother's flowers to the flower gardens of her homes, Joyce has worked continually with flowers. She truly enjoyed working in her greenhouse.

Joyce is an accomplished oil painter and has enjoyed sharing her art with others over the years. At age 83, with diminished health, her activities are limited, but she contributes much with her beautiful attitude and lovely smile.

The Baton Rouge Garden Club is proud to add the name of Joyce Morris to the LGCF 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. This quarter we would like to welcome to our "Circle" six 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 Jennifer Granger, Circle of Roses Chairman, 10263 Gulf Hwy, Lake Charles, LA 70607, or email: mimijane1971@yahoo.com or if you prefer there is a form available at the following link: http://www.louisianagardenclubs.org/projects/circle_of_roses.pdf

LGCF 2012 State Convention Schedule

BAYOU TREASURES 2012 LGCF CONVENTION SCHEDULE



Monday, April 16, 2012

3:00 – 5:00 Pre-Convention Tour Swamp Tour
6:00 – 9:00 **FAIS DO DO** Mixer, CRAWFISH BOIL

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

6:00 - 9:00 Complimentary Breakfast in the Atrium
8:00 - 4:00 Registration Open
9:00 - 4:00 Vendors Open
(Registration & Sales Room closed during meals & Special Events)

8:30 - 9:00 Finance Committee Meeting
9:00 - 10:00 Dist. Directors/Club Presidents Meeting
10:00 - 11:00 LGCF Executive Council Meeting

11:15 - 1:00 **GUMBO POT** Gardening Study and
Landscape Design Luncheon
1:00 - 1:30 Judges' Executive Council Meeting
1:30 - 2:30 Judges' Council Meeting
2:30 - 3:15 Gardening Consultants Council Meeting
3:15 - 4:00 Landscape Design Consultants Meeting
4:00 - 6:00 Formal Opening of Convention
First Business Meeting

6:00 - 7:00 Happy Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00 - 9:00 **BLESSING OF THE FLEET** Judges Council
Dinner

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

6:00 - 9:00 Complimentary Breakfast in the Atrium
8:00 - 4:00 Registration Open
9:00 - 4:00 Vendors Open
(Registration & Sales Room closed during meals & Special Events)

9:30 – 11:30 Second Business Meeting

12:00 - 2:00 **LAGNIAPPE ON THE BAYOU** Club Presidents
and Life Members Luncheon/Non-Competitive
Awards with NGC President Shirley Nicolai
2:15 - 3:15 Environmental Studies Meeting
3:30 - 4:30 Workshop

6:00 - 7:00 Happy Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00-10:00 **COASTAL WAVES** Awards Banquet



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Town of Jean Lafitte to Host Environmental Studies School

Once the Series II sessions are completed in June of 2012 in the City of Lake Charles, the Town of Jean Lafitte will play host to Series III. Joe and Cindy Baucum will be appointed as co-equal Chairmen of Environmental Studies School effective with their graduation from ESS on June 22.

Joe and Cindy are excited that their garden club (Better Swamps and Garden Club) has voted unanimously to host the school and has even made a sizable monetary contribution to help defer some of the costs of the school. As Jean Lafitte is located in the wetlands of Jefferson Parish, has a brand new multipurpose civic center, is a short drive from New Orleans, has two nature study trails within a ten-minute drive, and is blessed with a very supportive mayor and town council, the location for the school is ideal. Instructors will be drawn largely from Loyola University, Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, the LSU Ag Center, and several large nonprofit organizations. Joe and Cindy state that they will generally follow the protocols set by Linda Finley and Margo Racca during Series I and II.

Projected dates for Courses I and II of Series III are September 25, 26, 27, and 28, 2012. For further information, contact Joe or Cindy at 504-689-4243 or by email at theanchorage@att.net.

Protect Our Birds

Coleen Perilloux Landry would like to remind us to protect our birds! Coleen's photo, shown here on the right, is of a Great White Egret in courting season in Louisiana.

