



Friends of
HILLTOP ARBORETUM

EXPLORE.

LEARN.

ENJOY.



Fall 2026 Newsletter



News and Events



Photos courtesy of Linda Medine

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Earlier this year, the Friends of Hilltop Arboretum Board of Directors reviewed and readopted our vision:

"That Hilltop will be a nationally recognized center for the study of natural ecosystem design, building upon donor Emory Smith's vision and love of Louisiana's native plants."

Hilltop Arboretum serves as a vibrant community hub, connecting people to nature and providing a peaceful space for wellness. It's also a place for making cherished memories.

My three grown children have memories of PlantFest!, garden tours and Hilltop bus trips. It took us weeks to eat the blueberries they picked on the Gloster

Arboretum tour when they were teenagers! Now, my three young grandchildren have romped and stomped on the grounds and are tucking away memories. Thank you to all the precious Friends who have donated their gifts of time and money to help sustain the Arboretum through all these decades.

My wish is that we continue to carry out our vision, make Hilltop a place where all of us can enjoy and learn, and honor the vision of our founder, Emory Smith—a man I never met but to whom I owe a debt of thanks.

HILLTOP ARBORETUM CORE VALUES

Stewardship – We care for the land, living collections and legacy entrusted to Hilltop.

Learning – We foster curiosity, inquiry and understanding through natural systems and design.

Engagement – We create meaningful opportunities for students and visitors to participate and connect.

Collaboration – We strengthen partnerships across LSU, the Friends of Hilltop and the broader community.

Sustainability – We pursue progress that is responsible, realistic and enduring.

Colette Dean
 Board President, Friends of Hilltop Arboretum



Colette Dean on one of her frequent visits to Potman with her granddaughter, Coco.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This year, I have been especially struck by the many different ways people are finding their place at Hilltop. On any given week, we may welcome LSU students studying the landscape, volunteers caring for the nursery and site, children discovering insects and plants, neighbors gathering for yoga, or visitors and their dogs enjoying a quiet walk. Each experience is different, but together they reflect what Hilltop is becoming: a living classroom, a community gathering place and a landscape cared for with purpose.

This spring and summer brought meaningful growth. We expanded our children's camps, introduced new Art + Wellness offerings, hosted LSU courses and community partners, and welcomed music to the amphitheater. We also reinvigorated stewardship of our 14-acre site with the hiring of Gordon Mese as Hilltop's Site Manager and Landscape Stewardship Consultant. Gordon's leadership has brought renewed focus and momentum to the care of the meadow, ravines, trails, pond, nursery and other areas throughout the Arboretum. Working alongside staff, volunteers and community partners, he has helped us undertake an extraordinary amount of site work while strengthening our approach to the landscape's long-term care.



Tara Titone and volunteer Gail Braymer help Sprouts campers create grassheads during Sprouts summer camp.

Throughout it all, Business Manager Amy Hughes remains Hilltop's most reliable presence. Amy keeps our daily operations moving while offering steady support wherever it is needed. This summer, she also coordinated our Sprouts Camp, helping create a welcoming and memorable experience for our youngest campers. I am deeply grateful for her commitment to Hilltop and for all she does, both behind the scenes and within our programs.

New staff, interns and graduate assistants have also brought valuable energy and knowledge to Hilltop, strengthening both our daily operations and our connection to LSU.

None of this happens through staff effort alone. Hilltop continues to thrive because of the volunteers, educators, donors, community organizations and university partners who share their time, expertise and resources. Whether leading a camp activity, tending the nursery, restoring a trail, supporting a program or helping care for the landscape, each person contributes to something larger than any single event or project.

As we look toward fall and PlantFest!, we are also celebrating the legacy of Hilltop's founder, Emory Smith. Emory envisioned this land as a sanctuary where people could experience the restorative power of nature. His vision remains at the heart of Hilltop, even as new generations discover, study and care for this special place in their own ways.

