



RIGDON OAK
5447 ISLAND RD.
JARREAU, LA

17'



This is a beautiful tree whose history is not known to us at this time. With more research, hopefully we can discover its secrets. The tree arches completely over the road, providing a lovely photo opportunity, with parking directly across the road in the old Rigdon Supermarket parking lot.



JANE PITTMAN OAK
11850 HWY 416
OSCAR, LA

27'



The 1971 novel, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," by Ernest Gaines, depicts the struggles of African Americans as seen through the eyes of the narrator, a woman named Jane Pittman. She tells of the major events of her life from the time she was a young slave girl in the American South at the end of the Civil War. When talking about the 1927 Mississippi River Flood, Miss Jane Pittman begins to talk about Native Americans and their respect for nature and its strength. In the middle of this discussion, she thinks about "an old oak tree up the quarters where Aunt Lou Bolin and them used to stay" (155). The old tree "up the quarters" became more than just another tree to Miss Jane. It became an avenue for her to communicate with the past and with nature itself.

The tree that Miss Jane talks to is based on an actual 400 year old oak tree that sits beside La. 416 in Pointe Coupee Parish. Gaines used to walk by the tree on his way to the grocery store, and it inspired him, partly, to write The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman.

In 2008, a car ran into a limb that was twelve feet in circumference that fell from the tree. Because of this, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) considered cutting the tree down. The community, Gaines, and fellow professors at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette stepped in to protest the tree's imminent demise. DOTD then determined that the tree was healthy and the limb that fell had a defect. So, instead of removing the tree, they trimmed the branches that hung over the road.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman was made into a movie and originally aired on CBS in 1974, winning multiple Emmy awards. In this fictionalized biography, Cicely Tyson stars as the 110-year-old Jane Pittman, who recounts the events of her life as they relate to a century of racism in America. Born into slavery in the 1860s, Jane lives through the Civil War and into the civil rights movement.



JAQUES FABRE OAK
8925 FALSE RIVER RD.
OSCAR, LA

19'



The Jacques Fabre Oak sits at 19' 3" today and is named after its property owner, Jacques Fabre, at the time of the Louisiana Purchase. The property of this oak was owned by the same family from the 18th century until the 20th century. Jacques Fabre was a native of Toulon, France, and the son of Pierre Fabre & Magdeleine Boulin. Jacques was married in Pointe Coupée on November 21, 1775 to Marguerite Moreau and had 6 children. He was an artillery soldier at the militia post at Pointe Coupée during the war in 1779. In 1803 he was issued a tract of land on False River which contained 4 acres on front, bounded by P. Robillard & George Olivet.



VACCINATION OAK
9475 FALSE RIVER DR.
OSCAR, LA **24'**



This lovely centuries-old oak is self-identified by neighboring historian and author Brian J. Costello, OT, Kt HRE, OLJ, as the "Vaccination Oak" owing to the oral histories of his late grandmother Severine Inez Aguiard Costello (1913-2010) and contemporaries. Subsequently, this property was owned in the 19th century by Francois LeBeau, Dr. Honore Manne, Thomas Mix (for whom the downriver community of Mix was named in 1904); and in the 20th century by Paulin Pourciau (during whose ownership rice was grown on the property), Mrs. Enomie "Madame NoNo" Pourciau, Hewitt Fontaine, and ultimately by Dr. and Mrs. Bobby Fulmer. Pointe Coupée Parish experienced its last epidemic of typhoid fever in 1925, with a number of False River residents contracting the illness, including Severine Inez Aguiard, then aged 11 years and who lived with her family next door and upriver of the oak. She was confined to bed for six weeks and recalled that medics set up a station beneath the oak and provided vaccinations to community members lest they fall ill as well.



