



Seasons of Louisiana with Dianne Cage

The birds are free, they belong to you! That is true but you do need to make them feel welcomed. They like a source of water in a pond or fountain, trees and bushes close to where you will be feeding and enjoying watching.

Thanks to **DIXON ABELL**, whom introduced us to the beautiful Baltimore Orioles with feeders, Smuckers Grape Jelly and wonderful tips. This is our fourth year to have welcomed them to our home and gardens and enjoyed them along with lots of Cardinals, Red Headed House Finches, Blue Jays, Mocking Birds and pigeons, Doves, Robins, Brown Thrashers, Rose breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwings, Carolina Wrens, Red headed Woodpeckers, Yellow bellied Sapsucker. I think we may have had four families of Orioles and went through maybe four cases of large jars of jelly and pounds and pounds of Sunflower seeds. It has been so much fun!

I did have a bird incident, however, with a Robin to be exact. It was very upsetting for just a second. I have never really thought about it, but I have never been jealous of anyone before. I am always happy for people's good luck or wonderful accomplishments. I trust Mike Cage, with all my heart. He is just a good man, a man of God, and he would never do anything to hurt anyone, especially me or his family.

I was in my dressing room that is in the front end of our home on the side next to our neighbors, **DEBBIE & GEORGE CARSO'S** driveway. Mike was home from work, mowing, checking on his garden, watering, feeding the fish and feeding the birds. I heard Mike talking to someone but I really did not pay that much attention to what he was saying. Something stopped me in my tracks though; his voice was extra specially tender, soft and very sweet. I ease up to the window to see what is going on. He was behind the big Magnolia Tree, and I could not see him or whom he was talking to. This is kind of how the conversation went..."Where have you been, I have missed you. I looked for you yesterday morning and I was worried when you did not come. I had a special treat just for you. You are the prettiest one, my favorite, come on, come on, look what I have for you." My heart dropped, I felt faint, I could hardly breath, I, very hurriedly, tore out the front door (I will not tell you what I called him) and said "who in the hell are you talking to?" He said "Miss Robin" as she flew off with her treat. Mike said she will almost eat out of his hand, but Ruby our mix Boykin Spaniel, female, is very jealous and runs the mama bird off. Poor Mike!

Miss Louisiana Watermelon Festival **MEGAN CREWS** is now our new Miss Louisiana! What an exciting weekend in the Twin Cities. Haik Humble Eye Center

hosted a luncheon honoring the judges on Friday night at the Bayou DeSiard Country Club. What a fun time all had sharing their experiences with hostesses **MARY SUE JACKA, SYLVIA HUMBLE, MELINDA HUMBLE** and **ANNSLEY HUMBLE**. Other guests were **PAULA CRAFT, RICK EDMONDS, LAURA & GLEN DUPREE, THOMAS COLLINS, DEWANA LITTLE & LAMAR MULLICAN**. Floral arrangements by **CHRIS ALLUMS** were perfect with red and white roses in honor of Monroe celebrating its 56th year of association with the pageant.

What a delightful Sunday Lunch at the beautiful Squire Creek in Choudrant. **MARILYN LEWIS** invited me and Mike along with **NANCY & CARRICK INABNETT** to join her and neighbor **RALPH DICKERSON**. What a good time we had catching up and enjoying a lovely Sunday buffet. So much fun seeing so many of our Ruston friends and catching up with Marilyn. When Marilyn lived here several years ago, if you all remember, she is the one who spearheaded the project to define the entrance to Pargoud Boulevard off Loop Road with the lovely brick/bronze lettering sign. The perfect touch! Marilyn and Ralph were telling us about their day in Farmerville at the Union Museum of History and Art, on 116 N. Main Street. "The Pelican State Goes To War," World War II. This will be on view till July 28th. Really interesting and worth the trek! Check it out. A great educational, exciting outing for the whole family and friends. The D-Day Museum in New Orleans helped organize this splendid happening in North Louisiana. Great little places, all around, to have a real, old-fashioned country lunch. For information, go to www.UnionMuseumofHistoryandart.org or call (318)348-2005

The Farmers Markets are open! Tomatoes, squash, peaches, plums and peppers ...our favorite time of the year! Pssst, pass it on the Sweet Corn is ready. Mike and I are going to turn into a Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato sandwich and hot sweet buttered corn on the cob.... This time of the year, my cooking is not very complicated. Yum, Yum!

It is always a treat when traveling to run into folks from your neck of the woods... Mike and I were on our way to Beaumont, Texas, for our good friend **RYAN HAMILTON'S** wedding. We stopped in Lafayette for a bite of lunch at Prejean's Cajun Restaurant and ran into **PHYLLIS & MIKE KERRIGAN**, from Calhoun and **SALLI & CHARLES PERRY** from Monroe...

Be kind to all and I will look forward to the next time!

Dianne



ABOVE: Celebrating Miss Louisiana, Lamar Mullican and Mary Sue Jacka.

LEFT: Quinn Snellings and friend Hayden Hopper picking plums.



LEFT: Carrick Inabnett, Marilyn Lewis, Ralph Dickerson and Nancy Inabnett.



ABOVE: The Kerrigans and the Perrys having lunch at Prejean's in Lafayette.



ABOVE: Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Hamilton.

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— PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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