I hope you will join us this season: at PlantFest!, through one of our programs, as a volunteer or simply for a walk. However you choose to connect with Hilltop, you are part of its continued growth and its future.

Tara Titone
Director, LSU Hilltop Arboretum

SPRING AND SUMMER AT HILLTOP

Spring and summer brought new opportunities for people of all ages to learn, gather and connect with nature at Hilltop.

Our Art + Wellness series invited visitors to experience the site in restorative and creative ways through forest bathing, spring flower pressing and community yoga. Weekly Yoga on the Hill quickly became a favorite, regularly welcoming 20–40 participants to practice together in the open-air pavilion surrounded by the landscape.

In May, the Spring Garden Tour, “Garden Gems,” featured seven private gardens across Southdowns, Old Goodwood and Glenmore Place. Eighteen volunteers helped welcome guests and support the tour, which highlighted thoughtful stewardship, evolving garden design and the distinctive character of three Baton Rouge neighborhoods.

Hilltop also expanded its children’s summer camps by adding July sessions of both Sprouts Camp and Backyard Habitat Gardener Camp. Four weeklong sessions were offered in June and July, including two sold-out sessions serving 30 children each. Campers explored soils, plants, pollinators, wildlife, vegetables, birds and the many habitats found throughout Hilltop. Community volunteers, staff and interns filled more than 160 daily activity-leader, group-leader and support assignments across 20 camp days. We are especially grateful to the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners and Sterling Sightler for their leadership, volunteer recruitment and hands-on camp support. Special thanks also go to Linda Medine, whose photography captured so many beautiful moments of discovery and joy among the children.

In July, Hilltop partnered with the Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater Baton Rouge for an evening moth-sheething event celebrating National Moth Week. Participants used illuminated sheets, cameras and the iNaturalist app to observe and document nighttime insects. The evening resulted in observations of 57 arthropod species, including 17 moth species and one butterfly, while introducing participants to the remarkable biodiversity that emerges at Hilltop after dark.

Hilltop continued to serve as a gathering place through the Monarch Teacher Network, Discover Nature programs and the 808 Sessions, which brought live music and a lively new audience to the amphitheater.

Inside the gift shop, visitors found an expanded selection of Hilltop merchandise and locally inspired gifts. With help from volunteer, Mikey Norris, new offerings include T-shirts, hats, children’s items, wind chimes and botanical artwork and jewelry by local artists.

From quiet moments of reflection to summer camp adventures, garden tours, wellness programs and music under the trees, the season demonstrated the many ways Hilltop connects people with plants, and with one another.



Community yoga participants practice in Hilltop’s open-air pavilion overlooking the pond.



Hilltop friends enjoy a day trip to Gloster Arboretum in Mississippi.



Campers enjoy free play on Hilltop’s cut tree stumps.



Photographer Linda Medine captures one of many special moments during Children’s Camp.



Monarch Teacher Network participants gather at Hilltop following for two days of learning focused on monarch conservation and education.

RENEWED STEWARDSHIP ACROSS HILLTOP

Investing in the Landscape

After 10 years as Hilltop's groundskeeper, Kirk Calbert moved on from Hilltop this year. Kirk cared for the grounds with dedication and pride, and his work helped shape the landscape we all enjoy today. We thank him for his years of service and wish him all the best.

This year also marked a renewed chapter in the care of Hilltop's 14-acre landscape with the hiring of Gordon Mese as Site Manager and Landscape Stewardship Consultant. Working alongside Hilltop staff, interns, volunteers and community partners, Gordon has brought increased focus and momentum to work throughout the site. This has included managing invasive vegetation, restoring trails, caring for the meadow and ravines, improving drainage, maintaining the pond perimeter and supporting the nursery and plant collections.

This spring, a local film production donated several large wax myrtles and palmettos, valued at more than \$3,000. The plants were installed along the Woodland Walk to further establish Hilltop's western perimeter hedgerow.



