

(LOCAL FLAVOR)



# Southern Louisiana in Your Own Backyard

BY CHELLE ELLIS / PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANA FINIMORE

Timbeaux's on the Square in Downtown Hernando has been a local favorite since its doors first opened in 2002. The restaurant offers a broad variety of Cajun cuisine and is known to cause somewhat of a parking dilemma in downtown Hernando with its high volume of traffic.

Ken Jeffcoat, General Manager of Timbeaux's, has been running the restaurant since 2003. He's seen quite a few changes during his tenure there, including the transfer of Timbeaux's ownership five months ago to Three Square Meals, LLC. Right away the new owners prepared for extensive renovations by extending the West side of the restaurant to offer outdoor seating year round; lengthening the front walk of the premises into the front and sides streets; and redesigning ramps to make it easier and more comfortable for disabled diners.

Other changes include an update to the already popular menu. Jeffcoat claims these changes make Timbeaux's "better than ever, offering a better quality of food and atmosphere." In fact, it was Jeffcoat who spent two months creating the new lunch menu which reflects the requests and suggestions of his customers. Jeff adds, "We've added appetizers, more hot sandwiches and updated the plate lunch specials." So far, the changes have been exceptionally well received by Timbeaux's customers.

Popular dinner items will stay on the menu, such as their signature menu item, Shrimp & Grits and Black & Bleu: a ten ounce center cut filet with bleu cheese mashed potatoes, finished with a cane syrup demi-glaze. A couple of items added to the menu include Cayman Style Trout and The Malcom: a black angus 14 ounce rib eye, blackened and served with four creole seasoned jumbo gulf shrimp, served with garlic leek mashed potatoes and drawn butter.

Whether you are dining at Timbeaux's for lunch or dinner, you will no doubt, find something appetizing. The lunch menu is more affordable and offers good, country, home-town food items, while the dinner menu provides a stronger Cajun influence in its choice.

Timbeaux's also offers banquet dining and custom menus for large parties. "Our private dining facility comfortably accommodates sixty people and can be used for whatever our customers want, such as

rehearsal dinners, company and Christmas parties," suggests Jeffcoat.

The Timbeaux's staff completes extensive training, including a 77 question test in the process. "If they don't pass at least 70, I don't put them on the floor," Jeffcoat advises. In fact, last month, the Timbeaux's staff completed a mandatory 7 hour training process,



specializing in food description, table side service and wine training.

Jeffcoat hopes to continue offering great service and food to the public. "We want to do more than feed our customers. We want to create an experience that will help them realize that we are the best restaurant in the Memphis area and hope that they will return again and again," he states.

But all these changes won't alter the core of Timbeaux's Cajun influenced menu selections. Jeffcoat explains, "The restaurant has always had this influence and always will." If you are hoping to visit Southern Louisiana without leaving your backyard, a trip to Timbeaux's will take you very close. ■



# POLLY'S GREENHOUSE

BY SHERRI CAMP / PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHELLE ELLIS

The weather is warming and, if you're like many people, you have spring fever. Now is the time to work in the garden and create outdoor space desirable as an escape.

However, not everyone has a green thumb. There are so many things to consider when planning a garden. For example, are you planting in the sun or shade? Do you need dry conditions or moist soil? Will you be able to tend your garden daily, or do you need low-maintenance plants? Do you want color or greenery? And what about ornamentation?

The list goes on and on. If you don't know what to plant where and how to care for your plants, you could end up making costly mistakes and losing your garden to improper growing conditions.

There is no telling how much money is wasted by trial-and-error gardening. Fortunately, nurseries can take the guesswork out of gardening.

One such nursery is Polly's Greenhouse located in the Old Towne section of Olive Branch. After 20 years in the business, there probably isn't a situation Polly Brown, owner of Polly's Greenhouse, can't handle.

Polly's Greenhouse offers landscape design -- with a free estimate. They suggest the best plants for your growing conditions and what complements your home. With the wide variety of trees, shrubs and flowers Polly's stocks, it should be easy to find the perfect plant. They also offer landscaping services for those who would rather have someone else do the manual labor.

A unique aspect of Polly's is their selection of concrete statuary and garden ornamentation: "We have one of the largest selections of concrete statuary in the area," Brown explains. She says customers find her prices highly competitive with other nurseries.