BONDY OAK
1209 E MAIN ST.
VENTRESS, LA **22'**



During the national bicentennial celebration of 1976 it was determined that the Bondy Oak was over 200 years old and therefore it was designated as a bicentennial live oak tree. It was at that time that it was given the name "The Bondy Oak" and it now stands at 22' in circumference. The property has been in the Bondy family for generations. When David and Adelaide Bondy got ready to build their home on this site in 1957 (the home that sits there now) there was already a old Creole cottage on the site. David & Adelaide had the cottage moved away in order to construct their new home. The old creole cottage actually still stands, but is in a different location on the Bondy property. It was estimated that the old cottage was built in the 1800's by a previous landowner and it is believed that he constructed it there because of the live oak. The Bondys continue to enjoy family gatherings, such as Easter lunch, under the Bondy Oak.



RANDALL OAK
9789 FALSE RIVER DR.
OSCAR, LA **36'**



One of the largest living live oaks in the United States is on False River at the home of David and Madeline Breidenbach. The Randall Oak has the largest single tree circumference, at 35' 8" and is located on the site of the old Poydras College.

Julien Poydras arrived in New Orleans in 1768 and developed a successful commercial career as a merchant, plantation owner, and banker. He supported many educational and community needs in Louisiana and left great wealth for beneficial causes.



CONRAD LANGLOIS OAK
12815 PATIN DYKE RD.
VENTRESS, LA **25'**



Conrad Langlois Oak is located at the home of Chris and Maylia Langlois, and has a girth of 25 feet. Conrad Joseph Langlois, born in 1889, was one of Pointe Coupée's most creative entrepreneurs. During his lifetime, Mr. Conrad Langlois sold fish on a commercial scale, owned a cotton gin, a syrup mill, a store and a sawmill. His most innovative creation was a floating movie theater on False River that he operated from 1914-1915. Mr. Langlois was one of seven children born into the family of Paul Otto and Elodie Olinde Langlois. He served in the US Army and received an honorable discharge in January 1919. Mr. Langlois' first venture into the cotton ginning business began in 1924, when he joined two partners in forming "The Pointe Coupée Cotton Gin, Inc." He also started his own gin at Patin Dyke, named "Langlois Farmer's Gin."



FRANCOIS SAMSON OAK 29'
 507 E MAIN ST.
 NEW ROADS, LA



The live oak behind the LeJeune House was a grand old tree when the house was built about 200 years ago. Almost 29-feet in circumference, the tree was named after the plantation's first owner Francois Samson. Samson was born in St. Malo, France, but served at the poste of Pointe Coupée by 1772. In 1779, colonial governor of Spanish Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez, led a march to rout the British in West Florida. Samson fought with Galvez in the Battle of Fort New Richmond (now Baton Rouge), one of the only battles of the American Revolution fought outside the original thirteen colonies.

The LeJeune House was the primary house of a working plantation that measured 14-arpernts on False River - from the New Road to the west to Oak Street to the east - and 40-arpernts back to the portage canal. The plantation covered about 500 acres which is now populated by a large number of New Roads' citizens. Samson was the first of a long line of interrelated Samson, Cheneverts and LeJeunes to occupy the house, which has never been abandoned or unoccupied for any of its 200-year-long standing.



ZENON LANGLOIS OAK 28'
 1105 E MAIN ST.
 VENTRESS, LA



Zenon Langlois Oak, on the eastern limit of New Roads, is familiar for the deeply draped limbs which surround its trunk. It is located on what was a four by 40-arpernt tract purchased by Zenon Langlois from Benjamin Poydras in 1825, and successive members of the Langlois family built homes on site and to the east. The old house directly behind the tree was home to Octave and Blanche Saizan Langlois and children, and later to their son Gaston Langlois, wife Cora Pourciau Langlois, and children. Oral history recounts the outdoor dances held around the oak, with Japanese lanterns hung from its bows, at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries.

After his death in 1824, Poydras provided in his will an endowment for a public academy for higher education that was named Poydras College. James Randall, a 22-year-old Baltimore, Maryland native, was hired as a professor of literature and the classics at the College in 1860, the year before the Civil War broke out. It was during this time that he was moved to write a poem that focused on the themes of oppression, slavery, and the secession of the Confederacy, after Federal troops wounded and killed citizens of Baltimore.

