

Restroom Facility Complete

Jeff Kuehny, Director

It may seem strange that the feature article is about the long-awaited completion of restrooms. However, there is a long history leading up to this grand finale. Patrick Hegwood, my predecessor, had a sketch made of a pavilion in 2007 when the Junior League and Baton Rouge Green began blazing trails in the Burden Woods to implement Trees & Trails. Once the trail system was opened in the spring of 2009, a year after Hurricane Gustav, the trails began to become a popular educational walk through the woods. Soon after, Project Learning Tree was implemented, and educational field trips that use the environment to engage children in learning about the flora and fauna of the ecosystems in the woodlands followed. It became evident that the idea of an outdoor shelter was a necessity. The pavilion was included in the 2009 master plan for the Botanic Gardens.

A grant was submitted to the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program to help fund the building of a pavilion. It was also decided that there was a growing need for restrooms to serve the programs, events and everyday visitors to the gardens and woodlands. The master plan placed the pavilion next to the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, the last building designed by A. Hays Town, a renowned architect and dear friend of Steele Burden. It was of the upmost importance that the pavilion complement the Orangerie so that there was a cohesive design of these

two buildings in close proximity. A great amount of time was spent designing the pavilion. It was determined that because of the size of the pavilion, the restrooms would have to be a separate detached building. Once the design of the pavilion was complete, we began fundraising in earnest for a pavilion and restroom facility. The Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden and the Burden Foundation were the primary contributors along with many private donations and funding from the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program. Thanks to all these generous contributions, the pavilion was completed in 2014.

The next step was to complete a restroom facility; however, there were some major issues. Where would the restrooms be located and what would the building look like? After much discussion regarding site selection, design alterations and wetlands permitting, we were finally ready to begin construction. Thus, after a 13-year journey, we are truly ready to celebrate the completion of this project. The new restrooms were built to accommodate a large group of school children on a field trip, a large outdoor event or individuals that are visiting the gardens or walking the trails. The building includes a large porch as well as storage for educational programming materials. There is a diaper changing station — thank you Judy Foil — for those parents with young children.

Thank you to all our supporters who helped make this project successful. It will be a benefit to our community and all of those who visit the Botanic Gardens at Burden. ■





Reflections From the Chair

Mary Tharp

Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

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Dear Friends,

Our mission has always been the support of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden through education, fundraising and volunteerism, as well as the support of the Botanic Gardens master plan and plan for the Welcome Center. Every dollar you contribute through our memberships and fundraising activities assists in this endeavor, and we thank you heartily for your contribution. We will continue to provide this support as well as we can during these unsettling times.

In the fall:

We volunteered at **Corn Maze** on each Saturday in October.

We held our **Wine & Roses raffle** Sept. 14 through Nov. 23.

We volunteered for the **Poinsettia Sale** Nov. 28.

In the spring:

We will host the **Byzantine Icon Workshop** Feb. 21-22.

We will host, with assistance of the LSU AgCenter staff, the monthly **Reflections in the Garden**.

The Byzantine Icon Workshop will offer a quality painting experience with trained iconographers. St. Kateri Tekakwitha, one of our Native American saints and the patron saint of ecology, is the February icon. Please contact Diana Wells at 225-927-8646 if you are interested.

We kept the lunch and learn series Reflections in the Garden going through 2020 thanks to technology, the LSU AgCenter staff, the ingenuity of our speakers and our inspiring Reflections committee led by Julie McCarthy, Leigh Harris and Sherry Eubanks. We will offer lectures in 2021 on the first Monday of each month. Please look for monthly announcements about these! You will not want to miss this exciting collection of topics.

I hope to see you around the Botanic Gardens!

Mary Tharp

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

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4560 Essen Lane
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Ryan Stanford, Rebecca Stanford, their grandmother Audrey Walker and mom Wendy Walker Stanford

Volunteers Hand Paint Rocks for Hundreds of Children

Ann Davenport

When Jeff Kuehny asked Ginie Bolin, long-time volunteer and former chair of the Burden Horticulture Society, now known as Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, to hand paint some river rocks, she immediately agreed. When she went to pick them up, however, she was taken aback. There weren't just a few rocks, but hundreds of them. She learned that they were to be hidden like Easter eggs for the hundreds of children attending the Corn Maze, the largest fundraising event at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

She immediately enlisted the help of friends Robin Coerver and Ann Davenport. The three set aside several days for the task. By the end of two days, with relatively few completed, they compared themselves to gnats on an elephant. Ginie mentioned her despair to neighbor and fellow St. James Place resident Audrey Walker, who sympathetically offered to paint some and took as many as she could carry.

