

# La Creole Messenger

A Destrehan Plantation Publication

Summer 2022

## A Message from the Executive Director



Superior Group completed our roof replacement on the main house that was damaged by Hurricane Ida. Superior Group replaced the roof with 24-inch cedar shingles along with the replacement of most of the copper gutters. We are now waiting on our new custom made ridge cap to complete the job. Repairs are underway to the exterior and interior damage, including new paint on the exterior and all of the



second floor and portions of the first floor of the main house. Upon completion of the house, final repairs will be made to the Miller-Haydel Museum, the Schoolhouse and the Azby Administration Office. We are pleased with all roof and repairs being done by Superior Group from Walker, Louisiana. I would also like to thank Dufrene Lumber for its generous donation of new treated wood fence posts used to repair our split rail fencing along the River Road damaged by Hurricane Ida. We look forward to you visiting Destrehan Plantation.

- Tracy Smith, Executive Director

## Marketing Update

July started off as a busy month with the beginning of in person events and travel shows. Leslie Brewer, Director of Sales and Marketing, participated in the River Parishes Tourist Commission's Booth at Essence Festival July 1 - 4, 2022 at the New Orleans Convention Center where she gave away discounted coupons to visit Destrehan Plantation. Leslie attended the 9th Annual SE Spotlight USA, July 11-13, 2022, in St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana. Spotlight brought together suppliers and buyers in the hospitality industry to build relationships and book business! In addition to attending the show, Destrehan Plantation and the River Parishes Tourist Commission sponsored the keynote speaker, Danny Bonaventure. Leslie will attend Student Youth Travel Association 25th Annual Conference being held in Washington, DC, August 26-30, 2022, and will bring delegates updates from industry leaders, insight into association advancements, motivational speakers and the ever-so-important business appointment sessions and more. SYTA is the only showcase in North America where anyone who is passionate about promoting, selling, and providing travel experiences for students find dedicated, insightful and actionable collaboration that will directly impact their student and youth travel business.



## Past Times Camp



Past Times camp was a huge success! Twenty-eight kids ages 7 to 12 spent the week learning about Louisiana history. Our campers traveled through time beginning with the indigeneous people of our area on through to the Civil War. Campers learned about the free and enslaved people who shaped Louisiana culture. Campers also learned 19th century chores and entertainment. Hands-on activities included butter making, calligraphy, candle making and silhouettes to name a few. We ended the week with a bang. Civil War reenactors visited and shared their knowledge. What is a reenactment without a cannon? We had that too! Due to the camp's popularity, we are increasing the enrollment to 50 attendees for 2023. Past Times Camp 2023 will be held from June 19 - 23, 2023. It is never too early to start thinking about next year. Registration begins February 2023. Please contact Brenda Benoit, Heritage Education Coordinator, at (985) 764-9315 ext. 3. for availability, cost, and registration.



## New Merchandise Alert

Arriving this August, we at the Destrehan Plantation Gift Shop are proud to carry Spartina 449's boutique "Greeting From New Orleans" collection of hand bags, totes and wallets. Be on the lookout for these and more new and exciting merchandise hitting our shelves every month.

Plus.....

## Calling All People of the Parishes

Destrehan Plantation Gift Shop is celebrating all the wonderful locals of Louisiana this summer with our annual locals-specific sale!

### LOCALS WEEK - August 21-27, 2022

All locals receive 15% off their entire order - Just show your ID

Plus: Jambalaya and Gumbo samplings from Sandra Smith of Sassy Spices - Friday, August 26th from 11 am to 3 pm. Come on down and enjoy some special local flavors and receive 15% off all your purchases.

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## Vendor Spotlight: Laura Champagne, La Vie Louisiane



Laura Champagne is the founder of La Vie Louisiane Candles. Made by hand, these Louisiana-themed candles are truly something special. Destrehan Plantation is proud to be one of a select few retailers to carry her one-of-a-kind, 100% locally-made candle products.

- 1) When was the La Vie Louisiane Candle business founded/started?  
**La Vie Louisiane was started in 2017 in Youngsville, Louisiana.**
- 2) What brought on the idea to start a candle business?  
**My love for candles was the foundation to create a business.**
- 3) What makes your candles special?  
**Not only are the scents unique, but the candles are a treasure to both locals and tourists with each label showcasing the pronunciation and the definition of the word or phrase.**
- 4) How many scents do you have available?  
**There are seven (7) original scents, one fall scent and two Christmas scents.**
- 5) What do you enjoy most about your business?  
**What I enjoy most about my business is sharing my love for candles and love for Louisiana.**
- 6) What candle is your personal favorite?  
**My personal favorite is Joi de Vivre. It is a clean, slightly sweet scent that is just beautiful year round.**

Be on the lookout for our selection of ALL-NEW La Vie Louisiane Wooden Jar Candles coming to our shelves this summer!

## DEDICATED TO HISTORY:

The River Road Historical Society is a small non-profit organization who owns and operates Destrehan Plantation. The mission of the River Road Historical Society is to preserve history and provide education on Destrehan Plantation. If you would like to become a Friend of Destrehan Plantation, please visit our website at <https://www.destrehanplantation.org>