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Plant Photography Workshop

On a beautiful spring day, a group of plant loving photographers gathered for a day long workshop. The first presenter, Dr. Charles Allen, a retired biology professor (and currently the Head of Botany at Ft. Polk, LA.) spoke about plant identification and later in the day about edible plants. As a co-author of *Edible Plants of the Gulf South*, Allen was able to introduce his audience to a wide variety of edibles, many of which they had probably never considered. As an authority on native plants that sustain our ecosystem, Allen informs as he inspires his audience to know and understand their environment.

Jeff McMillan of Almost Eden Nursery of Merryville, Louisiana showed a number of slides of his favorite plants, many of which are rarely seen in other nurseries. His love for his work was evident, as he repeatedly referred to one or another as “really a favorite of his.” His Almost Eden nursery mail order business ranks in the top 30 of 7500 in the coun-

try. During a break for workshop attendees to buy some of the plants, McMillan committed to return in the fall for the Master Gardener Conference.

Our photographer for the day, Ken Wilson, was the coordinator for the program. He, along with Dr. Allen, produced a Louisiana Wildflower Guide, a comprehensive catalog for the plant enthusiast. Wilson, an active member of the Louisiana Photographic Society, gave a presentation on choosing the right equipment for photographing, and showed a large number of cameras, lens, and tripods. In his other segment, he showed slides of “before” and “after” pictures, letting the audience in on his secrets to upgrading his photos to A level.

Each participant went home with much new information about plants and how to photograph them. BHS is most grateful for this gift of time and funding for our programs to enhance and develop the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.



Reflections from the Chair

By Kitty Hessburg

This month is the beginning of my year as chairman of the Burden Horticulture Society. I am embarking on this journey with great enthusiasm. It is a pleasure to be involved with such a wonderful organization whose purpose is to continue to grow the Botanic Gardens at Burden into a destination for everyone in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and around the country.

On behalf of the board, a huge thank you goes out to Barbara Quirk who has served as chairman for the past year. Under her direction, this organization has grown, all of our events were very successful, and we accomplished many of our goals. One of those goals, the long awaited pavilion, was completed and used for the Gourmet in the Garden event and the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. It will continue to be used for Project Learning Tree where school children get to observe and learn about nature and countless other events and activities.

Looking ahead, plans are being made for our annual Corn Maze event in which we partner with the Rural Life Museum's Harvest Days. This will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 27-28. We will have the usual corn maze and hay mountain for climbing, the water balloon toss, pumpkin painting, hay rides, food and drinks. This year we will be adding farm animals which both adults and children will enjoy.

Next on the calendar is Wine & Roses. It is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15. It is an elegant evening with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and music beginning at 6 P.M. on the lawn in front of the Steele Burden Orangerie followed by a sit down dinner under a tent in the Rose Garden at 7 P.M.

These are just two of the many events that take place at Burden. It could not be done successfully without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. Your support of membership in the Burden Horticulture Society and attendance at our events sustains this beautiful oasis in the middle of our city which is the Botanic Gardens at Burden.



Kitty Hessburg

AgCenter Herb Garden Groundbreaking August 28 at 7 p.m.

By Rick Bogren

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden will break ground on August 28 at 7 p.m. on the first phase of construction of the new teaching and demonstration herb garden.

The garden will focus on medicinally useful plants that are indigenous to our region as well as those brought by early settlers, said Jeff Kuehny, resident director at AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

Created and sponsored by The Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit, the garden will provide educational opportunities for those who wish to develop a better understanding of herbal plants and how they can enrich our mind, body and spirit, Kuehny said.

The herb garden will comprise four separate sections, a Louisiana kitchen garden, heritage garden featuring Louisiana cultures, a natural garden and an education area.

More information is available from Kuehny at 225-763-3990 or online at www.brherbs.com.

Burden Horticulture Society Board

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

www.discoverburden.com

4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

In Appreciation for Volunteers

The Burden Horticulture Society hosted a volunteer appreciation lunch on May 22nd chaired by board member, Simone Kramer. It was a beautiful summer day—the perfect opportunity to put the new pavilion to use for a gathering of close to 100 people. Under the broad expanse of the shade now available, four tables were set with drinks, food and desserts and another eight provided ample seating with room to mingle. Fans strategically placed in the vaulted ceiling kept the air cool and comfortable as volunteers enjoyed iced tea, lemonade, fried fish, chicken, potato salad and baked beans and a variety of desserts supplied by BHS volunteers.