Site Manager and Landscape Stewardship Consultant Gordon Mese pauses along Hilltop's covered walkway.

Hilltop's First Prescribed Meadow Burn

In February, Hilltop conducted the first prescribed burn in its three-acre meadow since its installation in 2018.

Prescribed fire is an important tool for maintaining healthy prairie ecosystems. It removes accumulated plant material, returns nutrients to the soil, limits the encroachment of woody vegetation and stimulates the growth of native grasses and wildflowers. Botanist, conservationist and Cajun prairie expert Dr. Charles M. Allen recommended incorporating prescribed fire alongside Hilltop's regular mowing practices to create the periodic disturbance these plant communities need.

The burn was facilitated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and conducted under carefully managed conditions. As the meadow continues to recover and regrow, prescribed fire will become another valuable tool in Hilltop's long-term stewardship of the site.



Flames move through accumulated winter vegetation during Hilltop's first prescribed meadow burn.

Community in Action

This year, Hilltop began a new partnership with First Tuesday, an initiative connecting teams from local businesses with nonprofit organizations for monthly service projects. Four service days have brought approximately 15–25 volunteers each to help with meadow preparation, invasive-plant removal, native planting, hedgerow mulching, path improvements and vegetation management. These concentrated service days have allowed Hilltop to accomplish projects that would be difficult for our small staff to complete alone.

Scouts have also made lasting contributions. Eagle Scout Daniel Tate of Troop 203 at St. Patrick's led the restoration of Hilltop's primitive trail, while Ford Fereday of Troop 769 in Prairieville built a new bridge across the pond overflow. We are grateful to these young leaders and to our First Tuesday partners for investing their time and energy in Hilltop.



Members of Troop 203 gather along Hilltop's newly cleared primitive trail following a winter workday.

GROWING AT HILLTOP

A FRESH START FOR THE HODGE PODGE NURSERY

The Hodge Podge Nursery underwent a major transformation this summer. Volunteers, staff and interns reorganized trees and shrubs and cleared the Plant Spa to prepare for incoming plants.

Special thanks go to Kathy and Clay Smilie, whose dedication and hard work made this transformation possible. They led the effort to clean and reinforce the nursery tables, repaired wagons, organized the pot rack and removed the old signage in preparation for a revamped system. Scouts Tyler Felton and Christian Dean of Troop 203 also constructed nine new nursery tables.



The result is a safer and more functional nursery, ready for PlantFest! (and a happy Pot Man with new boots!)

A SWEETER FUTURE: HIVE-SIDE TRAINING AT HILLTOP

Contributed by Kevin Langley

What's all the buzz about? Hilltop has partnered with the Capital Area Beekeepers Association (CABA), Louisiana's largest local beekeeping community, to manage five on-site beehives and conduct monthly hive-side training.

Bee activity helps sustain Hilltop's living sanctuary of native southeastern plants. Wildflowers pollinated by bees provide vital habitat, shelter and food for other insects, birds and wildlife.

New beekeepers from around the region meet monthly at Hilltop to inspect the hives for colony health, extract honey and learn best practices from CABA's apiarist and experienced beekeepers.

Summer campers also experience the bees and taste fresh, unfiltered raw honey. Together, Hilltop and CABA are educating adults and children about the importance of sustainable practices for a healthier, sweeter future, and how we can make a difference in our own community. Soon you can taste Hilltop's nectar and pollen! Hilltop honey will be available in Hilltop's Gift Shop this fall.

Interested in becoming a beekeeper or saving the honey bee? Learn more about CABA's monthly membership meetings and hive-side training at www.cabainfo.org.



WELCOME, ARIANA

Ariana Polk joined Hilltop this year as our Rental Representative, bringing a friendly presence and thoughtful attention to each event. She also stepped in to assist with our children's camps this summer. We are grateful for her help and glad to have her at Hilltop.



