



# Hodges Gardens State Park

*Louisiana's Garden in the Forest*

Friends of Hodges Gardens A 501(c)3 Organization  
Established to Restore, Preserve, Protect and Promote Hodges Gardens  
Newsletter, May 2016

<http://hodgesgardens.net/>

Facebook—Friends of Hodges Gardens

**PARK CLOSURE UPDATE** Hodges Gardens continues to be on a closure list just a shorter one. The Governor's proposed budget decreased the amount that the Parks department had to cut thus reducing the Park closure list from 12 to 5. We are still on the list however. If a further decrease in budget cuts is received by the Parks department, Hodges Gardens should be the next park to roll off the list. The Governor has called a second special session to raise additional revenue so it is still important for legislators to be contacted regarding what they will do to keep the Garden open. Continue to remind them of the historical and unique aspects of Hodges Gardens and the devastation closure would cause in our efforts to restore it. Financially, I believe it would be costlier to the state to close than continue operation given what it would cost to bring back the gardens once again. The number of contacts with your representatives and senators makes a difference. The more contacts the better even second and third contacts. Thank you for all of your continued efforts. Continue to encourage others who may not be members of Friends but love Hodges Gardens and want it to remain open to let their voices be heard. Our local legislators are: **Representative Frankie Howard**-1601 Texas Hwy., Many, LA 71449; (318) 256-4135 Fax (318) 256-4137; email address [howardf@legis.la.gov](mailto:howardf@legis.la.gov)  
**Senator Gerald Long**-P.O. Box 151, Winnfield, LA 71483; District Phone-(318) 628-5799, (800) 265-2437, Fax (318) 628-6120; email address [longg@legis.la.gov](mailto:longg@legis.la.gov)  
For those not in our local area, I have included the link below which will identify your legislators. Click on their name and their contact information is given. <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/FindMyLegislators.aspx>

## FEATURED STAFF MEMBER: KIM KELLY, PARK MANAGER

Kim, a hometown graduate of Florien High School grew up with Hodges Gardens-learning to swim in the lake, enjoying the Christmas displays and loving all of the plants making it her "heaven on earth". She has held an annual pass since she was 15 years old which is indicative of her passion for Hodges Gardens. Working in Dallas for 13 years developed her administrative skills yet she yearned to return home to be close to her family and her beloved Hodges Gardens. In 2007, when the Gardens were transferred to the State Park system she saw her opportunity to have the job she had dreamed of her entire life-working in her beloved Hodges Gardens. Asked about the highlight of her tenure thus far, she responded with the placement of Hodges Gardens on the National Registry of Historic Places. However, this is only the first step. She wants to continue to stabilize the infrastructure of the park and restore as much of the essence of the gardens as is possible. Passing the history of Hodges Gardens to future generations is important to Kim. She wants to make it possible to pass on Hodges Gardens memories to future generations. We are fortunate to have someone with such a passion for our beloved Garden in the Forest managing the park.



## MOVIES IN THE PARK - YOGI BEAR MAY 14, 2016

Sponsored by DeLatin's Body Shop – A documentary filmmaker travels to Jellystone Park to shoot a project and soon crosses paths with Yogi Bear, his sidekick Boo-Boo, and Ranger Smith. Starring Dan Aykroyd, Justin Timberlake, and Anna Faris. Come out to Hodges Gardens May 14 at 7:30 pm to enjoy a night of family fun. Bring your blankets or chairs to the Terrace. Concessions, provided by Friends of Hodges Gardens, will be available-to include Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks, Candy and of course Popcorn. Hot Dogs cost \$2 and everything else \$1.



## PAINTING IN THE PARK MAY 21, 2016

Join us at 1 pm for a fun filled Saturday afternoon with artist Kimberly Remedies. All supplies are provided. Regular park admission of \$5 applies along with a \$20 registration fee paid directly to Ms. Kimberly. Annual pass holders are admitted FREE and only pay the registration fee. Remember no talent required -step by step instructions are provided. Hidden talents are discovered every time. Please call Kimberly at 337-424-6526 to reserve a spot. The picture shown is the inspiration for the painting that the registrants will do.

**RECAP OF STAR PARTY—APRIL 9, 2016** The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hodges Gardens Star Party sponsored by the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society was quite a success with nearly 210 in attendance throughout the evening of April the 9<sup>th</sup>. The weather while not the best due to intermittent cloud cover was good enough that those departing said what a great time they had. Friends of Hodges Gardens manned the concession stand making about \$260. Thanks go to Larry and Kayla Hataway, James and Christina Stringer and Linda Harris and friend Billy, as well as Bob and Chris Nolen for helping out at the concession stand. Also a big thanks to Perry Garner of the park staff who assisted us in setting up and Clark for taking down our tents and tables the following morning.

## FEATURES OF THE PARK

**The Butterfly Garden** is sponsored by Sabine Master Gardeners

**The Herb Garden** is tended by Betty Jo Manasco and Kay Grimes along with various Friends volunteers.

**The Rose Garden** is in need of a sponsor.

**The Willow Point Fountain** which was struck by lightning needs repair.

Dennis Downs has identified the needed parts for the repair and offered to repair the fountain once again. The Fountain requires a new motor costing approximately \$2000. Donations for its repair can be made by sending a check made out to Friends of Hodges Gardens with Fountain repair written on the memo line. Further updates will be provided.



