



Margie Yates Jenkins

September 5, 1921 - January 29, 2020

Mrs. Margie Louise Yates Jenkins died on January 29, 2020, after living a full life of 98 active and magnificently productive years. She was born on September 5, 1921, first of the six children of Fred Whithurst Yates and Camille Gardner Yates, both of whom were second generation members of frontier families who had settled the Florida Parishes.

Mrs. Jenkins graduated from Franklinton High School, worked for the Farmers Home Administration during World War II, and on October 31, 1946, became the wife of Bryant Edward Jenkins.

While rearing her own family and keeping the grueling hours of a “dairy wife”, Mrs. Jenkins became fascinated with the preservation of plants she found to be native to the valley and ridges along the Little Tchefuncte River which separates Washington and Tangipahoa Parishes. This grew into a lifetime avocation for her, and as Jenkins Farm and Nursery enlarged and prospered, her recognition as a botanical authority spread across the Gulf States. She attended and appeared as guest speaker and lecturer each year at conventions and work sessions of botanical groups throughout the South; and on the home front, she operated the Jenkins Nursery, where she worked, serving customers, each day of the week preceding her death.

Her awards include: Nursery Persons of the Year by the Louisiana Association

of Nurserymen for 1993; James Foret Award by the Louisiana Nursery Association for year 2000; Distinguished Service Award by the Azalea Society of America for 2007; Florida Parishes Arena Hall of Fame Inductee for 2013; and the Don Shadow Award by the Southern Nursery Association for 2014.

In 2018, she became the first woman to be inducted into Louisiana's Department of Agriculture Hall of Distinction. Mrs. Jenkins also held membership in the International Plant Propagators Society, and in seven statewide professional associations throughout the South. Lately anticipating the end of her journey, Mrs. Margie told her daughter, Margie Ann, that she looked forward to growing azaleas in the Garden of Eden.

Mrs. Jenkins is survived by her daughter: Margie Ann Jenkins, sons: Jeffery Edward Jenkins and Mark Yates Jenkins (Bertie); and by grandchildren: Melissa Jenkins, Elizabeth Stephens (Jay), Regan Wynn (Wes), Amelia Kent (Russell), Maggie Levin, Marcie Jenkins, Alison Jenkins, Sarah Jenkins, Stephanie Morel (Justin); great-grandchildren: Evan, Miles and Bryant Wynn, Jenna Morel; Sister: Doris Yates Magee; Brother-in-law: John Gallaspy (Martha); and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred Whithurst Yates and Camille Gardner Yates; her husband, Bryant Edward Jenkins; sons, Frederick Bryant Jenkins and Timothy Allen Jenkins; and siblings, Lyda Yates Wood, Dixie Yates Gallaspy, Frederick O. Yates, and John Mousely Yates.

Visitation will be held at Hillcrest Baptist Church (2201 Washington Street) in Franklinton, LA from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm on Sunday, February 2, and will continue on Monday morning from 9:00 am until the service at 1:00 pm, to be conducted by Rev. John Robson and Rev. Tommy Smith. Burial will follow at the Martin Van Buren Hughes Cemetery on the Jenkins Farm, South of Highway 16, on the ridge overlooking the Tchefuncte River Valley.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station. Please make checks payable to the LSU AgCenter and write "Margie Jenkins" in the memo field. Memorial donations can be mailed to 21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond, LA 70403. The Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden was established in 2006 to honor, share and teach about the contributions Ms. Margie made to the nursery and landscape industry by displaying her favorite plants – including azaleas and natives or donations to the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research "Margie Y Jenkins Scholarship Fund" mailed to LNLFSR, PO Box 1447, Mandeville, LA 7047.

Obituaries can be viewed online at www.crainfh.com

Tribute Wall

TS

“ George and I were sad to hear about her passing. I have been trying to arrange a time for a young cousin of mine and I to pay a visit. He is getting a Master’s Degree at Miss. State in entomology, with his Bachelors in environmental plant science. He is dedicated to and enthusiastic about native plants. His schedule has been hectic and we could never find a good time. He will be sad to hear the news. We will remember and praise her work at the Louisiana Native Plant Society this weekend.

Teresa & George Shapley - February 05, 2020 at 06:08 PM

SN

“ A lovely lady and a treasure for those who love native plants. Always time to talk and smile and tell stories and careen through the nursery on that golf cart. She will be missed very much. Her gift of knowledge about and the growing of our native plants were gratefully received and we hope to carry on. Condolences to the family and thank you for sharing her with us.

Susan Norris-Davis

Susan Norris-Davis - February 03, 2020 at 11:31 AM

JG

“*Margie continued a generations long friendship between my family and the Yates family. Margie surprised us by providing and arranging flowers for our wedding in Loranger (old Morris Retreat then known as Houltonwood) in June 1983. The Yates family and the Houltons pioneered the development of Tangipahoa Parish. There was no more loyal and giving friend than Margie Yates Jenkins. We will miss her. God bless her soul.*



Jeanne and John Houlton Gewalt, Greenwood, MS

John H. Gewalt - February 03, 2020 at 10:35 AM

TS

“*There is definitely a void in the horticultural world now. She called me only about 3 weeks ago just to chat about plants. What a dear soul! There is not another one like her. She was acquiring new plants right until the end. But heaven is a happier place today. Many blessings to all of the family and friends.*

*Ted Stephens
Nurseries Caroliniana
North Augusta, SC*



Ted Stephens - February 03, 2020 at 09:54 AM

MP

“*So sorry to hear of this Great Lady's passing. But I know that Mr Bryant was waiting on her arrival. God bless you all.*

