

## Celebrating the New Pollinator Garden and Children's Garden Expansion on National Public Gardens Day

The Children's Garden at the Botanic Gardens provides a garden setting just for children where they learn about fruits, vegetables, herbs and butterflies. We also hope it will connect children to nature and help them develop healthier lives.

The garden has provided a perfect space for educational programs and for schoolteachers to learn how to build and maintain a school garden. On May 11, National Public Gardens Day, the Botanic Gardens will celebrate the opening of the Pollinator Garden, completing an expansion of the Children's Garden.

The Pollinator Garden will include a diverse selection of herbaceous host plants with educational signs so that visitors can learn about the plants' importance. More than 85 percent

of flowering plants, including woody and herbaceous plants, require insects for pollination to produce fruit and seed. The Pollinator Garden teaches about pollinator plants and insects and will be a companion learning experience to the 50 new tree identification signs added to the Burden Woods in 2017. These signs include information on specific pollinators for woody plants. Additional information on these woody pollinators can be found at the Trees and Trails kiosk located at the trail head.

We hope the new expansion to the garden will help counter the effects of nature deficit disorder, which is a term coined by Richard Louv in the book "Last Child in the Woods," published in 2005. It means that human beings,

*(continued on page 4)*



# Reflections from the Chair

Missy Jones

When I first started volunteering at Burden, I had just retired after teaching for 25 years. Being faced with so many amazing places in Baton Rouge where I could contribute to the community, I came up with three criteria I wanted to fulfill: utilize my education background, nurture my love of nature and fulfill my volunteer hours for the Louisiana Master Gardeners. An article appeared in the newspaper that described Project Learning Tree's involvement with the Trees and Trails program at Burden. Because I was trained as a Project Learning Tree and Project Wild teacher, I immediately felt drawn to this program. Penny Miller and Skippy Berner were the coordinators of the program at the time, and they provided an energy and excitement for educating school children on field trips. It began with the trails and has now expanded to the Children's Garden and Mosaic Boardwalk at Black Swamp.

The docent-led field trips educate students at the three learning stations along the trails. What an exciting, fun program to be involved in! I can still teach, but the kids don't have to go home with me! The docents share a love of nature and want to pass that on to children. Plus, we enjoy lunch afterwards, courtesy of Burden, before we head home. What could be better than that?

I am thrilled to welcome Sarah Rayner as the new Trees and Trails coordinator. She brings such excitement to the program with her knowledge of plants as a retired biology teacher and a passion for nature, birds and butterflies. Welcome, Sarah! I am looking forward to a wonderful spring on the trails!

After the hard freezes of January, what a welcome relief it was to have Arbor Day on January 20. The event was free to the public and included lots of children's activities as well as tree planting. The event was spearheaded by John Hough, and a dedicated group of volunteers and staff at the Botanic Gardens assisted families in planting over 200 native trees to reforest the Burden Woods. Thank you, volunteers! This is a true investment in our future.

I was privileged to participate in the Byzantine Icon Workshop in February where a group of 24 artists created a St. Anne icon using acrylic paint and gold leaf. Ginnie Bolin and her committee worked diligently to provide guidance and assistance to the participants along with lunch each day. The week was enjoyed by all! We are so fortunate to have such talented artists who share their passion for art with the participants. Diana Wells will be the chair of the committee for the next workshop scheduled for July 30 to August 3. If you are interested, please contact Diana.

The Brush with Burden juried art exhibition was held in March. A lecture by artist Don Taylor and the opening reception took place on March 17. There was a beautiful display of photographs and original paintings and sculpture by artists inspired by Southern sights. Kathleen Meares and Pamela Rupert very graciously chaired the event, which has been enjoyed by many who come out to view the art work. Thank you, ladies!

Amazingly, this is my last "Reflections from the Chair" to write before Lorice Say takes over the reins as chair of the board for the Friends of the Gardens in July. Welcome, Lorice! It has been a year of many wonderful, exciting events, which included the name change from Burden Horticulture Society to Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. The membership committee has worked diligently to implement the name change with rewards for membership in the Friends group. On Wednesday, May 16, we would like to honor all volunteers who have helped make the Botanic Gardens the showplace that it is. Please come and join us in Windrush Gardens at 11:30 a.m. I hope to see you there! ■



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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.