Docents who lead the children on the Trees and Trails field trips had already experienced the pavilion. However, many other volunteers who give of their time and talents to

the Master Gardener Association and the Camellia, Herb, Bonsai, and Rose Societies welcomed the chance to experience the venue as did those whose time is usually spent in Windrush Gardens, on the trails in Burden Woods or helping with Reflections in the conference center. It was a treat to all come together to celebrate the fellowship of volunteering at the Botanic Gardens at Burden.

Thank you, Dr. Russin for your inspirational words, a special thanks to John Hough for his help in ensuring that all who volunteer at the Botanic Gardens were notified of the luncheon and most importantly, thank you volunteers. The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens would not be the beautiful oasis that it is, or the destination it is becoming without the dedication of volunteers. You are appreciated!



Gourmet in the Garden

Friday, April 25, 2014, was a one-in-a-million day. As a gift for surviving our exceptionally cold winter, Mother Nature presented us with a warm day full of sunshine for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens' Gourmet in the Garden event. The Botanic Gardens and Louisiana Culinary Institute partnered to create a magical evening. Proceeds benefited the gardens and Louisiana Culinary Institute's scholarship fund.

Eighteen local chefs, some of them Louisiana Culinary Institute (LCI) graduates, provided over 200 guests with a delicious variety of food and drinks crafted from local products. Chefs served samples of their signature dishes from white tents encircling the Orangerie Garden. Additional food stations were set up inside and outside the Orangerie. Cocktails were available along the path leading to the newly completed Pavilion. Dessert stations in the Pavilion showcased a variety of sweet delights created by Louisiana Culinary Institute students. Other LCI students were assigned to assist participating chefs.



Gourmet in the Garden committee: (l to r) Pam Hodson, Elaine Roy, Judy Foil, Barbara Quirk, Kitty Hessburg, Kay Solar, Louisiana Culinary Institute students, Charlie Ruffolo, Colt Harrison (Jeff Kuehny not pictured)

Guests voted for their favorite dish in the People's Choice Contest. Jay Ducote of Bite and Booze was the winner with a Louisiana take on deconstructed B'anh Mi. LCI students from four classes participated in the dessert contest. Each class was assigned a different type of fruit and nut to use as basic ingredients in a dessert of their choice. Cathy Harris, of Blahut Farms, donated flats of her strawberries to each dessert station. As an added bonus, student chefs created a selection of dips to accompany the berries. Charlie Ruffolo, director of public affairs for LCI, said, "We are extremely proud of our students and graduates. They brought made some amazing food using local Louisiana ingredients."

Local artist Jodi James entertained guests in the Orangerie, while Kirk Holder and his band provided dance music in the Pavilion.

Louisiana farmers, distillers and brewers graciously provided their products to local chefs and culinary students to use in preparing their dishes. Students and chefs used their creative talents to prepare samples featuring strawberries from Blahut Farms, vegetables from Covey Rise Farms, beef from Gonhsoulin Farms, Louisiana rice and Louisiana seafood from Louisiana Direct Seafood. Drink stations offered rum punch from Rank Wildcat Distillers, beer from Tin Roof Brewery, Oryzia Gin punch from Donner-Peltier Distillers, Bayou Rum drinks from Louisiana Spirits, and wine from Pat Alford and Benny's B-Quick.

Thanks to our sponsors L'auberge Casino, Jones-Walker Law Firm, Talbot, Carmouche and Marcello Law Firm, Mike Wampold, Burden Horticulture Society, Visit Baton Rouge, and Sysco. Guests from Louisiana and Mississippi and a tour bus with 25 visitors from Arizona and Utah enjoyed the evening and the gardens. Gourmet in the Garden was a surprise stop on their tour. They enjoyed our delicious Louisiana food and warm hospitality. Several of the travelers said they would like to return next year.



Docent Training

Trees and Trails Project
Learning Tree

No Child Left INSIDE

Help Mother Nature
inspire our youth.

Join Ellen Leblanc,
Education Coordinator
September 3 or 15
9:00am to 1:00pm
(lunch provided)

Ione Burden Conference Center

For more information contact Bob
Souvestre at 225-763-3990 or
rsouvestre@agcenter.lsu.edu

Byzantine Icon Workshop

Nov. 3 –7, 2014

Burden Horticulture Society is sponsoring a beginners Byzantine Icon workshop from 9am to 4:30 pm, November 3 - 7, 2014 at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens' Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie. Ginnie Bolin will be the instructor with assistance from the Friday Iconographers. No previous art education or experience is required. Instruction is guided and paced to produce a finished icon of the Apostle Saint Thomas.



The cost of the workshop is \$350.00, which includes all materials, as well as, lunch on the first and last day. The material list includes a specially prepared board, twenty-three karat gold leaf, all paints, brushes, and other materials. All proceeds from the workshop go to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required with the remaining \$300 due on the first day of the workshop. Checks should be made payable to BHS and mailed to: Ginnie Bolin, 914 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

The class is limited to 24. Registration will be accepted in the order they are received. The deadline for registering is September 26, 2014.

Registration: Name _____
Phone _____
Email address _____



Corn Maze
at Burden

Discover
BURDEN
Museum & Gardens





Sept. 27 and 28
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Find your way out of the corn maze,
climb the straw mountain, paint a pumpkin,
test your skill at the balloon toss,
visit the Red Barn Petting Zoo and more.
Admission - \$7
(in addition to Harvest Days admission)

Corn Maze Saturdays
in October

Oct. 4, 11 and 18 . 4-7 p.m.

The fun continues in October.
Walk through the corn maze at night and test your
skill at the balloon toss.
Admission - \$5

Nightmaze and Bonfire
Oct. 25 . 4-9 p.m.

For a special treat, bring the family and enjoy an
evening bonfire, hotdogs, s'mores and live music.
Admission - \$10




LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden . Burden Museum & Gardens . 4560 Essen Lane
225-763-3990 . LSUAgCenter.com/Burden

Get Out and VOTE

By Jeff S. Kuehny, PhD

Come on out to the Botanic Gardens and visit the All-American Selections Display Garden. Each year's winners are displayed in a network of nearly 200 AAS Display Gardens, which includes 55 locations, one of which is in your Botanic Gardens. The AAS Display Garden provides the public an opportunity to view the newest AAS winners.

Each year AAS ask the public to come out and vote on their favorites so anyone can go online to cast their vote now, or better yet, visit the Botanic Gardens and see the flowers in person and vote. To vote now go to Americangardenaward.com and click

on the appropriate button for your favorite flower:

The four entries are:

- Celosia 'Arrabona Red' from PanAmerican Seed
- Cuphea 'Sirracha Violet' from Syngenta Flowers
- Foxglove Digiplexis 'Illumination Flame' from Cultivaris
- Petunia 'Sanguna Radiant Blue' from Syngenta Flowers

Voting is open now through September 30 and winners will be announced in October. In the meantime, these flowers, as well as some of the past American Garden Award winners, are available at garden centers

nationwide. The 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 winners can be viewed at Americangardenaward.com.

The Botanic Gardens also participates in the Landscape Design Contest using AAS Winners. We won first prize for our garden design and installation by Katie Guitreau in the contest last year! John McMillan is pursuing the prize again this year with an incredible looking installation.

If you would like to be an AAS display garden or rose garden volunteer please contact Bob Souvestre at 225-763-3990 or by email at rsouvestre@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Upcoming Events at Burden Museum & Gardens

September 8, noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden: History of the LSU Rural Life Museum; David Floyd,	Ione Burden Conference Center
September 8, noon-1 pm.....	Reflections in the Garden: "History of the Rural Life Museum"	Ione Burden Conference Center
September 13, 8-11:30 am	Storytime, last reading begins at 10:30 am	Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie
September 17, 8:30-11:30 am	Storytime, last reading begins at 10:30 am	Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie
September 27, 8 am-5 pm.....	Corn Maze and Harvest Days	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
September 28, 8 am-5 pm	Corn Maze and Harvest Days	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
October 4, 4-7 pm	Corn Maze	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
October 6, noon-1 p.m.....	Reflections in the Garden: "Orchids and Ferns" – Noon – 1 pm.....	Ione Burden Conference Center
October 11, 4-7 pm	Corn Maze and Harvest Days	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
October 15, 6-10 pm	Wine and Roses	Rose Garden, Orangerie and The Pavilion
October 18, 4-7 pm	Corn Maze and Harvest Days	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
October 25, 4-9 pm	Night Maze	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
November 3, noon-1 pm.....	Reflections in the Garden: Red Door Interiors "Decorating for the Holidays"	Ione Burden Conference Center
November 7, 6:30-10:30 pm	Cocktails in the Gardens: There's No Business like Show Business.....	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
November 15, 8:30-11:30 am	Storytime, last reading begins at 10:30 am	Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie
December 1, noon-1 pm	Reflections in the Garden: Birds Unlimited.....	Ione Burden Conference Center
December 5	Poinsettia Show and Sale.....	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Greenhouse
December 6, 8:30-11:30 am	Storytime, last reading begins at 10:30 am	Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie

What's Happening with our Friends

Baton Rouge Green

August 16, 7-10 pm	Green Paradise	Rural Life Museum
November 2, 9 am-3 pm	Tree Sale	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
November 3, noon-3 pm.....	Tree Sale	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

LSU Rural Life Museum

October 26, 3-6 pm	Haints, Haunts and Halloween	LSU Rural Life Museum
October 31, 6-10 pm	Symphony Pops	LSU Rural Life Museum
November 6, 6:30-10:30 pm	Red Rooster Bash	LSU Rural Life Museum
December 7, 8:00 am-6:00 pm.....	A Rural Life Christmas.....	LSU Rural Life Museum

EBR Master Gardeners Association

August 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.....	Monthly Meeting	Ione Burden Conference Center
September 23, 5:30-8:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	Ione Burden Conference Center
October 7, 5:30-8:30 p.m.....	Monthly Meeting.....	Ione Burden Conference Center
October 22-24	Southern Region Master Gardener conference.....	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge

The Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit

September 25, 7-9 pm	Monthly Meeting.....	Ione Burden Conference Center
October 23, 7-9 pm	Monthly Meeting.....	Ione Burden Conference Center

LSU Hilltop Arboretum

September 28, 12:30-4:00 pm	PlantFest Teaser	LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road
October 4-5, 1-4 pm	PlantFest.....	LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road
December 6, 9am-2 pm	Year-End Plant Sale.....	LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road

Wine and Roses Celebrates the Completion of the Pavilion

By Jeff Kuehny

This year will be a special Wine and Roses celebrating the completion of The Pavilion and honoring those whose contributions made its building possible. This handsome pavilion was built with columns and a grand fireplace of repurposed brick. Scissor truss add to its architectural beauty. The Pavilion has the capacity for 120 people seated allowing the Botanic Gardens to expand its outdoor programming and provide a state wide venue for learning about

the importance of an urban woodlands and ecosystems. The Pavilion will serve as the outdoor classroom for the BHS docent led educational program, Trees and Trails/Project Learning Tree. Project Learning Tree utilizes a math and science-based curriculum meets state and national standards. This program has steadily grown in popularity since it began in 2010 with 80 students from 4 schools, to 2013 with 1340 children from 14 schools. Due to the demand from

teachers and parents, a pilot program, "Bugs, Gardens and Trees, Oh My!", is designed for kindergarteners – 2nd graders following the Project Learning Tree model. It began in 2013 with 256 children from 3 schools.

Building the Pavilion was a priority of the Master Plan, its completion marks another accomplishment made possible by the generosity of our community contributions. A restroom facility will be completed by the summer of 2015.

Please join the Burden Horticulture Society for Wine and Roses enjoying hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and music in the new pavilion and fine dining amount the roses. Tickets are \$150 for non-members and \$125 for members. Your tax-deductible contribution will be used for continuing the educational programming of the Burden Horticulture Society. Tickets can be purchased by calling Pamela Rupert or stop by the Botanic Gardens.

Wine & Roses at Burden

Join us in celebration the completion of our new Pavilion and recognizing those whose contributions helped complete this part of Phase 1 of the Master Plan.

Join us for an evening of Wine & Roses
Wednesday, October 15, 2014
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres
Music by The Wilder Janes
The Pavilion
6 p.m.

Dinner
Rose Garden at Burden
7 p.m.

