



Photo by Mary Ann Caffery: "Autumn On The Atchafalaya"

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FrogWatch USA and Botanic Gardens Frogs and Toads

By Gordon Holcomb, LSU AgCenter Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology

The decline of frog and toad populations and amphibians in general, worldwide and across the U.S., has been attributed to loss of habitat, pollution by agricultural pesticides and fertilizers, parasites and diseases, increased ultraviolet radiation and climate change. The lack of or abundance of frogs and toads can be used as a gauge of the general health of an aquatic ecosystem.

FrogWatch USA, sponsored by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, was organized to train volunteers (citizen scientists) to monitor frog and toad populations throughout the U.S. by identifying species by their mating calls and by making population estimates based on call intensity. There are 145 FrogWatch chapters in 42 states. Louisiana has chapters located at Audubon Zoo in New Orleans and at the Baton Rouge Zoo.

In January 2017, Baton Rouge Zoo personnel presented the first sessions to train individuals to become certified FrogWatch volunteers. Certified volunteers must pass a written test and an identification test of recorded species calls. Volunteers select and register wetland site(s) to monitor during the breeding season of February through August. Information is submitted online to Fieldscope, which is a platform developed by the National

Geographic Society for various citizen science projects like FrogWatch USA. Volunteers must follow specific protocols when making observations that include time, temperature, wind speed (Beaufort Scale) and precipitation. Observations can be made beginning one half hour after sunset until 1 a.m. Personal safety

precautions must be observed and followed. Frog and toad species are then identified by their calls, and species numbers are estimated based on call intensity. There are 18 frog and toad species known to occur in southeastern Louisiana as well as two uncommon invasive species.

Observations at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden began in January of this year and have been made at all five ponds and on eight different dates as of April 30. Four frog and one toad species have been identified: Northern Cricket Frog, Bullfrog, Green Frog, Squirrel Tree Frog and the Gulf Coast Toad. The Northern Cricket Frog was heard most often and at highest intensity at all ponds. It is interesting to note that call activity and intensity apparently are not disturbed by the loud noise from I-10 traffic nor the bright interstate light that illuminates the turf-area ponds at night. On the night of April 28, all five frog and toad species were heard calling from the gravel causeway in the smaller of the two largest ponds at the Botanic Gardens. This was music to the ears of a new FrogWatch volunteer.

Brush with Burden 2017

By Kathleen Meares

Almost eight years ago, a group of passionate and talented artist came up with an idea to showcase the Burden property off Essen Lane. A multimedia juried exhibition featuring works that captured the natural beauty of the Burden property was formed. This art exhibition featured works that included pencil drawings, oil, acrylic, watercolor paintings and photography, all done on the Burden property. This art exhibition became known as "A Brush With Burden."

The Burden Horticulture Society's "Brush with Burden 2017" juried art exhibition was held this year over the week of March 11-19. The theme for the entire show was "Southern

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Reflections from the Chair

By Missy Jones

As the saying goes, “spring has sprung” at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, and we are on our way to the long, hot days of summer. If you haven’t been here recently, the trees and flowers are in their full glory right now. I am honored and excited to be taking over the Chair from John Hough. John has done an amazing job leading our organization this year! His enthusiastic dedication to the Botanic Gardens at Burden has been untiring and relentless. A huge thank you to John! This year, John, along with Doreen Maxcy, spearheaded a committee to have our official organization name changed to Friends of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. It was approved by the board at the May board meeting, and implementation is in the works.



April 20 brought Gourmet in the Garden to the grounds. This year, Cocktails in The Garden was incorporated into this event organized by the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Culinary Institute. The weather cooperated for a beautiful evening with over 200 people attending. There were 24 chefs and bartenders. Students from the Culinary Institute helped present their delectable fares and tastings to our guests in an outdoor setting. Thank you to the local chefs and LCI for partnering with us to make this event such a success.