Soon realizing the magnitude of the gargantuan task, Audrey had an idea. Her granddaughter, Rebecca, a student at St. Joseph's Academy, and her grandson, Ryan, a student at Catholic High School, as well as some friends, were looking for a project to fulfill their schools' requirement that their students perform community service. Audrey's daughter, Wendy Stanford, who is Rebecca and Ryan's mother, not only liked the idea but wanted to help with the painting herself. St. Joseph's and Catholic High approved the project, and the Stanfords' "adopted" daughter, Olivia Mitchell, also a student at St. Joseph's, excitedly joined in. Audrey not only organized the project. She paid for all the supplies and painted rocks as well.

After school, on weekends and anytime they could squeeze into their busy schedules, they painted rocks and completed the project by the deadline. It took three generations in one family, several friends, talent, determination and commitment to accomplish. The Corn Maze was a success, and the children were delighted finding the beautiful original artwork that they were allowed to keep. Jokingly, when Ginie delivered the hundreds of rocks to Burden, she said "The next time I'm asked to volunteer, I'll be sure to ask the important question, 'How many are there?'" ■



Byzantine Icon Workshop Returns

Diana Wells, Committee Co-chair

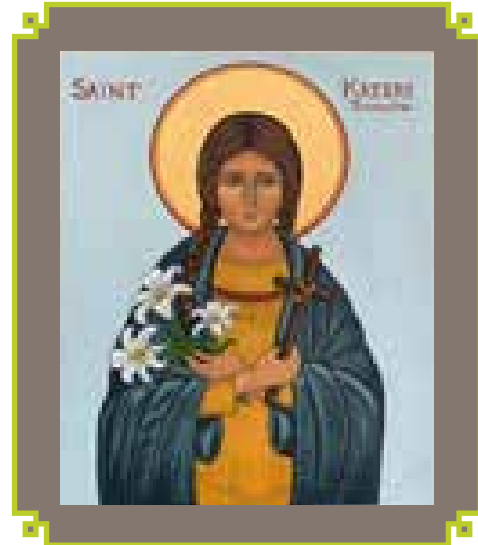
Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is sponsoring a February 2021 Byzantine Icon Workshop after postponing the August event because of concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This workshop is a fundraiser for the Botanic Gardens with proceeds going to educational programs. To comply with social distancing requirements, the workshop is limited to 16 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$350 per person.

St. Kateri, one of our few American saints, is the selection for the upcoming workshop. We will meet at the conference room at the Burden Conference Center. The event begins Sunday, Feb. 21 and ends Friday, Feb. 26. The workshop will run Sunday from 1-3 p.m. and Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. All art supplies will be provided along with coffee and lunches.

The committee has researched COVID-19 compliance regulations in various industries and federal and state agencies, and protocols for personal safety and social distancing are in place. Masks are required in the building, and social distancing spacing at workstations will be in place

to ensure the safety of our participants. Lunch will be served in closed containers with packaged utensils at each person's workstation or may be taken to the gardens.

We are grateful for our volunteer committee members, instructors and hospitality team who work so hard to provide professional instruction and meaningful historical information on each subject. Also, we send a big thank you to Jeff Kuehny, Mary Coco and the staff of the Botanic Gardens for hosting us and making our time so enjoyable. ■



Arbor Day

at Burden

Plant a tree. Scale a live oak. Meet Smokey Bear.
Enjoy a scavenger hunt. Learn about native trees and more.

January 23 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
4560 Essen Lane | Baton Rouge | LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens



2020 graduates of the East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardener program.

2020 Master Gardener Class at the Botanic Gardens

Jeff Kuehny, Director

The East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardener program was the first Master Gardener program in the state of Louisiana. It was approved by the LSU AgCenter in 1992, and the first class was held at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden in 1994. The East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association, a nonprofit organization, was formed the same year. Its mission is to:

- Extend the LSU AgCenter's educational programs.
- Assist the gardening public.
- Promote home horticulture in the Baton Rouge area.

The Botanic Gardens has been the home of the East Baton Rouge Master Gardener program for over 25 years now, and it is still going strong. They support many programs throughout the parish, including educational lectures and workshops at public libraries and at the Botanic Gardens. Master Gardeners also support school gardening, plant health clinics and the Plant Makers and the annual Master Gardener Plant Sale.