\$150 per person
Members-\$125 per person
Limited seating available
225-763-3990

LSU AgCenter
Research · Extension · Teaching

Burden Horticulture Society

\$10,000 Grant from the Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry

Many thanks to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry that recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Botanic Gardens at Burden. The award will help fund a weatherproof amplification system for our 120 seat, outdoor Pavilion. As our "Trees and Trails", "Bugs, Gardens and Trees, Oh My!" and other educational programs continue to grow, it is important that learners

of all ages will be able to hear what is being said.

With the guidance of Jeff Kuehny and Gigi Gauthier, BHS volunteers Dr. Doreen Maxcy and Diana Wells drafted this grant application entitled "Enhancement of Educational Youth Programs at the Botanic Gardens." It is anticipated the amplification system will be fully installed by September 2014.

Eye Spy



Who is in the tomato patch?
(The answer is on page 9 of the newsletter.)

Welcomes New Board Members

Meet Mike Ruth

If anyone is looking for Mike Ruth on the grounds of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, he is volunteering as the keeper of the ginger garden, working in the All America Selections trial garden, or helping the Baton Rouge Camellia Society. Mike is also a valuable and experienced volunteer with the Burden Horticulture Societies' Les Amie de Jardin, lending his expertise on a large number of garden projects. In addition to helping in the gardens, he serves as treasurer of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.



Mike Ruth's love of horticulture is genetic. He was born into an extended family of western Oklahoma farmers. Mike graduated from Begon High School in Tulsa and received his undergraduate degree from Canoga Park College in California. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University in Chicago, and completed his residency at LSU Shreveport and his fellowship at LSU Medical Center in New Orleans. He practiced gastroenterology with Oschner Medical Center and Gastroenterology Associates in Baton Rouge for 20 years before retiring.

Like many of us, Mike is an avid LSU baseball fan. Subtropical plants, palms, cycads, and gingers are among his gardening interests. He is married to Ann Ruth, an accomplished porcelain artist. They have two grown sons. One son lives in Baton Rouge and the other in Portland, Oregon.

Meet John Hough

John is the volunteer leader for Trees and Trails maintenance at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. He and his volunteer crew work with garden arborist Glenn Wilson to maintain the trails' natural beauty while keeping them safe for hikers and free of encroaching vegetation. John also serves as the BHS membership coordinator.

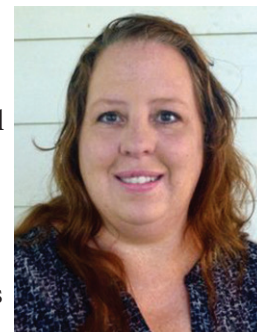


He received his B.B.A in financial management 1973 from Southern Methodist University, and completed the LSU landscape architecture graduate program in 1977. John served as a vice president for a large Louisiana bank from 1982 until 1999, and helped found the Louisiana Community and Technical College System in 2000. He retired after 39 years in February 2013.

After retirement, John sought volunteer opportunities that drew upon his training in landscape architecture. The Botanic Gardens at Burden Trees and Trails volunteer maintenance program is a good fit for him. John's volunteer activities do not stop with Trees and Trails. He has worked at the corn maze and Arbor Day events and plans to enter the fall EBR Master Gardener class. John is married to Patti Hough, a professional artist and retired human resources manager. They have two children now working as a computer program engineer and home school educator.

Meet Ellen LeBlanc

Ellen LeBlanc received her bachelor's degree in economics from LSU in 1993. Her focus is on interactive education for children of all ages. It was only natural that she should become a teacher. She has taught third grade, junior high science and social studies, and high school biology and history.



Ellen joined the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens to coordinate field trip logistics and docent assignment for school groups participating in the Trees and Trails program. As coordinator, Ellen establishes the students' routing schedules between stations on the trails, ensures stations are supplied with teaching materials, and assigns docents to interpret the stations and lead the students on the trails and through the urban forest. Before it is time for lunch, Ellen delivers the students' lunches to the picnic area and arranges lunch for the docents. She is using Louisiana Department of Education criteria to link the Trees and Trails program to the Common Core and National Science Standards requirements.

It was through her interest in interactive childhood education that she and Dr. KiKi Fontenot, assistant professor and extension specialist, were assigned to work together to develop a curriculum using school gardens as educational devices. Ellen and Dr. Fontenot have compiled scientific information to be placed on weatherproof signs throughout a school garden setting, creating an interactive lesson with the added benefit of being in an outdoor classroom. Ellen is currently researching ways to expand the Botanic Gardens' resources so activities in the gardens qualify for a Scout badge.