You can find out more of Coleen's Great White Egret Rookery story and many wonderful photos at

http://www.pbase.com/septembermorn/rookery_in_louisiana



Earth Day

Garden Clubs are reminded to remember EARTHDAY April 2012 is the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. The Clean Water Network would like to know about any Earth Day Events, or Water Conferences being sponsored by your Club. A Brief, Concise Information statement is requested of your recognition presentation. Send to heleblu@aol.com and I will forward information to our President and NGC Chair Marion Hilliard.

Helen Blue Garrett, Legislature/Government Action Chairman

LGCF World Horticulture Exposition Tour



Another unforgettable tour is in the works for LGCF. This tour, as well as others, has been orchestrated and will be led by David Campbell, son of Carol Campbell, former Marksville Garden Club President and current member.

With airfare and meal costs the total cost should be around \$4500. For more information you may contact David at

Office: 504-821-9283

Email: David@stephenambrosetours.com or gbctours@gmail.com

The Itinerary:

Day 1 Sept 13 – Travel to Frankfurt Germany

Day 2 Sept 14 – Transfer to Trier Germany, site see, group reception dinner

Day 3 Sept 15 – Day trip to Mosel Valley, Germany's wine growing region. See Burg Eltz Castle.

Day 4 Sept 16 – Depart for Belgium. Arrive hotel in Brussels with evening meal at Rue des Bouchers

Day 5 Sept 17 – Chocolate tasting tour. Visit Serres Royales, the Kings greenhouse.

Day 6 Sept 18 – Travel to Melle, Belgium for lunch then on to Brugge and Grand Hotel Casselbergh

Day 7 Sept 19 – Free day to explore

Day 8 Sept 20 – Travel to Venlo, Holland and attend the Floriade Horticultural Exposition.

Day 9 Sept 21- All day at the Floriade Horticultural Exposition

Day 10 Sept 22 – Free day in Amsterdam

Day 11 Sept 23 – Travel home from Schiphol International Airport

Lafayette Tour

A Tour Through My Southern Garden...The Gardens of Harold and Sarah Schoeffler

3502 E. Simcoe , Lafayette (near Oakbourne Country Club)

Benefits Family Promise of Acadiana

Dine Under the Stars - Fri., Apr 20 from 6 to 8 P.M. (reservations needed 337-233-3447)

Enchanting Garden Tour - Sat., Apr. 21 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Tickets at the Gate \$15 to include

Coffee & Tea, Music in the Gazebo, Art in the Garden, Bayou Boat Rides,
Master Gardener Talks & Answers, Community Visions & ... the fairies

Quiet Stroll Through My Garden - Sun., Apr. 22 from 2 to 6 P.M.

Tickets at the Gate \$10

For more info contact Sarah Schoeffler 337-234-4042

The Southern Garden Symposium

The Southern Garden Symposium will be held October 12 & 13, 2012 at St. Francisville, LA.

With featured speakers including Dean Norton, Mount Vernon's Director of Horticulture; Heidi Sheesley, owner of Treesearch Farms in Houston, Texas; and floral design instructor Lynette McDougald of Mississippi State University, no other gardening program brings together top quality speakers and historic plantation settings as well as the Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville, Louisiana. Known as much for its engaging social events and historic venues as for its outstanding gardening lectures and workshops, the Southern Garden Symposium - now in its 24th year - has become an annual tradition for garden enthusiasts from across the south.

Registration for the Southern Garden Symposium is limited and required in advance. Complete program information and registration forms will be available online beginning April 15 at www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org. You may also call 225-635-3738 or email luciecassity@bellsouth.net to be added to our mailing list. Brochures will be mailed on or about May First.

Very Early Spring!

Margie Breaux has noticed some very strange occurrences this winter. They are things we have never seen before in our winter garden and evidence of a very strange La Nina winter indeed! We had bare fig trees producing figs in December and for the first time ever, blooming Crotons. The photos on the right display the evidence.



Arboriculture Tips

By Dr. Margaret Hargroder, Chair, Arboriculture

A healthy tree in a great location is the best marketing tool for more tree planting!

Healthy vigorous plants are also less likely to be attacked by insects and diseases.

