



# 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, June 2016

<http://hodgesgardens.net/>

Facebook—Friends of Hodges Gardens

**CHRIS'S COMMENTS** While the park is still on a closure list, I am heartened at recent comments that have been made regarding it staying open. However, until Hodges Gardens is officially removed from the closure list, I encourage all of the members to continue to contact your legislators asking them to do whatever it takes to keep Hodges open. I will pass on any news we get regarding the status of the park.

Continue to remind your legislators of the historical and unique aspects of Hodges Gardens and the devastation closure would cause in our efforts to restore it. 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>

## PARK MANAGEMENT REMINDER

Hodges Gardens is the home to much wild life. It is one of the joys of coming to the park to see the wild life and at this time of year their young. Please be reminded not to touch and handle the young. Mothers may abandon their young if they are handled by people. Does will birth their fawns and then leave to forage but they will return. If you see an animal that looks to be in distress or a young animal that is alone, do not intervene. Report it to the park staff at the fee station so that they can investigate and take appropriate action as needed.



Please drive carefully and yield to the wildlife at all times, but especially now that the babies are arriving. They are along the roadside as well as in the main garden area. Fishing is another past time that is enjoyed at Hodges. We want to send a friendly reminder to visitors to please be mindful of your fishing line, bait and hooks. Please do not leave these along the shoreline. It's difficult to assist the wildlife when they get tangled in the line or get hooks in their legs. Please pick up behind yourselves and don't leave these items behind. Thanks for your consideration.

## PAINTING IN THE PARK JUNE 18, 2016

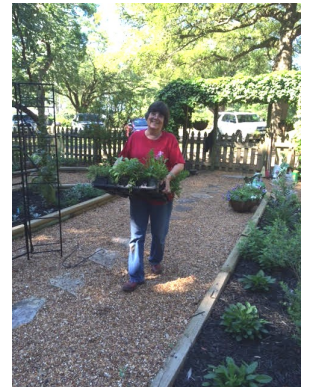
Join us at 1 pm for a fun filled Saturday afternoon with artist Kimberly Remedies. All supplies are provided. Regular park admission of \$5 applies along with a \$20 registration fee paid directly to Ms. Kimberly. Annual pass holders are admitted FREE and only pay the registration fee. Remember no talent 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.



## FEATURES OF THE PARK

**The Herb Garden** Every day as the temperatures warm along with the Spring showers, an 'awakening' to the Herb Garden has begun. Nature is doing her part as those 'sleeping' herbs are sprouting and, of course, weeds also. There has been a great group of volunteers diligently working to transform our Garden and what a difference the last few weeks have made. Their dedication and hard work has enabled us to prepare and plant herbs in every bed.

We want to thank Kim Kelly and the staff for getting the fountain leveled and working again. The trickling sound of the fountain once again makes this garden a special place. There is still a 'to do' list with plans to complete in the near future. Come walk through to find hidden treasures or sit for a while to enjoy the aroma and the peacefulness of the fountain as you **Watch Me Grow!** Volunteers—Kay Grimes, Yvonne Parker, Glen Graham, Betty Jo Manasco,

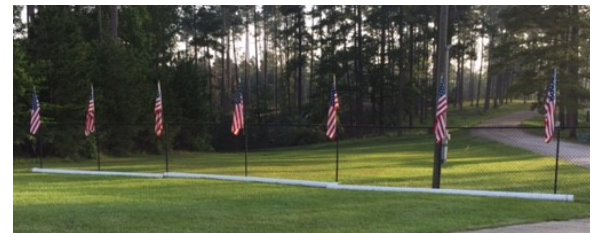


**The Rose Garden is in need of a sponsor.**

**The Willow Point Fountain Update—** Many thanks to PCA, Packaging Corporation of America, for the donation of a replacement motor for the Willow Point fountain and too for the generous donation of \$200 from Dr. Jack Corley which will help defray the expenses of installation. Future status reports will be provided as the repair takes place.

### Memorial Day Observance

Friends of Hodges Gardens displayed 28 flags at the entrance to the park in memory of all those brave men and women who died while serving in the armed forces. We remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy our freedom. Thanks to Bob and Chris Nolen for posting the colors.



### Flag Day-June 14<sup>th</sup>

In honor of National Flag Day Friends of Hodges will be posting flags at the entrance to the park. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of Old Glory gracing the entrance to the park.

## MOVIES IN THE PARK - YOGI BEAR—RECAP

Thanks go to Delatin's Body Shop for sponsoring the May 14<sup>th</sup> movie in the park. Yogi Bear provided a night of family fun enjoyed by about 212 people. A pic-a-nic was provided by the Friends of Hodges Gardens through our concession sales of \$313. Thanks to Kip and Kim Delatin, Bob and Chris Nolen and Park staff- Kim Kelly, Clark Smith, Kenny Mitchell and Perry Garner for setting up the movie and concession stand. Lots of positive comments were received from the attendees looking forward to the next movie.

## Friends of Hodges Gardens Gift Shop

We are happy to announce that Connie Keppinger will share her talent by bringing workshops to the garden— June 4—Fairy Gardens. If you are interested in this workshop contact Connie at Cockfield's Garden-318-581-3155 or [Cockfieldgarmar@yahoo.com](mailto:Cockfieldgarmar@yahoo.com) . 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:**

Rose Garden tending and weeding on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

Herb Garden tending and weeding on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

Gift Shop Friday through Sunday 10 am-5 pm.

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.

**PARK VOLUNTEERS** Thanks to all of our park volunteers. Kim Kelly reported to the board of directors that **835** hours of service have been donated to the park since the beginning of 2016. All of these hours of effort don't go unnoticed. Chris says, "As I work in the Gift Shop, I hear comments every day about the improvements in the gardens." These improvements are due in large part to the volunteers and our collaboration with the park management and staff. It is truly a community effort. It is rewarding to give back through your service in such a beautiful place.



### 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

**Friends of Hodges Gardens**  
1000 Hodges Loop  
Florien, LA

Phone: 318-586-7002  
E-mail: [fohgsp@gmail.com](mailto:fohgsp@gmail.com)  
FaceBook@FriendsofHodgesGardens  
<http://hodgesgardens.net/>

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**

*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*