



# Friends of HILLTOP ARBORETUM

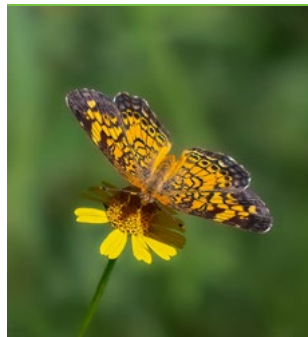
EXPLORE.

LEARN.

ENJOY.



## Fall 2025 Newsletter



## News and Events



*Photos courtesy of Linda Medine.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****President**

Colette Dean

**Immediate Past President**

Chris Werner

**Vice President**

Van Cox

**Treasurer**

Beverly Hodges

**Secretary**

Michele Deshotels

**Members**

Jeanne Davis

Bob Dillemath

Soo Jeong Jo

Terry Rehn

Teri Rome

Cheryl Stromeyer

Terry Tuminello

Jenneke Visser

**Standing Members**

Tara Titone

Brent Fortenberry

**HILLTOP STAFF****Director**

Tara Titone

**Business Manager**

Amy Hughes

**Living Collections Manager**

William Reinhardt

**LSU Landscape Architecture  
Interns/ Graduate Assistants**

Haylee Arceneaux

Joe Cochran

Nina Freeman

Sophie Webber

**Groundskeeper**

Kirk Calbert

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“What do you enjoy most about Hilltop?”

“The natural environment” was the overwhelming answer from a membership survey taken at this year’s start. Not surprising, “the community,” “programs” and “plant sales” were also top mentions.

Almost weekly, we meet first-time visitors to Hilltop, whether they come to attend a program, shop a plant sale, rent the facility or just happen by. It’s delightful to watch their faces as they start their journey down the boardwalk to explore the grounds. Founder Emory Smith’s legacy lives on. Hilltop Arboretum continues to be a place for learning and contemplation for everyone, not to mention a great place to get good deals on native plants!

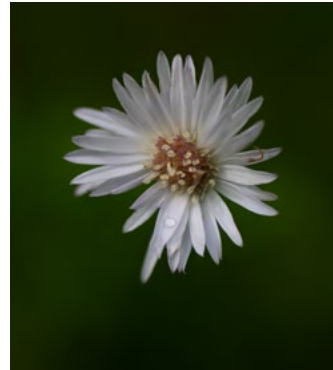
Walk the grounds of Hilltop now, and you’ll see American Beautyberry laden with glossy purple berries, and goldenrod cascading in the Cajun Prairie telling us another season is here and with that, a plethora of fall activities to enjoy. Thanks to all of you, dear Friends - old and new - for your continued participation, love and support.

“I wanted to make my woods here a sanctuary where anyone whose load has become too heavy might walk its paths and feel the healing touch of nature. The arboretum is yours. It is yours to enjoy and yours to help complete.” – Emory Smith

Colette Dean,  
Friends of Hilltop, Board President



*Colette Dean visiting gardens on Hilltop's Spring Garden Tour.*



*Photos courtesy of Linda Medine*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Arboretum Friends,

As summer winds down and the first signs of fall begin to appear, we at Hilltop Arboretum are looking forward to one of the most exciting times of the year—PlantFest! This season is always a reminder of how deeply rooted our community is in a love of plants, nature, and the connections they foster.

PlantFest is more than just a plant sale; it's a celebration of what makes Hilltop unique. It's a chance for all of us—gardeners, nature lovers, students, and friends—to come together, share knowledge, and carry a little piece of Hilltop home to our own landscapes. Whether you are in search of native plants, rare finds, or simply a day of inspiration, PlantFest is a highlight of our year, and I cannot wait to see many of you there.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated board, staff, and volunteers who make this work possible. From carefully planning events to tending to our collections and welcoming visitors, their passion is evident in every corner of the Arboretum. Hilltop continues to thrive because of this shared commitment, and I am so grateful for each of you who lend your time, energy, and support.

This fall, we invite you to experience Hilltop in its full seasonal beauty. Join us for programs, stroll our grounds, or simply take a quiet moment here among the trees. However you choose to connect, know that your presence enriches the Arboretum and strengthens the community that sustains it.

Thank you for being part of Hilltop's story. I look forward to celebrating the season—and PlantFest—together.

