



Join the Botanic Gardens on This Exciting Journey

Dr. Jeff Kuehny, Director, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

The changing of seasons has ushered in the initiation of several long-awaited construction projects and the design of the Burden Museum & Gardens Welcome Center. All these projects are part of the master plan, which is the roadmap we have been following for these past 10 years. The first and most visible of these projects is a new road that comes off the roundabout at the primary entrance of the property at Essen Lane. This road will be used initially as a secondary entrance and exit to the property when there are multiple events being held. It will also serve as the primary service entrance during the construction of the new Welcome Center so that regular traffic flow will not be interrupted. This project included moving all electrical services in the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden underground as well as the installation of new gas, water and sewage lines along the new road. Once the construction of the Welcome Center is complete, this new road will serve as the primary entrance to Burden allowing for a much-enhanced visitor experience.

The architectural firm EskewDumezRipple, based in

New Orleans, was selected to design the Welcome Center in partnership with CARBO Landscape Architecture, who will be working with Suzanne Turner Associates to design the surrounding landscape. We have completed the first two workshops and we will have design concepts ready for public input this winter. Suzanne Turner Associates will also be working with us to update the master plan and design new wayfinding signage.

The restroom facility is out for bid and we estimate groundbreaking for construction this spring. This new facility will provide much-needed capacity for school field trips, events and the increasing number of visitors that come to the Botanic Gardens.

If you haven't already done so, we hope you will join us on this exciting journey as we become one of the most valuable greenspaces in our community, a space that connects people with plants and the environment while nourishing their physical, spiritual and mental well-being. ■



Reflections From the Chair

Mary Tauzin

Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

Congratulations to us all on another extremely successful **Corn Maze** in 2019. Preliminary results indicate that we again broke attendance records! Surely, the Corn Maze is moving toward becoming one of Baton Rouge's signature events. Special thanks to the many, many volunteers who made the event possible, but particularly to the event chairs, *Mary Tharp and Elena Fennell*.

Wine and Roses was beautiful again this year. The weather cooperated to make it a most elegant event. The committee that organizes and plans this event are all hard-working and dedicated folks under the leadership of *Missy Jones and Cindy Nobles*.

Begin the new year with us by planting a tree during our **Arbor Day** celebration on January 18.

February brings the **Camellia Show and Sale**, the **Byzantine Icon Workshop** and **Herb Day**. And finally, the **Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale** on April 4 will be your opportunity to begin your spring planting with locally grown, dependable Super Plants and plants from the Master Gardeners' personal gardens, which include hard-to-find and rare selections.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is a place of continuous activity and a restful setting for our community. We love to share this treasure with you and yours. Visit us at www.BurdenGardens.com or friend us on Facebook (LSUAgBotanicGardens) for up-to-date information. ■

Make Plans Now for 2020

Mark your new calendars and make plans to visit the LSU Rural Life Museum for the Baton Rouge Camellia Society's annual show and sale February 8 and 9. It's free and open to the public and not only are beautiful camellia blooms on display, plants grown by the Camellia Society are available for sale.

Another date for your calendar is February 29. That's Herb Day at the Botanic Gardens. It's also free and open to the public and sponsored by the Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America. There will be educational sessions, kids' activities and herbs for sale.

Jump ahead to April and circle the 4th for the East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association Plant Sale. You'll want to make lots of room in your yard to add the best varieties of flowers, herbs, trees and shrubs selected and grown by Master Gardeners for success in Louisiana gardens.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is the place to get all your gardening questions answered to help your yard look its best. So, come hear and see what these supporting organizations full of experts can do for you! ■

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The newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, which is part of Burden Museum & Gardens.

If you would like to only receive this newsletter electronically, please email friends@burdengardens.com.