## Friends of Hodges Gardens Gift Shop

We are happy to announce that Connie Keppinger of Cockfield's Garden will be adding her interesting wares to our Gift Shop inventory. Connie will share her talent by bringing workshops to the garden covering such delightful topics as Terrariums-hanging and succulent, Designing with Tillandsia's, and Fairy Gardens. If you are interested in any of the workshops just let us know via our email address. We continue to search for artists and artisans interested in adding to our eclectic collection through a consignment agreement. Pass the word. The Gift Shop is open Friday through Sunday from 10AM to 5PM.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: WE NEED YOU

**During the next few months volunteers are needed in the following areas:**

**Volunteers needed for MayFest Booth in Leesville on May 6th and 7th.** Meriget Turner or Chris Nolen will be manning the booth, however additional volunteers are needed to assist. Bob and Chris Nolen will set up the booth on Friday and dismantle it on Sunday. Please contact Chris at [chrisnolen61@gmail.com](mailto:chrisnolen61@gmail.com).

**Gift Shop Staffing Friday-Sunday of May**

**Saturday, May 14-concessions 5:00-10 pm at the outdoor movie Yogi Bear**

**Ongoing-maintaining the Old-Fashion Rose Garden**

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of the activities listed, please contact Friends at the following email address: [fohgsp@gmail.com](mailto:fohgsp@gmail.com). If all able Friends volunteer for one activity it will make short order of the work to be done.

### Friends of Hodges Board of Directors

Chris Nolen-President  
Meriget Turner-Vice President  
Nan Arthur-Secretary  
Bob Nolen-Treasurer  
Nona Daily  
Kim Kelly  
Tammy Foster  
Betty Manasco  
Kim Delatin  
Marguerite McNeely

The Friends of Hodges continues to seek new members to support our beloved Hodges Gardens. There is a membership level to meet all needs and all donations are tax deductible. Please consider joining us in our efforts to Restore, Preserve, Protect, and Promote Hodges Gardens.

## Park Hours of Operation:

The gates open at 8AM daily and close at 9PM Sunday through Thursday and 10PM on Friday and Saturday. The Gardens close at sunset. Admission is \$5 per person, \$4 for seniors 62+ and children under 3 are admitted free. Annual passes are available for \$80 and admit the cardholder and any passengers in the vehicle. For more information about the Park, visit [www.lastateparks.com](http://www.lastateparks.com), call 800-354-3523 toll free.

**Reservations** for overnight accommodations can be made online or through the Call Center at 877.226.7652.

There are 13 cabins and a group camp, and 9 unimproved tent campsites and a primitive camping area. Also there are boats with paddles and life jackets available for rent.



Friends of Hodges Gardens  
1000 Hodges Loop  
Florien, LA

Phone: 318-586-7002





## **FRIENDS OF HODGES GARDENS**

*A 501(c)3 Organization*

*Established To Restore, Preserve, Protect and Promote Hodges Gardens*

*fohgsp@gmail.com*

☐ **Bronze - One Individual Membership**

- ✓ \$25 donation
- ✓ Quarterly electronic newsletter
- ✓ Friends membership card

☐ **Silver - One Individual Membership**

- ✓ \$100 donation
- ✓ Quarterly electronic newsletter
- ✓ 10% discount on all Gift Shop merchandise
- ✓ **1** membership card that provides the individual passholder and passengers in their vehicle free day use entrance to **Hodges Gardens State Park** for 1 year.

Please include the name of the passholder: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Gold - One Family or Corporate Membership**

- ✓ \$300 donation
- ✓ Quarterly electronic newsletter
- ✓ 10% discount on all Gift Shop merchandise
- ✓ **3** membership cards that provide the individual passholder and passengers in their vehicle free day use entrance to **Hodges Gardens State Park** for 1 year.

Please include the names of the individual passholders:

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Platinum - Contact Friends of Hodges Gardens**

- ✓ \$500 or more, all of the above and other special benefits

☐ **\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other - a donation of your choice**

**I am interested in helping Friends with:**

- ☐ Garden Projects
- ☐ Gift Shop Volunteer
- ☐ Outdoor Movies
- ☐ Financial Support
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount included:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:**

**Friends of Hodges Gardens Gift Shop**

**1000 Hodges Loop**

**Florien, LA 71429**

*State Park Annual Passes are sold separately at the Hodges Gardens entrance station*



## LIFE IS A PIC-A-NIC!

Everyone's favorite pic-a-nic basket-stealing bear comes to Hodges Garden State Park! This fun family film will be played on an outdoor screen at the park on May 14th at sunset. Regular park admission is required, with no additional charge for the film. Children under age three and pass-holders get in free.

Be sure to bring your (pic-a-nic) blankets to snuggle under while you watch this fun new adaptation of Hanna-Barbera's classic cartoon. And if you forget your pic-a-nic basket, concessions will be available for purchase.



Hodges Garden State Park  
1000 Hodges Loop  
Florien, LA 71429

Saturday, May 14th  
7:30 P.M.

Call 318.586.3523 for more  
information.





# TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

By Cockfield's Garden

Hodges Garden

Gift Shop

Your choice of terrarium container & plants, planting medium, terrarium tool, accent, step by step & written instruction, growing & care requirements, light refreshments & lots of fun is included for a fee of \$40.00 per person.

Workshop lasts approximately 60 minutes

Registration must be received by May 12

REGISTER EARLY

Workshop limited to 10 people

Sunday May 15

2:00

Call Cockfield's Garden

318-581-3155

Cockfieldgarmar@yahoo.com

# FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP

By Cockfield's Garden  
Hodges Garden

Gift Shop

Bring your own container, plants & other materials will be provided for containers up to 15x15 inches.

Step by step instruction and growing & care requirements, as well as a few surprises will be included. Containers and additional materials will be available for purchase.

Cost \$35.00 per person.

Workshop lasts approximately 60 minutes

Registration must be received by June 1

REGISTER EARLY

Workshop limited to 10 people

Saturday June 4

1:00

Call Cockfield's Garden

318-581-3155

Cockfieldgarmar@yahoo.com