We’ve lost a dear friend: On January 29, 2020, Miss Margie Louise Yates Jenkins died at age 98, in Franklinton, LA.²

She had a life-long interest in growing plants, becoming a master propagator. Her early careers were in the Farmers Home Administration during World War II, then the Jenkins family dairy farm with husband Bryant Edward Jenkins from 1946 on. Along the way she developed an interest in preserving native plants near the farm. The Jenkins Farm and Nursery enlarged and prospered, and she became known as a horticultural authority. She participated in and was a featured guest speaker at work sessions and conventions of horticultural and botanical groups throughout the Gulf Coast South.

She was a master propagator of difficult species, which is how I first met her. In the early days of my assignment at the Stephen F. Austin State University Arboretum to help establish an 8-acre azalea garden, my late husband Mike and I toured public gardens across the South. We had been told to visit the Hammond Research Station in Hammond, LA. While there, we first saw the lovely lavender and purple-speckled ‘Koromo-shikibu’ azaleas. I asked whether they would grow in Zone 8b Nacogdoches, and the answer was “Yes, but only one person can propagate them, Miss Margie Jenkins!” We drove down the road right away to visit her. So began our many purchases of this lovely azalea, which thrives and graces 700 feet on both sides of University Drive, on the East side of the campus. For balance, we planted them on the East side frontage of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden and the West side frontage of the Gayla Mize Garden. They repeat bloom, are evergreen, and make a lovely memory for me of a very smart, kind, and talented horticulturist and friend. In fact, they were blooming in January. Her legacy lives on both here in Nacogdoches and in her native Louisiana. (See Photo 1)

Not only this, but she also supported our educational efforts along the way… speaking at one of our early Azalea Trail Symposia (2008: “Easy Ways to Propagate Evergreen and Deciduous Azaleas”) and attending both ASA conventions in Nacogdoches (2007 and 2015). (See Photos 2 & 3) What a fine role model for every gardening enthusiast.
only enjoy plants, but also to learn about them and then share that learning as widely as possible with others.

Dr. Allen Owings, Louisiana Chapter President, offers these two ways we can help Miss Margie’s legacy continue:

1. **In support of Margie Yates Jenkins Scholarship Fund**

   Make check payable to: Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research
   
   c/o Cari Jane Murray
   
   P. O. Box 1447
   
   Mandeville, LA 70470
   
   [Write “Margie Jenkins” in memo line]

2. **In support of LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station**

   Make check payable to: LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station
   
   21549 Old Covington Highway
   
   Hammond, LA 70403
   
   in support of the established Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden
   
   [Write “Margie Jenkins” in memo line]

**References and Resources**


2. Material taken from Margie Jenkins obituary on www.Legacy.com at:

   https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/margie-jenkins-obituary?pid=195230409

**Selected References from The Azalean**