Newsletter Submissions:  
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**Celebrating**

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especially children, are spending less time outdoors, leading to behavioral problems, increased childhood illness and a reduction in cognitive skills and simple exercise. Direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults.



Educational features at the new Pollinator Garden will include learn-through-play activities for those visiting the Children’s Garden. The activities will include six interactive experiences for children to learn about the world of pollinators and their habitats and life cycles. The children will learn by their natural curiosity through direct sensory experiences. These experiences will help children increase their physical activity and encourage their development of investigative skills to learn about their surrounding environment. Concurrently, we hope children’s interest will be piqued and they will be motivated to spend more time outdoors in the garden.

**Please join the  
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens  
on May 11 from 9 a.m. to noon  
for the opening of  
the Pollinator Garden.**

The morning will include a tour of the Pollinator Garden with local experts providing information about plants and their pollinators through demonstrations and educational sessions. Pollinator plants will also be for available for purchase. The first 100 visitors will receive a free pollinator plant to take home and add to their garden. ■



**Celebrate**  
*National  
Public Gardens Day*  
*featuring the*

**Pollinator  
Garden**

May 11 . 9 a.m.-Noon  
LSU AgCenter  
Botanic Gardens

**FREE**

**Educational sessions and booths**

**Free pollinator plant**  
*(Available to the first 100 visitors)*

**Grand opening of the Pollinator Garden**



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## Focus on Trees and Trails Education Coordinator: Sarah Rayner

*In the fall of 2017 the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens received approval to add a position for an education coordinator, a step vitally important to the mission of the Friends in supporting educational programming at the Botanic Gardens. It was also critical to the Botanic Gardens to fill the need for professional staff to lead the growing Trees and Trails program long conducted with a host of wonderful volunteer docents. By January 2, Sarah Rayner had been hired and was already hard at work bringing the curricula up to the latest Louisiana Department of Education standards and enhancing all the tools teachers need to engage and excite their students for a field trip to Burden Woods.*

*For this edition of Reflections & Visions, Sarah shared her own story of how she came to love nature and education:*

I have always had a love for nature. From the time I could walk and carry a jar with a lid, I was catching and observing bees and fireflies. The ditch was the place to hang out when I was a child, observing and collecting frog's eggs, turtles and other wildlife.

In school I excelled in the biological sciences, graduating from LSU with a degree in microbiology. My first job when I graduated was working at the LSU Veterinary School and later at the UC Davis School of Medicine in Davis, California. After moving to Texas, I continued my education in the biological sciences and secondary education, and I received my master's degree.

In 1992, I returned to Baton Rouge and began teaching science, first in the Gifted Program in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. For 20 years I taught biology at Bishop Sullivan High School, which later became St. Michael the Archangel High School. I also was an adjunct faculty member at Our Lady of the Lake College and taught courses in anatomy and physiology.

In 2009, I began raising monarch butterflies. I raise and release anywhere from 300 to 500 monarch butterflies a year. Over the years, I have added a greater variety of host plants to my gardens, so I have raised and released many species of butterflies. I enjoy giving presentations in the community on butterfly and pollinator gardening. This past year I began working as a citizen scientist with Monarch Watch, tagging

monarch butterflies to track their migration routes.

In 2011, I took the course work required to get my certificate as a Master Gardener, and I continue to share many wonderful opportunities to volunteer with the group at plant sales and downtown at the Red Stick Farmers Market.

My love for nature has deepened over the years. In my last years of teaching, I began working when time allowed at Wild Birds Unlimited, which opened the world of birding to me. I am learning to identify local birds by their calls. I also had hands-on experience in sales with plants at Harb's Oasis.

Now retired from teaching, I have many more opportunities to explore nature. When LSU Agcenter Botanic Gardens at Burden announced a position for the education coordinator with Trees and Trails, I was ecstatic! To have the opportunity to work with docents who share a passion for nature and who enjoy working with children and teaching them firsthand about habitats and pollinators and trees is truly inspiring! How awesome is that! My goal is to help inspire children to want to explore the natural world. We are all part of this huge ecosystem, and we need to take care of it.

Nature is here for us to find hope, joy and peace. However, we must take care of it so that our children and our children's children can enjoy it as well.