With gratitude,  
Tara Titone, Director



*Tara Titone (L) and garden hostess, Whitney Sayal, stop to pose for a photo at Hilltop's Spring Garden Tour.*



*Photos courtesy of Linda Medine.*

## SPRING AND SUMMER AT HILLTOP

Our Spring Garden Tour, “Celebrate the Garden District,” welcomed over 250 attendees. Thanks to the volunteers and six generous homeowners, the tour was a great success and received media coverage.

The Spring Fling plant sale also thrived, with 86 volunteers completing 150 tasks. Behind the scenes, our small but mighty Plant Selection Committee works tirelessly to procure and select the best plants. Led by Maradee Cryer, who coordinates orders with multiple nurseries, and with Bob Dillemath, Bill Griffin, and others making trips near and far to pick up the plants, their efforts ensure a top-quality selection for shoppers. Be sure to join us for PlantFest!

In June, Hilltop hosted two summer camps: Sprouts Camp (ages 4–7) and Backyard Habitat Gardener Camp (ages 7–10). East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners and Hilltop volunteers planned, taught, and staffed the camps, introducing younger campers to hands-on nature themes and older campers to soils, plants, pollinators, critters, and birds.

Our monthly Discover Nature program series brought back hands-on workshops, including a two-part flower pressing workshop with local artist Connie McLeod. It was so popular we’ll offer another two-part workshop this fall to celebrate Hilltop’s autumn blooms—this time on a weekend!

This summer, our hardworking Hodge Podge volunteers maintained a year-round nursery inventory. Virginia Gardener and Jenneke Visser input plants into the database, verifying native status, while Cathy Hansen and Edward Prawitz assisted with plant tags and labeling—ensuring the nursery’s long-term success.

LSU completed over 40 work orders totaling 184 hours and \$9,500 in support. Interns and graduate assistants from LSU’s Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture helped with site maintenance while gaining hands-on experience. Chris Werner also redesigned and assisted with the installation of upgraded lighting under the pavilion and along the covered walkways, greatly enhancing Hilltop’s evening atmosphere and safety.

A busy summer of rentals reinforced our commitment to a well-maintained facility. Special thanks to Amy Hughes and Kendall White for ensuring every rental runs smoothly; we will miss Kendall as she leaves after seven years of dedicated service.

As we move into fall, Hilltop is buzzing with activity! From PlantFest and Discover Nature programs to educational offerings, there’s plenty to see and do. We look forward to a busy season, closing out the year with our annual board meeting, and exploring new ways to enhance this special place.



Visitors stroll through the Tiek garden at Hilltop's Spring Garden Tour.



Hilltop friends enjoy a day trip to Gloster Arboretum in Mississippi.



Hilltop hosts a hospitality tent at the plant sale, thanks to generous donors, Coca-Cola and Community Coffee.



Summer Sprouts campers explore Hilltop's meadow and make “nature's bracelets.”

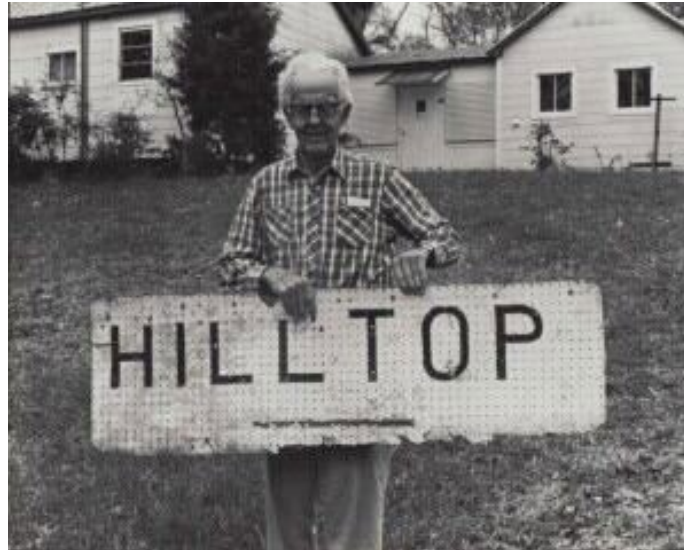


Backyard Habitat summer campers learn about host plants and pollinators.

## CONTINUING EMORY SMITH'S LEGACY

In 2022, the Friends of Hilltop Arboretum launched “The Emory Smith Legacy Planting Project,” a fundraising campaign to expand and enrich the plant collections at Hilltop. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we *exceeded* our \$50,000 goal—and took a major step toward transforming Emory Smith’s vision into reality.

