

Columnist talks to garden club about learning the magic of flowers

Betty Newman and Tootsie Park.

Linda Vernaci and Elaine McCrahey.

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T.P.

Stroup shared some columns on flowers and gardening that she had written in the past. In one, Stroup told of memories of her grandfather, Pa, when she was a little girl growing up in Illinois. One day, Pa drove to her house and handed her a paper sack of black and white seeds. She thought that they were

dead and ugly, but she and her grandfather planted the seeds in a corner of the garden. Flowers bloomed on the tall stalks, and when the flowers followed the sun she thought they were magical.

Then the flowers grew old and started to droop, and her grandfather cut the head off of one and

handed it to her.

"We had turned one seed into hundreds. I couldn't get over it," she said.

Pa cut off all the heads, put them in a sack and told her to save them to feed the cardinals and blue jays in the winter. "It was a gift of nature and love. One experience can change a child's

life."

Following the talk, Kathleen Wiseman gave an update on Keep Mandeville Beautiful, then everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Every year, the club hosts the Beau Chene Garden Tour, with proceeds going to a local charity voted on by members. Monthly meetings are held on the third

Friday of the month.

Beau Chene Garden Club members are Kathy Martin, president; Kathie Meiner, secretary; Fay treasurer; Suzi Frisloe, publicist; and Marcia Pate, events planner. For information, call Mart 845.1671.

By Elizabeth Moore
Contributing writer

Times-Picayune columnist Sheila Stroup was the guest speaker at the Beau Chene Garden Club luncheon meeting at the home of Betty and Rudy Wiener on Jan. 21.



Keep Mandeville Beautiful Chairwoman Kathleen Wiseman.