"Maryland, My Maryland," as it became known, was later made into a song and the poem became the official State song of Maryland. Poydras College was closed in 1863 and destroyed by fire in 1881. The land was sold and funds were pledged to education, mainly Poydras High School, currently the home of Pointe Coupee Historical Society.




SMITHHAVEN OAK 22'
 608 W MAIN ST.
 NEW ROADS, LA



The Smithhaven Oak is also known as Papa's Oak. This tree has been a land mark in Pointe Coupee Parish since there was an America. The land where the Oak tree thrives was originally farm land, and was later sold to be the location of a school house. Brigadier General Francis T. Nicholls held a political rally for governor under this tree and he ultimately became the 28th governor of Louisiana from 1876-1880 and 1888-1892. Lt. Governor Hewitt Bouanchaud and his wife purchased the school house around the turn of the century and transformed the school into their family home. He died in 1950 and then Pointe Coupée Sheriff (Foster) F.A. Smith and wife Gena Kearney Smith (niece of Hewitt) purchased the home in 1952. They had a special love for the home since they had both attended elementary school there. The Smiths lived here until 2002 when Sheriff Smith passed away. At that time Greg Eaton of Baton Rouge purchased the home from the Smith family as a second home.

The Provosty Oak is located on what was formerly the home of Augusta Provosty who was a member of the Louisiana Legislature during the secession convention. His son, Oliver O. Provosty, lived on the property after his father passed away. Oliver was also a Louisiana legislator, District Attorney and Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Oliver received his primary education at Poydras Academy, located next door. He then attended Georgetown University for his undergraduate work. He returned to Louisiana to attain his law degree at Louisiana State University. Almost upon the day of receiving his law degree, Oliver was appointed the District Attorney position, which fell in the district of Pointe Coupee. He also represented Avoyelles Parish as their State Senator.




P 
PROVOSTY OAK
500 W MAIN ST.
NEW ROADS, LA

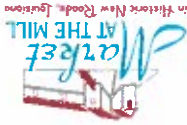
19'

Ellet Benjamin Jewell (1888-1962) was a native of Pointe Coupee and a graduate of Poydras Academy in 1907. He graduated from LSU in 1910 and was honored with a teaching fellowship from LSU while working to receive his Master's Degree. Following graduation, he taught one year in Webster Parish and was then appointed principal of the Poydras Academy from 1912 to 1924, when he became principal of the new Poydras High School. He was principal at Poydras until his retirement in 1945. Over his period as principal for 33 years, he also taught French and Mathematics. He was known by many as "Prof." The oak was named in his memory.



P 
ELLET JEWELL OAK
500 W MAIN ST.
NEW ROADS, LA

22'



FREE ENTRY to Market
at the Mill on Saturday!



2 for one drafts all day!



FREE Bloody Mary with
any entree purchase!



FREE mimosa! No
purchase necessary.



FREE mimosa or dessert with
any entree purchase!

DIRECTIONS

Francois Samson Oak - Head north on Main Street (turn left out of the Poydras parking lot) to the LeJeune House, site of the Francois Samson Oak. Parking is at the business at 473 E. Main Street, at the corner of East Main and North Carolina St. There is parking in the front, at the side, and along North Carolina St. LeJeune House is on the left, with a white picket fence in the front, and a greeter at the gate.

Zenon Langlois Oak - Continue north to 1105 East Main St, New Roads. The tree is on the left. This is a view only tree, there is no greeter.

Bondy Oak - continue north to 1209 East Main St, New Roads. David Bondy and Matt Bondy are your hosts. Light refreshments will be provided. Photos are welcome.
Conrad Langlois Oak - continue north on East Main, which turns into Patin Dyke Road.

