



Deep South Region

Carol M. Bullard
2015-2017 Director

Dear Members of the Deep South Region,

As cleanup and rebuilding efforts are on-going in Louisiana, let us continue to keep those affected by this devastating flood in our thoughts and prayers and let us go one step further – by opening our wallets. Anyone who has experienced losses like these knows that there are no quick fixes and that it takes time to get lives back on track.

Our hearts go out to everyone, especially our garden club friends in southern Louisiana. In talking with the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. (LGCF) President, Jeanette Gatzman, I learned that many garden clubs members were personally affected and that the rushing waters destroyed many garden club projects in their communities, planting at parks, libraries and other public places.

As Director of the Deep South Region, I am announcing a new project, ***“Natural Disasters – Louisiana”*** and am asking all members of the Deep South Region to contribute as individuals, clubs, councils, districts and states. With over 33,000 members in our region, if everyone gave just **\$1.00** think how far that would go to help clubs replant, refurbish and /or start new projects in their communities. Much more than \$1.00 per person would be better, of course, so please give what you can afford, especially if you’ve been looking for a way to help. Remember, it could very well be you or your community that could experience the next natural disaster.

LGCF will administer and award grants for this project based on the following criteria:

- Nature and severity of disaster
- Location of area to be restored
- Proposed restoration plan by garden club/s
- Estimated itemized costs of your project
- Other funds received toward restoration project

The project deadline is December 1, 2016. This gives you several club meetings to organize a special fundraiser, pass the hat, or whatever way you want to contribute to this project. Checks should be mailed to the LGCF Treasurer, Patricia Ortalano, 1104 Farrington Drive, Marrero, LA. 70072-3921. Be sure to note ***“Natural Disasters – Louisiana”***, on your check.

I wish I could take sole credit for this idea but I must acknowledge Inger Jones, President of the Tri-Council of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Inger put this “bee in my bonnet” and the Deep South Region Executive Committee approved it unanimously.

Please give what you can to help our Louisiana garden club friends restore their communities as only garden clubs can.

Thank you,

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