DiscoverBurden.com

4560 Essen Lane
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Wine and Roses Flowers and Fine Art

The 2019 Wine and Roses exhibition and fundraiser featured part of the art collection of Gerard and Selma Ruth. The core of the art collection was obtained through the friendship of Gerard Ruth and Steele Burden. Both had an interest in the artwork of notable Louisiana artists, and over many years Gerard would purchase paintings recommended to him by Steele. Gerard and his son Andrew made many visits to Windrush Gardens where Steele would share with them his vision for the gardens, his love of history and his appreciation for art.

Gerard soon became friends with many emerging artists looking for places to show and sell their art. What better place than one of the largest furniture showrooms in Baton Rouge, Gerard Furniture? Gerard would host several exhibitions for many of these artists and purchase those pieces that he thought were the most significant. The Ruth Collection includes a diverse group of artists, including Knute and Collette Heldner, Berny Myrick, Robert Rucker, Clementine Hunter, Don Wright and Alexander Drysdale.

These and other artists were exhibited at Wine and Roses with floral arrangements designed to specifically highlight the artwork. We would like to thank the lead designer, Jeanne Leblanc, and her wonderful design team, Connie Abboud, Jan Soule, Brenda Baudin, Barbara Laudun and Ann Monroe. Billy Heroman's, the Baton Rouge florist, provided the flowers to make these floral and art creations possible. A special thanks to Missy Jones, her co-chair Cynthia Nobles and the Wine and Roses committee for providing the guidance and hard work for making such a unique event in the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden possible. ■



Painting of Gerard Ruth and his 1957 Corvette by Don Wright.



Gerard and Selma Ruth and family.



Corn Maze

at Burden

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Trees & Trails, Numbers and Names

Sarah Rayner, Educator Coordinator

Though fall officially began on September 23, only now are we finally experiencing cooler temperatures and beginning to see the change in colors of the leaves in our Burden Woods. The acorns that have dropped from the oak trees crunch as I walk the trails, and I watch as they are gathered up by the squirrels to eat and to store for later. I pause to reflect on another amazing year of immersing children in nature through the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden educational programs.

We had **929** students participating in our Trees & Trails field trips for 2019! So many thanks to our Trees & Trails docents for 2019: **Brenda Baumgardner, Ken Bosso, Bridget Brister, Janie Braud, Leo Broders, Kitty Bull, Kathy Conerly, Kerry Hawkins, John Hough, Sheldon Johnson, JiJi Jonas, Missy Jones, Nancy Jurasinski, Becky Pringle, Vicki LaPlace, Renee Major, Kathleen Meares, Betty Pringle, Elizabeth Roberts, Art Scarborough, Jo Shriver, Margo Spielman, Jenny Sutcliffe, Mary Tharp, Diana Wells, Gaynelle Wolff and Barbara Williams.** The heartbeat of the Trees & Trails program is our docents, who serve as instructors, navigators and cart drivers. They do an incredible job sharing their love of nature with the students who attend the field trips.

Many of our Trees and Trails Docents volunteered for Corn Maze Fridays during the month of October. We had over **1,400** students attending from local schools and schools from the surrounding parishes. The students fed farm animals, ran through the Corn Maze, climbed haystack mountain, played with the giant slingshot, decorated pumpkins, made pumpkin bracelets and learned about sweet potatoes. Many thanks to Aline Creed for bringing homemade goods, high energy snacks and coffee along with her smile and upbeat self each Friday. Thanks to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens staff as well as Mary Tauzin, Barbara Quirk, Elena Fennell and other volunteers from our Friends group and the community who helped on Fridays.

Night Maze was extra special this year. Dr. Ashley Long and some of her students led bat walks along the trails in Burden Woods and had a booth with crafts. Dr. Long's group has been conducting research monitoring our bat population. We have about eight species of bats in our forests. The predominate species is the Mexican free-tailed bat, named for the length of "free" tail projecting from its body. Bat meters are used to listen to, record, analyze and identify bats in real time. We are looking forward to having scheduled bat walks and a "Bats and Brews" event next year. ■

Connecting With Campus

Sarah Rayner, Educator Coordinator

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden has fully embraced a new internship program, Learning by Leading! Through this internship program, students not only learn hands-on skills in their university areas of concentration, but they also learn life skills through leadership as co-coordinators. Meet some of our co-coordinators and their student interns through the exciting projects that benefit both their career aspirations and the Botanic Gardens.

Preston Dumont (horticulture, LSU) and Rodney Purdy (urban forestry, Southern University), co-coordinators, have been conducting a research project on the satsuma orchard at the Botanic Gardens. They have been harvesting early and late varieties of fruit at intervals this fall to determine the sweet-to-sour ratio and consumer preference for taste. Some of you may recognize some of these varieties: Brown Select, Early Saint Ann, Kimbro and Louisiana Early. The co-coordinators, along with their student interns, Mary Michael, Mitchell Brown and Jevante Myer, have been processing the fruit and conducting consumer surveys at Southern and LSU. Their project will continue into the spring when they will let you know which of the Louisiana satsuma varieties consumers prefer and, thus, which you should consider for your home landscape.

Conan Escajeda, a senior at Southern, has been training in Burden Woods and the Burden Museum & Gardens grounds with arborist Glen Wilson. He has been studying i-Tree Eco software designed to use tree growth data and pollution and meteorological data to quantify forest structure, environmental effects and value to communities. Conan began taking measurements of the trees that have been planted each Arbor Day since 2009. The data collected will be entered into the i-Tree software program, which will enable us to place a value on all the trees the community has planted at Arbor Day over the last 10 years in the Burden Woods. The program determines how much carbon dioxide a tree takes out of the atmosphere, how many gallons of rainfall and runoff the tree will absorb and how many pounds of emissions — such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide — they will absorb. For example, the 250 trees planted on Arbor Day 2011 provide over \$50,000 in benefits annually.

Csany Matusicky has been working with Maurice Wolcott, instructor in the LSU School of Natural and Renewable Resources, to map Windrush Gardens using GPS. Steele Burden's garden plans were all designed in his head. He designed and implemented the landscape at Windrush Gardens with absolutely no drawings. With these very accurate maps we can now begin to take inventory of the plant material in the garden much like the Rural Life Museum takes inventory of its artifacts. Through this work we will be able to better maintain Windrush Gardens as Steele Burden had designed it almost 100 years ago. Csany is also collaborating on a new birding project at the Botanic Gardens.

Csany and a new student intern, Kelsi Mahfouz, will lead the birding project as co-coordinators. Along with two other student interns, Mimi Rivett and Shelby Evans, they have put together a wonderful support team that includes Katie Percy and Karen Profita from Audubon Louisiana; Dr. Ashley Long and Dr. Luke Laborde from the LSU School of Natural Renewable Resources; Bill Stark, the associate director of Rural Life Museum;



Conan Escajeda

Ken Owen, horticulturist of Windrush Gardens; Sarah Rayner, the education coordinator for the Botanic Gardens; and Dr. Jeff Kuehny, director of the Botanic Gardens, to begin the process of designing birding loops throughout the Botanic Gardens. Drs. Long and Laborde have been birding along our trails for over a decade and know firsthand about the bird species that call Burden their home year-round as well as birds that migrate different times during the year. More than 320 species of birds have been recorded! The birding project will include six birding loops; two informational kiosks and two feeding stations, one set at the Botanic Gardens and one at the Rural Life Museum; nesting boxes along the loops; an informational brochure with map; and wayfinding signage. We will announce the grand opening of the birding loops in 2020! ■

Arbor Day

at Burden

Jan. 18 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Plant a family tree, be an arborist for a day, scale a live oak and more!

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FREE ADMISSION



Doreen Maxcy, Joyce Ryder, Jenny Sutcliff and Millie Williams assist Kerry Hawkins with concessions at Corn Maze.