HILLTOP AS A LIVING CLASSROOM

Hilltop's connection to LSU continued to grow this year as students and faculty used the Arboretum as a setting for study, experimentation and hands-on learning.

During the spring semester, Professor Kevin Benham with the LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture taught a specialized studies course at Hilltop. Through close observation of the site, students explored how people experience and interpret the landscape. Their work culminated in carefully crafted installations that brought together materiality, conceptual development, detailing, and construction to create immersive experiences throughout Hilltop.

Students from the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication brought a different perspective through a public-relations campaign course. Working with Hilltop as a client, students studied the organization and developed recommendations for strengthening its branding, marketing, events and community outreach. Their work included visual identity concepts and promotional materials, providing Hilltop with fresh ideas while giving students experience addressing the communication needs of a real nonprofit and public garden.

This fall, Hilltop Director Tara Titone is teaching Plant Ecology and Identification through the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture. Using Hilltop as a field classroom, students will develop plant-identification skills while examining how plants function within designed and natural communities. Together, these spring and fall courses are creating a more consistent academic presence at Hilltop and expanding opportunities for students to learn directly from the landscape.

This summer, Hilltop welcomed two fourth-year landscape architecture students, Noelia Borkowski and Luke Legendre, as interns. Both assisted with site work, children's camps and daily operations. Hilltop also said goodbye to Sophie Webber, our first year-round intern. Sophie balanced her work at Hilltop with the demands of landscape architecture school, bringing care and passion to her work on the site. After graduating, she accepted a position with a respected woman-owned landscape architecture firm in New Orleans. We are grateful for all she contributed and wish her the best.

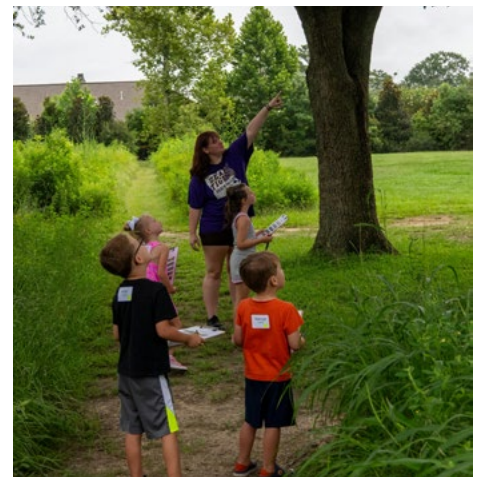
Graduate assistants Haylee Arceneaux and Nina Freeman return following the summer break through the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture's continued placement of graduate students at Hilltop. Working both on the site and in the office, the graduate assistants contribute to Hilltop's stewardship, programs and operations while gaining practical professional experience.



RRSLA student Catherine Frampton's bamboo sculpture, *The Nest*.



RRSLA students Nina Freeman (L) and Sophie Webber (R) take a break from hard work on the site.



Summer intern Noelia Borkowski leads Sprouts summer campers through an observation activity.

PLANTFEST! 2026

MEMBERS' SALE

Wednesday, October 7 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SALE

Saturday, October 10 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 11 | Noon – 4:00 p.m.

PlantFest! returns this October with an extensive selection of native and adapted plants chosen for Louisiana gardens. This year's celebration honors Hilltop founder Emory Smith, whose love of plants and generosity remain at the heart of the sale.

Look for the **Emory Smith Legacy Plant** logo on plant signs throughout the sale to discover plants connected to Emory and his collection at Hilltop.

[Learn more about PlantFest!](#)



Swamp sunflowers frame the tents, volunteers and bustling nursery during PlantFest! 2025.

PLANTFEST! TEASER

Celebrating Emory Smith's Legacy

Featuring Bob Dilemuth

Sunday, October 4 | 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Join longtime Friend of Hilltop, volunteer and plantsman Bob Dilemuth as he shares stories, photographs and favorite plants from Hilltop's early landscape.