Arboriculture focuses on the care of trees, and one important area of focus is root care for health and stability. Here are a few root-care tips if you are planting a potted tree or transplanting/propagating one:

- Select your location well: suitable space for roots under the eventual mature crown of the tree, proper drainage and soil composition. Consider the root architecture of the tree.
- In propagation, potted trees should have roots pruned, in two growing seasons, near the edge of the pot for denser roots, without spiraling.
- In planting, watch that you keep the tap root straight and downward. If the lateral roots have spiraled around the edge of a pot, straighten them so they extend straight out from the trunk.
- Watch for deceased roots, removing them. However, cutting good roots may open them to disease.
- Protect the area around the tree. Roots are usually found within a few inches of the top of the soil. Keep the area mulched. In drought periods, maintain moisture under the mulch layer. If traffic is expected in the root area, use hardscape that allows for moisture and root protection.

Reference: *Tree Root Damage*, Edited by Len Phillips. on-line-seminars.com

Letter from Laura

Dear Friends:

If there is one good thing about having cancer it is that you find out how much you are loved. For all of you that have been praying for me, thank you, thank you. I knew with so many people praying for me I would be OK. Thank you, Lord, for answering the prayer.

To everyone who sent flowers or made a welcome home sign, thank you.

To all who sent cards, came to visit, sent letters, brought (and are still bringing) food, or even gave me a thought, thank you.

I have been blessed all my life with a loving family and wonderful friends and having cancer has made me aware of that.

Love you all,

Laura Broussard

DEEDS AND DOINGS

District II

Anne Stegall and Penny Shaw, Co-Chairmen of the Garden Therapy Committee, along with several **Chateau Estates Garden Club** members joined with the Chateau Estates Elementary School Junior Garden Club students to sponsor a Mardi Gras Party for Nouveau Marc Independent Living Center. The students presented their shoe box Carnival floats to the residents while king cake was served. The seniors enjoyed the delicious food and the visit from the children. Everyone applauded as the children paraded around the room carrying the floats.



The king cake party was held to brighten the holiday season for the Nouveau Marc residents and to give the Junior Garden Club members an opportunity to get involved in their community. The garden club was looking for something to do with the Junior Garden Club that would be fun and benefit the community and the king cake party seemed like a nice thing to do for the seniors.



The Junior Garden Club is sponsored by Chateau Estates Garden Club and was organized at Chateau Estates Elementary School to get the children involved in the community, environment, and gardening. The ladies club has taken a special interest in the school by organizing the junior club and working with the students to plant a pear tree in observance of Arbor Day and a butterfly garden on school grounds.

One of the 2011 philanthropic projects of Chateau Estates Garden Club was the donation of gently used household items to a project of the St. Elizabeth's Guild, a volunteer organization that supports four programs of Catholic Charities in the New Orleans, Louisiana, area.

The items were donated to their Independent Living Skills Program which assists teens and young adults (ages 14-21) when they leave the state's foster care. Through the program's Hope Chest Donation Center, clients are assisted in setting up and



DEEDS AND DOINGS

maintaining their first apartment or home. At the center, clients may choose the household items they need.

Garden Club members brought items to our September, October and November meetings or to the home of one of our members for storage, until they were picked up by personnel from the center. We also purchased and donated four new small kitchen appliances at a cost of \$100.00. Among the other items donated were pots and pans, Tupperware, eating utensils, dishes, glassware, cookbooks, assorted kitchen gadgets, sheet sets, bedspreads, blankets, bed pillows, throw pillows, a floor lamp, draperies, framed art, luggage and some clothing.

Many duplications of items made for a large overall donation which we valued at approximately \$2701. Members inventoried the items to determine the value.

This project involved almost every club member. It was a very rewarding project, as we all felt we were helping those in need to get a good start in a new life away from foster care. The overwhelming gratitude expressed by both the director of the Hope Chest Donation Center and the president of the St. Elizabeth's Guild has inspired us to continue this project in the years to come.

Article Submitted by Stanley Henderson.

District III

Newly elected President Roxanna Champagne was surprised by a toast from the entire Lafayette Garden Club membership, at the opening of our 2011-2012 season, welcoming her to her new presidency and wishing her a grand and glorious term. Ms. Champagne congratulated Jan Wyatt for the new, excellent 2011-2012 term year book. At the first meeting, a most informative and interesting program on Biblical Plants and the Living Earth was presented by Linda Finley, 2nd Vice President of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation.



