



LEGEND

- ① Entrance
- ② Botanic Garden Core
- ③ Welcome Center
- ④ Parking
- ⑤ Family Garden
- ⑥ Ward Creek Amphitheater
- ⑦ Windrush Gardens
- ⑧ Rural Life Museum
- ⑨ Ethnobotanical Garden
- ⑩ African American Yard Garden
- ⑪ Urban Farm
- ⑫ Coastal Prairie Restoration
- ⑬ Overflow Parking
- ⑭ Ward Creek Nature Trail
- ⑮ Embankment at the Borrow Pit
- ⑯ Barton Arboretum
- ⑰ Arboretum Expansion
- ⑱ Tree House
- ⑲ Hardwood Trees & Trails
- ⑳ Food & Fiber Agricultural Fields
- ㉑ Burden Forest
- ㉒ Maintenance Building

MASTER PLAN RENDERING

WE Made It!

by Dr. Jeff Kuehny

Despite the ultra-highs and serious lows of 2021, the Botanic Gardens tipped the balance, and we had a very successful year thanks to your support. The Botanic Gardens has forged ahead on many new, highly important projects and successfully completed others. Some you may be very familiar with, and some you may not be, so let's do a quick review.

Master Plan 2020

An updated Master Plan for Burden Museum & Gardens has just been completed. The effort was led by Suzanne Turner and Associates in cooperation with CARBO Landscape Architecture. This effort has been two years in the making and provides the Rural Life Museum and the Botanic Gardens with a unifying vision and mission that will continue to transform this wonderful gift the Burden family

left for LSU and the community. The Rural Life Museum and the Botanic Gardens will continue our separate missions with a plan that provides a path for us to unify operations, programming, physical connectivity, and the implementation of new and exciting destinations. We will be providing more information on the 2020 Master Plan next year. Until then I would like to thank Suzanne Turner, Herpreet Singh, Zachary Broussard and the committee for the incredible work they did in providing Burden Museum & Gardens a new road map for the future.

Windrush Holiday Light Display

The master plan for a holiday light display to be implemented in Windrush Gardens in 2023 is almost complete! We have been working with a nationally recognized design firm, 3. Fromme Design, which is led by Tres Fromme, a native of Thibodaux. We are excited about providing a truly unique and magical experience like no other in the region.

continued on page 3



Reflections From the Chair

Leigh Harris

Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Dear Friends,

The number of garden enthusiasts and others who spend time in the Botanic Gardens, and the extent to which they contribute to its beauty, is impressive. These volunteers make a real difference in the activities that go on throughout the year.

Blessed as we are here in south Louisiana to enjoy year-round outdoor opportunities, the Gardens always offer some of the best kind of therapy, in my opinion. And what better therapy than contributing time and talents by helping to improve and maintain these wonderful spaces while being in them?

Volunteers help support Burden staff in many ways -- conducting programs and projects, helping to maintain areas like the rose garden and the trails, planning and scheduling future activities. Autumn this year was no exception. Corn Maze at Burden was an early sell out in October. The new Wine & Roses Rambler brunch in November with its delightful food, music and setting was the result of intensive planning and execution by volunteer extraordinaire Janie Braud and her committee.

As a new year begins, Arbor Day on January 22 is always a fun family event. The first Mondays Reflections in the Garden volunteer-led series promises entertaining, informative lectures, kicking off with speakers from the Governor's Mansion Foundation and its garden, then later in the year topics such as urban farming, Angola's vegetable gardens, and kitchen gardening in basket and pots.

Thank you, volunteers, for helping make the visitor experience at Burden always an enjoyable one. To quote a long-time volunteer, "Your service above and beyond, on tasks large and small, keeps the Gardens greauxing!"

Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

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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.

LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



*Above: Burden Welcome Center.
Left: The Windrush Holiday Light Display planning committee walks through Windrush Gardens.*

Resurfacing of the Trail System

Thanks to the support of the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program and our arborists, Chase Breitenbach, D'Michael Lucas and Collin McGehee,

the trails have been resurfaced and extended for a safer and more enjoyable experience for all who walk them.

Birding at Burden

We held a grand opening for the birding loops at the first of the year. This project was led by Luke Laborde, LSU AgCenter interim vice president of agriculture; Ashley Long, assistant professor in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources; Sarah Rayner, Botanic Gardens youth education coordinator; and student intern Csanyi Matusiczky. There are six loops that include six different

habitats. You can tour each habitat as a self-guided walk, or you can take a guided walk with local experts by registering on Eventbrite. There are two birding kiosks, one at the Trees and Trails trail head and another at the entrance to the Rural Life Museum. Happy birding!

