

*The Friends of Oakley has supported many projects, including funding speakers, programs at the park, acquisition of artifacts, restoration of collection items, and preservation.*

# The Oakley Leaflet

A Publication of the Friends of Oakley.

March 2024

## Message from the Chair:

As Friends of Oakley begins a new year with seven new Board members and four first-time officers, we look forward to building upon the quite exceptional past few years in which the Oakley staff, the Office of State Parks, and the Friends' Board have made significant progress in updating programs and systems.

Thank you, Olivia Pass and Toni McVea, immediate Friends past presidents, for your enthusiasm and enlightened guidance.

There is still much left to do, however.

A landscape management plan and a trails system grant (if funded), both will be funded by outside sources, will begin to bring the Park up to today's standards of historic interpretation and public administration. A new watering system for the garden will be installed, the cost shared by State Parks and the Friends funds. A friendly and typically Southern herb garden is around the corner, thanks to an endowment from the Louisiana Native Plant Society.

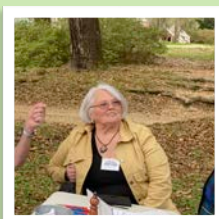
And, importantly, the wonderful interpretive programs continue to draw in school children and adults. The staff does a fine job in providing illustrative and educational adventures for all interests. The River Boat tours add to our visitors logs. We hope to be able to buttress current programs with new and allied ventures. For instance, the Baton Rouge Audubon Society held four birding sessions at Oakley last year and one already this year, and the preservation of the "Audubon Woods" with its typical Feliciana birdlife is an objective that we can accomplish in the coming years.

One of the main goals of the Friends group is to support the staff and augment the palette of activity that they so capably provide. We invite all folks to join us in showing off the special place that is John James Audubon's first Feliciana home, Oakley.

Lastly, I want to mention again the Irene W. and C. B. Pennington Foundation for its past and current support. We have used these funds wisely to better interpret Audubon's life, to build a handicapped accessible sidewalk from the visitors' center to Oakley House, and to partially fund the acquisition of a golf cart to ferry visitors around the site.

Come, join us at Oakley.

Ann Reiley Jones



**Friends of Oakley  
Chair  
Ann Reiley Jones**

## Friends of Oakley Inducts Seven New Board Members



*New Board members are, from left, Joanne Grimsley, Dahn Savell, James Dart, Jackie Harvey, Rose Coats, and Marla Floyd. Not pictured is Becky Rothschild.  
Photo by Olivia Pass*

On January 10 the Friends of Oakley met at Audubon State Historic Site to induct its new members of the Oakley Board. The nominees, who were unanimously confirmed as Board members by the membership at that time, are Rose Coats, James Dart, Marla Floyd, Joanne Grimsley, Jackie Harvey, Becky Rothschild, and Dahn Savell.

Rose Coats, who has a bachelor of science degree from Southern University, worked as the bookkeeper of Bains Elementary for 29 years. Previously, she had worked for Burns Security, Stone and Webster Corporation, and the General Physics Corporation. Coats is a former board member of the West Feliciana Parish Library and is the wife of Pastor Milton Coats of the Magnolia Full Gospel Baptist Church, where she serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

(New Board..... continued on Page 5)

# The Women of Oakley: An Original Presentation

By Michaela Brown

On May 13, 2023, I had the honor of debuting a brand-new program at Audubon State Historic Site: The Women of Oakley, a special tour that focuses on the resilient women who worked and lived there, both free and enslaved. As a transplant from New Orleans, I moved to St. Francisville in the fall of 2022. I had just graduated from Tulane with my Master of Arts in Anthropology and was eager to find work that combined my interests and passions. I've always loved history, but I wanted to find ways to integrate my love of theater into it. After all, history doesn't mean anything unless we find a way to make it exciting and relevant to others. Over the last year and a half, I have had the privilege of developing several new programs at Audubon that reflect my passion for engaging storytelling. "Women of Oakley" has been my passion project since the start, and I am so thrilled to be able to share it with the public!