Tres Jolie's Water Garden Tour, sponsored by Lafayette Garden Club and Water Gardens Unlimited, is set for Sunday, May 6 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Tour will feature six private water gardens in Acadiana. Tres Jolie is chaired by Cinde Risinger and Julie Haack, and supports the Club's various philanthropic activities, while serving the goals of the National Garden Club by educating the community. Tickets may be ordered at Lafayette Garden Club, P.O. Box 51366, Lafayette, LA 70505, and are available at All Season's Nursery, Wild Birds Unlimited, Native Sun Nursery, and the Gardenaire. Ticket prices are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Seventeen Lafayette Garden Club members attended the District III Fall Meeting, hosted by Morgan City Garden Club, at Morgan City Municipal Auditorium, on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Themed "Louisiana: Positive Steps to Beauty!," the group enjoyed catching up on the latest news from District III, and a wonderful lunch that was catered by Brian Blanchard, owner/chef of Imonelli's in Lafayette. Club President Roxanna Champagne was voted in as District III Director Elect.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

Mitzi Lejeune, a member of the Crowley Garden Club, spoke at the October meeting, sharing her secrets of her Blue Ribbon Award Flower Show Designs. Ms. Lejeune is pictured with two of her special arrangements on the right.



The November Garden Club meeting featured a talk and slide presentation on curative uses of locally grown plants by Stacy Lee, immediate past president of Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners and chair of the Lafayette Parish Medicinal Herb Garden, assisted by Kim Bienvenu, Babette Werner and Jan Wyatt. This program was based on Charles Bienvenu's 1933 thesis, interpreted by Dr. Ray Brassieur, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Anthropology professor's "Inspiration for a Creole Medicine Garden."

Jan Wyatt stated that La Maison Acadienne (The Healer's House at Vermilionville where our medicinal garden is located, is dedicated in memory of LGC member Angelle Marsh's mother, Betty St. Dizier, who is a former Garden Club member and former president of the Friends of Vermilionville.

The LGC sponsored butterfly garden at Cathedral Carmel School, called Brother Leo Baltz's Butterfly Garden, co-chaired by Stacy Lee and Connie Gremillion, honors longtime Brother Leo of Cathedral School, who maintained a vegetable garden on the site of the present day butterfly garden. This garden was dedicated with a plaque and the teachers are now incorporating the garden into their curriculum. Two weeks after school began, the children were able to see the butterflies emerge from the chrysalis, and they can now identify the butterflies

Lafayette Garden Club was awarded a \$150 grant by LGCF to landscape a habitat home for an elderly lady whose home had burned. Money from this Grant was used to purchase Satsuma trees, potting soil, mulch, water hose and a watering can for the home. Special thanks to Habitat for Humanity Chair JoAnn Pugh, who wrote the grant application.

Margaret Hargorder, Past Garden Club President, reported that more awards had been announced. They are our Horticulture Therapy project chaired by Glenda Balliviero, which is the National Overall Winner, first over all categories for this award! Also, our Youth Horticulture Education project chaired by Henrietta Boriskie and co-chaired by Sarah Schoeffler and Julie Haack was chosen the National Winner for clubs of our size.

Lafayette Garden Club has a new stand-alone website, www.lafayettegardenclub.org, that is also on LGCF's website. Club President Roxanna Champagne thanked Jan Wyatt and Henrietta Boriskie for making this website possible.

The Christmas Tea was on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at the University of Louisiana Lafayette's Alumni House. Lafayette Garden Club raised \$300 in our Silver Bowl collection, which was donated to the Children's Shelter for abused and neglected children.

The Club had a great January program with an environmentalist from McNeese State College, C. C. Richmond, who presented an excellent power point presentation on Our Valuable Wetlands. (PHOTO 3) Design exhibits, by Betty Foret and Gloria Guilbeaux, "Farmed Spatial Design," were viewed and discussed by the Club members.