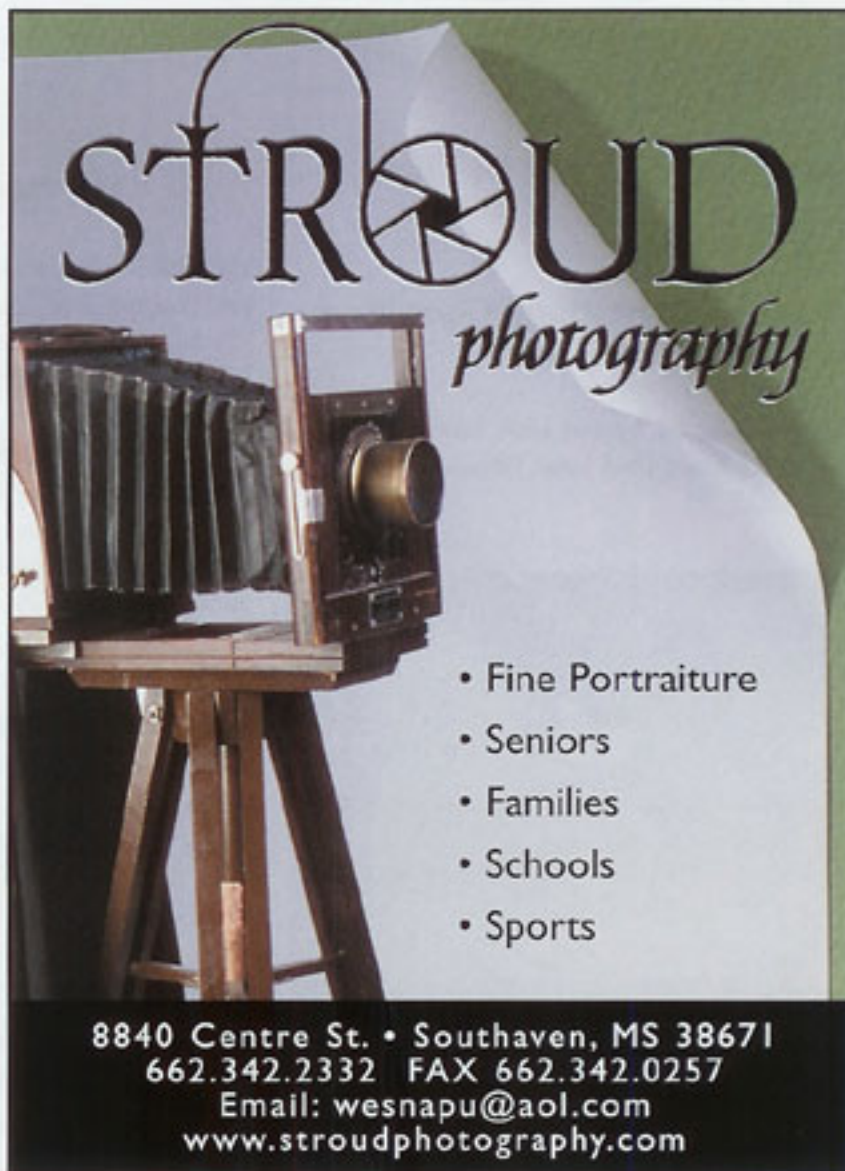
While plants add color and life to landscape, statuary adds texture and dimension. It is an excellent way to add a personal touch; the choices are practically endless. You can stick with a natural environment by adding small wildlife figures. Or create a whimsical setting by using concrete gargoyles, fairies and gnomes.

Other popular themes include cherubs and angels for a spiritual effect or placing sundials, fountains and stepping stones for a timeless, classical look.

According to Brown, an important aspect to consider when choosing statuary includes one of the most important – size, which will determine the function of the statue. For example, a large fountain creates a major focal point in your garden, while strategically placed small wildlife add subtle touches of interest. Always consider the purpose of the statuary; then choose the proper size and style for your location.

One common mistake is overdoing it. Plants should frame the statues, not the opposite. Too much concrete overwhelms the flowers and shrubs and has a gaudy, cheap effect instead of enhancing the landscape.

Creating a flourishing garden can be enjoyable. By combining the appropriate plants and garden ornamentation, you can completely revitalize the look of your surroundings. Polly's Greenhouse can help turn your garden into a source of serenity and beauty instead of it being a thorn in your side.



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