Following the presentation, guests will preview the Hodge Podge Nursery, see plants available during PlantFest! and have a chance to win a featured plant.

\$20 Hilltop members and students | \$25 general public

[Register for the PlantFest! Teaser](#)



Bob Dilemuth in his element during a volunteer pond cleanup day at Hilltop.

THE EMORY SMITH LEGACY CAMPAIGN

The first Emory Smith Legacy Planting Project exceeded its \$50,000 goal in 2022, helping to add 176 trees, natural hedgerows and native plant communities to Hilltop.

Building on that progress, we have raised \$13,000 toward a new \$100,000 goal. Donations will support natural plantings, ongoing maintenance, essential equipment, educational signage and future site improvements.

[Support the Emory Smith Legacy Campaign](#)



Hilltop founder Emory Smith holds the original Hilltop sign in this historic photograph.

BE PART OF PLANTFEST!

VOLUNTEER WITH US

PlantFest! depends on the many volunteers who help prepare, organize and carry out Hilltop's largest annual plant sale. Opportunities are available for both adults and youth. Sign up for a shift and be part of this special Hilltop tradition!

[Adult Volunteer Signup](#)

[Youth Volunteer Signup](#)

VISIT THE VENDOR VILLAGE

Shop local growers, artists, makers and garden-related small businesses during PlantFest! on Saturday and Sunday. We are grateful to volunteer Margaret Humble, who coordinates the Vendor Village and brings this lively part of the sale together each year.

Interested in participating? Vendor registration is open through **Wednesday, September 30**, with spaces available for businesses and nonprofit organizations.

[Meet the 2026 Vendors](#)

[Become a PlantFest! Vendor](#)

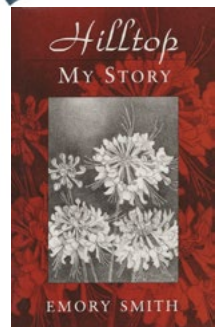


THIS YEAR'S PLANTFEST! T-SHIRT

Take home this year's commemorative PlantFest! T-shirt, featuring artwork by June Gonce, a longtime Hilltop neighbor and supporter who was also a friend of Emory Smith.

June's beautiful drawings of Emory's favorite plants originally appeared in *Hilltop: My Story*, Emory's personal account of how the Arboretum came to be. For this year's shirt, her Japanese persimmon, *Diospyros kaki*, has been reimagined in color.

Both the shirt and *Hilltop: My Story* will be available in the gift shop during PlantFest!, two special ways to take home a piece of Hilltop's history.



HELP STOCK THE YARDEN SALE

It's time to clean out those closets, cabinets and sheds! Volunteer Pat Hollowell once again coordinates Hilltop's Yarden Sale and is collecting donations through **Wednesday, September 30**.

We welcome gently used household and holiday décor, working small appliances, tools, bird feeders, clean flowerpots, patio furniture, children's books, cookbooks, and gardening books.

Leave donations on the Hilltop office porch, **preferably on Wednesdays**. For larger donations, call 225-767-6916. All proceeds support Hilltop. Thank you to Pat, who works tirelessly to make Yarden a success!



UPCOMING AT HILLTOP

DISCOVER NATURE LECTURE SERIES

Presented in partnership with the Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater Baton Rouge, Discover Nature offers monthly programs featuring experts eager to share their knowledge and experiences of the natural world.

OVERWINTERING HABITATS FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Featuring Teri Gegenheimer

Tuesday, September 22 | 6:30–8:00 p.m.

BATS AND BREWS

Featuring Aaron Ashbrook, Mo Christman, Katherine Gividen

Tuesday, October 27 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

AMERICAN ELDERBERRY: FROM FARM TO TABLE

Featuring Cockeyed Farms

Tuesday, November 24 | 6:30–8:00 p.m.

