



# 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, July, 2016

<http://hodgesgardens.net/>

Facebook—Friends of Hodges Gardens

## HODGES GARDENS STATE PARK TO REMAIN OPEN

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser officially stated in a message to Chris Nolen, Friends President, that Hodges will remain open. He also indicated a willingness to help Friends efforts in any way he could asking us to coordinate with his office to schedule a visit to the Gardens. Thanks go to all of the membership for all the contacts made to their Legislators and the Office of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. We now can redirect our energies to promoting Hodges Gardens. We must be diligent in our efforts to increase the visitation to the park as those parks with high visitation were never considered for closure when the finances were in question.

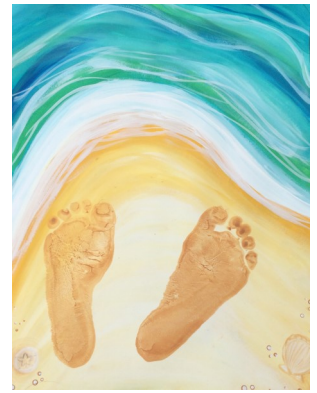
## WILLOW POINT FOUNTAIN UPDATE

All of the parties responsible for the repair of the Willow Point Fountain were able to come together to admire the beautiful fountain. Representatives from PCA, Wayne Uran and Brent Hanson came up from DeRidder and met Dennis Downs and Ross Shelly of Dennis Downs Electrical of Florien who removed the old motor and installed the new motor that PCA bought. Friends wish to thank them for their efforts in restoring the fountain to its glory.



## **PAINTING IN THE PARK JULY 16, 2016**

Join us at 1pm for a fun filled Saturday afternoon with artist Kimberly Remedies. This class is an introductory class that would be good for children or first time painters. 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 provided. Hidden talents are discovered every time. Please call 318-424-6526 to reserve a spot.



## **FRIENDS OF HODGES GARDENS WEBSITE**

Stay tuned for changes coming in July. The Board of Directors determined an update of the website was necessary to allow for online donations. The new website platform will allow individuals to donate as well as to shop online at favorite businesses such as Amazon and Target plus many others with the business donating a percentage of one's purchases back to Friends of Hodges Gardens. This platform will also allow for an easy and seamless way to volunteer in the park and to sign up for events in the park. I will send out an email announcement once we go live with the site.

## **GIFT SHOP TEMPORARILY CLOSED**

The air conditioner in the Gift Shop is not working and bids have been let for replacement. Until the air conditioner is replaced, the Gift Shop will remain closed. We are hopeful the replacement will happen soon.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Friends Membership chair reports that Friends has reached 75 members. This is the largest membership to date. Continue to share the importance of supporting the restoration efforts of our Friends organization with others. The more memberships and participation the more progress we can make. Chris Nolen will be happy to provide a program on Friends and the work being done at the park for any organization you might be a member. Just email her at [chrishnolen61@gmail.com](mailto:chrishnolen61@gmail.com). This is an excellent way to get the word out about the organization and the work we are doing.

## **THANKS TO FRIENDS MEMBERS**

Thanks to Mr. Don Kendrick for donating a year's worth of photos of the Garden in multiple formats giving us the rights to use them as Friends chooses. This photo of our resident eagle is just one of his many fabulous pictures. Thus far we have used his photos for our newsletter and as a slideshow on the TV in the Gift Shop. Don has also worked on the telescope at the Fee Station and helped keep the Gift Shop air conditioning going until it couldn't go any longer. We so appreciate his dedication to Hodges Gardens.



Thanks to Frankie and Lewis McBryde for the donation of a beverage cooler for the Gift Shop. We are now able to sell cold drinks to visitors as they look through the Gift Shop.

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Consider honoring or memorializing loved ones with a donation to Friends of Hodges Gardens. Friends will send an acknowledgement letter to the giver and a letter to the honoree or the family of the deceased to notify them of the gift. Gifts will be published in the Friends of Hodges Gardens monthly newsletter. The gifts will be used to continue the restoration efforts in the gardens.

Picture from June's Painting in the Park



Another picture taken by Don Kendrick



### 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  
Kayla Hataway  
Carolyn Martin



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  
E-mail: [fohgsp@gmail.com](mailto:fohgsp@gmail.com)  
[FaceBook@FriendsofHodgesGardens](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofHodgesGardens)  
<http://hodgesgardens.net/>





## **FRIENDS OF HODGES GARDENS**

*A 501(c)3 Organization*

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*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*