When Emory Smith donated Hilltop to LSU, he imagined a place where native plant landscapes would be preserved for public enjoyment, education, and inspiration. The Legacy Planting Project, installed in 2022-2024, brings his vision to life with the addition of 176 trees, natural hedgerows, and native plant communities in the Central Ravine and Cathedral. The project also funded two new footbridges and installed irrigation systems to ensure long-term growth and sustainability.



*Mr. Emory Smith standing in front of his home that remains at Hilltop today.*

Together, we are shaping Hilltop into the vibrant, living landscape Emory envisioned.

### The Legacy Lives On - Join the Next Chapter!

Thanks to the success of our initial campaign, restoration and planting efforts across the Arboretum have flourished. But there’s more to do, and we need your help.

#### Our new goal of \$100,000 will support:

- Enhancing natural plantings at Hilltop
- Supporting ongoing site maintenance and purchasing essential equipment
- Installing educational signage
- Planning for site furnishings and lighting improvements

With your continued support, we can deepen Hilltop’s impact as a place of learning, reflection, and connection.

[Donate today.](#) Emory’s legacy lives on through you.

## SEEDING HILLTOP’S FUTURE



We’re excited to share Hilltop’s new Planned Giving & Organizational Fund Program, established in partnership with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. This initiative creates meaningful ways for friends and supporters to ensure Hilltop thrives for generations to come.

Through planned giving, donors can include Hilltop in their wills, trusts, or retirement accounts, leaving a lasting legacy that supports our mission well into the future. With the organizational fund at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, supporters can make gifts today that are invested to provide steady, reliable income year after year.

Together, these gifts strengthen our foundation and allow us to continue caring for our site, advancing programs, and protecting the natural world for all who visit.

[Contact us](#) to learn more about leaving a legacy or making a gift to the fund.

## PLANTFEST! 2025

**Members' Sale** - Wednesday, October 1 | 9am - 2pm

**Public Sale** - Saturday, October 4 | 9am - 2pm & Sunday, October 5 | 10am - 2pm

Discover over 3,000 plants and more than 300 species of native and traditional trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, ferns, succulents, and grasses—sourced from top-quality nurseries across the region. Whether you're dreaming of a pollinator-friendly haven, a bold native garden, or a fresh addition to your landscape, our team of Hilltop plant experts will be there to guide your selections and offer expert advice. **Please no dogs in the shopping area during the sale.**

While you're here, shop the **Hilltop Gift Shop** to grab a new pair of Felco hand pruners and a limited-edition PlantFest! t-shirt.



*Shoppers return to PlantFest! year after year.*

Hunt for hidden treasures at the **"Yarden" Sale**—a curated mix of gently used, one-of-a-kind garden and house wares

Explore the **Vendor Village**, featuring local makers, artists, and plant-loving small businesses. This year's vendors include: All Jammed Up, Arte Di Kristen, Caked Juice Co., City Gelato, Compass rose Jewellery Designs, Evelyn Davis Farms, Fresh Press, Highland Bee Farm, Knotty by Nature, Louisiana Wild Society, My Friend Kelly & Co., Mycocentrics, and MORE!

Stop by the **Children's Tent** for fun fall crafts, kid-friendly activities, and fall-inspired take-home treats.

**Want Early Access + Discounts?** Become a Friends of Hilltop member by **Thursday, September 25**, to gain access to the members-only sale and enjoy exclusive discounts during the event (based on your membership level). Members also receive discounted admission to the PlantFest! Teaser program. All plant and gift shop purchases are tax-free during the sale (excluding outside vendors).

## PRE-SALE "TEASER" PROGRAM

**Featuring Lee Rouse**

**Sunday, September 28 | Beverly Brown Coates Auditorium**

Baton Rouge horticulturist with more than 20 years of experience, Lee Rouse will highlight his favorite native species, share why they deserve a spot in your yard, and offer tips on how to successfully grow them in our climate.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned gardener, Rouse will equip you with the knowledge and inspiration to integrate more native plants into your landscape—enhancing beauty, supporting local wildlife, and promoting sustainability.

Following the program, enter a ticket to win a featured plant, then join us for a tour of the Hodge Podge Nursery to view the plants available at the sale. Don't miss this opportunity to decide which plants from PlantFest! you will introduce to your yard!