[View Upcoming Programs and Register](#)



ART + WELLNESS

FALL FLOWER PRESSING

Featuring Connie McLeod

Saturdays, October 24 and November 7 | 2:00–4:00 p.m.

[Register for Flower Pressing](#)



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 1 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

2027 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

CLAUDIA WEST RETURNS TO HILLTOP

Saturday, January 30, 2027

Nearly a decade after presenting at Hilltop's 2018 symposium, renowned landscape designer and horticulturist Claudia West returns as the featured speaker for the 2027 Friends of Hilltop Annual Symposium.

A principal of Phyto Studio and co-author of the award-winning *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, Claudia is internationally recognized for advancing ecologically rich, beautifully designed plant communities. Recently, Phyto Studio received the [2026 ASLA Landscape Architecture Firm Award](#), the highest honor the American Society of Landscape Architects bestows on a firm.

Program and Registration Details Coming Soon



Photo courtesy: Claudia West

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Jenneke Visser and Marcia Hardy lend their expertise and support the site and nursery year-round.



Cathy Griffin, monarch educator and Sprouts camp coordinator, watches a butterfly emerge.



Youth summer camp volunteers and sisters, Annie and Katie, pause for a well-deserved break.



Linda Babin and Emily Stich work the cashier and membership tables at Spring Fling.



Kevin Langley tends to Hilltop's bee hives and holds hiveside hands-on programming monthly at Hilltop.



Art Vingiello, intern Luke Legendre, and Sterling Sightler lead Sprouts summer campers through their daily activities.



Hilltop Site Committee assesses the site with Director, Tara Titone, and Site Director, Gordon Mese.



Janet Forbes in her Wednesday happy place – the Hodge Podge at Hilltop.



Kathy and Clay Smilie take a break from their hard work in the nursery to work a registration table at the Spring Garden Tour.



Bob Dilleuth teaches Backyard Habitat Gardener summer campers about soil properties.



Bamboo bandit, Phillip Legendre, spends long days tending to and clearing Hilltop's bamboo grove.



Foard Fereday leads Scout Troop 769 in Prairieville to complete his Eagle Scout project at Hilltop – a bridge across the pond overflow.

REMEMBERING and SAYING FAREWELL IN MEMORIAM

DICK HEARIN SR.

1934–2026

Hilltop said a sad goodbye this past April to Dick Hearin Sr., a longtime supporter and champion of Hilltop Arboretum who was instrumental in growing the Arboretum's infrastructure.

Dick was an active board member who always had an appreciation for gardens and trees. Hilltop was the beneficiary of his love of nature and the stately Southern oaks he adored from childhood. He helped secure one of the largest donations ever made to Hilltop—a gift from Imogene “Imo” Newsom Brown, philanthropist and widow of L. Heidel Brown, that supported the Imo Brown Complex open-air pavilion.

Before his passing, Dick had just celebrated his extraordinary life of 92 years. He was a treasure in our community, and we cherish our fond memories of his time with us.

JACK “RANDY” HARELSON

1951–2024

Another great loss to Hilltop and our art and gardening community was Randy Harelson. Using his exemplary skills in horticulture, art and research, he contributed greatly to Hilltop Arboretum's continuing mission as a unique educational and cultural facility.

Randy was the author of nine books, including four children's books currently featured in Hilltop's Paula Dillemoth Children's Library. He authored *New Roads and Old Rivers* with photographer Richard Sexton and coordinated with LSU Libraries Special Collections on the creation of *Louisiana's Natural Treasure*, an exhibition of selected paintings of Louisiana's native flora by Australian naturalist and botanical artist Margaret Stones.

On numerous occasions, Randy and his partner, Richard Gibbs, invited Hilltop members to tour their 1800 LeJeune House in New Roads and the surrounding 500-acre property, where Randy planted an arboretum of trees and plants documented in Louisiana in 1860. We were truly honored to have known Randy and will miss his endless joyful spirit and love of life.



Randy Harelson in his New Roads home.