The spring Trees and Trails/Project Learning Tree docent-led program began in February and concluded in May. This hands-on, science-based, educational program for kindergarten through seventh-grade provided field trips to the Children’s Garden, Trees and Trails and the wetlands over the Mosaic Boardwalk at Black Swamp for 850 students from 14 schools. Our volunteer docents, under the direction of Ellen LeBlanc, did a wonderful job leading and interacting with the students, teaching them valuable lessons on plants and animals. A docent training will be held in September before the fall program begins in late September. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining our fun group, please contact Katie Guitreau at 225-763-3890 or kguitreau@agcenter.lsu.edu.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held May 12. Unfortunately, the weather prevented us from having it at Windrush Gardens on National Gardens Day. However, a fun time was had by all, and tours of Windrush Gardens were provided following the luncheon. Dr. Jeff Kuehny and Dr. John Russin spoke, commending the huge contribution our volunteers make by giving their time, talent and care to our gardens. A big thank you to all who continue to support the AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

The next Byzantine Icon Workshop led by Ginnie Bolin and Connie Abboud will take place at the end of June. The subject will be “Mother of Tenderness” and is completely filled. The next icon workshop will take place in Januar, 2018.

Also, on June 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens presented Garden Fest. It featured omelets by the Louisiana Egg Commission, and sample bloody marys by Mason’s Grill, as well as educational programs, hayrides and water slides for the children. Tours of our vegetable plots (AAS Vegetable Display Garden and LSU AgCenter research plots), a tomato contest and local treats from the LSU AgCenter Food Incubator were enjoyed by all.

We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events. Thank you for your continued support!

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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.

Newsletter Submissions:
BotanicGardens@agcenter.lsu.edu

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Membership Benefits from the American Horticulture Society













































































As summer gets into full swing, many people seek cooler climates to enjoy the outdoors away from the oppressive heat found here at home. While planning a travel adventure, remember to check into the American Horticulture Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program. The new link to the program is www.ahsgardening.org where the Garden Directory can be found. There are over 300 gardens, arboreta and conservatories throughout the United States that participate in the program along with the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

A variety of discounts are offered by these gardens to members of their counterparts, ranging from free parking to discounts at gift shops to reduced admission charges. By identifying yourself as a member of Burden Horticulture Society and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, you are eligible for these benefits. So be sure to pack your membership card when you pack your bags and set out to enjoy nature's beauty.

Membership

Support Baton Rouge's oasis of peaceful gardens, hiking trails and horticulture-based programs that amaze and educate visitors of all ages. As a member, you will receive exclusive members-only discounts and much more.

Review the chart below to determine which membership level is right for you and join or renew today!

Membership levels and benefits Dues	Student* \$20	Associate** \$30	Individual \$40	Family/ Dual \$70	Patron \$300	Benefactor \$500	Philanthropist \$1,000	Sustainer \$2,500 & +
Number of cards issued	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Admission to Reflections in the Garden		1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Newsletter								
Reciprocal access to 300+ gardens								
National Public Gardens Day program								
Tax deduction								
Admission to PMAC Tailgating								
Discounted Wine & Roses								
Discounted admissions								
Corn Maze discount of \$1/person								
3 Super Plants annually								
Early sale opportunities								
Recognition in newsletter & website								
Free poinsettia								
2 Gourmet in the Garden tickets								
2 Wine & Roses tickets								
Windrush Garden Luncheon with Director								

* Full-Time students qualify for this category.

** Current members of groups that are affiliated with Botanic Gardens at Burden qualify for this category. www.lsu.edu/botanic-gardens/support/index.php#groups.

Volunteer Luncheon

As volunteers, organizers and guests are well aware, outdoor events at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden include a weather-related Plan B when possible. So the conference center became packed with almost 90 volunteers when the threat of thunderstorms caused the relocation of the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon from the lawn at Windrush Gardens to the indoors. A catered lunch from Don Bergeron's MidCity Market of chicken pesto pasta, grilled vegetables, sensation salad and rolls was served to volunteers by volunteer board members and staff. Bundtinis supplied by the Gardens topped off the meal.

