

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, 2017

<http://hodgesgardens.net/>

Facebook—Friends of Hodges Gardens

PARK STATUS UPDATE

Pictured below is the cover of the Hodges Gardens Magazet for the Third Quarter of 1960. I read in this issue an article announcing the transfer of Hodges Gardens to the A. J. and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation that was recorded in April, 1960. The opening paragraph struck me as so relevant to our current status. It reads:

“A wise man advised a young college student who was questing for his life work to give himself to endeavors that would live after him.

This ideal was echoed in the outgoing spirit of one of Hodges Gardens’ creators-Mrs. Nona Trigg Hodges, whose death one year ago set in motion long-term plans to transfer the gardens to a nonprofit foundation, the profits from which would maintain the gardens for eternity, as well as sustain worthwhile educational and charitable projects through the years.”

Mrs. Hodges bequeathed her estate to establish the foundation that was to continue the work she and Mr. Hodges had begun seven years prior to her death. The foundation did just that until 2007 when after several years of operating at a deficit they donated it to the State of Louisiana. The foundation’s support of Hodges Gardens ended with the exception of small donations made through the Friends of Hodges Gardens organization. Just as the foundation found it difficult to maintain Hodges Gardens as it was intended by A. J. and Nona Trigg Hodges so too the Office of State Parks has found it difficult to fund the garden as hoped for at the transfer. However, it has indeed maintained the garden for the use of the public and made definite improvements on the property that was transferred in 2007. There is no doubt that Hodges Gardens of 2017 is much improved from the Hodges Gardens of 2007. There is much to be done to restore the gardens to their past glory but it can be done if the foundation would once again fulfill the desire of the creators of the gardens and use the profits from the foundation to “maintain the gardens for eternity”. The Friends organization could be the conduit for those funds directed to the restoration of the formal gardens while the Office of State Parks would ensure the continuous operation of the park thereby sharing the expense of operation. With this level of collaboration, the legacy of Hodges Gardens would be continued for the enjoyment of future generations as planned for by Mr. and Mrs. Hodges.

To that end, Friends of Hodges Gardens has asked Commissioner of Administration, Jay Dardenne, to facilitate a meeting of all interested parties regarding the future of Hodges Gardens. Commissioner Dardenne has agreed to such a meeting. Lt. Governor Nungesser asked that the meeting be held after the close of the legislative session on June 8, 2017. It is our hope that such a meeting will ensure that Hodges Gardens State Park continues to operate for the benefit of all of the citizens of Louisiana. I will provide updates as new information becomes available. Continue to call and email your legislators so that they might influence the decisions made by the state.



HODGES GARDENS

Magazet

THIRD QUARTER, 1960

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 4



HODGES GARDENS TRANSFERRED TO FOUNDATION

A. J. and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation Will Sustain Conservation, Education and Charitable Endeavors

A WISE MAN advised a young college student who was questing for his life work to give himself to endeavors that would live after him.

This ideal was echoed in the outgoing spirit of one of Hodges Gardens' creators — Mrs. Nona Trigg Hodges, whose death one year ago set in motion long-term plans to transfer the gardens to a non-profit foundation, the profits from which would maintain the gardens for eternity, as well as sustain worthwhile educational and charitable projects through the years.

The legal recording of this transfer oc-

curred in April, 1960. The new foundation is called the A. J. and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation. A. J. Hodges, as a trustee, will continue to direct the affairs of the gardens. Other trustees are Dr. Joe J. Mickle, President of Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana, and Eugene McElvaney, Senior Vice President of the First National Bank in Dallas, Texas.

Both Dr. Mickle and Mr. McElvaney are not only instilled with the spirit and purpose of the foundation, but have backgrounds which eminently qualify them to direct the destiny of the gardens. Prior to 1945 Dr. Mickle

worked with Kwansei Gakuin University, Kobe, Japan, which, together with extensive travel in the Orient and Europe, give him an international outlook.

Mr. McElvaney, who is a longtime friend of the Hodges family, is Chairman of the Executive Committee of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and has been interested in the growth of various educational institutions.

Hodges Gardens were formally opened and dedicated on May 1, 1959, just a short time after the death of Mrs. Hodges and seven years from the time construction first began in the area. Located on a 4,700 acre tract, this garden in the forest is nestled within the confines of an abandoned stone quarry from which rock was removed around 1900 for the construction of jetties at Port Arthur, Texas. Landscape architects have used the natural scenic effect of exposed rocks, second growth pine and hardwood trees as a background for floral plantations and garden vistas.

Forestry experimentation in growing and improving southern pine will continue in the garden area with help and advice of the Louisiana State University, Southern Forest Experimentation Station, New Orleans, and the Texas Forest Service. The holly research in the gardens arboretum are under the supervision of Southwest Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana.