Ellen and husband, Dr. Mark LeBlanc, head of LSU Ag Chemistry, have five children. They enjoy visiting national parks, hiking and outdoor activities.

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden Welcomes New Hires

Ellen Mathis has been named Director of Development for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. In her role, she will secure philanthropic financial support for key initiatives at the Botanic



Ellen Mathis

Gardens and will interact with the various stakeholder groups on strategic and long-term development plans.

Previously, Ellen served as a project manager for the Baton Rouge Area Foundation where she managed the Fund for the Future of the Gulf and helped fund donors realize their philanthropic goals.

Ellen grew up in Mandeville, Louisiana and earned a Bachelor of

Arts degree from the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University. She volunteers her time and serves in leadership roles with Uncorked and Art Melt for Forum 35, the young professionals' civic group in Baton Rouge. Ellen enjoys a good book, working on her green thumb and traveling with her husband Tim.

Ellen can be contacted at 225-578-5261 and through her email emathis@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Michelle Miller Fuller has been named Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. Michelle is a life-long resident of Baton Rouge. She graduated from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Michelle worked in sales and marketing in the Oil and Gas Industry in south Louisiana before becoming a stay at home mother and volunteer. She is the President of the Parent Teacher Organization for the past three years that won her a Volunteer in Public Schools Golden Apple Award nomination.

Michelle enjoys graphic design, photography, gardening, planning events, cooking and traveling with her family.

Michelle can be contacted at 225-763-3990 and through her email mfuller@agcenter.lsu.edu.



Michelle Miller Fuller

Eye Spy: Keith Lewis

Keith Lewis, like the character Waldo in the Where's Waldo children's seek and find books, hides in plain sight at the Botanic Gardens. His bachelor's degree from LSU in plant and soil sciences makes him uniquely qualified for the diverse responsibilities he has as the farm manager-supervisor of the garden staff, coordinator of the All-America Selections vegetable trial garden, as well as other AAS gardens on the Botanic Gardens property. He works with coordinators, professors and their research associates, along with the garden staff to plan research plots and display gardens.

Among his other responsibilities, Keith is designing and planting the corn for the Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch weekend on September 27-28, which is held in conjunction with the LSU Rural Life Museum Harvest Days. The corn maze will be open every Saturday in October, and closes on October 25 with the Night Maze celebration.

Keith and his staff can be found in and around the Botanic Gardens every day, making the property the "best kept secret and a little bit of heaven" in the center of Baton Rouge.



Burden Horticulture Society

Toad Lily *Tricyrtis Formosana*

by *Robert Souvestre*

Tricyrtis is an easy-to-grow woodland perennial which easily adapts to average to moist garden conditions where part sun to part shade to full shade dominate and the soil is evenly moist and contains organic matter. This Japan native is an herbaceous perennial that emerges in spring, some with variegated leaves and others with spotted or mottled leaves. Spring growth quickly develops into a groundcover-like mat of shiny leaves. As plant stems grow taller, they give a similar appearance as Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*) and False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina*). Mature height ranges 12-18 inches with flowers arising above the foliage. Flowering is influenced by growing conditions and will occur August through October. Toad Lily is quick to produce stolons which soon develop into an attractive grouping of plants.

What makes *Tricyrtis* such a

wonderful perennial is that it is a fall bloomer – adding color in the landscape when it is most needed and appreciated. The flowers are small but plentiful, star-like in appearance, an inch large, and looking like tiny exotic orchids, sporting purple petals spotted with darker purple blotches and a yellow throat. And flowers can do double duty as cut flowers for indoor enjoyment as well. Foliage dies to the ground for its winter dormant period. Mulching will benefit the plant and encourage root and stolon growth.

Grow *Tricyrtis* as a companion plant with *Drimiopsis*, *Ligularia* (*Farfugium*), *Ficus repens*, *Narcissus*, *Selaginella* and *Pyrrosia* ferns, *Callisia*, *Podocarpus*, *Dianthus*, *Caladium*, *Trillium*, *Podophyllum* (mayapple), *Arum*, *Sanchezia*, *Agarista*, *Dianella*, *Camellia*, Japanese Maple, *Musa*, and *Saxifraga*.