Each table was adorned with a unique and fragrant bouquet created by Wanda Ellis and Katie Guitreau, and they were later given away as door prizes along with 10 plants grown by the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Lucien Laborde and Dr. Jeff Kuehny, each attendee was also given a copy of *Nature of the Forest*. After lunch, incoming chair Missy Jones introduced Dr. John Russin, who expressed his appreciation for the invaluable support of volunteers. Following the luncheon as the sun returned, volunteers were treated to a guided tour of Windrush Gardens in conjunction with National Public Gardens Day.

This event is held every year and hosted by the Burden Horticulture Society and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden to honor all the volunteers from all the organizations that call the gardens their home. It's a family affair, bringing the friends of the garden together in appreciation of the dedication of time and talent from so many. The place wouldn't be the same without you.

Thank you!



Volunteers gather at the Ione Burden Conference Center



Volunteer board members John McCarthy, Kerry Hawkins and Missy Jones



Thanks to the Master Gardeners for door prizes.



Dr. John Russon and Missy Jones

Brush With Burden

(continued from page 1)

Sights,” which showcases all of the beautiful, natural sights of the Southern states. While the vast majority of the entries are from Louisiana, entries were received from 12 different states. The show has consistently been judged by nationally recognized judges. This year’s jurors and judge for the artwork portion were Elayne Kuehler, who is an internationally accredited artist, and Marc Chatov, an internationally known portraiture artist. Jurors and judges for the photography were C.C. Lockwood, David Humphreys and Linda Medine, all nationally, regionally and locally known photographers.

The selected artwork was shown at the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie. The first place winner was Douglas Stafford, with his painting “Locust.” Second place went to Nanci Charpentier for her painting “Be Nice or Leave.” The third place winner was Kat Warwick for her bronze sculpture “Friday Night.” Honorable Mention went to Cheri Fry for her painting “Geranium Spiral.” Merit Awards went to Douglas Stafford, Mary Lee Eggart and Cheri Fry.

The selected photographs were shown at the Ione Burden Conference Center. The winners were selected by the three judges. First place went to Mary Ann Caffery for “Autumn on the Atchafalaya.” Second place was Donna Futrell for “Daybreak.” The third place winner was Cathy Smart for her photograph of “Flying Egret.” Honorable Mention was awarded to Kathy Reeves for her “Reddish Egret.” Merit Award winners were Robin Stevens, Cathy Smart and Donna Futrell.

All the winning paintings, sculptures and photographs were displayed at the Shaw Center downtown until the end of April. A great big “thank you” goes out to all of the Brush With Burden committee, who worked tirelessly the entire year to make this year’s exhibition a huge success. These ladies and gentlemen worked countless hours to be sure that we had a fantastic “Brush With Burden 2017.”



From left to right, Nanci Charpentier ,Cheri Fry, Cathy Smart , Robin Stevens, Mary Ann Caffery, Kathleen Mears (Chair) and Douglas Stafford.

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Consider the Source

In the current environment of news that might be real, might be fake, might be opinion, entertainment, or paid advertising, it is of great value to have a source that can be trusted — the LSU AgCenter and the educational programming offered at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. As a university-based organization, it makes information available that reflects the highest standards of academic research. Results have been put out for trial, tested and then reported with scientific accuracy and impartiality.

Super Plants is a prime example of the value of academic evaluation. As the audience at the Reflections in the Gardens series knows, what Allen Owings says, goes. The plants he recommends when the newest release of Super Plants is announced are proven. The plants have undergone multiple years of study to make their way on to the list, letting gardeners, growers and landscape professionals of all sorts know what works reliably.