A group of Master Gardeners led by Ginnie Bolin in 2008 formed the Burden Horticulture Society, which is now Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. Its mission is more focused on the Botanic Gardens by enhancing and promoting the Botanic Gardens for the benefit of the public through educational programs, fundraising and volunteerism. Many of the past and present Friends board members and supporters have come from the East Baton Rouge Master Gardener program.

Because the Master Gardener program is a vital part of the Botanic Gardens and the Friends and fulfilling their missions, we felt that it was important to continue to offer the Master Gardener class to the community during the pandemic. So that we could ensure the safety and individual needs of almost everyone, the class was offered by three methods: in person, via livestream and in recorded lectures. Thanks to the efforts of extension agents from across the AgCenter Southern Region, the AgCenter Information Technology Department and multiple Botanic Gardens staff, 58 students graduated on Dec. 5. We are excited for them to join us in helping provide our community with gardening information and appreciation for the environment in which we live.

Congratulations, East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Class of 2020! ■

Volunteer Leaders in Motion

Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is very fortunate to have such dedicated members and leaders. The all-volunteer board is made up of civic-minded individuals who share the values and mission of the organization and offer their time, expertise and energy in support of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens.

We are grateful for the many years of talented service that our outgoing board members have provided. **John Hough**, **Missy Jones** and **Lorice Say** each served as chair of the Friends as well as for two terms as board members. After six years, they are exiting the board along with **Peggy Scott**. Also moving on are **Aletha O'Quinn** and **Margaret Hawkins**. We can't thank you enough for sharing your gifts with the Friends.

The outgoing members thoughtfully looked for potential new board members who will help take the organization forward for the future. In doing so a slate was nominated and elected at the Nov. 12 board meeting to take office in January 2021. Congratulations and welcome to **Richard Gibbs**, **Kevin Langley**, **Danielle Mensman**, **Namisha Patel-Vasanji**, **Claudia Ross** and **Paul Woodward**. ■

Introducing Agent Russell Harris

Russell Harris has been hired as the new LSU AgCenter horticulture agent for East Baton Rouge Parish. Harris was born and raised in New Orleans, where his love of plants began as a young child helping his grandmother in her garden. As a teenager, Harris volunteered at the Audubon Zoo as a junior keeper, which developed his interests in animal husbandry.

Upon graduating from high school, Harris enrolled in LSU to pursue a degree in horticulture. During this time, he also studied the Ukrainian language at Harvard University and spent a year studying abroad at the National Agricultural University of Ukraine. Harris earned his bachelor's degree in horticultural systems in 1997 and then worked in the golf course industry for several years until he returned to LSU and earned a master's degree in horticulture in 2004. Harris' master's research focused on the use of pesticides in pine bark nursery media. Following graduate school, he worked as a horticulture agent for the LSU AgCenter in Orleans Parish and then moved on to the landscaping industry.

In his personal time, he enjoys spending time with his daughter, who also shares his interest in plants and animals. Together they care for a large assortment of pets and a collection of over 350 varieties of figs. Harris is very excited to be back at the LSU AgCenter and is looking forward to getting involved with the Baton Rouge gardening community.

Harris will work from the East Baton Rouge Parish LSU AgCenter office at 805 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge. Call Harris at 225-389-3055, or email him at RuHarris@agcenter.lsu.edu. ■



Russell Harris

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AT BURDEN

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Reflections in the Garden Presentations

Jan. 4 — “Margaret Stones and the Native Flora of Louisiana.” Speaker: Randy Harelson.

Feb. 1 — “Parterre Gardens.” Speaker: Anna Timmerman, LSU AgCenter Assistant Extension Agent for Jefferson Parish.

March 1 — “Briarwood Nature Preserve: The Gardens of Caroline Dormon.” Speaker: Richard Johnson, Steward of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve.

April 5 — “The Gardening Legacy of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath.” Speaker: F. Todd Lasseigne, Executive Director, Bellingrath Gardens and Home.

May 3 — “Bee Experience with Honey Tasting: Introduction to Beekeeping Pollination for Your Garden and the Taste of Honey.” Speaker: Kevin Langley. A tour of the Pollinator Garden will follow.

June 7 — “Enrique Alferéz’s Work in New Orleans City Park and the Botanical Garden.” Speaker: Paul Soniat, Director of Botanical Garden at City Park.

July 5 — “The Challenges and Rewards to Doing Conservation Along a Highly Dynamic (Ephemeral) Coast.” Speaker: Seth Blitch, Director of Coastal and Marine Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana.