Michael Piper - February 03, 2020 at 12:40 AM

LS

“ *Lib Stafford Scheuermann lit a candle in memory of Margie Yates Jenkins*



Lib Stafford Scheuermann - February 01, 2020 at 06:25 PM

DS

So sorry about your Grandmother. Sounds like she was a well respected and very busy Lady. Sending prayers for the family 🌹

Del Sanders - February 01, 2020 at 07:51 PM

PZ

“ *Ms Margie was an inspiration to all. I knew she liked Red Velvet cake and made her one on several occasions. She will be missed.*
Paula Zachary

paula zachary - February 01, 2020 at 04:22 AM

RW

“ *Grateful for the example of work ethic, dedication and perseverance I had in my grandmother and her ability to host large family gatherings while also running a farm. She was a fighter with a great sense of humor and a love for nature. My favorite memories in her home revolve around sweet tea and Lima beans at every family meal, ice cream for dinner when I spent the night, fresh blocks of cheese dropped off when the dairy trucks picked up milk, and watching her brush her long, dark hair and fix it in a bun before heading to the nursery. I will miss her hugs and arm pats and how she would laugh and clasp her hands when she was pleased by something. 💕💕*

Regan Wynn - January 31, 2020 at 11:24 PM

AL

“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Alan - January 31, 2020 at 05:27 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



JENNIE WINGER - January 31, 2020 at 01:28 PM

LR

“ About 15 years ago I drove to Margie's nursery at the recommendation of Bill Roundtree. I did not know it was a commercial nursery until I got there. Margie came out and I apologized for not know that it was a commercial only nursery. Little did I know that it did not matter to her! She was still a gracious and drove me all around on a Golf cart telling me all about the different areas. It was a splendid afternoon to spend with the Elizabeth Lawrence of our lifetime.

That afternoon Margie taught me how to plant Buckeye seeds and left me with her quote, "Gardeners just get more out of life." She was a beautiful example for all of us. I wish I could wear my hair just like hers too!

*God bless all of you,
Lindsay Rougon
Baton Rouge, LA*

Lindsay Rougon - January 31, 2020 at 01:13 PM

DC

“ somewhere around 1982 I paid my first visit to the nursery and met Ms. Margie and Bryant, and was warmly welcomed by these two good souls ~ how comfortable and at ease they made one feel, and the knowledge shared, absolutely delightful! We became friends over 'Spruce Pines'! Always a treat to see Margie's smile and have some time with her ~ thank you for all you shared with me dear Lady ~

*Dean Clark
Lakewood, CO*

Dean Clark - January 31, 2020 at 11:14 AM

K
Norred

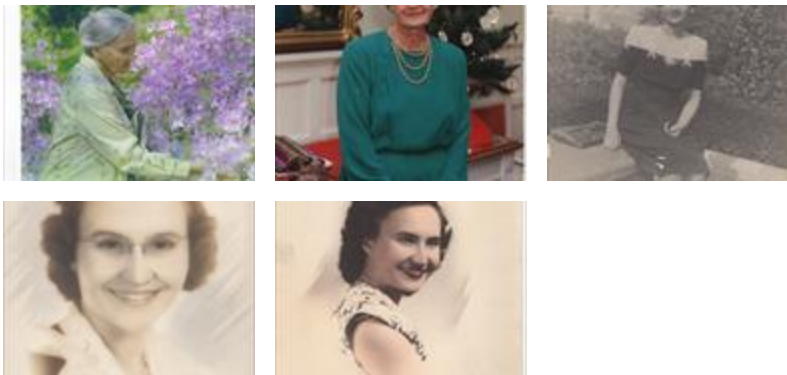
“ I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Ms. Margie. No matter how many times I saw her or got to visit with her, it was never enough and I always learned something new. On my last visit to her nursery a few months back, I remember her inviting me to eat lunch with her and she prayed before breaking bread, it blessed me so. I will forever miss you my dear friend. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Ed Norred
Holden, LA

K Norred - January 31, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Crispin Reedy - January 31, 2020 at 10:34 AM

DB

“ Margie Yates Jenkins was to me the nicest, most kind hearted person I've met in the Horticulture Industry. Her memory will resonate in my mind forever. She will be missed dearly. May God Bless Mark and the rest of the family 🙏

Derek Balderrama - January 31, 2020 at 07:29 AM

GS

“ Mark, Bertie, Marcie and entire family...Saddened to read of the passing of "Miss" Margie. Daryl really thought such a lot of her and I am sorry I only knew her by her many good deeds. Such a life well lived. I remember her sister Lyda fondly. You were all blessed with a shining example of goodness in your mother, grandmother and mother-in-law. Alan and I send our heartfelt condolences.



Glenda Sharkey - January 31, 2020 at 07:24 AM

AC

“ I am so sad and will miss Ms. Margie. I am so glad I got to have breakfast with her and Mark in Mobile recently. She was an inspiration to me with her extensive knowledge and generosity. I will always remember her fondly.

Annie Coco - January 30, 2020 at 07:25 PM

CJ

“ Margie Ann, Jeff and Mark,

What a wonderful woman! So many memories growing up and the anticipation of our annual "Sunday before Christmas" lunch. No matter how many accolades she received-she never changed. "Miss" Margie remained a constant, hard-working force that loved her friends and family.

Much love to ya'll.

Caroline

Caroline J Jackson - January 30, 2020 at 03:20 PM

VH

*Margie Ann,
We are so sorry for your loss. We will remember your family in our
prayers.*

*The Howk Kids
Valerie, Zora, Eddie, Virginia, Elizabeth*

Valerie Howard - February 01, 2020 at 09:56 PM