It Takes A Village of Volunteers

This year the Corn Maze attracted more visitors than the entire populations of the cities of Carencro, Denham Springs, Ponchatoula or Port Allen! Thanks to the village of volunteers who helped those visitors have crazy, mazy fun on all those Saturdays in October. From the gang who greeted new arrivals, to the guys cooking from dawn to dusk, to the crafters, face painters, tennis ball gatherers, animal handlers and corn crib supervisors, it truly takes hundreds to make it happen. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! ■

Camellia Show & Sale

Feb. 8 & 9
LSU Rural Life Museum
(visit our website for times and details)

LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

Help Spread the Word About StoryWalk in the Garden

Dr. Rebecca White
 LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden Volunteer



StoryWalk in the Garden is a new feature at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden for families with young children. It was officially opened on May 18, 2019, with nearly 150 visitors attending the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication. StoryWalk was completed with generous financial support from the Junior League of Baton Rouge and in-kind support from Vivid Ink. Zelma M. Frederick, Junior League president for 2018-19, chose this project as one of her select Junior League presidential gifts to the community.

Composed of 21 storyboards, StoryWalk in the Garden features pages from favorite children's books that families can read while walking the woodland path. Designed to promote early literacy, StoryWalk combines family activities with early literacy while promoting the beauty of nature and the outdoors. The featured storybooks are changed every four months or so, which enables families to experience different storybooks throughout the year.

StoryWalk in the Garden is located along a one-third-of-a-mile trail in a formerly unused section of the Botanic Gardens that had been devastated by Hurricane Gustav in 2008. Located in the Trees and Trails system directly behind the Conference Center, the trail area was later replanted during an Arbor Day celebration activity in 2010.

The idea of a StoryWalk here at the gardens came about during a casual conversation between Zelma Frederick and Rebecca White during a StoryTime event in 2018. A year later, the idea became reality thanks to the Junior League, Vivid Ink, garden volunteers and garden staff. Designed for families to enjoy together by reading a children's story while walking through the woods, StoryWalk was created several years ago by Anne Ferguson, of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in cooperation with the Kellogg Hubbard Library and the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition. Community Story Walks have been installed in 50 states and 12 countries.

We hope you will take time to visit this new garden feature. The featured book for this quarter is "Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf" by Lois Ehlert. Please help us promote the gardens and this great new free community resource for families with young children. You can experience the StoryWalk in the following video by Junior League member Erin and her two boys: <https://www.facebook.com/JuniorLeagueBR/videos/371950430337312/>. ■

Reflections in the Garden

Join us and bring a friend to our popular lecture series, Reflections in the Garden. Thanks to the Reflections planning committee, there's always something new to pique your interest and expand your knowledge every month. This year's lineup takes us across the Atlantic to the gardens of the Czech Republic and across the Mississippi to the Cajun prairie as well as into our own backyards. Just look at the amazing topics and wonderful speakers that will be sharing their experiences with us:

Jan. 6 – “It’s Just a Tree”

Scott Courtright, Owner and President, Trinity Tree Consultants

Feb. 3 – “Camellias: Queen of the Winter Gardens”

Dr. Trent James, Member, Baton Rouge Camellia Society

March 2 – “Gardens of the Czech Republic”

Dr. Jeff Kuehny, Director, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

Apr. 6 – “Classy or Casual Container Gardens”

John MacMillan, Store Manager, Louisiana Nursery

May 4 – “Vanishing Backyard Birds: How You Can Save the Birds”

Gina Periou, Owner, Wild Birds Unlimited

June 1 – “Hurricane Season: Weather Prepping the Garden”

Dr. Steve Caparotta, Meteorologist, WAFB Channel 9

July 6 – “The Latest and Greatest Varieties on the Market”

Dr. Allen Owings, Horticulturist, Clegg’s Nursery and Bracy’s Nursery

Aug. 3 – “Design for Bringing the Outdoors In”