[Register now!](#)



*Photo courtesy of Lee Rouse.*

## CALL FOR PLANTFEST! VOLUNTEERS

We need your help before, during, and after PlantFest! Sign up using the links or call us at 225-767-6916.

### Plant Watering

Now through Tuesday, September 30 - [Sign up here](#)

Spot water plants and help pick up fallen pots. Choose your own dates and times!

### PlantFest! Setup

Tuesday, September 30 - [Sign up here](#)

Place tents, banners, signs around site. Set up tables and chairs.

### PlantFest!

Wednesday, October 1 | Saturday, October 4 | Sunday, October 5 - [Sign up here](#)

Work as a cashier, wagon coordinator, greeter, floater, hospitality, etc.

Students sign up to help with wagons and children's tent to receive service hours!

**Snacks and drinks provided for volunteers!**

### PlantFest! Take Down

Sunday, October 5 - [Sign up here](#) (and scroll to bottom)

Everything that goes up must come down! Heavy lifters needed.

## GRAB A PLANTFEST! T-SHIRT AT THE SALE



This year's shirt was created by longtime friend and volunteer designer Dwight Dufrene, who generously lends his talents to PlantFest! year after year.

The 2025 design highlights Canada goldenrod—soon to be in full bloom in Hilltop's meadow—alive with bees and butterflies that capture the beauty of fall at Hilltop.

**Supplies are limited!**

## YARDEN SALE DONATIONS

**MORE TOOLS AND FLOWER POTS NEEDED!**

Donate your gently-used household and garden items to Hilltop until **Monday, September 29.**

All Yarden proceeds directly benefit Hilltop. Thank you!



Visit the Hilltop Gift Shop while you're at the sale. Our inventory has grown, as has our supply of Felco tools!

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### Discover Nature Lecture Series

Through a partnership with the Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater Baton Rouge (LMNGBR), the Friends of Hilltop offers monthly programs featuring local and national experts who are in touch with nature and eager to share their experiences. [Register now!](#)

**September 23** - "Hummingbirds" *Dennis Demcheck*

**October 28** - "Bats and Brews" *Katherine Gividen and Aaron Ashbrook*

**October 26 & November 16** - "Fall Flower Pressing" *Connie McLeod*

**November 11** - "Wintering Natives" *LA Wild Society*

**January 27** - "Pollinators and Bee Houses" with Larry Koenig and Morgan Christman, LSU AGCenter

**February 24** - "Preparing for Bluebirds" *Jane Patterson*

**March 24** - "LSU Wildlife Rehabilitation/ Raptor Clinic" *Dr. Mark Mitchell DVM*



*Flower pressing art of LA Master Naturalist and artist, Connie McLeod, who teaches the flower pressing series at Hilltop.*

### Friends of Hilltop Arboretum Annual Membership Luncheon

Tuesday, December 2, 12 – 2 pm | Beverly Brown Coates Auditorium

### "Bulbs & Stories: A Morning with Chris Wiesinger"

Sunday, October 18, 9am – 12pm | Beverly Brown Coates Auditorium

For years, Chris Wiesinger traveled down old, forgotten roads across the South searching for beautiful flower bulbs hidden behind abandoned houses or vacant lots. This passion became his vocation, and now identity as "The Bulb Hunter."

Chris will share his stories and expertise on cultivating these unique plants and how yes, you too, can successfully grow bulbs in the deep south. A variety of heirloom bulbs will be offered for sale along with his books: *Bulb Hunter* and *Heirloom Bulbs for Today*. Book signings and early access to some special bulb selections will be available. Morning refreshments will be served in Hilltop's beautiful natural setting.

Space is limited. [Register now!](#)



*Photo courtesy of Chris Wiesinger.*

### 2026 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

### "Designing with Nature: Functional, Sacred, and Sustainable Landscapes" Featuring Jessi Bloom

Saturday, January 31, 2026 | EBRPL - Main Library



# THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



*Peggy Duerr greets visitors at the check-in table at the Spring Garden tour.*



*Teri Rome works the pollinator table at the plant sale, educating young visitors.*



*Bob Dillemath leads Backyard Habitat Gardener campers on a host plant nature walk.*



*Brooke Larsen teaches Summer Sprouts campers the Tree Pose.*



*Youth volunteer, Courtney G., greets customers as they enter the plant sale.*



*Linda Medine shares her passion for nature photography by capturing the beauty of Hilltop.*