TRANSITIONS

DR. TERRY REHN

Hilltop wishes a fond farewell to Dr. Terry Rehn and his wife, Joyce, as they move to their new home in Virginia. Many knew Terry as a top-notch cardiologist before his retirement, but at Hilltop he was a dedicated servant, longtime Friends of Hilltop board member and past president. He recruited and housed symposium speakers and served as a hardworking member of the Hodge Podge.

His many programs on plants often drew chuckles when he inserted a familiar public service announcement: “Do not drive yourself to the ER if you think you are having a heart attack, call 911.” Terry, a self-taught expert in ferns, daylilies, orchids and more, will forever be part of Hilltop's story. We wish Terry and Joyce much happiness and safe travels.



Dr. Terry Rehn with the AED he donated to the Hilltop office.

Contributions

September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

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Coca-Cola
Goss Wealth Management

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LIVE OAK LEVEL \$1,000

Catherine Coates and Brian Hales, Kerry Hawkins, Jane Honeycutt, Philip and Brenda Legendre

CYPRESS LEVEL \$500

Jeanne Davis and Bob Carney, Deb and Ken McMillin, Linda Medine, Kathryn and Stephen Merritt, Cheryl and Wayne Stromeyer

MAGNOLIA LEVEL \$250

Sue Bartlett, Frances Boudreaux, Greta Corona, Kurt and Gene Anne Culbertson, Jeanne Dupre, Joann and Charles Fryling, Devera and Jerry Goss, Kelly Andino, Shaun Kemmerly, Jackie and Donnie Ladatto, Susan and F Barrow Leake, Laura L'Herisson, Maureen and Sean McGlynn, Dot Mounger, Judith Patrick, Brian and Celine Runyon, Pam and Gerry Sulzer, Brian Thibodeaux

DOGWOOD LEVEL \$100

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STUDENT LEVEL \$35

Micah Frazier, Stephanie Marquardt, Natalie Morales

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In Memory of Anne DuBuisson Hogue Darrington:
Anne Roane

In Memory of Prudence Darrington Stain:
Anne Roane

In Memory of Jon Emerson:
Kenneth Williams

In Memory of Gail Evans:
Gwen Kirkpatrick

In Memory of Julia Hawkins:
Like Jenkins

In Memory of Karl Loupe:
David and Jana Dismukes

In Memory of Lisa Naquin:
The Naquin Family

In Memory of Pete Newton:
Emily Stich

In Memory of Cary Saurage:
Kenneth Williams

In Memory of Emory Smith:
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Many thanks to those who covered nearly \$800 in credit card fees.

A PLACE TO PAUSE AND REMEMBER

IN MEMORY OF LISA FAYE NAQUIN

The Hilltop memorial bench for our sister, Lisa Faye Naquin, holds significant meaning for our family. It serves as a poignant reminder of the profound beauty that can be found on a simple nature walk in solitude. Lisa, who resided nearby and worked from home, made it a daily habit to walk along with her dogs, immersing herself in the peaceful surroundings of Hilltop. She cherished the opportunity to engage in conversations with strangers and explore the diverse native flora and fauna, especially the birds and small wildlife.

Hilltop was one of Lisa's happy places. Our family hopes Hilltop visitors enjoy its beauty and also find an opportunity to simply sit and rest, a moment or two, on the memorial bench in personal reflection.

Peace and Grace,
The Naquin Family



HONOR A LOVED ONE AT HILLTOP

Memorial trees and benches offer a lasting way to celebrate a life, honor someone special or mark a meaningful occasion while supporting Hilltop's mission.

Tree sponsors and honorees are recognized on Hilltop's website. Memorial benches include a personalized bronze plaque.

To learn more about either opportunity, contact Tara Titone at 225-767-6916 or taratitone@lsu.edu.



CONNECT WITH US



CALL

225-767-6916



MEET

Office hours: Tuesday–Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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