Claire Major, Owner, Artvark Ltd. Art and Interiors

Sept. 14 – “Utilizing Natives for Successful Landscapes”

Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard, LSU AgCenter Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for Consumer Horticulture

Oct. 5 – “Copper for Water Gardens”

Buddy Holmes, Owner, Waterfall Forge

Nov. 2 – “An Introduction to Bromeliads and Carnivorous Plants”

Mark Meese and Dr. Charles Birdsong

Dec. 7 – “Native Grasses and the Cajun Prairie”

Brian Early, Botanist, Wildlife Diversity Program, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



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Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

January 2020			
Jan. 6	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "It's Just a Tree," Scott Courtright. Members free, nonmembers \$10.
Jan. 7	12:30 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
Jan. 11	8:30 a.m.	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Orchid Outreach Judging Workshop presented by American Orchid Society.
Jan. 18	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Arbor Day	Plant trees in the Burden Woods to celebrate Arbor Day in Louisiana. Children's tree climbing, Smokey Bear, hayrides and scavenger hunt. Free.
Jan. 18	9 a.m.-noon	StoryTime in the Garden at Arbor Day	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities at Arbor Day. Ages 3 - 8. Free. Partnered with Junior League of Baton Rouge.
Jan. 20	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
Jan. 23	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting.
February 2020			
Feb. 3	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Camellias: Queen of the Winter Gardens," Dr. Trent James. Members free, nonmembers \$10.
Feb. 4	12:30 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
Feb. 8	1-4:30 p.m.	Camellia Society Show and Sale	Annual Camellia Show and Sale featuring award winners from around the state. Members provide planting and management advice. Held at Rural Life Museum. Free.
Feb. 9	10 a.m.-3 p.m.		
Feb. 8	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	Storytime in the Garden and StoryWalk	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities. "Love Bugs" activities in the garden. New StoryWalk book opening — outdoor children's reading trail for adults and children. Ages 3-8. Free. Partnered with Junior League of Baton Rouge.
Feb. 9 - 14	TBA	Byzantine Icon Workshop	Create an icon using gold leaf and paint. Five-day retreat with lunch included. \$350. Limited enrollment of 20.
Feb. 15	9 a.m.-noon	Baton Rouge Camellia Society	Workshop on grafting camellias.
Feb. 19	7 p.m.	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting.
Feb. 27	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting.
Feb. 23	8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Herb Day	Plant sales, herbal classes, family activities, music, food, displays, demonstrations and vendors.
March 2020			
March 2	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Gardens in the Czech Republic," Dr. Jeff Kuehny. Members free, nonmembers \$10.
March 5	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting. "Setting Up Orchid Displays," Al Taylor.
March 7	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	Storytime in the Garden	Storybook reading and "Plant Something!" activities in the garden. Ages 3-8. Free. Partnered with Junior League of Baton Rouge.
March 8	1-3 p.m.	Baton Rouge Camellia Society Annual Meeting	Annual business meeting and election of officers.
March 18	7 p.m.	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting. "Setting Up Orchid Displays," Al Taylor.
March 26	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting.
April 2020			
April 4	8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Master Gardener Plant Sale	Annual Master Gardener plant sale. Over 5,000 homegrown perennials (and a few annuals) specifically selected by the EBR Master Gardeners for success in your garden.
April 4	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	Storytime in the Garden	Storybook reading & "Flowers and Bees" themed activities in the garden; ages 3 - 8. Free. Partnered with Junior League of Baton Rouge.
April 6	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden. "Container Gardening" John MacMillan. Members free, nonmembers \$10.
April 7	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting
April 15	7 p.m.	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting.
April 23	6 p.m.-9 p.m.	Gourmet in the Garden	Stroll through the gardens and savor the best local flavors from Baton Rouge chefs and creative mixologists. Tickets \$50-70.

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com

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