*D'Ann Blanton and Mikey Norris have worked weekly to enhance the Gift Shop. Thanks to D'Ann for the donation of an office desk.*



*Kathy and Clay Smilie organized the shed and cleaned off the back porch to make a functional and beautiful spaces for volunteers and staff.*



*Claudia Brian and Donna Belanger work the cashier tent at the plant sale.*



*Scouts Will F. (Troop 103) and Kay F. (Troop 1103) assist with clearing paths in Hilltop's meadow on a hot summer day.*



*LA Master Naturalist volunteers (R to L), Cathy Hansen, Nancy Hicks and Jerri Becnel at a Discover Nature flower pressing workshop.*



*Marcy Hardy is assisted by Kendall White as they stake a newly-planted Amorpha tree on Hilltop's pond edge.*

## GROWING READERS AT HILLTOP

Hilltop is proud to share two special spaces that celebrate the joy of reading and the wonder of nature!

### The Children's Bookshelf: In Memory of Paula Dillemath

Inside the Hilltop Gift Shop, children and families will discover the Children's Bookshelf, created in memory of our beloved Administrative Assistant, Paula Dillemath. Paula was a champion for children's education at Hilltop, launching our Summer Academy and inspiring a generation of young nature explorers.

The Children's Bookshelf is filled with books about trees, animals, bugs, ponds, gardens, and all things Hilltop—ready to be read during your visit. Each book features a custom bookplate honoring Paula.



*Children's area chairs donated by D'Ann Blanton.*



#### We invite you to help us grow this collection!

- Donate a book from our [Suggested Book List](#) curated by educators and children's literature experts.
- Purchase the book directly through our [Amazon Wish List](#).

Every book added helps spark curiosity, deepens children's connection to nature, and carries Paula's legacy forward.

### Our New Little Free Library

Thanks to the generosity of a neighbor who donated it and the hard work of a local Scout troop who assembled it, Hilltop now has its very own Little Free Library! You'll find it in the breezeway outside the office and gift shop. Stop by, borrow a book, or leave one behind for another visitor to enjoy. It's a simple way to share stories, spark curiosity, and connect with community. [Click here](#) to learn more about Little Free Library.

### Call for Artists: Paint Hilltop's Little Free Library!

Hilltop's new Little Free Library is ready for a splash of creativity—and we'd love your help bringing it to life! We're seeking local artists to design and paint the library, making it a colorful reflection of Hilltop's mission and the beauty of nature.

Whether your style is whimsical, botanical, or bold, this is a chance to leave your mark on a project that will inspire readers and nature lovers for years to come. Interested? [Contact us](#) for details.

Let's turn this library into a work of art for the whole community to enjoy!



*Hilltop's Little Free Library donated by Christine Mendizabal.*

# Contributions

September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Coca Cola, Community Coffee, Goss Wealth Management

## FRIENDS OF HILLTOP MEMBERSHIPS

### LIVE OAK LEVEL \$1,000

Judy Bidner, Cathy Coates and Brian Hales, Kerry Hawkins, Jane Honeycutt, Betsy and Newt Thomas

### CYPRESS LEVEL \$500

Maradee and Curtis Cryer, Jeanne Davis and Bob Carney, Colette and Andy Dean, Deb and Ken McMillin, Kathryn and Stephen Merritt, Cynthia Moran, Cheryl and Wayne Stromeier, Sharon and Chris Werner

### MAGNOLIA LEVEL \$250

Sue Bartlett, Frances Boudreaux, Judy and Frank Foil, Nancy Hebert, Janet Hogstrom, Kevin Latusek, Jackie and Donnie Ladatto, Judith Patrick, Billy and Ashley Reich, Nola Sharky, Carolyn Stutts, Pam and Gerry Sulzer, Susan and Joseph Titone, Cathy and Alan Troy, Terry Tuminello, Katherine and Earl Vaughan, Judy and Dick Wager

