

# 2022 Convention Preview

## “Le Sentier et Les Jardins Historiques des Azalées de Lafayette Un Mardi Gras de Fleurs”

### (Lafayette’s Historic Azalea Trail & Gardens: A Floral Mardi Gras)

*By Mrs. Denise R. Lanclos—Azalea Trail Chairperson*

The Louisiana Chapter of Azalea Society of America will host the society’s 2022 Convention Thursday–Sunday, March 10–13, 2022, in Lafayette, Louisiana. The registration form is inserted in the envelope with this issue and is also available at the ASA website: [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org).

Themed, “Un Mardi Gras de Fleurs”, the attendees will enjoy the Deep South’s “Floral Mardi Gras” splendor of camellias, azaleas, and Japanese magnolias (*Magnolia x soulangeana*) in one of the most splendid Azalea Cities in America, named as the “Happiest City in America.”

Lafayette is excited to welcome you to Acadiana to enjoy our historic azalea trail ([www.azaleatrail.org](http://www.azaleatrail.org)) and parade of historic properties ([www.preservinglafayette.org](http://www.preservinglafayette.org)). Located in the heart of “Evangeline Country,” Lafayette began as a plantation community called Vermilionville and grew into an industrious cultural mecca of French Cajun and Creole cuisine and music. The Azalea Trail began in the 1930s as a neighborhood beautification project in Elmhurst Park historic district and as Lafayette grew, so did the trail. Our rich, acidic soil and mild climate are what make our landscape so lush and beautiful. The historic parade of homes, schools, churches, and parks are beautified with all the Southern Indian favorites. You will see plenty of the ‘George Lindley Taber’, ‘Pride of Mobile’, and ‘Mrs. G. G. Gerbing’ azaleas. The official flower for Lafayette is the Southern Indian Lavender Formosa, ‘The General Lafayette’, named by Mayor J. Maxime Roy in honor of the

Marquis de Lafayette. Mayor Roy proclaimed February 23, 1938, as the official opening day of bloom season.

The Holiday Inn & Suites ([www.holidayinn.com/lafayettenorth](http://www.holidayinn.com/lafayettenorth)) located near the Gateway Lafayette Visitors Center has been selected as the site for this year’s convention. Room rates are \$95.00 plus tax and fees. Bring comfortable clothing and a good appetite to enjoy the tours and wonderful Cajun foods. We hope you book early and come “Feed Your Soul” in South Louisiana.

#### About the Author:

Mrs. Denise Lanclos is a native Lafayette, lives along the azalea trail and participated in the Azalea Trail run in the 1990s. She is a graduate of University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a BA in Accounting. She has several certificates in banking and is an active Notary Public. In her 40-year profession, she worked in banking and nonprofit accounting and fundraising. She is enjoying giving back to her community through beautification. She serves as Lafayette’s Azalea Trail promoter, is an active member of Scenic Lafayette, Keep Lafayette Beautiful and Preservation Alliance of Lafayette boards. She received the “Best in Advocacy” award from the City’s Project Front Yard Program. She has devoted much of her volunteer time to fundraising, maintaining, and promoting Lafayette’s Historic Azalea Trail. Her vision is to continue to promote Lafayette’s scenic beauty with Historic Property attractions and Trolley Rides. She serves as the Azalea Society of America’s Advertising Manager. She is a member of the Louisiana Chapter of ASA and is lead volunteer coordinator for the ASA Convention 2022. She describes Lafayette’s Historic Azalea Trail as one of the best “Azalea Driving Trails” in America.

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## Conference Details

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

### Welcome Reception & Plant Sales Begin

Bienvenue, mes amis! Welcome to Lafayette, LA. We look forward to “Feeding Your Soul” with our beautiful azalea trail, delicious Cajun French cuisine, and parade of historic properties. Registration will begin on Thursday at 10:00am in the lobby at Holiday Inn & Suites–Lafayette North.

Upon checking in you will receive a name badge, the convention program, and a souvenir bag of favors. We will have speakers during the evening dinners on Friday and Saturday. Board members will need to arrive in time to attend the annual meeting at 2:00pm.

We look forward to meeting you on Thursday night at the Azalea Welcome Social. You will be able to catch up with friends, new and old, and meet new members. The welcome reception will have an open cash bar. The azalea plant sales will be held in the ballroom lobby area and outside the hotel’s lobby area on the patio. The plant sale times are listed in the convention program.

**Friday, March 11, 2022**

### Touring Lafayette Azalea Trail & Speakers

The Holiday Inn will serve a full buffet breakfast of eggs, bacon or sausage, hash browns, biscuits, gravy, and juice beginning at 6:30 am. Friday tour transportation will be provided by local private school buses in “Good Ole School Days” style. The buses will begin loading at 8:15am and leave the front parking lot at 8:30am sharp.