DEEDS AND DOINGS

Lafayette Garden Club's Arbor Day Program was held on Friday, January 20, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. on Camellia Boulevard, honoring past Club members, Betty Clarke, Irene Trahan, and May Thibeau. The Arbor Day Program was well attended by Lafayette City officials, guests and Garden Club members. Lafayette Garden Club donated the live oak tree, which was planted in honor of member Joanna Broussard's husband, Ed Broussard.

Betty Foret, our Flower Show Chair announced the annual Flower Show, "A Spring Florafest" will be held in conjunction with Festival des Fleur in Blackham Coliseum on Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Floral designs and horticulture will be judged on Friday, April 13. Margaret Hargroder is the Design Chairman for the Flower Show.

Cathy Andrews, co-chairman of the Girl Scouts Native Plants Committee, reported a workshop at All Seasons nursery and conducted by their native plant specialist. And the Girl Scouts, working on their native plant badges, planted native plants on the ULL campus on Saturday, March 3.

Cleanest City Chair Janice Dennen reports that the judging for the Anti-Litter Poster for the schools was held during the second week in March, and Trash Bash was on Saturday, March 17.

Article submitted by Henrietta Boriskie.

District V

Clubs in District V have been busy the last few months. Christmas time found several clubs decorating trees and parks in their hometowns. January was celebration of Arbor Day. Vidalia Garden Club planted pink Crape Myrtles at the Riverfront Gazebo. Sterlington Garden Club planted a tree at each of their city signs. Ferriday Garden Club planted Cherry Laurels at Bayou Memorial Park with their junior garden club, Planting Pride. Other clubs had reports and displays.

In February, many of our clubs made valentine arrangements for nursing homes and honorary members of the clubs.

Collinston, Sterlington, Farmerville and Tallulah have entered the Cleanest City contest as of this date and we are hoping for several others.

Pictured on the right are the District V Landscape Design Course attendees, (l to r), Beth Erwin, Collinston & Palmetto GC; Mimi Johnson, Ann Morris, Jo Ann Bond, Palmetto GC; Melissa Smith, Clarklea GC; Balfour Pipes, Palmetto GC.



These next few months will be busy for all of the Beautification Committees.

Hope to see all of you at state convention.

Article submitted by Sherrill Sasser.

Sterlington, a 2011 state winner of The Cleanest City Contest, is one of the newest members of the LGCF. We have recently obtained our own EIN for non-profit status for a Community Beautification Organization. We are excited about impending projects that we have in the works. Our November speaker is from a Solar Energy company and our Garden Club will be discussing with the solar company and Sterlington's Mayor Vern Breland, who is also our Parliamentarian, about different Federal and State incentives to help financially assist the town of Sterlington to become an all solar

DEEDS AND DOINGS

town. Our December meeting is a new, youthful approach to gardening. We are asking Edible Creations of Monroe to be our speaker and to show our club how to assemble an edible creation. I would like to recognize the Sterlington Garden Club for all the members' hard work. We meet the first Monday of every month at 6 pm at Sterlington Town Hall. None of our efforts were possible without the support of Mayor Vern Breland.

Article submitted by Tammye Hunt, President Sterlington Garden Club.

District VI

The **Magnolia Forest Garden Club** began its 2011-12 year with the continuation of their monthly business meetings, horticulture and nature reports, and programs. Following the October meeting, the club held its annual plant auction/fund raiser. The plants are donated by members and the auction is a fun way for members to share their favorite plants and support the club's community activities. As an additional fund raiser, the club sold articles donated by members in the annual Magnolia Forest neighborhood yard sale, which was very successful.

The ladies were busy decorating for fall. They decorated the subdivision entrances and entered the Slidell Beautification Committee's 5th Annual Fall Decorating Contest. Although, the neighborhood did not win an award this year, we think our decorations were outstanding and are planning to win next year. In addition, the club participated in the Scarecrow Decorating Contest for Slidell Arts Evening and won first place. Our scarecrow, who was a girl, featured Spanish moss for hair, small peacock feathers high-lighting her acorn eyes, a painted magnolia seed for a nose, and ruby-red shoes.



Pictured above right is the decorated entrance to Magnolia Forest neighborhood.



Pictured on left, clockwise from left; Margo Necaie, Sandy Solar, Mary Jean herman, Florence Onstad, and Joann Round working on the scarecrow.

