

# Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden

## Established at Hammond Research Station

*Editor's Note: Margie Jenkins is a charter member of the Louisiana Chapter and presently serves as Treasurer. She also has served on the ASA national board.*

The Louisiana State University AgCenter's Hammond Research Station has established the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden in recognition of one of Louisiana's most widely known nursery owners and nationally known azalea lover, breeder, and authority.

"Ms. Margie," as Margie Jenkins is affectionately called, turned 85 years old this year and is still very active in the industry. "We wanted to do something to celebrate the many contributions this dynamic woman has made to horticulture, the Green industry, and to the personal development and education of so many horticulturists," said Dr. Regina Bracy, professor and resident coordinator at the station.

A garden party was hosted on Oct. 26 at the station to honor the lifetime contributions of Ms. Margie. A plaque unveiled at the garden party characterized Ms. Margie as "A person with a passion for plants and plant people."

More than 200 people attended the evening party under pouring rain. But that didn't stop the generosity of those interested in seeing the garden become a reality. "We now have over \$50,000 in cash and in-kind donations," said Dr. Bracy.

All of the proceeds will go toward the establishment and maintenance of the garden, and work has already begun on the initial phase of the garden.

Ms. Margie sat full of emotion as each speaker piled on the accolades.

Dr. Neil Odenwald, professor emeritus at the LSU School of Landscape Architecture spoke of the beginning of Ms. Margie's career; Rick Webb, owner of Louisiana Growers, spoke of Ms. Margie as a remarkable woman and detailed her life's story; Wayne Womack, landscape



Photo Robert Lee

▲ A garden party was hosted Oct. 26 in Hammond, La., to honor the lifetime contribution of Margie Y. Jenkins.

Pictured at the event are Maarten van der Giessen, Marion Drummond, Margie Jenkins, and Hayes Jackson.

architect, and Severn Doughty Sr., executive secretary of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, were the final speakers on the program. Each of the speakers on the program remembered how they were never allowed to leave Ms. Margie's nursery without being given a plant to "try out" in their own gardens.

The Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden is part of the new Landscape Horticulture Research and Extension Center. "With the establishment of the garden, we will have a continuing feature that will educate people about azaleas and native plants. This garden will be a source of information, an inspiration, a delight to visit...much as Ms. Margie is and has been during her lifetime."

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