Aug. 2 — “A Pollinator’s Moon Garden.” Speaker: Tammany Baumgarten, Owner of BaumGardens Landscape and Design, New Orleans.

Sept. 6 — “History and Flora of the Louisiana Arboretum.” Speaker: Kim Hollier, Curator of Louisiana State Arboretum in Chicot State Park.

Oct. 4 — “Master Plan for Burden Museum & Gardens: Envisioning the Future.” Speakers: Suzanne Turner and Associates. Fall hayride tour of Burden Museum & Gardens grounds immediately following presentation.

Nov. 1 — “Fantastical Poinsettias.” Speakers: Elena Fennell, co-owner of Clegg’s Nursery, and Wanda Ellis, Research Associate, LSU AgCenter.

Dec. 6 — “Creating Herbal Holiday Gifts.” Speakers: Cynthia Nobles, LSU Press Cookbook Editor, and Melinda Winans, Teacher and a Founding Member of Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit.

We Will Miss You ...



Aline Creed has served as the secretary of Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden since its inception in 2008. She has had a strong tie to LSU since her childhood as her grandfather, Ted Robert, was dean of the LSU College of Education for 24 years. Aline became a Louisiana Master Gardener and was instrumental in the formation of the Friends. She brought her great organizational skills, highly accurate record keeping, the ability to perceive the talents of other board members, dependability and a watchful eye of wisdom to both the Friends group and the Botanic Gardens as they have matured. Aline has been invaluable to the success of the Friends and the Botanic Gardens, and we will surely miss her. However, she has assured us that she will continue to be a helpful volunteer for events and programs that help support the Friends and their mission. Thank you, Aline, for sharing your time and your many talents with the Friends and the Botanic Gardens!



Betsy Neely of LSU AgCenter Communications has worked with Aline Creed formatting and preparing the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden newsletter for many years. Betsy took our humble newsletter that was a simple in-house production to the beautifully formatted and colorful publication that you receive every quarter. Betsy is also a talented artist and has featured some of her beautiful artwork at Brush with Burden, where she was an award winner. Congratulations on your retirement, Betsy! We look forward to seeing you enjoying the Botanic Gardens with your grandchildren soon! ■



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
 128 Knapp Hall
 Baton Rouge, LA 70803

PHYSICAL LOCATION: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, La. 70809 | 225-763-3990 | DiscoverBurden.com

Please check our website for up-to-date information on these events.

January 2021			
Jan. 4	Noon - 1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: Margaret Stones – Native Flora of Louisiana. Speaker: Randy Harrelson.
Jan. 23	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Arbor Day at Burden	Plant a tree, Smokey Bear, tree climbing and more. Free.
February 2021			
Feb. 1	Noon - 1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: Parterre Gardens. Speaker: Anna Timmerman, LSU AgCenter Assistant agent for Jefferson Parish.
Feb. 21	1 - 3 p.m.	Byzantine Icon Workshop	The Byzantine Icon Workshop is a thoughtful and meditative week-long retreat focusing on traditional painting techniques that date back 2,000 years.
Feb. 22-26	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.		
Feb. 27	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Herb Day 2021	Herb Day 2021 will feature a large sale of herbs and AAS vegetables provided by the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and the Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit. The event is free and open to the public.
TBA	TBA	Camellia Show and Sale	The LSU Rural Life Museum invites the public to enter blooms into the Baton Rouge Camellia Society show. The annual Camellia Sale features award-winning camellias grown by the Baton Rouge Camellia Society and the general public.
March 2021			
March 1	Noon - 1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: Briarwood Nature Preserve – The Gardens of Caroline Dormon. Speaker: Richard Johnson, Steward of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve.
March 27	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Master Gardener Plant Sale	Shop from over 5,000 homegrown perennials and annuals specifically selected by the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners for success in your garden! The East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale raises money to support the educational activities of the Master Gardeners and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens.
April 2021			
April 5	Noon - 1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: The Gardening Legacy of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath. Speaker: F. Todd Lasseigne, Executive Director, Bellingrath Gardens and Home.
April 15	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! This extraordinary evening challenges local restaurants and bars to compete for the People's Choice Awards. Guests will enjoy creations from local restaurants prepared with locally grown products. Gourmet in the Garden is held in the lush green setting of the Rose Garden and Orangerie garden. All proceeds from this event support the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and the Louisiana Culinary Institute Foundation.

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com

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