Sarah can be reached at [srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu) or by calling (225)763-3990 ext. 3. ■

The LSU AgCenter  
and the Junior League of Baton Rouge  
welcome you to



**Healthy  
Families Day**

**April 7 2018**

**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens**

Fun activities for children ages 3-8 years old and families,

including storybook readings, family yoga,

tour of the new children's pollinator garden,

a nature trail hike featuring pollinator trees,

kid-friendly cooking demonstrations,

activities by Junior League Community Projects

and Capital Area Beekeepers Association

demonstration on honey-making and bee hives.

**FREE**



**LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens**

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## Coming and Going

*From the BHS Board of Directors to the Friends Board*

The Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is pleased to announce the addition of a very talented and generous group of new board members. These folks joined the board January 2018 and will be serving a three-year term guiding the organization as it seeks to fulfill its mission to support the gardens in the areas of educational programming, volunteerism and fundraising. Please welcome Elena Fennell, Leigh Harris, Margaret Hawkins, Dr. Charlie Johnson, Alethea O'Quinn and Mary Tharp! They bring a wealth of experience, from the business of horticulture to education and volunteering, that will help our organization grow.

We are also very pleased to announce that the board members who have completed two consecutive terms — that means six years — have agreed to stay with us on the board advisory committee. Simone Kramer and Kitty Hessburg Wiemer have become very familiar smiling faces and helping hands. Their invaluable experience as leaders of the Burden Horticulture Society will continue on the board's advisory committee. Dr. Doreen Maxcy has also moved to the advisory committee, where her skills at writing grant applications will continue to benefit the gardens. Many, many thanks for your dedication to the cause. ■

## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Windrush May 16

We couldn't do it without you! The gardens are large, but our volunteer commitment is bigger. To show appreciation for all the hard work supplied by so many helping hands, the Friends of the Gardens invite everyone to share in the fruits of their labor at the annual volunteer appreciation luncheon. Come join your friends and admirers who also put muscle and brainpower behind smiling faces to keep the gardens growing and its visitors educated, entertained and welcomed to this beautiful green space. You are the helpful source of information to a caller, a voice of knowledge to a new gardener, a tour guide leading students on the trails, a wise one on the benefits of herbs, a pruner of roses, a grafter of camellias and an artist sharing your creativity. And you are what keeps the gardens alive. We want to thank you!

### Appreciation Luncheon\*

**11:30 a.m.**

**Windrush Gardens**

**Open for Touring**

**10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

\*Our celebratory picnic will be held on the lawn in front of the Burden home in Windrush Gardens if weather permits. If inclement, the lunch will be held in the Ione Burden Conference Center. Keep your eyes on your email inbox for the invitation that will be sent as the date approaches. ■



**June 16**  
**8 a.m.-1 p.m.**

## LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Celebrate fresh flavors from the garden. Enjoy signature bloody marys, sample delicious omelets and taste new local food products.

Take a hayride and participate in our taste tests. Let the kids cool off on the water slide and touch a tractor. Bring your plant problems to the "Plant Doctor" from the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center. Local food trucks will also be available.

**Admission: \$5 per person . Free for children 3 and younger**



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## Arbor Day

More than 400 tree lovers attended this year's Arbor Day at Burden, our most successful Arbor Day event yet!

Our Arbor Day mission is to reforest the Burden Woods following devastating damage from Hurricane Gustav in 2008 and to provide a fun, educational experience for young families. We had



many of our regular activities, including children's tree climbing with Bofinger's Tree Service, a scavenger hunt, hayrides, StoryTime and, of course, the lovable Smokey Bear. Our newest addition was tree yoga led by our LSU student intern Allyson Huval. The tree yoga activity was an absolute hit for the younger children as they practiced their poses and learned about the parts of a tree — from the roots to the crown and leaves. Corn dogs, hot chocolate, and our very own honey and Rebelski tomatoes were also added to the concession stand this year to offer a wider variety for visitors.

The Trail Masters volunteer committee led families and volunteers in the planting of more than 200 trees consisting of 15 different varieties. Many of the saplings grown by the Trees and Trails masters were propagated from plant material already found on the property. Pine, willow oak, swamp red maple and persimmon were some of the most common varieties planted. Some of the 20 varieties for 2019 include rough leaf dogwood, river birch, Southern magnolia, Foster's holly and many other native tree varieties.