Rigdon Oak - continue north on Patin Dyke Road. Turn right on Hwy 413. Go to the t-intersection and continue to the right on Hwy 413, which is also Island Road. False River should be on your right. Go approximately 5 miles to the Rigdon Oak. There is a large parking lot for the now-closed Rigdon Supermarket.

Jane Pittman Oak - Continue in the same direction on Hwy 413 for one mile, when Hwy 413 makes a turn to the right. Take the right. At the T-intersection, make a right on Hwy 416. Continue for one mile to the Jane Pittman Oak, on the left, at 11850 Hwy 416, Lakeland.

Jacque Fabre Oak - continue in the same direction on Hwy 416, for .8 miles where Hwy 416 merges onto Hwy 1. Continue on Hwy 1, keeping False River on your right. There will be a light at the Circle K, and Jarreau's Off the Hook. Continue through the light. You will pass Parlange Plantation on your left. After the traffic light, go about 1.4 miles to Glaser's Farm, it is on the left. The farm is well marked.

Vaccination Oak - Continue on Hwy 1 for one mile, to 9475 False River Road, on the left. Pull into the driveway to park. There will be a sign and balloons marking the driveway entrance, but it is difficult to see. If you miss the driveway, you may also park at 9504 False River Road, on the right. There will also be a sign and balloons at the alternate parking location. Use caution when crossing busy Hwy 1.

Randall Oak - Continue on Hwy 1 for .6 miles to 9789 False River Road. On the left you will see the magnificent Randall Oak, one of the oldest Live Oaks in the nation.

Smithhaven Oak - Continue on Hwy 1 into New Roads, for the final tree on the tour, at 608 W Main St. It is 1.5 miles from the light at Hospital Rd in New Roads to the Smithhaven Oak. Light refreshments and cocktails will be available.

RENTALS

The Pointe Coupee Historical Society offers venue rentals in the Julien Poydras Museum for seminars, reunions, political events, weddings, as well as long-term leases. Our facility has on-site staff, rear entry handicap accessibility, designated parking, an elevator, restrooms, kitchen, and auditorium seating. Rental Space is available on all 3 floors and the front grounds.

AUDITORIUM

200 seat auditorium for presentations and shows

MUSEUM ROOM

Large receptions and gatherings

MEETING ROOMS

500-100 sqft. meeting rooms

FRONT GROUNDS

Weddings, reunions, and other outdoor events

OFFICE SPACE

See online for details

225-638-6575

pointecoupehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

www.pointecoupehistoricalsociety.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00AM-2:00PM, M-F

PURCHASE A BOOK TODAY!

New Roads and Old Rivers



NEW ROADS AND OLD RIVERS

Randy Harelson and Richard Sexton

New Roads and Old Rivers captures the natural and cultural vitality of Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, as seen in the stunning photographs of Richard Sexton, with text by Randy Harelson and Brian Costello. Pointe Coupee is one of the oldest settlements in the Mississippi Valley, dating to the 1720s. French for "a place cut off," the name refers to the area's three oxbow lakes, separated from the Mississippi over centuries. Edged by the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, Pointe Coupee remains a land rich in Creole heritage, distinct in geographical beauty, and abounding in historic homes and farms. In 200 color images, Sexton artistically portrays the region's sights: Native American mounds, bayous and lakes, productive agricultural fields and industries, slave cabins and plantation homes, small towns, and family and civic celebrations. Photographs include most of Pointe Coupee's seventy surviving antebellum structures, along with some of its sixty-two massive trees listed on the Live Oak Society register.

CARNIVAL IN LOUISIANA

Brian J. Costello

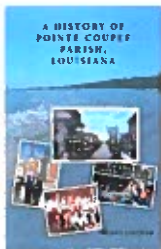
From the revelers on horseback in Eunice and Mamou to the miles-long New Orleans parade routes lined with eager spectators shouting "Throw me something, mister!," no other Louisiana tradition celebrates the Pelican State's cultural heritage quite like Mardi Gras. In *Carnival in Louisiana*, Brian J. Costello offers Mardi Gras fans an insider's look at the customs associated with this popular holiday and travels across the state to explore each area's festivities. Costello brings together the stories behind the tradition, gleaned from his research and personal involvement in Carnival.



A HISTORY OF POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LOUISIANA

Brian J. Costello

A History of Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana: The Murray G. LeBeau Memorial Edition, is the most detailed publication - fully documented and indexed - representing the lifetime research of Brian J. Costello, OT, Kt HRE, OJ into the history, culture and traditions of one of the oldest settlements in the Mississippi River Valley. Published by Margaret Media, the volume includes more than 200 heirloom photographs and a transcript of Costello's many years of interviews with late False River oral historian Murray G. LeBeau



HOW THE GIRTH OF A LIVE OAK IS MEASURED

To qualify as a centenarian (100-year-old oak) an oak should be at least 17 feet in circumference (girth). Trees that are 30 feet in circumference are at least 300 years old. The girth can vary significantly depending on whether the tree grows out in the open, far from other trees competing for light and water, or in a natural forest setting where it is more crowded. Also the growth rate and overall health of an oak can vary depending on the quality of the soil in which it grows and its access to a regular water source.

Of course, there are several ways for one to measure a Live Oak. For our purposes, we used a simple method using a 50-foot measuring tape.

- Wrap a flexible tape measure around the oak's trunk at 4.5 feet above the ground (about chest height) and take the measurement in inches.
- If the trunk is leaning, wrap the tape at 90 degrees to the axis of the lean, instead of parallel to the ground.
- For trees with rounded knotty growths, bumpy burls, limb extensions or any other abnormalities at 4.5 feet above ground, measure the smallest circumference between 4.5 feet and the ground. In other words, measure under these things that might increase the girth.

REGISTER YOUR LIVE OAK WITH THE LIVE OAK SOCIETY

The Live Oak Society (LOS) was founded in 1934 by Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens, the first president of Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now the University of Louisiana in Lafayette). The Society promotes the culture, distribution, preservation and appreciation of the live oak tree, scientifically known as *Quercus virginiana*. The Live Oak Society began with 43 members chosen by Dr. Stephens and now boasts 8566 members in 14 states and is under the auspices of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc.

For information on registering your oak, visit www.lgcfinc.org

EXPLORE HISTORIC OAKS IN POINTE COUPEE PARISH

Thank you for joining the Pointe Coupée Historical Society (PCHS) in the first annual Live Oak Tree Tour. The tour will guide you through 12 live oak properties throughout Pointe Coupée Parish, including the Randall Oak, which is over 300 years old. The tour begins at Poydras Museum, home of PCHS, with the first stop at the LeJeune House for coffee, light refreshments and viewing of the Francois Samson Oak.

You will continue east along False River, making your way to the opposite side of False River, towards the Jane Pittman Oak, a historic oak that inspired the short story, "Just Like a Tree" and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" by Ernest Gaines. On the route back towards New Roads, Glaser Farms produce market will be open, with cocktails and light snacks and visiting of the Jaque Fabre Oak.

The final stop is at the property of Greg Eaton, home of the Smithhaven Oak, where you will have the opportunity to end the day with other guests of the Live Oak Tour over spirits and more refreshments. We invite you to redeem the coupons on the last page of the guide while out to lunch after the tour.

You may view our website for additional information on the oaks featured on today's tour and for direct navigation to each stop. This guide also illustrates what is available at all destinations, as some trees are only viewable from the street, while others offer refreshments and tour guides are on staff.

We hope you enjoy the tour and call us if you have any questions along the way!

703-623-4193 | 318-421-9144

 - PARKING  - TOUR GUIDE  - DRIVE BY ONLY

 - RESTROOMS  - COFFEE  - SPIRITS

 - FARMER'S MARKET  - ARTIFACT DISPLAY

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LIVE OAK TREE TOUR

EXPLORE HISTORIC OAKS IN POINTE COUPEE PARISH



POINTE COUPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY | NEW ROADS, LA



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HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**