Since starting as an Interpretive Ranger here, I have loved delving into the archives, the family history, and the primary sources capturing 19th century life at Oakley. Some of the most fascinating reads were John James Audubon's journal transcripts describing the members of the Pirrie family. He described Mrs. Lucretia Pirrie as "giving Way of Want of understanding at times to the Whole force of her Violent Passions..." and Miss Eliza Pirrie as having "a good form of body, not Handsome of face, proud of her Wealth and of herself cannot well be too much fed on Praise..." He also goes on to criticize Lucretia's eldest daughter Mary Ann, describing her as insulting and temperamental.

Audubon shines a much kinder light on the men of the family, recounting many evenings spent together drinking, laughing, and commiserating about the women of Oakley. There seems to be a clear distinction in how Audubon writes about the men of the family versus the women, which begs the question: How would the story differ if it were told from the women's perspective? Was Audubon possibly intimidated by the strong women of Oakley? Furthermore, how did the generations of women continue to subvert gender norms



*Michaela Brown alongside the portrait of Eliza Pirrie.*  
Photo By Olivia Pass

for the time, and how did the African women find their own voices in a house that actively oppressed them?

This program takes guests throughout Oakley House, where they are introduced to each generation of women. Each station will include behind-the-scenes stories, fresh perspectives, and personal artifacts of each woman, beginning with Lucretia "Lucy" Alston Gray Pirrie (1772-1833). Lucy's first husband, Ruffin Gray, died shortly after receiving a Spanish land grant for the Oakley tract. With the ownership of the land in question, Lucy petitioned the Spanish crown to acquire Oakley, and she won, a rare victory for the



*Michaela Brown presenting at Audubon State Historic Site.*  
Photo By Olivia Pass

time. Lucy subsequently married James Pirrie, a Scotsman. The two marriages produced seven children and of those seven, only two survived into adulthood: Mary Ann Gray and Eliza Pirrie. Lucy was a strong-minded businesswoman who managed most of the plantation affairs, and she reportedly did not get along well with Eliza's tutor, the equally strong-minded John James Audubon.

On this tour, guests will learn about Audubon's interactions with the women, including a heated dispute with Mary Ann at the dinner table, the drama surrounding Audubon's termination, and the awkward exchange of farewells that followed. Some of these stories might be new to visitors, while others might be old favorites, but each one looks at the history in a fresh way that uplifts the women's point of view. For example, many have heard the story about Eliza's ill-fated elopement with Robert Hilliard Barrow, but on this tour, guests will get a closer look at the story. Love letters from deep within archives have been brought down specially for this program. Guests will hear Robert's own words as he professes his love to Eliza and begs her to confess her own feelings, despite her parents' disapproval. Also on display for the program is a recently uncovered letter written from Lucy to Eliza following the elopement, the death of Robert, and the birth of Eliza's son, Robert Jr. Despite Eliza's estrangement from the family, Lucy expresses how much she misses them and how she longs to hear Robert Jr. when he "first begins to prattle."

**Women of Oakley...continued on Page 5**





*Megbe Hughes and Becky Rothschild*



*Rose Coats and Marianne Dauer*



*Rachel Howell, Joanne Grimsley, and Mickey Grimsley*



*Toni McVea, Joe Boneno, and Mary Boneno*

A Meet and Greet  
Get-together Allows New  
and Recent Board Members  
to Get Acquainted:

“The old order changeth,  
yielding place / to the new”  
—

Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s  
“Morte d’Arthur”

(Article on page 4)



*Denise George*



*Michelle Flippen, John Flippen and Dot Temple.*

The Oakley Leaflet



*Michaela Brown, Joe Savell, and Jackie Harvey*



*Rachel Howell and Stewart Hughes*

## Meet and Greet Allows New and Recent Board Members to get Acquainted

On October 26, 2023, the Oakley Board had a “Cocktails and Conversations” informal event at the home of Board Member and Membership Chair Mark Dauer and his wife Marianne. Almost all new and recent (both those now and those recently outgoing) Board members attended.

The purpose of the event was to allow the seven new Board members to be warmly welcomed and to get acquainted with, in a comfortable, informal setting, the Board members at that time as well as those outgoing. Therefore, they weren't subjected to a business meeting for the first time, not having met the others with whom they would be working, and they might get some excellent information from those leaving the Board. The new Board members were also given a packet with membership forms and additional information about the Oakley Board.