Arbor Day at Burden is here to stay because it has been an excellent opportunity for the Botanic Gardens to share the Burden Woods and Barton Arboretum with the public. Educational events remain an excellent way for us to reach our community with fun and knowledge. In future years we hope to expand the activities offered, increase attendance and continue to reforest the Burden Woods. ■



## Saint Anne Icon Workshop Feeding the Soul and the Body

From the first Byzantine Icon Workshop of St. Francis to the February edition of St. Anne, the mother of Mary, to the next one scheduled for July 28 of the prophet Elijah, there is amazing support for this unique art and educational opportunity.

“Why is it so difficult to paint hands and faces?” is a common question answered by the workshops’ experienced instructors. They demonstrate the techniques needed to add depth and highlights to transform a flat mask into a face or a bring a hand with underlying bone structure to life. The volunteer committee members impart their knowledge to the participants and give their time for a full week of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. volunteerism. The committee was chaired by Ginnie Bolin and included Connie Abboud, Ann Davenport, Brenda Davis, Michele Deshotels, Joyce Hensely, Kristen Thompson, Diana Wells and Kitty Hessburg Wiemer.

Also assisting the workshop committee is a group of past and present participants and other supporters who answer the question, “What’s for lunch?” They generously provide lunch and dessert for all the participants throughout the week. Committee member Diana Wells wants to thank Pat Brignac, Ann Davenport, Brenda Davis, Marina Gentilini, Debbie Hebert, Kitty Hessburg and Wanda Ellis for lunch, and she also thanks them for the extra 3 pounds that have followed. Diana also provided a lunch of red beans and rice, which was the Louisiana version of the loaves and fishes and fed not only the painters but also the staff at Burden.

Special thanks go to Elena Fennell and Clegg’s Nursery for the lovely container plantings that graced the buffet and dining tables. Additionally, an orchid was donated by Trader Joe’s. At the conclusion of the workshop, a drawing was held among the participants, and the winners got to take home a beautiful work of nature as well as their own work of art.

According to director Dr. Jeff Kuehny, “There is a special place for art and art appreciation at Burden that was exemplified by Steele, Pike and Ione and their collection of art as well as Steele’s own creations.” It is fitting that there continues to be opportunities for art and art appreciation for the community as well. Please email Diana Wells at [dianawells1548@gmail.com](mailto:dianawells1548@gmail.com) for information about future workshops, which are a significant fundraising endeavor conducted by Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. ■



*Ann Davenport, Pat Brignac and Ginnie Bolin*



*Lunchtime at icon workshop*



*Peggy Broussard’s work in progress*

# Thank You 2017 Contributors

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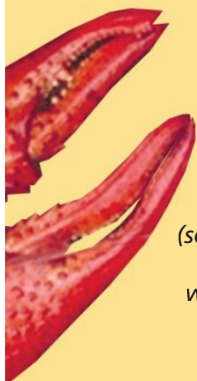


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**April 8 | 3-6 p.m.**  
**LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens**

Join us  
for a classic Louisiana  
afternoon of boiled  
crawfish, corn, potatoes  
and lots of fun!



**\$30 per person**  
Tickets available at  
**Eventbrite.com**  
*(search Crawfish in the Garden)*  
Additional beverages  
will be available for purchase.



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## Test for the Best: All-America Selections Under Trial

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens All-America Selections Trials Garden provides the public with an opportunity to view the newest All-America Selections winners in an attractive, well-maintained setting. Across the country, nearly 200 All-America Selections gardens provide educational programs about the All-America Selection trialing and awards process through open house or field day events during peak growing seasons.

This year the Botanic Gardens has the honor of hosting the 2018 Summer Summit! We anticipate this event will draw a larger crowd to our garden and trial grounds.

The All-America Selections national and regional winners have been tested for garden performance by a panel of expert judges, including two of our staff, Aubrey Cooper and Keith Lewis. Varieties that perform best over all of North America become AAS national winners. Entries that performed particularly well in certain regions are named AAS regional winners.

An AAS trial ground is one of the most important elements in the process of declaring AAS winners. Our trial ground is in the Food and Fiber Research Facility area of the Botanic Gardens where our professional horticulturists work in the field, and the AAS entries are planted next to control varieties. Once the AAS entries are transplanted into the trial ground, Aubrey and Keith observe and evaluate their performance. At the end of the trial season, the judges send their scores and evaluations to the AAS office for tabulation.