Members recently enjoyed two field trips: first they visited Camp Salmen Nature Park where the curator, Ben Taylor, gave an overview of the park's history, mission, and a short tour of this very important local resource. The second field trip was a visit to the K-Bar-B Youth Home where we presented a program on how to plant and care for amaryllis bulbs. The presentation included the residents potting their own bulb, an art lesson by member Janie Balcer, and

refreshments.

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Members, Betty Rose, Beryl Deris and Margo Necaie, recently participated in "Slidell's Fall Citywide Cleanup." They supervised students from "Interact Club of Northshore High School" in clearing away weeds, replanting beds and mulching.

And in the spirit of Christmas, members Lynell Braun, Margo Necaie and Joann Round created a fresh floral design for Slidell Little Theatre's presentation of "Miracle on 34th Street, the musical." The floral design reflected the story of the play and was displayed in the theater lobby. In addition, several members also decorated the neighborhood entrances for Christmas.

Pictured on right is Lynell Braun and Joann Round with their floral design for "Miracle on 34th Street."

Article submitted by Margo Necaie.



The City of Ponchatoula and **The Ponchatoula Gardenettes** received a welcome donation of mulch for the Butterfly Garden in Kiwanis Park from Acadian Cypress. Thanks to the arranging efforts of Acadian Cypress employee, Bill Hagen, The Gardenettes were able to secure the mulch. Ponchatoula Rotarian Garnett Bedenbaugh picked up the mulch and unloaded it for LGCF, Inc. District VI Director Diane Dufour, also a member of the Gardenettes and former presidents, Kathy Bedenbaugh and Cheryl Kuhn to spread in four of the flower beds.

Article submitted by Kathy Bedenbaugh.

The Gardenettes of Ponchatoula collect Community Coffee labels and box tops for schools. These labels enable the schools to purchase items needed for the schools. The Gardenettes, members of Louisiana Garden Club Federation, donated the labels and box tops to Perrin Early Learning Center.

Smiling faces in front row are (left to right); Kyle Gross, Kennide Hill, Peter Cranford, Emily Villars, Reese Thorn, Naemi Al-Naziat.

Back row are; Kathy Bruce, Joan Morse, Lorinda Elzy (principal), Patricia Foster (vice principal), Janice Hickey, Sandra Haro, and Diane Dufour.

Article submitted by Janice Hickey



DEEDS AND DOINGS

Gardenettes were guests of Belle Oaks Garden Club for the annual Joint Meeting of the Tangipahoa Parish Garden Clubs held February 15 at the Louisiana State Unit Agricultural Center Research Station.



Of the approximately 70 garden club members present were Gardenettes District VI Director Diane Dufour, club president Janice Hickey, Cheryl Kuhn, Karen Moran, Pat Sweeney, Kathy Bedenbaugh, Vicky Fannaly, Sandra Haro, Kathy Bruce, Dale Rieth, Peggy Austin, Margaret Bailey, Joan Morse, Mona Middlebrook and District VI Treasurer Cricket Ayala.

State president Mary Jacobs was welcomed by Belle Oaks president Darlene Breland who also introduced the attending club presidents, Gail Diebold Hammond Garden Club, Peggy Avery Community Garden Club, Shirley Gabriel Stem and Stamen Garden Club.

In the photo on the right, seated are Dale Rieth, Pat Sweeney, District VI Director Diane Dufour, Joan Morse and State President Mary Jacobs. Standing are Mona Middlebrook, Peggy Austin, Sandra Haro, Kathy Bedenbaugh, Janice Hickey, Cricket Ayala, Kathy Bruce, Vicky Fannaly, Karen Moran, Margaret Bailey, Cheryl Kuhn.

Gardenette president Janice Hickey made an appeal for contributions to Operation We Care, which sends king cakes to troops overseas. The cost of postage as well as cakes is very high. She collected \$400 from the assembly.

Dr. Regina Bracey, professor of horticulture and resident coordinator of the Research Station, invited the clubs to a meeting at her home in April. She encouraged the attendees to visit the Research Station often to see the changing garden plantings and seasonal blooms.