The main gardens contain plantations of camellias and azaleas, and plants of almost every flowering annual that grow in the temperate zone can be found in season. While spring attracts thousands of visitors, the May



ROSE GARDEN

For your enjoyment a few of the beautiful roses found in the garden last week and the spectacular Texas Star Hibiscus.



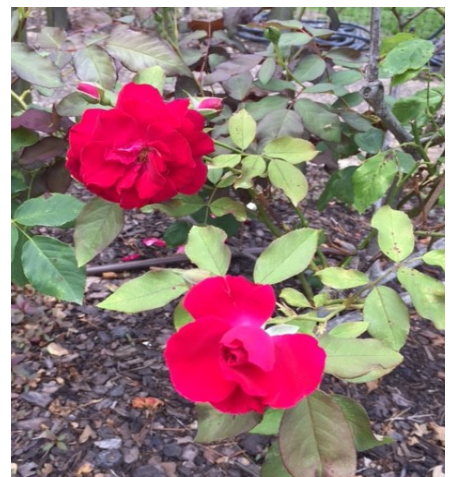
Plain Talk Floribunda 1964



Coral Beauty Polyantha 1941



Mary Margaret McBride
Hybrid Tea 1920



Vanity Hybrid Musk 1920



Texas Star Hibiscus



DOUBLE STAIRCASE

Be sure to see the beautiful double staircase on your next visit to the gardens. The Park staff have been working on cleaning and planting this beautifully designed feature. The natural beauty of the stone and design are enhanced with the marigolds and zinnias. A major aspect of the care and tending of this feature is keeping the deer from making the flower bed a buffet.



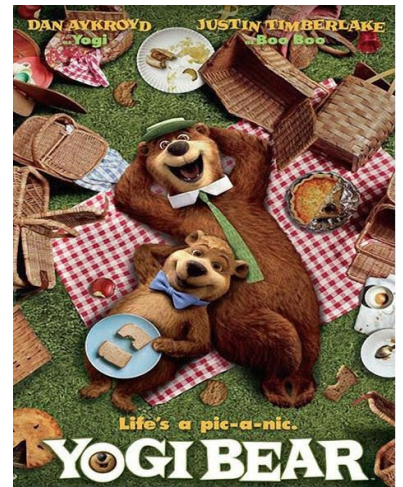
PAINTING IN THE PARK-JUNE 17, 2017

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.



MOVIES IN THE PARK - YOGI BEAR RESCHEDULED JUNE 17, 2017

Yogi Bear sponsored by Julian Foy Motors- 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 June 17th at 7:30 pm to enjoy a night of family fun. Bring your blankets or chairs to the Lakefront Stage. 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.



STAR GAZING 101- RESCHEDULED JUNE 23, 2017



Due to inclement weather the second program in the series had to be rescheduled. The program will begin at 8 pm on **Friday, June 23rd** weather permitting. Plan to arrive before 8:00 and come prepared with chairs, insect repellent, and any refreshments you might like. Bob will have several telescopes set up for use but individuals may bring their own telescopes as well. The program will be looking at the prominent constellations, stars, and star clusters visible in June. This is a free event but regular Park admission fees apply. You must register on the Friends website www.hodgesgardens.net to participate. The group is capped at 25 in order to allow for full participation so be sure to register early.



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Beautiful Cleomes surround the Butterfly Garden entrance and sign beckoning the visitor to venture into the garden. While the highlight of the Butterfly Garden comes in September, the hard work and dedication of the Sabine Master Gardeners continues as they tend the plants that will host and feed the developing butterflies. A recent stroll through the garden found bumble bees loving the beautiful Passion vine, a host plant for the Gulf Fritillary butterfly. The color purple continues in the garden with the Brazilian Button Bush and Catawba crepe myrtle. Come and enjoy the quiet beauty and serenity of this very special garden.



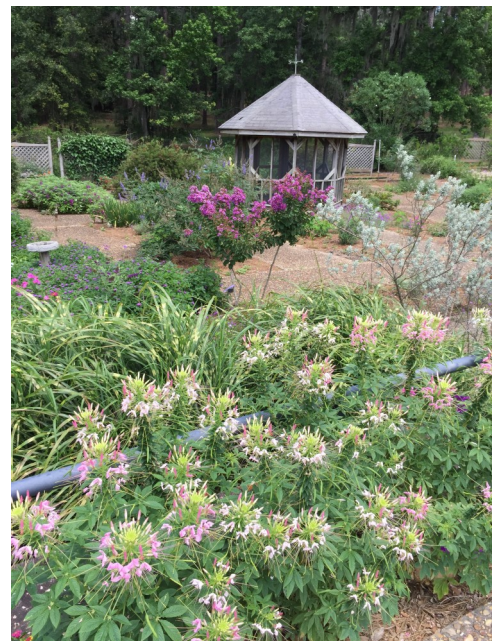
Brazilian Button Bush



Catawba Crepe Myrtle



Passion Vine





VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center continues to be open on Saturdays in June from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm 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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4480938) 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](#)

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 \$7 per person, 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, 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.