Site Manager John House and his wife Kari attended, along with Ranger Michaela Brown. It was helpful that the new Board members got to meet key people at Audubon State Historic Site, which the Friends group exists to support in so many ways.

As usual, Rachel Howell, Events Chair, organized and helped prepare many of the delicious dishes served at the event. Most 2023 Board Members provided dishes, but Howell was the guiding force behind the lovely preparations. She conferred with Mark and Marianne Dauer many times before the "Cocktails and Conversations," visiting their lovely home and arranging



*Mark Dauer, Bob Finley and Elizabeth Finley visit at the “Meet and Greet.”*

the event. Her husband Zed Howell was the very congenial, efficient bartender for the event.

The unofficial consensus of the Board seemed to be that this event would be good as an annual one. It was important for the Board Members to get to chat and become better acquainted in a casual, lovely setting.

## Join or Renew Your Membership to the Friends

The generous contributions of the Friends of Oakley allow the organization to support the many projects of The Audubon State Historic Site including compensation of speakers; acquisition and restoration of collection items, gardens, buildings, etc; and purchase of needed equipment.

But our supporting members also enjoy benefits that were enhanced in calendar year 2023. Memberships now include complimentary admission tickets to The Audubon State Historic Site, with the number of tickets to vary depending on the membership level. Members of the Lucy Audubon Circle will receive, in lieu of individual admission tickets, a Louisiana State Parks Annual Day-Use Permit which allows the registered holder, and anyone accompanying the holder in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle, exemption

from the general day-use charges to any Louisiana State Park or State Historic Site, including, of course, The Audubon State Historic Site. All supporting members also receive a print subscription to *The Oakley Leaflet*.

Your contributions and participation as supporting members assist in keeping Oakley one of the most visited, beautiful, and culturally significant historic sites in Louisiana.

Please fill out the Membership Form at the end of the Newsletter for 2024. Your membership helps the Friends Board help Audubon State Historic Site, and your donation is tax deductible.

Many thanks to the many members and donors of the Friends of Oakley!



## New Board (Continued from front page)

James Dart, a practicing architect for 40 years, has had an architecture practice in New Orleans since 2013 and long-term experience with historic sites such as Bartram's Garden, founded in 1728 and is the oldest surviving botanical garden in North America, and the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, which has a history dating back to 1740. In St. Francisville, he lives in a historic home which he restored. His late mother Libby Dart was West Feliciana's historian, so he grew up learning and appreciating the history of the area.

Marla Floyd is a retired educator who has a bachelor of science degree from Northwestern State University. Her late husband David was the Site Manager at Audubon State Historic Site when he proposed to her. They lived in a little cottage on the Historic Site, and their daughter Amanda grew up enjoying the peacocks and playing on the grounds. Marla has fond memories of her family's time there and is looking forward to being part of the Friends of Oakley's Board.

Joanne Grimsley learned to appreciate the history and culture of plantation homes in eastern North Carolina when visiting her grandparents' prerevolutionary-war house that was part of a plantation on the Cape Fear River. Since moving to West Feliciana, she has enjoyed visiting plantation homes there as well. Having completed the Louisiana Master Gardener Program and being an active member of the Feliciana Country Gardeners, she has worked tirelessly for years to help renovate the gardens at Oakley. Grimsley earned a bachelor's degree in math education from Campbell University and taught middle school and high school math in North Carolina and Baton Rouge.

Married to past Oakley Board member Melvin Harvey, Jackie Harvey has a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Louisiana State University and has worked at the Medical Research Center in New Orleans and Pennington Biomedical in Baton Rouge. She owns and operates Shades, a plantation in Wilson, Louisiana, which is an 862-acre tree farm that has been in her family since 1796. Shades has given her much experience in maintaining an antebellum home.

A commercial real estate appraiser, Becky Rothschild is an approved appraiser with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an accepted expert witness in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 34<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Courts. She has served on many other boards in West Feliciana, and her great love of history and lifelong friendship with Ann Stirling Weller, a past Oakley Board member, makes Oakley near and dear to her heart. Rothschild has attended the Appraisal Institute from 1996 to the present and has a bachelor of liberal arts degree with a major in European history from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland.

Having lived in a historic home in St. Francisville for years, Dahn Savell has a great love for Oakley where she and her family have enjoyed many picnics on the grounds. Savell presently also serves on the Board for the Friends of Cat Island. She has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's in social work from Louisiana State University. She has served on the parish's Tourist Commission and is pleased that West Feliciana made 25 million dollars in tourism last year. Savell recently retired from running Bohemianville Antiques and is looking forward to serving on the Friends of Oakley Board. She recognizes and appreciates all the research that is being done to gather information regarding all those who have lived on Oakley Plantation many years ago.

Other family artifacts on display for the special tour include a petticoat worn by Eliza's daughter, Isabelle Bowman, and a beaded clutch used by Isabelle's daughters, Lucy and Ida Matthews. Each generation has an artifact and a story attached to it, and it is an honor to share the stories of these strong women with the public. The tour ends, however, not with the Matthews sisters, but with Silvia Freeman. Guests are led out of the house to the plantation field, where the last stop of the tour is a slave cabin.

Born into slavery and freed as a young woman, Silvia Freeman worked at Oakley during the harsh sharecropping era. She served as the family's cook, working seven days a week and earning \$4 a month, a meager salary, but still more than most members of the tenant farming community at that time made. Thus, Silvia was able to purchase commissary goods such as dried foods, shoes, and clothing. Since most members of her community could not afford these goods, she created a bartering system. She was able to buy and trade commissary goods to acquire fresh food for her family (her husband had died and she had five children to feed). In the process, she also filled a major void in the African-American community by giving them access to goods they would not have had otherwise.

It is fascinating to look at the generations of resilient businesswomen who managed Oakley House from within the walls and the ways in which they found power in a man's world. It is equally fascinating, and equally important, to look at Silvia Freeman, a Black woman born into slavery, who also managed a business and broke down gender barriers, despite active oppression. It is an honor to be able to tell her story as a part of a continued effort to shine a light on the lives on the enslaved at Oakley.

The "Women of Oakley" will be offered again on March 10, April 13, and May 11. It has been a joy to research, craft, and perform, but probably the most exciting part of the tour is that it is constantly changing. New discoveries are uncovered in archives each week, and with each new piece of evidence, the stories deepen. Due to the organic nature of the program, my hope is for it to become a mainstay here at Audubon, a feature that can be a part of the monthly rotations of programs that we offer.

See you on the next tour!



*Artifacts used in the presentation.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*

# Park Manager John House's Update on Audubon State Historic Site

Due to the budget freeze, we have had to rely much more than usual on the Friends' accounts at the local Feed Store and Audubon Market. We thank the Friends group for its continued support with the Department of Corrections and programs at the site.

We have no current date on when the budget freeze may be lifted. It currently restricts and applies to all of our purchasing with extra approvals or denial approved/disapproved from headquarters.

There may be another controlled burn on site to eliminate fire dangers on the forest floor and attempt Ardisia control as currently much of it is dead. That date is to be announced.

We are monitoring a substantial tree loss in the Park due to last year's drought and are beginning to see signs of pine beetles. This spring will tell more of the story, and we will work up a plan to deal with this then.

Our Campground Host will leave us at the end of March, but he plans to return in the fall.

Though this may not be the best of times to ask, if funding comes available, we could use four new Ranger Hats from Stratton Hats at \$700.00. We are the only park in the Office of State Parks that is allowed to wear these, and it's a source of pride as well as a quick visual sign to the visitors just where our Rangers are during programs or activities or off-site meetings or demonstrations.

We now have both the Viking and American Cruise Lines schedules through December 2024. Riverboats begin again for us on February 28th. We will be doing a short advertisement segment to be filmed by Viking here on the 26th.

We also need help with the sundial native herbal bed.

Of note...we hosted two weekends of the Civil Air Patrol ground search training here at the Park in January.



*House Manager John House visits with Joanne Grimsley.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*

## Conflicting Information Revealed about Oakley

According to John House, Site Manager of Audubon State Historic Site, the armoire that is on the third floor of Oakley House was built by a free man of color in his carpentry shop in New Orleans and purchased as a wedding gift for Eliza Pirrie's marriage to the Reverend Bowman (1828). "It is one of only a handful of pieces that have been preserved around the U.S. from this carpentry shop and rarer still as its maker was a free man of color," said House.

House went on to say that the armoire was found in the barn when the Office of State Parks obtained Oakley and was filled with shattered chicken eggs, chicken poop, and old paint cans. "It was on its way in the back of a truck when Josie Weller, the first curator here, stopped the truck and insisted on its being cleaned up" according to House. House further noted that the late David Floyd, a Site Manager, said in an interview that the big brass hinges on the armoire now are replacements on the original mahogany doors. "We use this information in most of our House tours," said House.

However, the book *Furnishing Louisiana: Creole and Acadian Furniture, 1735-1835* has conflicting information. It notes that the "Creole style" armoire's original owner was most likely Lucy Alston Gray, the widow of Ruffin Gray (138). The article says that the "baluster legs and straight skirt reflect an

Anglo-American, Federal influence in the otherwise St. Domingue-inspired armoire" (138).

By December 2024, the Park should have even more information about its various artifacts.

### References

Holden, Jack D., et al. *Furnishing Louisiana: Creole and Acadian Furniture, 1735-1835*. New Orleans: The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2010. 138.

House, John. Email interview. 25 Feb. 2024.



*Park Ranger Kristi Ware stands with armoire.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*

# Oakley's Cold Frame Beautifully Repaired and Functional

Site Manager John House had reported to the Oakley Board a while back that the cold frame (in-ground greenhouse) needed repairs, and with the help of the Office of State Parks, Audubon State Historic Site has its cold frame looking great. Anyone who hasn't gone by to see the beautiful, functional cold frame (just past the parterre garden to the left when facing Oakley House's front), he/she is in for a treat. According to Wikipedia, the cold frames were often built to be an addition to a heated greenhouse. Unlike the greenhouses, the cold frames, as the name suggests, were not heated regularly.

Ohio State University's website "Greenhouse Gurus" notes that the first greenhouse was built in Rome in 30 A.D. when Emperor Tiberius was prescribed by his doctor to eat one cucumber per day to cure an illness he had. This combination greenhouse-cold frame was built with walls of stone for insulation and ceilings of mica, a transparent stone, to let in light and the warmth of the sun. In these ancient Roman days, most greenhouses were speculariums, having potted plants covered in Mica (<https://U.osu.edu>).

In the United States, the first greenhouse was built in Boston in 1737 by Andrew Faneuil. Such early greenhouses were made of glass. But by 1960 most greenhouses were made of plastic and galvanized steel rather than glass (<https://U.osu.edu>).



*Looking down into the Cold Frame.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*



*Beautifully repaired Cold Frame at Oakley.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*

In the 1700-1800s in America, heat could be produced periodically in these cold frames by burning charcoal in metal pots and wheelbarrows that were placed within. The glass lid of a cold frame is angled toward the sun, facing the south—like the one at Oakley. "The angle of the top captures infrared energy from the sun and converts that energy into heat inside the enclosure. Even on cold days, this allows temperatures within the enclosed space to reach 80 or 90 degrees. Cold frames expand the growing season one to three months" (<https://U.osu.edu>). In Macinac State Historic Parks, the cold frames were put over brick-lined pits that were full of animal manure. Thus as the manure decomposed, heat was released, allowing the inside to be warm enough to grow plants throughout much of the winter (<https://mackinacparks.com>).

Throughout the years, many gardeners have used these cold frames to grow salad vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, and scallions when they could not thrive outdoors (<https://U.osu.edu>).

## References

"Cold Frame." 2/20/2024. <https://en.wikipedia.org>.  
"Greenhouse Gurus." The Ohio State University. 2/20/2024. <https://U.osu.edu>.  
"Using Cold Frames at Michilimackinac." posted 2/20/2021. <https://mackinacparks.com>.



# State Park Directors Visit Audubon State Historic Site

Members of the Association of Southeastern State Park Directors visited Audubon State Historic Site on October 17, 2023.

The Association of Southeastern State Park Directors hosts an annual conference for State Park Directors and their senior leadership to meet and learn from each other in order to provide world-class service and recreational opportunities to more than 186 million state park visitors who enjoy some of the America's finest public lands. Over 200 Park Directors and other leaders from parks throughout the Southeastern U.S. visited Audubon State Historic Site--primarily to learn how the Site deals with the many visitors who come by means of boat tours to West Feliciana.

John House, Site Manager, explained to the busloads of directors and leaders, the many educational programs Audubon State Historic Site has for these visitors from all over the world. For the Viking Tours, there are art projects, cooking lessons, and tours related to the history of John James Audubon's time at Oakley House. Other boats have different expectations that the Site must accommodate.

Brandon Burris, who is the Assistant Secretary of State Parks, was in charge of organizing and planning this event. Participants visited parks throughout Louisiana, from Toledo Bend Parks in the northern part of the state, ending with a fine meal in New Orleans.

Lt. Governor Nungesser promoted Louisiana to the National Association of State Park Directors to bring the conference to Louisiana. "Anytime we can showcase our parks . . . it brings visitors," he said.



*House Manager John House addresses the group.*

Nungesser added, "Our public-private partnerships are proving to be successful in our state parks. These partnerships allow entrepreneurs to come in and establish a business that also benefits the state park in which it is located. With that said, we will never put something in a park that competes with a local business." Such public-private partnerships include mountain bike trails and horseback riding, not endeavors counter to the historic nature of the parks.

The Friends of Oakley, with the brilliant direction and organization of Events Chair Rachel Howell, provided snacks that were connected with this area: local cheese straws, Bergeron pecan treats from Pointe Coupée, pralines, etc. The guests were very complimentary of the delicious treats and of Audubon State Historic Site and its Friends of Oakley group.



*Park Administrators enjoy refreshments and camaraderie.*





# Annual Membership Meeting Elects New Board Members

At the Annual Membership Meeting on January 10, thirty-five members met, some joining for the first time, in the Theatre Room of Audubon State Historic Site. Olivia Pass, who had served as Chair for the past two years, welcomed the group. Then she introduced John House, Site Manager of Audubon State Historic Site (ASHS). House thanked the Friends of Oakley for the many things it has done for ASHS, noting that "Oakley would not be what it is today without the Friends group." He said that he has great hope that the Federal Highway Administration's Grant that he and Pass wrote to upgrade the Joseph Mason Trail would be funded for the \$163,000 requested.

Then Ann Reiley Jones, who will serve as Chair for 2024-2026, noted those members who are leaving the Board: John Dupont, Peggy Gammill, Melvin Harvey, Toni McVea, Dot Temple, Mary Frances Smart, and Olivia Pass. The Friends gave each of these outgoing members a lovely camellia japonica as a farewell gift.

Jones next introduced Dot Temple, Chair of the Nomination Committee for new Board members. Temple had each nominee stand as she called his/her name, and she gave a brief bio of each nominee. The nominees were as follows: Rose Coats, James Dart, Marla Floyd, Joanne Grimsley, Jackie Harvey, Becky Rothschild, and Dahn Savell. All but Rothschild were present. Chair Ann Reiley Jones called for a vote of the attending membership to elect these nominees as official Board Members. The vote was unanimous in support of them. Jones noted that the new Friends of Oakley Board for the next two years are Joe Boneno, Rose Coats, James Dart, Mark Dauer, Elizabeth



*Members of Friends of Oakley attentively listen to the speaker.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*

Finley, John Flippen, Marla Floyd, Joanne Grimsley, Jackie Harvey, Rachel Howell, Stewart Hughes, Ann Reiley Jones, Becky Rothschild, and Dahn Savell.

Then Jones introduced Darlene Reaves, who showed PowerPoint photographs of many of John James Audubon's paintings of birds as she read Audubon's words about each one. Reaves' excellent, informative presentation was warmly received and appreciated by the members.

Ann Reiley Jones then adjourned the meeting for a chili lunch, prepared by the Events Chair Rachel Howell. New members and outgoing members enjoyed the delicious lunch as they reminisced about their activities and connections with ASHS.



*Darlene Reaves gives her  
presentation on Audubon's  
writings.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*



*New Chair Ann Reiley Jones conducts  
Annual Membership meeting.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*



*Dot Temple introduces nominees on  
whom to be voted.  
Photo By Olivia Pass*

## Friends of Oakley Profit & Loss Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023

**Submitted By Mark Dauer, Treasurer**

### ASSETS

Cash in checking account.	\$ 134,239.57
Certificate of deposit	25,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.</b>	<b>\$ 159,239.57</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>LIABILITIES.</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Fund Balance, Unreserved	\$58,437.54
Reserved, Pennington Grant.	\$100,00.00
Reserved, Joseph Mason Trail.	\$802.03
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS.</b>	<b>\$159,239.57</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$159,239.57</b>

## *Thanks and Gratitude!*

To the DAR and Colonial Dames for  
their support throughout the years!

To the West Feliciana Master  
Gardeners and the Feliciana Country  
Gardeners for their beautification of  
the formal gardens!

To the Office of State Parks and  
Facility Planning and Control for its  
continued support!

To the Department of Corrections for  
its help with many projects!

## Birders make Frequent Visits

By Ann Reiley Jones

In January 2024 the Baton Rouge Audubon Society birders came to Oakley again for bird-watching. Staff and Ann Jones greeted the 15 or so members led by Daniel Patterson. The weather was wet and chilly. At conclusion of the walk, the Friends served lunch to the Society. We hope to continue to host them and look forward to future walks.

## Friends of Oakley Board of Directors

Ann Reiley Jones, Chair  
Olivia Pass, Immediate Past Chair  
Stewart Hughes, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Finley, Secretary  
Mark Dauer, Treasurer  
Rachel Howell, Events & Membership Chair  
Joe Boneno  
Rose Coats  
James Dart  
John Flippen  
Marla Floyd  
Joanne Grimsley  
Jackie Harvey  
Becky Rothschild  
Dahn Savell

### Emeriti Members

Tracey Banowitz  
John Dupont  
Norman Ferachi  
Peggy Gammill  
Melvin Harvey  
Cheryl Horst  
Anne Klein  
Conville Lemoine  
Douglas Lewis  
Genie McClendon  
Toni McVea  
Olivia Pass  
Mary Frances Smart  
Paul Stevens  
Dot Temple  
Nancy Vinci  
Ann Weller

### ***Oakley Leaflet Staff***

**Co-Editors: Cheryl Horst  
Olivia Pass**



## Membership in The Friends of Oakley runs from January to December 2024.



### *Friends of Oakley One-Year Membership*

*Become a Supporting Member of*  
**THE FRIENDS OF OAKLEY**

Please enter your name as you would like it listed in public acknowledgments (donation amounts will not be made public): \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not wish to be acknowledged publicly: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate membership level and amount of donation from the following:

- 1) **Warbler Individual Membership** (includes two admission tickets to Oakley house and grounds): \$50-99. Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) **Cardinal Family Membership** (includes four admission tickets to Oakley house and grounds): \$100-499. Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) **The Lucy Audubon Circle** (includes one annual day-use permit—effectively unlimited admission to all of Louisiana's state parks and historic sites):  
\$500 and greater. Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make checks payable to **Friends of Oakley** and mail to **P.O. Box 1097, St. Francisville, LA 70775.**

OR Charge to Credit Card:

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Print name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you wish to decline the gift of the admission tickets with your membership.

Send my membership card to

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) My gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is in memory OR in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

(Gift amount will not be mentioned.) Please send acknowledgment of my gift to the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of Oakley has a 501(C)(3) classification. Donations are deductible to the extent provided by IRS guidelines; therefore, please consult your tax professional.

# The Friends of Oakley

Post Office Box 1097

Saint Francisville, LA 70775



## AUDUBON DAY

Saturday, April 27th  
10am-2pm  
Hill Memorial Library

**LSU**  
Libraries  
Special Collections



*Herb Garden at Oakley*  
Photo By Olivia Pass



*Rachel Howell, Jackie Harvey  
and Elizabeth Finley prepare  
for Park Administrators' visit.*  
Photo By Olivia Pass



*Cold Frame at Oakley*  
Photo By Olivia Pass