Belle Oaks members Maude Abadie and Verlyn Bercegeay gave the opening invocation and conservation pledge. The group was entertained by a skit entitled Agnes Accident given by Pauline Devornak, Rosalind Dorsam, Darlene Breland and Phyllis Berner.

A slide presentation and in-depth program on camellias was presented by John and Stephanie Grimm owners of Camellia Heaven. Handouts and a display of blooming camellias rounded out their program.

Attendees were treated to a picnic motif, with plastic insects and brown bag favors. Lunch boxes by SubWay and bottled refreshments added to the theme. Gardenette Kathy Bedenbaugh, shown on the right, collected the empty Sub-Way boxes for recycling.



Article submitted by Vicky Fannaly

DEEDS AND DOINGS

District VII

The Diggers and Weeders Garden Club of Lake Charles has been busy this quarter. Our first event was a tree planting for Arbor Day with the 3rd and 4th graders of Episcopal Day School, pictured on the right.



Many members participated in The Federated Garden Clubs of Southwest Louisiana small standard flower show in March. Jennifer Granger, club treasurer, won first place in class, exhibition table design, shown on the left.



The Lake Charles Garden Club, along with the Diggers and Weeders, are sponsoring Lake Charles in the Cleanest City Contest. It's enough to keep both clubs busy!

Article submitted by Pam Langley

Seven garden clubs in Southwest Louisiana hosted "200 Years of Louisiana", a flower show in conjunction with the Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival at Burton Coliseum, March 23 and 24. The show was judged by the National Garden Club standards.

Members from the Crowley Garden Club, Diggers and Weeders Garden Club of Lake Charles, Iowa Garden Club, Jennings Garden Club, Lake Charles Garden Club, Sulphur Garden Club, and Weeders and Feeders of the Lake Area Garden Club entered plant material in the show's Horticulture Division and 12 creative floral designs in the Design Division. In addition, there are three special educational exhibits.

The Horticultural Excellence Award for the finest specimen in the Horticulture Division was awarded for *Rhipsalis ewaldiana* by Renee Hebert, Diggers and Weeders Garden Club.

The Designer's Choice Award for the highest scoring blue ribbon in design Classes 1-3 was awarded to Dolla Farmer for a plague design staged on an easel. Dolla, a member of the Sulphur Garden Club, is shown with her design on the left.

Article submitted by Linda Finley



AVEC SOUCI GARDEN TOUR " Les Beaux Jardins" Lafayette, LA Sunday April 22, 1-5 pm.
Donations: \$15 in advance \$20 at the gardens. For more information call (337) 984-7826 or visit www.avecsouci.org. Proceeds benefit local charities.

Calendar of Events



2012

- April 14 Lafayette GC, Festival des Fleurs, Blackham Coliseum
- April 16 LGCF Pre-Convention Tour
- April 17-18 LGCF Convention, Houma, LA
- April 28 Lafayette GC, Daisy Scouts' Planting Day, ULL Campus
- May 6 Tres Jolie, Acadiana Water Gardens Tour, Lafayette GC
- May 8 – 9 Gardening Study Series 9 Course 1, Hammond
- May 16-19 National Garden Clubs Convention– Adams Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY
- June 3-9 National Garden Week
- June 19 – 22 Environmental Studies School, Series II Course III & IV Lake Charles
- July 23-24 LGCF Summer Board Meeting, Baton Rouge
- Aug. 7-8 Flower Show School, Course III, Hammond Research Station
- September 23-24 NGC Fall Board Meeting- Little Rock, Arkansas
- October LGCF Fall District Meetings
- Oct 1 District VIII
 - Oct 2 District V
 - Oct 3 District VII
 - Oct 4 District III
 - Oct 5 District VI
 - TBA District IV
 - Oct 16 District I and II
- Oct. 30-31 Landscape Design Study, Baton Rouge

2013

- TBA NGC Executive Council Meetings, Florida
- Feb. 26-27 Flower Show School, Course IV, Hammond Research Station
- March 24-26 Deep South Regional Convention, Savannah, GA
- May 23-27 National Garden Clubs Convention- Doubletree Hotel, Seattle, WA- (Installation Year)