This year Aubrey will be trialing the ornamental side of the 2018 entries. Those entries include a yellow cactus-flowered calendula, a compact Deep Rose nasturtium, a top-flowering Bright Rose nasturtium, a dianthus hybrid, a petunia, a begonia red, an ornamental pepper, a larkspur, an ornamental bean, a marigold double and a zinnia double. These selections will be trialed against similar varieties and scored on a scale from 1 to 5. These seeds were sown in several groupings at different times and in different ways according to the instructions sent with the seeds. Seeds were sent in mid-December, and the first round of sowing in the greenhouse was done on Jan. 10. The second round was done on Feb. 12. The last round of sowing will be done directly in the field at the same time transplants are planted. ■

#GIG2018

# Gourmet IN THE Garden

COCKTAILS & CUISINE

April 19 2018

6-9 P.M.

LSU AgCenter  
Botanic Gardens

*Stroll through the gardens and  
savor the best flavors of Baton Rouge.*

Featuring /

Delicious creations from award-winning local chefs and mixologists.

Tastings at the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, the Rose Garden and the Pavillion.

People's Choice awards for best chef and mixologist creations.

Student chef cook-off

Live Music

Advance Tickets /

\$60-\$70

(Advance tickets available at [www.bontempstix.com](http://www.bontempstix.com))

Includes dinner, local beverages and live music

Benefiting /

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and educational programs at the LCI Foundation.



Burden Museum & Gardens - 4560 Essen Lane (at I-10) Baton Rouge  
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*PHYSICAL LOCATION: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, La. 70809 | (225) 763-3990 | DiscoverBurden.com*

## Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

### April 2018

April 2	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "Design Goes Natural: Elements from the Garden," Mary Johnson.
April 3	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association	Monthly meeting and service award recognition.
April 7	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Healthy Families Day	Fun activities focused on nature's pollinators for children 3-8 and their families.
April 8	3-6 p.m.	Crawfish in the Garden	Classic Louisiana afternoon with boiled crawfish, corn, potatoes and a cold drink! A lively FUNraiser! \$30.
April 14	3:30-6 p.m.	Zapp's International Beerfest	The LSU Rural Life Museum's annual event with tastings of 200 beers, ales and homebrews for those 21 years of age and older. \$35 general admission.
April 18	7:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
April 19	6-9 p.m.	Gourmet in the Garden	Elegant outdoor fine dining, sampling signature dishes created by local award winning chefs with wine, music and dancing under the stars. \$70, \$60 in advance.
April 26	6:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America	Monthly meeting.
April 27	6:30-10 p.m.	An Evening at Windrush	The Rural Life Museum's elegant Southern supper. \$150 reservations required.
April 28	9-11 a.m.	Children's Gardening Series	"Creepy, Crawly, Good and Bad — Having Fun with Insects."

### May 2018

May 1	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association	Monthly meeting.
May 5	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3 - 8. Junior League of Baton Rouge.
May 7	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "83 Years of Gardening: The Glory and the Grime," Dr. Neil Odenwald.
May 16	11:30 am	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	Lunch honoring all volunteers on the grounds of Windrush Gardens with tours of Windrush included.
May 16	7:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
May 19	9-11 a.m.	Children's Gardening Series	"The World of Butterflies."
May 24	6:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America	Annual meeting: Herb of the Year, elections of officers.

### June 2018

June 4	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "A Summer Sampler: Tomatoes and Peppers," Lee Rouse.
June 4-8	8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Rural Life Museum's Junior Apprentice Program	Introduction to 19th century crafts for children grades 4-8. Early registration encouraged.
June 5	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association	Monthly meeting.
	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3 - 8. Junior League of Baton Rouge.
June 16	8:00 a.m.-1 p.m.	Garden Fest	Locally grown and produced foods and beverages, new Louisiana food products, taste testing in Trials Garden, children's activities. \$5 admission. Children under 4 free.
June 20	7:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
June 28	6:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America	Monthly meeting: Recipes from "The Fonville Winans Cookbook," Melinda Winans and Cynthia Nobles.

### July 2018

July 2	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "Mules and Tobacco: Hybrid Vigor and Genetic Strategies," Cindy Moran.
July 14 & 15	9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Orchid Society Show	Annual show and sale. Orchid exhibition, growing advice and vendors. Free admission.
July 18	7:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
July 26	6:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America	Monthly meeting: "Water Features in the Garden," Charbel and Ruth Harb.
July 30-August 3	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Byzantine Icon Workshop	Create an Elijah icon using paints and gold leaf. \$350. Preregistration required.