From tomatoes in the Czech Republic to peppers at Avery Island, Dr. Kiki Fontenot knows a thing or two. In this global age where information is available on the internet from all around the world, many inquirers simply google for an answer to their question. However, what grows well in Montenegro, Monrovia, Moscow or even Monroe doesn't compute with the climate zones of south Louisiana. Take advantage of the remarkable depth and breadth of information available right here at the Botanic Gardens, where local and international experts from LSU are in the house on the first Monday of each month.

The lineup of speakers brought to members free of charge and to the public for just \$10 have credentials that are of note and on the record. Among the presenters is a young post doctorate researcher from the Department of Entomology providing the latest information on pollinator gardening and bees as well as a professor emeritus with the vast reservoir of experience in fruit trees for the home landscape with a Ph.D. from the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences. Listeners will hear from the best and leave well informed as well as entertained.

So whether it's one of the finest from the university or a locally famous chef, a landscape architect or a Louisiana Master Gardener, the speakers for Reflections in the Garden have been carefully selected to ensure the quality of educational programming fitting with the mission of the Burden Horticulture Society and the Botanic Gardens at Burden. Come early to get the best seat. Bring a friend and introduce them to this entertaining and well-respected opportunity for learning. And relax — the facts have all been checked.

Reflections in the Garden

First Monday of Each Month
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
at Burden



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Current Research at the Botanic Gardens at Burden

*The Work of Kathryn Fontenot, Ph.D.,
LSU AgCenter School of Plant,
Environmental and Soil Sciences*

Kiki Fontenot is testing various pepper, tomato and cucumber cultivars from Moravo Seed, a vegetable breeding company in the Czech Republic. Seeds obtained from the company are the first to be trialed in the Southeastern portion of the U.S. The goal is to find new cultivars of great-tasting and -yielding vegetables.

Cultivar plays a huge role in the success of the crop. Of course, fertilizer, irrigation, soil balance and proper pesticide use affect growth, but a cultivar can make or break differences in yields. The information Fontenot is gathering will be provided to commercial producers throughout the state as well as avid home gardeners. Data from vegetable trials conducted at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens not only reaches local Louisiana producers but is also published in the Southeastern United States Vegetable Crop Handbook, a resource for producers in Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama, South and North Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Data collection has just begun. We are particularly looking at total yields, marketable yields, average weight and average fruit size, foliage characteristics, disease and insect incidence, and interior and exterior color. Results will be presented at Garden Fest held on Saturday, June 17. Join us from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. to tour the field and to taste these European cultivars.

Introducing Tyler Carr

*Landscape Manager
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden*

My name is Tyler Carr and I am currently the Landscape manager here at the Burden Botanic Gardens. I hold a bachelor's degree in Environmental Horticulture from LSU and plan on going back to complete my masters in the same field. I have worked for many horticultural businesses around town, including Billy Heroman's and Louisiana Nursery. I also co-owned a tropical and exotic plant nursery with a friend from LSU. Working at Burden has been nothing but a blessing, allowing me to work alongside wonderful people and wonderful plants! I mainly focus on oddball plants, variegated varieties and tropical. I plan on bringing new and unique varieties of plants I've found along my horticultural journey and sharing them with the facility so that the public can enjoy them as well!



Spiced Curry

By Tyler Carr

When deciding what will make its home in your garden during the spring and summer months, it's best to choose something that will make the most visual impact with the least amount of stress (and sweat.). For us at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, coleus seems to be our go-to when looking to meet those requirements. And this year we decided to try a variety called Spiced Curry. This new variety from the Flamethrower series of coleus sports beautiful golden-mustard leaves edged in a rich burgundy. This particular series of coleus doesn't grow to a monstrous size like other varieties, but instead maintains a neat and compact clump, perfect for beds and even containers. This variety also has the versatility to handle both sun and shade, making it a perfect candidate for any garden. However, to bring out its full, colorful potential, more sun than less sun is recommended.

With the bold colors of Spiced Curry coleus, any combination planter is sure to stand out. The amazing thing about this plant is that it can both complement other plants or be center stage and steal the show. Here at the Botanic Gardens, we chose to combine it with Black Beautiful cotton (a jet-black-leaved ornamental cotton) and Solarpower Lime ornamental sweet potato (a new, compact, electric-green variety). I know sometimes we find a plant that's perfect in every way except its color, but we have that solved with this little one. The Flamethrower series has four other varieties with the same high-impact color style and great compact form, which includes Salsa Verde (lime green), Habanero (fiery red), Chili Pepper (lime with pink center of leaf) and Chipotle (burgundy with lime tips). No matter which variety in the FlameThrower series you choose, you will be pleased with its amazing color and its ability to seamlessly thrive in the summer heat.





LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

July 2017			
July 8 & 9	9 am - 5 pm; 10 am - 4 pm"	Orchid Society Show	Annual show and sale; orchid exhibition, growing advise, and vendors; free admission.
July 10	Noon - 1 pm	Burden Horticulture Society	Reflections in the Garden, Cooking Up Louisiana Treasures: Delicious Ways to Prepare Local Summer Produce, Chef Celeste Gill.
July 10 - 14	9 am - 1 pm	Children's Gardening Series	Day Camp
July 19	7:00 pm	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting.
July 27	6:30 pm	Herb Society Baton Rouge	Craft workshop.
August 2017			
Aug. 1	6 pm	Master Gardeners EBR	Monthly meeting.
Aug. 7	Noon - 1 pm	Burden Horticulture Society	Reflections in the Garden, Southern Living Plants, Buddy Lee of Southern Living Magazine.
Aug. 16	7:00 pm	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting.
Aug. 24	6:30 pm	Herb Society Baton Rouge	Craft workshop.
Sept. 2017			
Sept. 5	6 pm	Master Gardeners EBR	Monthly meeting.
Sept. 11	Noon - 1 pm	Burden Horticulture Society	Reflections in the Garden, Maples and Small Ornamental Trees, Dr. Allen Owings.
Sept. 17	4 - 6 pm	Capital Area Native Plant Society	Native Plant Propagation
Sept. 20	7:00 pm	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting.
Sept. 28	6:30 pm	Herb Society Baton Rouge	Making Herbal Salts, Linda Grider.
Sept. 30	9 - 11 am	Children's Gardening Series	Bees/Plants to Attract Pollinators in the Garden: discover sights and sounds of insects, make a bason bee house to take home, ages 6-12; \$15 fee, register via email - angwall@cox.net.
October 2017			
Oct. 2	Noon - 1 pm	Burden Horticulture Society	Reflections in the Garden, Fruit Trees for the Home Landscape, Dr. Charlie Johnson.
Oct. 3	6 pm	Master Gardeners EBR	Monthly meeting.
Oct. 7	10 am - 5 pm	Corn Maze Festival	Farm animals, pumpkin & face painting, corn box, zip line, hay maze, giant sling shots & hay mountain and ride.
Oct. 7 & 8	8 am - 5 pm	Harvest Days	Rural Life Museum living history demos, Admission charged
Oct. 11	6 - 9:30 pm	Wine and Roses	Burden Horticulture Society annual formal dinner with cocktails in the Burden Rose Garden. New this year will include a fashion show featuring floral designs.
Oct. 14 & 21	10 am - 5 pm	Corn Maze Saturdays	Hay maze, corn box, zip line, hayride, hay mountain, giant sling shots, popcorn and soft drinks.
Oct. 18	7:00 pm	Orchid Society of Baton Rouge	Monthly meeting.
Oct. 26	6:30 pm	Herb Society Baton Rouge	Encouraging Beneficial Insects, LSU Entomologist.
Oct. 28	10 am - 9 pm	Night Maze	Farm animals, hay maze, corn box, zip line, hay mountain and ride; evening bonfire with s'mores, night corn maze and music.
Oct. 29	3 pm - 6 pm	Haints, Haunts & Halloween	Rural Life Museum old fashioned country fair, \$5 admission