### DOGWOOD LEVEL \$100

Ashley Alberty, Pat Alford, Wilhelmina Allen, Kelly Andino, Carol Antosiak, Clark Arnold, Linda and Brian Babin, Margaret and David Bach, Suzette and Kenneth Bahlinger, Lesa Beck, D'Ann and Glenn Blanton, Suzanne and Brad Bourgeois, Claudia Brian, Susan and Larry Broussard, Coleman Brown, Kenneth Burk, Luellen Carradine, Helen Causey, Travis and James Coleman, Kathy and Brent Conerly, Debbie Corbo, Jan and Van Cox, Jim Culpepper, Diane and Mark Davis, Jeffrey Dawson, Leslie Day and Clay Fourrier, Shirley and Tom Dean, Michele Deshotels and Gill Gautreau, Leslie Dicharry, Carolyn and Edward Downey, Ginger Dunaway, Edna (Anne) Dunn, Arlene Edwards, Carolyn Englert, Tres and Jennifer Fisher, Sandy and David Franz, Virginia Gardner, Billy Gatlin, Leu Anne Greco, Cathy and Bill Griffin, Cathy and Andreas Hansen, James Harrison, Sue Hayes, Robin Heath, Ava Hernandez, William Hines, Melanie Hirschfeld, Pat Hollowell, Patti and John Hough, Amy and Richard Hughes, Margaret and Tom Humble, Kelly Hurtado, Danielle Imarata, Pinney Johnson, Sheldon Johnson, Kellie Jolivet and Edward Prawitz, Margaret (Dianne) Kirkpatrick, Sharon Kleinpeter, Cheryl Kobetsky, Jackie and Donnie Ladatto, Susan Leake and F Barrow, Diane Leche, Philip and Brenda Legendre, Margy Loup, Renee and Paul Major, Sarah Mathews, John Mayronne, Maureen and Sean McGlynn, Linda Medine, Penny Miller, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Montalbano, Kelly and Terry Moore, Dot Mounger, Ryan Neustrom, Joan Nicholas, Bonnie and Harold Odum, Nanette Olivier, Jane Patterson, Shirley Peak, June Peay, Brandon Parlange, Cynthia and Perry Presholdt, Michael Puyau, Marilyn Randall, Sarah Rayner, Dan Reed, Angelle Ruppert, James Russell, Dugan Sabins, Sandy and Pierre Sargent, Whitney Hoffman Sayal, Elizabeth Scurto, Joanna Sheburne, Roby Shields, Marla and Joel Silverberg, Kathy and Clay Smilie,

Juliana Viator, Jenneke Visser, Bart Sutton, Terry Sweeney, Sharon Tabor, Deborah Taylor, Mary Tharp, Donald and Carol Thibodeaux, Lowell Tilley, Tara Titone, Adrienne Vaughn, Susan Veillon, Lucy and Charles Walker, Heidi and Thomas Williams, Robert Williams, Martha Yancey, Karen and Michael Zobrist

### REDBUD LEVEL \$75

Laura and David Hinchee, Margaret and James Meyer, Rita Sibley

### AZALEA LEVEL \$50

Evelyn and Byron Almquist, Thomas Anderson, Christopher Arnold, Mary Ann Atkinson, Linda Auld, Linda Autin, Dana Babin, Julianne Bactad, Nanette Bahlinger, Kathy Baker, Kathy Barbara, Tyler Bargas, Donna Belanger, Heather Bellanger, Jeff Bernard, Michael Blandino, Janice Bossart, Jacqueline Bottoms, Donald Boudreaux, Judith Boyce, Janie Braud, Paul Braun, Natalie Breaux, Michele Browning, Colleen and Stephen Buras, Tim Byrd, Tom Campbell, Philip Cenac, Vivian Charbonnet, Wendy Christmann Bamber, Katherine and Mike Constantin, Meredith and Jacob Contreras, Larry Cooper, Mal Corcoran, Joy and Tommy Couvillion, Aline and Stephen Creed, Bonnie D'Antonio, Aimee De Wit, Amy and Todd Delaney, Marcelle Desoto, Bryce Donner, Amy Drago, Brooke and Benjamin Dubansky, Betty Dupont, Delores Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Easterly, Amanda Eccler and Nick Martinez, Margo Eglin, Gregory Engelsman, Kelsie Enicke, Belinda Falcon, Rachel and Bryan Faulkner, Margaret and Raymond Feierabend, Rebecca Fernea, Sherry and Robert Finley, Don Fitzgerald, Shirley Flake, Clara and Mark Flynn, Julie Folse, Corrie Ford, Brad France, Joann and Charles Fryling, Angela Gauthier, Gordon Gill, Sharon Gonzales, Patti Granzin, Peter Griffard, Julie Guerin, Brian Hanchey, John Hanley, Marcia Hardy, Paulette Hargroder, Sheila Harrell, Robert Hicks, Alison Hockman, Beverly Hodges, Katherine and Walter Hohmann, Susan Hutchinson, Sylvia and Myles Jaynes, Brandon Johnson, LaRue Jolly, Darlene Kattan, Shaun Kemmerly, Susan Kissel, Melody Kitchen, Devera Kleinpeter, Jennifer Kluse, Janell and Larry Koenig, Annette and Mark Lamond, Joette LeBlanc, John LeBlanc, Nathan Lemoine, Erin Loftus, Mary Looftbourrow, Lynn Maheu, Patricia Mann, John Mayronne, Melinda McIntire, Emile Mercante, Laura Metcalf, Dolores (Dee) Middleton, Alice and Richard Miller, Debra Moak, Deanna Moritz, Kerry Morris, Nancy Mulhern, Mary Norris, Mikey Norris, Julie and Paul Orr, Stacie Pelegrinis, Daniel Powell, Kay Radlauer and Dennis Demcheck, Lori Radunzel-Davis, Kathleen Randall, John (Jack) Reilley, Vanessa Richard, Pam and Gary Ross, Lawrence Rozas and Donna Gauthier, Brian and Celine Runyon, James Russell, Matthew and Payton Sagrera, Regina Saia, Shannon Sandifer, Rita and Gerald Satawa, Lorice and Geoffrey Say, Chandan Sharma, Tammy and Chris Shows, Sterling Sightler, Laura Simoneaux, Vicki Sing, Kayleigh Smith, Laura Smith, Patricia Snyder, Jo Stephens, Angelle Stringer,

Susan Teddlie, Susan and Mark Tullos, Elizabeth Walker, Nancy Ward, Andrew Watkins, Donna Welch, Sharon and Jere West, Michael Westphal, Ann Whitmer

### VIOLET \$35

Sheridan Wilkes, Sallie and William Williams, Sarah Williams, Laura Wolfe, Virginia and Charles Yarbrough, Laura and Daniel Aguilar, Amy Anderson, Kelly Bankston, Deborah Bellingham, Jennifer Boswell, Deborah Bowman, Karolyn and William Bull, Rebekah Burge, Chris Calamari, Debra and Mark Canatella, Suzan and Clinton Chatman, Wendy Christmann Bamber, Jessica Diez, Diana Dorroh, Leon and Shirley Drewes, Dick Ehrlicher, Josh Ford, Micah Frazier, Phyllis Funches, Deanna Gaharan, Barbara Guglielmo, Meg Guidroz, Jessica Gunning, Melinda Hadden-Larson, Mary Heintz, Nancy Hillman, Tommy Hillman, Heather Howle, Brenda Hughes, Soo Jeong Jo and Jaeyun Han, Christy Kessler, Amber King, Ruth and Peter Kovacs, Mary Legeria, David May, Amy McCormick, Gary McKenzie, Connie McLeod, Rebecca Olivera, Angela Patel, Charles and Kathy Perilloux, Madelyn Rawls, Jamie Roques, Wendy Schempf, Jeanine Schmidt, Betty Branch Schroeder, Annie Skok, Cindy and Gregory Steyer, Keith and Johannah Stroud, Michelle Sweeney, Janet Talmadge, Sally Tennant, Linda "Dianne" Troclair, Susan Walker, Janice and Thomas Waterman, Natalie and Cliff Waters, Patricia Weigel, Jay Werner, Sallie Williford, Carol Younathan

### STUDENT LEVEL \$35

Brennan Burke, Eden James, Spencer Miller, Sophie Webber, Erin White

### ANNUAL APPEAL

Claudia Brian, Bob Dillemath, Judy and Frank Foil, June and John Gonce, Cindy and John Hartgerink, Amy and Richard Hughes, Margaret and Tom Humble, Deb and Ken McMillin, Melanie Montanaro, Teri Rome, Cary Saurage, Pam and Gerry Sulzer, Cathy & Alan Troy

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

**In Memory of Jon Emerson:**  
Catherine Coates, Kenneth Williams

**In Memory of Randy Harelson:**  
Kenneth Williams

**In Memory of Julia Hawkins:**

Elizabeth Daly, Anne and Peter Davis, Andy and Colette Dean, Janet Graham, Amy and Richard Hughes, Lynn Jenkins, Susan Lindig, Beth and Dave Morgan, Ann Perron, Joan and Rod Quibodeaux, Billy and Ashley Reich, Christina Riquelmy, Gayle and John Smith, Olga Svendson, Melanie and John Vidrine

**In Memory of E. L. Henry:**  
Garden Growers Study Club

**In Memory of Rita Dolores Babin LeBlanc:**

Amanda Alfaro, Constance Butler, Bert Dorgant, Margo Eglin, Jeralyn and Mark Miller, Ron McClelland and Stephen Powell, Katherine Perrelli, Christopher Regan, Andrea Sides

**In Memory of Sydney McBride:**  
Betty Gaudiosi

**In Memory of Lisa Naquin:**  
Celeste and Tom Lewellen, Melody Richey

**In Memory of Pete Newton:**  
Kenneth Williams

**In Memory of Robert Reich:**  
Billy and Ashley Reich

**In Memory of Newton Thomas:**  
Brandon Parlange

**In Memory of Sue Turner:**  
Kenneth Williams

**In Memory of Denise Van Schoyck:**  
Patricia Martina

### MATCHING FUNDS

Albermarle Foundation

### SPONSORSHIPS

**Membership T-Shirts:**  
Goss Wealth Management

**Celebration of the Oak:**  
Newton Landscape Group

**2025 Annual Symposium:**  
Josef Sternberg Memorial Fund

**In Honor of Bob Dillemath:**

Rachel Dillemath, Friends of Burden Botanic Gardens

### DONATIONS

#### \$10,000+

Beverly Coates, Terry Rehn

#### \$1,000 +

Boisvert Foundation, Leo and Kay Broders, Doug Reed, Alma Lee, Norman, and Cary Saurage

#### \$100 +

Arlene Edwards, Virginia Gardner, University Club Garden Club, Jenneke Visser

#### Up to \$100

Kelly Andino, Kenneth Burk, Michelle Charrier, Maradee and Curtis Cryer, Jeanne Davis and Bob Carney, Andy and Colette Dean, William Dejean, Emily and Al Delaney, Bob Dillemath, Dwight Dufrene, Crystal and Bradley French, Virginia Gardner, Donna Gauthier and Lawrence Rozas, Cathy and Andreas Hansen, Pat Hollowell, Michael Howard, Sharon Kavanaugh, Jackie and Donnie Ladatto, Sally and Mark Lazarone, John Mayronne, Evelyn McWilliams, Pamela Pursnell, Dugan Sabins, Kathy and Clay Smilie, Jenneke Visser, Lily Zi

**A special thanks to those who covered credit card fees. You saved us nearly \$300!**

**Louisiana Native Plant Society**  
LNPS.org

Get Trained

Become a Certified Louisiana Native Professional.

Next Class:  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Sept 20 - 21  
LNPS.org - Click on "Programs"

Certify Your Habitat!

**Wild Ones GBR**  
Annual Seed Swap  
Sunday, October 19, 2025  
2pm-4pm

LSU Botanic Gardens at Burden  
4560 Essen Ln, BR

Native Plant Seeds-Information

5.00 entrance charge for non-members  
join us at [greaterbatonrouge.wildones.org](http://greaterbatonrouge.wildones.org)

wildonesgbr@gmail.com

East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners

**Fall Plant Sale**

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27  
8AM - NOON

LSU AGCENTER BOTANIC GARDENS  
AT BURDEN  
4560 ESSEN LANE

Follow the signs to find our sale  
Cash, check, and cards accepted

We will have the following plants **AND LOTS MORE!**

Amaryllis	Coleus	Salvia
Bleeding heart	Gingers	Succulents
Brazilian	Hibiscuses	Sugar cane
buttonbush	Louisiana irises	Swamp sunflowers
Cast iron	Mammoth pink daisy mums	Tradescantia
Cat whiskers	Roses	Yellow buttercups

**BEAVER'S FALL SALE**

HELP US WELCOME OUR FALL INVENTORY!

SELECT NATIVE PLANTS  
20-50% OFF

VENDORS:  
YAYA'S BLOOMS AND DOUGH  
NEXT CHAPTER COFFEE CO.

LOCALLY GROWN VEGETABLE AND  
HERB TRANSPLANTS

**SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**10AM-4PM**

**CONNECT WITH US**



CALL

225.767.6916



MEET

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday | 9am - 4:30pm



STAY UP  
TO DATE

[Sign up](#) for our weekly newsletter  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
View our [online calendar of events](#)



VOLUNTEER

[Email us](#) to become a volunteer.  
[Click here](#) to view the many ways you can volunteer at Hilltop.