

QUILL NOTES

A Kent House Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 11

Beginner's Tatting Workshop

9:00am-11:30am OR 1:00pm-3:30pm

\$30 Registration Fee

Saturday, January 18

A Tasting Event: Whisky, Wine, & Tapas

6:00pm-7:30pm

\$75 Per Ticket

Saturday, February 22

Beginner's Blacksmithing Workshop

8:00am-3:00pm

\$135 Registration Fee

Saturday, April 4

***Spring Herb Day, Arts & Crafts Festival,
& Yard Sale***

8:00am-1:00pm

Free Entry

A Letter From The New President Of The Kent House Board

Christmas is a special time of year where we not only celebrate the birth of Christ but the heritage of our families both the young and the old. Much of our time is spent with family and friends often reacquainting ourselves with loved ones unseen for years, and reminiscing of days gone by. We at Kent Plantation House want to remind you that we are a part of your community family, and a part of that local family heritage. We strive to keep the memories alive of how life was lived in this area by our forebears. From the bousillage which stands today as the walls of the main house, the hand made bricks underneath, the woodworking tools and farm implements, and the separate kitchen with the brick fireplace and hearth, these are all working reminders of days gone by. We hope to maintain Kent House to be a hands on, visual aid to teach future generations about the way of life during the antebellum period. Our greatest request to you our neighbors is that you show your support for our grand old house by touring the house and grounds, becoming a Friend of Kent House, and volunteering with one of our many events we hold for the community during the year. Please join us when and where you can.

Merry Christmas to all,
Keith Hudson
Board President



2019 In Review: Fall & Winter

Cyclists in neon colors rode down Bayou Rapides and throughout Alexandria during our 8th Annual Le Tour de Bayou in September. This annual bicycle ride had riders from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and even as far north as Missouri!

This event draws in a great crowd every year to our wonderful city and we appreciate all of the community's support during this time. One new addition to Le Tour de Bayou this year was a pre-party on Friday hosted by Huckleberry Brewing Company! A great time was had by all! We look forward to next year's event being bigger and better than ever! *Laissez les bicyclettes rouler!*

During October, Kent House hosted a variety of events including its Annual Fall Herb Day, the 1st Mary Shelley Tea Party, and the 2nd Annual Reptile Day.

Herb Day is a highly anticipated and beloved event in the Central Louisiana area. Over a thousand people came this year to buy fresh, unique herbs as well as shop for local handmade arts & crafts items and browse for treasures in the indoor yard sale.

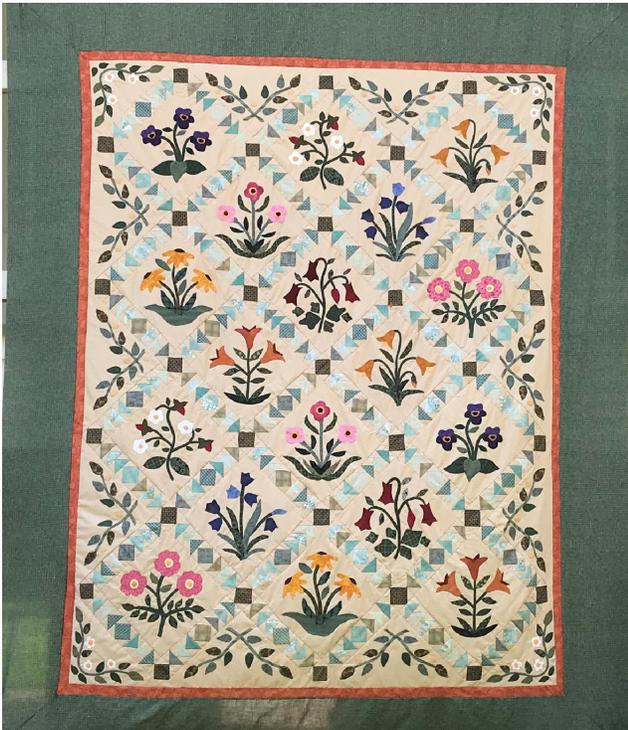
A Mary Shelley Tea Party was a new event put on by the Rapides Parish Library and held at Kent House. Two actors, dressed as Mary Shelley (author of the novel *Frankenstein*) and Percy Shelley (Mary's husband), held a meet and greet and had a Q & A session during a lovely afternoon tea.

Typically, Kent House hosts *Tales Along the Bayou*, a wonderfully spooky event put on by the Rapides Parish Library. Unfortunately, the event was moved to the Westside Regional Library due to bad weather. We hope to host this event again in 2020!





Our year of festivals wrapped up with our favorite festival of all: the 26th Annual Sugar Day Festival! This festival is centered around the process of making sugar in our 1840's reproduction sugar mill. This year we would like to give a huge thank you to Alma Plantation for donating the syrup that was used in the sugar mill. We had Jack Thompson, Technical Manager of the Louisiana Sugar Refining, LLC explain the process of making sugar and he did a wonderful job! In addition to a sugar making demonstration, we had our blacksmiths EJ and Nancy McCann, open hearth cooks Pat Thompson and Flora Luquette, spinner Kathleen Foto, and many others showing various trades and skills from the 1800's. There was live music by Roscoe, Roe, and Abadie, along with dancing from the Glory Bound Cloggers and the Circle 8 Square Dancers. Arts & crafts vendors, a kids area with a petting zoo, pony rides, and games rounded out the activities! This event is always educational and fun for all ages.



Each year during Sugar Day, the Kent House raffles off a beautiful quilt hand sewn by the lovely Kent House quilters: Mary Alyce Bordelon, Barbara Carlin, Fran Elkins, and Brenda Ardoin. This year the hand sewn quilt was entitled "Wildflowers", and the lucky winners were a nice couple from Texas. We cannot wait to see the design for next year's quilt! Look for it in the next newsletter! Remember, we sell raffle tickets year round in our Gift Shop for just \$2 a ticket or 3 for \$5!



The last event of the year at Kent House was an Old Fashioned Christmas. It was a bleak winter day, but a large crowd came to meet Papa Noel, make both old and new Christmas crafts for their tree, listen to Nugent Music Academy sing carols, and drink some hot cocoa. What a wonderful note to end the decade on. Falala! Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

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