

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, August, 2017

<http://hodgesgardens.net/>

Facebook—Friends of Hodges Gardens

UPDATE ON PARK STATUS

Hodges Gardens State Park continues to remain open for day use 9-5 daily Monday through Sunday. The Office of State Parks (OSP) is honoring any reservations in the cabins or Group Camp, however, no reservations or walk ins for lodging are accepted. The OSP and the A. J. and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation are continuing to work through the process of reconveying the Park to the Foundation. The President of the Foundation assured me that they were interested in keeping the Gardens open to the public and want to maintain the integrity of the Gardens. Friends of Hodges Gardens will continue to support our mission to restore, preserve, protect and promote Hodges Gardens by working with the OSP and the Foundation during this time of transition.

Chris

STONE MASONRY OF THE GARDENS REVISITED

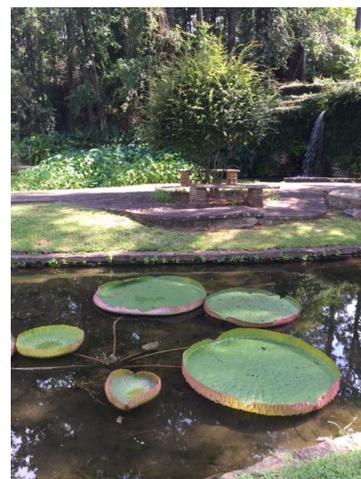
One of the perks of working in the Visitor's Center is getting to talk with folks who come to Hodges Gardens. You never know just what you'll learn. On July 22nd Carl and Charlotte Willis (pictured) of Round Rock, Texas stepped in the door. He shared with me that he had been wanting to come to Hodges for years to take pictures of the stone work throughout the park. He went on to explain that his uncle, Burl Willis and his son Clyde were rock masons from Clarksville, Arkansas. Family stories described how Burl and Clyde had spent almost three years living in a garage apartment in Florien laying 30 long bed truckloads of the Permastone rock also known as Arkansas ledgerstone that is iconic in the structures of the park. His uncle explained the difficulty of laying this unique stone as compared to typical brick as several courses of stone had to be laid before you would find that an error was made which meant taking the stone down and starting all over again. So as you move throughout the Gardens check out all of the beautiful and well laid stone and think of Burl and Clyde Willis. Their craftsmanship and attention to detail certainly has stood up to the test of time.



THE RETURN OF THE VICTORIA WATER LILIES UPDATE

As reported last month **John Cash of Ark-La-Tex Water Gardens and Landscape** reintroduced the giant Victoria Water Lilies to the lower pools. Some critters decided to dine shortly after the planting, Friends purchased repellents that Park staff religiously applied and the lilies are no longer being bothered. The pictures show the growth over time. We are hoping for the lilies to bloom soon. They are night bloomers so would be visible first thing in the morning in the park. Stay tuned.

July 4th, July 9th -eaten one, July 20th, August 1st, 6th, 12th



PAINTING IN THE PARK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Join us at 1 pm for a fun filled Saturday afternoon with artist Kimberley Remedies. All supplies are provided. Regular park admission of \$7 applies along with a \$20 registration fee paid online at www.hodgesgardens.net or directly to Ms. Kimberly. Annual pass holders are admitted FREE and only pay the registration fee. Remember no talent required-step by step instructions provided. Hidden talents are discovered every time. Register online or call 818-424-6526 to reserve a spot.



COMING UP IN OCTOBER

PAINTING IN THE PARK OCTOBER 21, 2017

BUTTERFLY WORKSHOP — OCTOBER 14, 2017

Master Gardeners Carolyn Martin and Susan Duhon are presenting a workshop on Saturday October 14th beginning at 10:00 am in the Visitor's Center. They will discuss the life cycle of butterflies which explains the need for specific host plants, and nectar plants that support the butterflies. A guided butterfly garden walk will follow. The success of the Butterfly Garden is beginning to show. A walk through the garden on Sunday found the following beauties flitting about.

Spicebush Swallowtail



Palamedes Swallowtails



**STONE MASONRY OF THE GARDENS REVISITED
MORE PICTURES**





VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center is open Fridays from 1:00-4:00, Saturdays from 10:00-4:00 and Sundays from 1:00-4:00 thanks to Peggy Fisher and Frankie McBryde. Friends owes these ladies a debt of gratitude for donating their time and talents to the Gardens. Those interested in volunteering to work in the Visitor Center contact Chris Nolen at (318) 315-0793.



Volunteers are the life blood of Hodges Gardens State Park. It is never too early to learn each of us can give of ourselves for the betterment of our environment. For more information about how you can help by becoming a volunteer or making a donation in memory or honor of a loved one, contact Friends of Hodges Gardens at fohgsp@gmail.com.



AMAZON SMILE

Don't forget to do to your online shopping through AmazonSmile to help support the Gardens. Use this link to connect with smile.amazon.com to automatically support Friends of Hodges Gardens State Park <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4480938> or use the amazonsmile link on the Friends of Hodges Gardens website at www.hodgesgardens.net.

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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. Link to [membership form](#).

Park Hours of Operation: The park is now open only for Day Use — 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. Lodging is no longer available, however, reservations made previous to July 1st are being honored.