Private Events and Photography

Because we are a Botanic Gardens with many open spaces for the public to visit and gather in, we have had a very successful year with private events and a huge increase in professional photography. Social gatherings continue to increase as restrictions are lifted and our community can gather to celebrate life. The beauty of our designed gardens and the natural landscapes throughout the property provide numerous opportunities for photographers to photograph in unique settings. Thanks to Katie Guitreau, events and marketing coordinator; Haleigh Judge, communications coordinator; and our great group of student workers. They all help provide a wonderful experience to our community. Please call them to book your special occasion for 2022!



Left: A snowy egret basks in the sun at Burden Museum & Gardens. Below: Visitors stroll through Trees & Trails on the newly resurfaced path.



WE Made It! *continued from page 1*

Burden Museum & Gardens Welcome Center

We provided you with a sneak peak of the plans for the new Welcome Center in the last edition of the newsletter. The architecture firm of Eskew Dumez Ripple will be completing the design development documents by Jan. 1, and we will move toward construction documents in 2022. The building of the Welcome Center will truly be a transformative new front door to Burden Museum & Gardens and will provide the facility we need to implement the 2020 Master Plan.

Restroom Facility

I never thought that in my career a new restroom facility would be an important milestone in my life and the gardens. This project was a long time coming, but we finally celebrated the opening of an important facility that will help provide a better experience to all who visit the gardens.



Top: A young boy selects a pumpkin at Corn Maze. Above left: A participant paints icon details at the Byzantine Icon Workshop. Above right: A family spends a day at Corn Maze at Burden.

Public Events

Although we had to forgo some of our public events and programming this year, both Arbor Day and Corn Maze saw record attendance. There is nothing more satisfying to our staff and volunteers than to see the joy and excitement of children and families participating in these two immersive agriculture-related events. The annual Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden fundraiser Wine and Roses took on a new twist this year with a progressive brunch or “ramble” through the gardens. Thanks to Janie Braud and her committee,

the food and décor were perfect, and the weather was pleasant. Jeanie, Jan, Connie and Brenda, the floral design team, have already started working on creative designs to make next year an even more special event. Another longtime program by the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is the Byzantine Icon Workshop. Diana Wells and her team of iconographers took extra precautions to continue this series of workshops that provides the attendees with an artistic and spiritual retreat at the Botanic Gardens. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and staff who supported these events and made them amazing.



La Peppermint camellia.

Supporting Organizations

The Baton Rouge Camellia Society continued to propagate camellias and had their annual Camellia Show and Sale at the Rural Life Museum. The society also has been busy planting new camellias in Windrush Gardens



Every wedding is special at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens.



Young children enjoying educational programming from the Capital Area Beekeepers Association.

and helping clean up the camellia plantings after the 2021 ice storm and Hurricane Ida. The Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit held another successful Herb Day at Burden. Savory herbs, music and amended educational programs once again filled the day. The East Baton Rouge

Parish Master Gardener Association had its annual plants sale and, while much smaller, the community was still able to purchase unique plants to fill their gardens. They have already started propagating for 2022, and the plant selection looks to be amazing! The Master Gardeners added to their membership this fall with a graduating class of 25 new plant experts that will be assisting with the extension efforts of East Baton Rouge Parish. The Baton Rouge Orchid Society has continued to fill its greenhouse with orchids in preparation for the opening of the orchid display house in December. This will be another wonderful plant-filled destination for the community to enjoy and learn about plants that can bring joy to their lives. The Junior League of Baton Rouge and Becky White, a specialist in child and family development, resumed StoryTime in the Garden this year. It has become one of our most popular educational programs for children and young families. If you missed the StoryTime series in 2021, you can come out with your kids and grandkids to read a book on the StoryWalk. All these organizations, along with the Capital Area Beekeepers Association, are resuming their educational programming and are now planning numerous programs for 2022. We would like to thank each of these organizations for all you do to support the Botanic Gardens and share the importance of plants and the environment to the community.

As we close out 2021 and look forward to 2022, I would like to personally thank each of you for helping make this year a great year for the Botanic Gardens despite the perils of COVID-19. I ask that you continue to help support the Botanic Gardens through both volunteering and giving to the programs and projects planned for 2022 and beyond.