This day of touring starts in the Gateway Lafayette Visitors Center (Photo 1). The first stop will be The Lafayette Museum & Gardens at the Alexandre Mouton House. We will be traveling through historic and cultural districts and garden neighborhoods. Lunch will be enjoyed on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s campus at the UL Alumni

Center. Catering will be by Sodexo, the University’s caterer. Mr. Jim Foret, Horticulturist and Consultant Arborist will guide the university tours under the canopy of “Century Oaks” among the Encore® azaleas to see Cypress Lake and around to the dormitories to view the ‘George Lindley Taber’ Azaleas and Rose gardens. (Photo 2.)

The grounds at the historic Heymann house



have beautiful Camellia gardens. In the 1930s and ’40s this property was once the epicenter of the Heymann family nurseries that beautified much of Lafayette’s Azalea Trail. Mr. Dan Hare, Senior Director of Alumni Facilities and Special Projects, will greet us with a short presentation. One of the fabulous architecture gems in this district is the A. Hayes Town House. (Photo 3.)



We will enjoy an Azalea walk around Girard Park Pond and ride through the Oil Center cultural & historic district. Early afternoon tours will be the Les Jardins de Mouton–Lafayette’s showcase of the ‘General Lafayette’ azaleas, Bendel Gardens, and Greenbriar Estates, a quick drive through Moncus Park and a short shopping stroll through All Seasons Home and Garden Nursery. The Good Hope Hall will host an afternoon Tea and Cookies in Freetown-Port Rico Historic District. The Glen Armentor Law Offices are featured in this beautiful location with plenty of Encore® azaleas and ‘Red Formosum’ and ‘Pink Formosum’ azaleas.





Photo 4

## Saturday, March 12, 2022 Touring Jefferson and Avery Islands & Banquet

Enjoy an early breakfast and be ready for a full day touring some of the best gardens in Acadiana. Our first tour will be to Jefferson Island to see Rip Van Winkle Gardens and Bird City Rookery. Mr. Garrie Landry, McIlhenny Botanist, will be the tour guide. This tour includes 15 acres of semi-tropical gardens on the grounds of the Joseph Jefferson Victorian Mansion, circa 1870, which sits among 350-year-old live oaks overlooking Lake Peigneur. (Photo 4.)

Beautiful peacocks live on the grounds and have an elaborate peafowl ritual each spring with their loud courtship mating calls heard throughout the gardens. (Photo 5.) The gardens include camellias, magnolias, azaleas, roses, hydrangeas, and many other native plants, bamboos, and hardwood trees. The Bird City rookery is home to over 260 species of birds, including the roseate spoonbill and the great white egrets.

For lunch you will enjoy a private catered event at the McIlhenny family historic home, “The Marsh House” on Avery Island. Catering will be provided by Nel’s Creole Connection. This delicious lunch will include a cool summer salad with mixed greens baby spinach tossed in a pepper jelly vinaigrette and topped with tomatoes, purple onions, apple pieces, strawberries, mandarin oranges, and feta cheese sprinkles. The next course will be a creamy corn and crab chowder served in a toasted cored out bread bowl. The final treat will be a warm bread pudding topped with a refreshing Grand Marnier cream sauce. As we would say in French, “Bon Appetit!” Bring your good appetite!

After lunch, you will enjoy a guided coach tour through Avery Island’s Jungle Gardens. These gardens were created by Mr. Edward Avery “Ned” McIlhenny. In the 1920s, he converted this private estate into a favorite south Louisiana tourist desti-

nation. The gardens have historic bamboo and exotic botanical plants from around the world. There are hundreds of azaleas here as well as camellias. It is a wildlife refuge for birds, alligators, and black bear. It remains the botanical marvel of the Deep South. Nearby is the Tabasco Bottling Factory. The Convention Banquet dinner with awards presentations begins Saturday evening at 6:00p.m. We will be serving great food, buffet style; Ca C’est Bon!

## Sunday, March 13, 2022

### Optional – Vermilionville Living History & Folk Life Park

“Laissez les bon temps rouler!” Travel on your own and “Let the good times roll” at Vermilionville. Enjoy Cajun and Creole cuisine, live music, and dancing! Vermilionville is a 23-acre historic and folklife park along the banks of the Bayou Vermilion that depicts the Acadian, Creole, and Native American cultures from the time-period 1765–1890. This historic village features guided



Photo 5



tours, costumed artisans, live music, cooking school, dance lessons, boat tours, and a gift shop that will leave you overjoyed with history and culture. Enjoy the beautiful azalea entrance and courtyard at this location. (Photo 6)

Located at 300 Fisher Road in Lafayette. Open from 10 am – 4 pm. (337)233-4077; <https://bayouvermiliondistrict.org/vermilionville/> General Admission is \$10 for tour of the park and \$10 for entrance to dance hall.

### Registration Details:

The conference registration fee is \$250. Refunds for cancellations are: 100% before February 10th. No refund after this date.



- New Orleans City Park Botanical Gardens  
<https://neworleanscitypark.com/index.php/virtual-tour/azalea>

- Louisiana Travel  
<https://www.louisianatravel.com/articles/azalea-blooming-season-louisiana>

- Festivals Acadiens et Creoles  
March 18-20, 2022  
<https://www.festivalsacadiens.com/>



Good Hope Hall –  
Afternoon tea to be hosted by the Glenn Armentor Law Offices.

## Other Louisiana Attractions in March:

- Mardi Gras, March 1, 2022  
<https://www.mardigraslafayette.com/balls>
- New Iberia, LA Azalea Trail Attractions  
<https://www.iberiatravel.com/blog/article/beauty-blooms-iberias-azalea-trail>
- Louisiana Nursery Festival, Forest Hill, LA  
<https://www.facebook.com/louisiananurseryfestival/>
- R. W. Norton Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens, Shreveport, LA  
<http://www.rwnaf.org/>
- LSU AgCenter Botanical Gardens, Baton Rouge, LA  
<https://www.lsu.edu/botanic-gardens/gardens/gardens.php>
- Wild Azalea Trail – Kisatchie National Forest  
<https://www.wildazaleatrail.com/>












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# 2022 Convention Itinerary and Events

## Thursday, March 10, 2022

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

DINNER ON YOUR OWN (A list of local restaurants will be provided.)

(Plant Sale Times: 4:00 – 5:00 pm and 6:00 – 9:00 pm)

Registration & Check-In & Plant Sales Set Up

ASA Board Meeting

Plant Sale Open

Welcome Social with Open Cash Bar

Welcoming Remarks – Charlie Andrews, ASA President

History of Lafayette's Azalea Trail - Denise Lanclos

Plant Sale Open

## Friday, March 11, 2022

6:30 am – 8:00 am

8:15 am – 8:30 am

8:30 am – 11:30 am

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

(Plant Sale Times: 4:30 – 6:00 pm, 8:00 – 9:00 pm)

Breakfast at the Hotel

Buses Board at Hotel Entrance

Buses Leave for Azalea Trail Tour (The Lafayette Museum

ULL Cypress Lake, Azaleas & Century Live Oaks)

Lunch at UL Alumni Center & Historic Heymann House

Buses Board

Buses Leave for Azalea Trail Tour (Oil Center, Garden Districts, Moncus Park & All Seasons Nursery)

Good Hope Hall and Azaleas – Tea, Biscuits and Cookies

Buses Board for Holiday Inn & Suites - Lafayette North

Plant Sale Open

Buffet Dinner at Hotel with Speaker Program (Included in Fee)

“The Crazy Momentum in the Gardening World”

Heather Kirk-Ballard, Asst. Professor (Horticulture), LSU AgCenter

“Newest Azalea Work and Older Azalea Work at SFA Gardens”

David Creech, Emeritus Professor (Horticulture) and Garden

Director, Stephen F. Austin State University

Plant Sale Open

## Saturday, March 12, 2022

7:00 am – 8:00 am

8:15 am - 8:30 am

8:30 am – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 11:15 am

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

(Plant Sale Times: 4:00 – 6:00 pm)

Breakfast at the Hotel

Coaches Board at Hotel Entrance

Coaches Leave for Tours

(Jefferson Island Rip Van Winkle Gardens & Bird Rookery)

Coaches Board in Parking Lot - Jefferson Island Gift Shop

Lunch at Avery Island Marsh House – Historic Home & Grounds

Tour of Jungle Gardens with tour guides on each coach

Coaches Board to return to Hotel in Lafayette

Plant Sale Open

Banquet Dinner (Included in Fee) / Business Meeting /

Awards Presentations /Speaker Program

“Azaleas: The Past, The Present, The Future”

Buddy Lee, Dir. of Plant Innovations, Plant Development Services

## Sunday, March 13, 2022

*(Optional Add-On Excursion to Vermilionville Living History & Folk Life Park)*

7:00 am – 11:00 am

10:00 am 11:30 am

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Breakfast at the Hotel

Self-Guided Tour of Vermilionville

Lunch at Vermilionville's La Cuisine de Maman

Bal du Dimanche (Cajun Music & Dancing)