

Sign-Up Today
Hilltop Northshore Cavort!
Summer Garden Trip

Saturday, JULY 25, 2009
7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS: \$110 / NON-MEMBERS: \$145
(fee all inclusive)

To register, contact Hilltop at (225)767-6916 /
hilltop@tigers.lsu.edu

On July 25 ... predicted by the Cajun Country Almanac to be the coldest day in July ... Hilltop will host a trip to the famous Greater New Orleans Northshore summer resort area featuring jaunts to Covington, Bush, Abita Springs and Mandeville. We will travel by air conditioned motor coach, departing Hilltop at 7:30 in the "beat the heat" a.m. returning to Hilltop at 7:30 in the p.m.

A trilogy of [neighboring gardens](#) located within walking distance of each other on River Road in Covington and recruited for us by one of the homeowners, Mark Grote, will set the tone for the day ... the Grote garden has an undulating, free flowing planting plan with a focus on native plants. The Bravo Garden takes advantage of plantings inherited with the property and mingles them with antique roses and masonry structures that lend structure and interest to the property. Maurice Guillerman's small cottage garden has a Japanese flair and expands as needs dictate by getting permission from the neighbors to plant their roadside easement.

John Mayronne included his garden in the afternoon roster of gardens and recruited two additional gardens for our viewing pleasure ... John describes his garden as southern "junglesque" with plantings designed to attract butterflies, birds and young maidens. The Petagna garden mingles structured and informal plantings tapping into native as well as exotic plants to set off the unique and intimate entertainment venues. The Rathe garden in Mandeville is a garden with a view fronting on Bayou Castine and abutting Fontainebleau Park and Tammany Trace and offers an opportunity to view significant mature trees.

In addition to catering to our gardening lust, Paula "Deen" Dillemoth has made arrangements for Zea's to cater to our gustatory needs. Thanks to Suzie Ehrlicher the [UCM Museum](#) in Abita Springs ... written up in the August 2005 issue of Southern Living, thank you very much ... has been added to our agenda to insure we get our "funk" fix. Devout nursery patrons need not fear. We will be paying a visit to Amazing Graces Nursery in Covington and The Price is Right Nursery in Mandeville. A visit to the Ponchartrain Vineyards at prime grape harvesting time is also on our list. Do your toe

lifts just in case we are asked to stomp a few!

For research purposes, Hilltop trippers are invited to bring along a bottle of their favorite wine to compare and share on the way home. It is our fond hope that it will not only help you wet your whistle, but also wax eloquent about the trip on your evaluation form.

Music throughout our journey will be provided by a CD featuring any song that is rated PG13 and has the words Abita Springs in it put together especially for the occasion by Deb McMillin.

Be sure you are on our e-mail list for further information:

e-mail hilltop@tigers.lsu.edu or give Paula a call at Hilltop (767-6916). As always, it promises to be a trip not-to-be-missed!