Serene gardens and towering oaks provide a fitting place for

A Lasting Tribute

A donation to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is appropriate for any occasion. A tribute in the memory of a special person or group, an anniversary, wedding, graduation, birthday, holiday or other event may be celebrated with a gift in the name of the honoree. Honor a loved one with a name or distinctive message on a paver in the Memory Garden, a beautiful iron bench with a plaque, or even dedicate one of our beautiful live oak trees to a loved one.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden has recently updated a program designed to honor a special person or group. An anniversary, wedding, graduation, birthday, holiday or any other event may be celebrated with a gift in the name of the honoree. The program offers three options to create a lasting tribute: engraved pavers, iron benches and live oak dedications.

Two paver sizes are available to engrave as an addition to the Memory Garden. You may also choose a beautiful live oak on the property to dedicate. A bronze plaque will be placed at the base of the tree with your special message. The program most recently incorporated beautiful iron benches with a plaque for your special message into the Lasting Tribute options.



Arbor Day

JAN. 22
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Plant a tree.
- Take a photo with Smokey Bear.
- Enjoy a scavenger hunt.
- Learn about native trees.
- Native tree sale.

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2022 Reflections in the Garden

Noon-1 p.m. . Ione Burden Conference Center

Admission is \$10 (free for Friends members).

Seating may be limited, so visit the website to reserve a place for in-person presentations.

Jan. 3

Governor's Mansion Preservation Foundation

Speaker: Jennifer Gomez, executive director, Governor's Mansion

Feb. 7

Urban Farms

Speaker: Anna Timmerman, assistant extension agent for Jefferson Parish, LSU AgCenter

March 7

Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site: 60-Year Diary on the History of the Gardens

Speaker: Trish Aleshire, park manager

April 4

Southern Arrangements for the Eastertime Table

Speaker: Dr. James DelPrince, associate extension professor, Mississippi State University Extension

May 2

Botanic Garden Birds

Speaker: Dr. Ashley Long, assistant professor, Wildlife Ecology, LSU AgCenter

Tour of Burden Birding Loops following the presentation and birding experience on the loops

Jun. 6

Louisiana Landmark Society: The Pitot House, New Orleans

Speakers: Rene' Frazen, landscape architect, The Pitot House

Ginny Dyer, house and garden manager, The Pitot House

July 11

Vegetable Garden at Angola

Speaker: Col. Roland Sylvester, assistant warden, Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola

Aug. 1

Finding Serenity in Our Gardens

Speaker: Wanda Chase, landscape architect, Imahara's Landscape Co., Inc.

Sept. 12

The Crosby Arboretum and Pinecote Pavilion

Speaker: Patricia Drackett, director, The Crosby Arboretum/Mississippi State University Extension Service

Oct. 3

Baskets and Pots of Kitchen Gardens

Speaker: Kathryn Fontenot, associate professor and extension specialist, LSU AgCenter

Nov. 7

Forcing Bulbs for Holiday Décor and Lovely Gifts

Speaker: Heather Kirk-Ballard, state consumer horticulturist and Get It Growing Program coordinator, LSU AgCenter

Dec. 5

Windrush Gardens Holiday Lights: Experience the Enchantment of the Season

Speakers: William Stark, director, LSU Rural Life Museum

Dr. Jeff Kuehny, director, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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

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

December 2021			
Dec. 6	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: "Creating Herbal Holiday Gifts." Cynthia Nobles, LSU Press Cookbook editor, and Melinda Winans, teacher and founding member of Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit. Members free, nonmembers \$10.
Dec. 11	9 a. m.-Noon	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities at the Corn Maze. Ages 3 to 8. Free.
January 2021			
Jan. 3	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: "Governor's Mansion Preservation Foundation." Jennifer Gomez, executive director, Governor's Mansion. Members free, nonmembers \$10.
Jan. 22	9 a.m.-Noon	StoryTime in the Garden	Featured at Arbor Day: Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities. Ages 3 to 8. Free.
Jan. 22	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Arbor Day at Burden	Plant a tree, visit with Smokey Bear, climb a tree and buy native trees at the tree sale. Free.
February 2021			
Feb. 5	9 a.m.-Noon	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities. Ages 3 to 8. Free.
Feb. 7	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: Urban Farms, Anna Timmerman, assistant extension agent for Jefferson Parish, LSU AgCenter
Feb. 12-13	TBA	Camellia Show & 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.
Feb. 21-25	9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Byzantine Icon Workshop	The Byzantine Icon Workshop is a thoughtful and meditative five-day retreat of traditional painting techniques that dates back 2,000 years.
Feb. 27	8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Herb Day 2022	Herb Day 2022 will feature a large plant sale of herbs and All-America Selections vegetables provided by the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and the Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit.

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens