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Peggy Cox: Windrush Gardens Curator

By John Monroe



paths by weepy crepe myrtles with attention undistracted from views of garden layouts, destinations and the abundant variety of plants. Visitors, as they pass under the old oaks for the first time, might be stirred to wonder who has made this gift of experience that is so intensely pleasurable. For the past ten years that person has been Peggy Cox, Windrush Gardens Curator.

Peggy's background made her uniquely qualified for her position as Curator of Windrush Gardens. She graduated from Southeastern University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Education. After teaching science for two years at the junior high and high school levels, she entered graduate school at LSU in the Plant Pathology/Physiology Department. While taking graduate courses, she worked as a graduate assistant under Dr. Bill Blackmon learning tissue culture techniques. She studied the native groundnut, *Apios americana*, collecting germplasm from across the state while increasing her appreciation for native plants. Her extensive knowledge

of locally successful ornamental plant species and their varieties came from her work experience with landscape architect Phil Moser and at Naylor's Hardware (Millerville Road) as Nursery Manager.

In November of 1989, Peggy was hired as a horticultural

research associate at the Burden Center, by Resident Director Dr. Warren Meadows, to work with herbaceous plants, especially herbs and perennials. An expansive herb garden with perennial borders north of the Ione E. Burden Conference Center had just been established and she became responsible for this area as well as evaluating flower varieties for nursery production. She continued to take graduate courses in the Department of Horticulture and studied under Dr. Charles Johnson researching basil and essential oils.

In 2002 the fact that Windrush Gardens desperately needed rehabilitation became apparent and a new full time gardens caretaker position was created to meet this need. Peggy was offered the job and accepted the new position as Windrush Gardens Curator. The enormity of this task might have seemed daunting, but she welcomed the challenge, continuing on from day to day, with no end in sight, always in high spirits, sustained by her love of plants and love of the work she was doing.

In September of 2008 Peggy Cox and Windrush faced the most severe challenge ever. Hurricane Gustav struck the coast of Louisiana and continued inland to cross the Baton Rouge area with the most destructive winds anyone could remember. Ninety year old crepe myrtles were uprooted. Pines were snapped in two and covered garden areas. The largest tree in Windrush Gardens, a one hundred year old red oak uprooted and fell, destroying statuary, garden paths and beds and changing what had been a shady garden into full sun. Much of the rehabilitation work Peggy had done was ruined. "Even today," she says, "it brings tears to my eyes when I think about it." It must have felt like starting all over. No, it was worse than starting all over. It was, however, an opportunity for Peggy's character to show up. For her, it was back to work with that ever present smile on her face. And look where the gardens are today. One would have to have been here after Gustav to believe what a shambles the gardens were in.



John Monroe, Peggy Cox, Cary Saurage

..... Continued on Page 9.....

Reflections from the Chair

By Judy Foil, Chairman

There's something for everybody—the garden teaches patience—it's never too late to start. All these maxims are part of the life of the gardener. At BHS, we learn these life's lessons in many different ways. The Master Plan for Burden Center aims for a variety of experiences with Children's Discovery and Vegetable Gardens, a pavilion for the Project Learning Tree program, and an outreach facility and visitors' center. Eventually we will have training space and new and better greenhouses for the Master Gardener program, a new urban forest, herb gardens, a healing garden, and restored wetlands.



But the garden teaches patience, and this vision will not become a reality quickly. Many of the trees children planted at Arbor Day in January will take twenty years or more to provide significant shade. As we wait for those trees to grow, raising sufficient funds to bring these projects to fruition will not happen in a year either, nor even in a few years. We wish we'd begun years ago.

But it's never too late to start. BHS is rising to the challenge. Recently Aline Creed began a part time position as BHS administrative assistant. A long time Master Gardener and BHS volunteer, many of you know Aline and rejoice with us that she will be helping us at all our events, working to make sure we remind you in a timely way to renew your membership, and keeping notes at all of our meetings. Board member Susan Severance has begun a far reaching program to insure that the media and the public at large know what we are doing. Board member Simone Kramer has been working to be sure that our volunteer data base is up to date and that we contact you.

All of this effort to communicate has been put into place to help you visualize with us what this Destination for Generations can be. Take our challenge. With your help, it could be simply wonderful.



Ginnie Bolin, 2012 Honoree for the Annual Burden Horticulture Society Wine and Roses Dinner on October 24, 2012



Ginnie Bolin has been chosen as the 2012 Honoree for the annual Burden Horticulture Society Wine and Roses dinner to be held in October. She was part of a group of Master Gardeners who created the support group for the LSU AgCenter known as BHS and served as its Chair for its first three years of existence. During this time, she met with everyone from Ag personnel to the Mayor, hosted numerous planning meetings, considered finances, chose Board members and wrote by laws. Her involvement continues today



as she works toward creating a better art competition each year in Brush with Burden, volunteers to chair the luncheon honoring volunteers, and says, "Oh, I can do that," to any request. The BHS organization is filled with Bolin fans and friends. Ginnie touched every part of the formation of BHS, and it is this firm foundation that has enabled BHS to grow into the successful organization it has become. Her can-do spirit and her vision inspire us all. BHS is proud to honor her at the 2012 Wine and Roses.



Wine & Roses
at Burden Center

2012 Honoree Ginnie Bolin

Join us for an evening of Wine & Roses
Wednesday, October 24
Burden Center
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge

Cocktails 6 p.m.

Dinner 7 p.m.

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



Spring Sing in Windrush Gardens

By Sharon Stone, Chair

The LSU AgCenter's Burden Center and the Burden Horticulture Society's 1st Annual Spring Sing in Windrush Gardens occurred on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Organizers of the event, and the performers had no idea just how magical an evening it would turn out to be. The days leading up to the April 21st Spring Sing had been sunny, dry and cool, and then without warning a huge rain pushed through Baton Rouge that Saturday. Magically, the front cleared at 4:00 pm, leaving in its wake, chilly breezes and sparkling rain drops on the tree leaves and the rose and camellia gardens leading to Windrush Gardens. The chair of Spring Sing, her volunteers, and staff began the task of quickly assembling the chairs, tents, beverage tables, lighting and sound for the 6:30 pm performance. Candles were lit and wine bottles chilled and uncorked.

Soon the 34 LSU School of Music students and their talented Professional-in-Residence Terry Patrick-Harris began to arrive at the Burden House, changed into their costumes and rehearsed each of the 15 Broadway songs in their repertoire. Who would believe that this diverse group of students seeking degrees in such areas as Biology, English, Math, International Trade and Finance and General Business to name a few, could transform the front porch of the Burden House into the equivalent of a Broadway stage?

The audience purchased tickets and followed a path of rose petals past the Hostler House, through flowering gardens and

around the Burden House, to the lawn that became an outdoor theater. There they opened their lawn chairs, spread out their blankets and picnic dinners or took one of the chairs that had been set up for the event. Children played in the garden while volunteers sold glasses of wine, soft drinks and water to the audience snacking and waiting in anticipation for the start of the performance.

Scott Rogers, the Master of Ceremonies, came to the microphone and welcomed the audience. Just as the sun began to set, the magic began and four students took the stage to perform "All That Jazz" from Chicago. For the next hour, the audience was treated to fourteen additional Broadway songs – each performed in costume, that included such numbers as "People Will Say We're in Love" from Oklahoma, "Don't Rain On My Parade" from Funny Girl, "America" from West Side Story, to "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair" from South Pacific and "Circle of Life" from the Lion King. There was standing room only for the 150 to 200 people in the audience – a surprising and delightful turnout for the 1st event and given the weather.

Planning has already begun for the 2nd Annual Spring Sing to be held next April 2013 in Windrush Gardens. Be on the lookout for next year's date to make sure you do not miss an enchanting family evening.



Top: Scott Rogers with Around Town Studios.
Bottom: The crowd gathers and awaits for Spring Sing to start.



We are grateful for the support of Scott Rogers with Around Town Studios and the following sponsors whose generosity helped make Spring Sing possible: Baton Rouge Little Theater, Judge Frank and Judy Foil, and Philip Mann in honor of Ana Andricain.

Humphreys Workshop Focuses on Future

By Patricia Cooper

David Carlysle Humphreys recently conducted a lively photography workshop to benefit The Burden Horticulture Society. A local fine art and commercial photographer for over thirty years, Humphreys donated his time and shared generous helpings of his expertise with the nineteen participants.

On Thursday evening, he entertained the workshop gathering with humor designed to emphasize that photography should be fun. "Relax," he seemed to say, and experiment; make mistakes and learn from them." Then he discussed his process of creating large photo collages, using some of his original constructions mounted in the Ione Burden Conference Center, as well as an extensive slide show.

At 8 o'clock on Saturday morning, workshop participants gathered again at the Ione Burden Conference Center and were met by the BHS Chair, Judy Foil, and her helper-husband Judge Frank Foil, the day's chief organizers, helped by Pat Cooper and Dr. Billy Weldon. They dispensed coffee and directions in the morning and box lunches at the end of the workshop. With John Wozniak, Assistant Director of Communications for the LSUAg Center assisting, Humphreys sent participants forth into the garden to find sites that challenged them, whether for working on their photographer's eye, in pleasing composition, or their camera's technical features, such as "white balance."

After nearly two hours of shooting, workshop photographers were rounded up and directed to drive to Humphreys' studio. And there they really got an eye full! The large professional studio and workroom were filled with technical wonders, computers that seemed to perform magical tricks and outsized equipment for Humphreys' larger works, some reaching seven feet in size. With small groups gathered round him, David Humphreys explained how he went about his creative processes using many new tools of the photographer's profession, such as Photoshop and Lightroom.

Because workshops often have participants with a wide range of knowledge and experience, it can be difficult for the instructor to choose the level of sophistication at which he tries to teach. But good students ask questions, of each other as well as of the teacher. Often the more knowledgeable can translate complicated techniques to the less experienced. And that was what happened, in part, during the patio lunch that brought all involved in the workshop together. Those attending the Burden Horticulture Society's 2012 Photography Workshop took home new understanding, helpful ideas, but most of all, as one participant said, "Inspiration."



"Reflections in the Garden"

2012 Lunch Series

- July 2 Botanical Treasures to Tap Into
Jeff Kuehny
- August 6 The "Green" Garden: Recycling in the Garden
Dan Gill
- September 10 Greaxing Organic in the South
Carl Motsenbocker
- October 1 Adding Bling to your Garden with Bulbs
Al O'Brien
- November 5 "Pass-along" the Plants Please: Heirloom Plants'
Neil Odenwald
- December 3 Building a Garden Home for your Birds
Emily Winners
- * 2nd Monday due to holiday

Noon to 1:00 PM in the Ione
Burden Conference Center

Special guest speakers! Bring
a brown bag lunch!

Drinks will be provided!

Corn Maze at Burden Center



September 22-23
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Find your way out of the corn maze, paint a pumpkin,
enjoy a hayride, climb the straw mountain and more.

*Admission - \$3 for Corn Maze activities in addition
to Harvest Days admission*

Saturdays in October
4-7 p.m.

Walk through the corn maze. Saturday, September 29,
October 6, 13 and 20. *Admission-\$5*

Special Surprise Event. Saturday, October 27, 4-9 p.m.
Admission - extra \$5



LSU AgCenter's Burden Center . 4560 Essen Lane . 225-763-3990 . LSUAgCenter.com/BurdenCenter

Please check our website for new activities, updates and changes as so much depends on the
weather.

[www. BurdenHorticultureSociety.com](http://www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com)

Le Jardin des Enfants at Burden Center

By Jeff Kuehny

Gardening projects for children in a school setting provide an extraordinary learning opportunity, and their popularity continues to increase. *However, the development, implementation, maintenance and curriculum for school gardens can be overwhelming for schools and educators.* The LSU AgCenter recently launched the Louisiana School Garden Initiative to provide a centralized location for school garden information. (http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/school_gardens/) The plan for 'Le Jardin des Enfants' (Children's Garden) at Burden Center was developed to help build on that foundation by providing a training ground for educators and schools to meet this challenge.

Le Jardin des Enfants at Burden Center will provide Louisiana's educators a place to learn about gardening as well as educational and nutritional activities that tie a garden to the state curriculum. This model garden will also provide a location for youth related organizations and individual families to experience outdoor education focusing on vegetable, herb, and butterfly garden plantings. Activities will be tied to the Louisiana Grade Level Expectations (La GLE's).

The primary objectives of this garden are: to display different methods for building raised beds designated for vegetable, herb and butterfly gardens with a strong connection to learning outcomes; to conduct workshops for Louisiana teachers who would like to implement a school garden but need resources and knowledge; and to evaluate the effectiveness of school gardens and educational programs.

The garden also will provide educational experiences for other groups, such as homeschoolers, children in after school programs or child care centers and families. All necessary materials for the activities, along with instructions, will be included in individual backpacks and will be available for check out at the Ione Burden Conference Center.

We have received funding through a grant from the Pennington Family Foundation to begin to implement Le Jardin des Enfants and we have started to create the garden next to the All-America Selections Garden. We are currently seeking funds to fully support this program. We are also looking for volunteers who might be interested in working with Dr. Fontenot on this project. For more information on how you might join this exciting program please contact Gigi Gauthier, Director of Development, at 225-763-3990 (ggauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Dr. Kiki Fontenot at 225-578-2222 (KKFontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu).

Burden Horticulture Society Board

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- Annette Barton
..... *Ex-Officio Director*
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- Aline Creed
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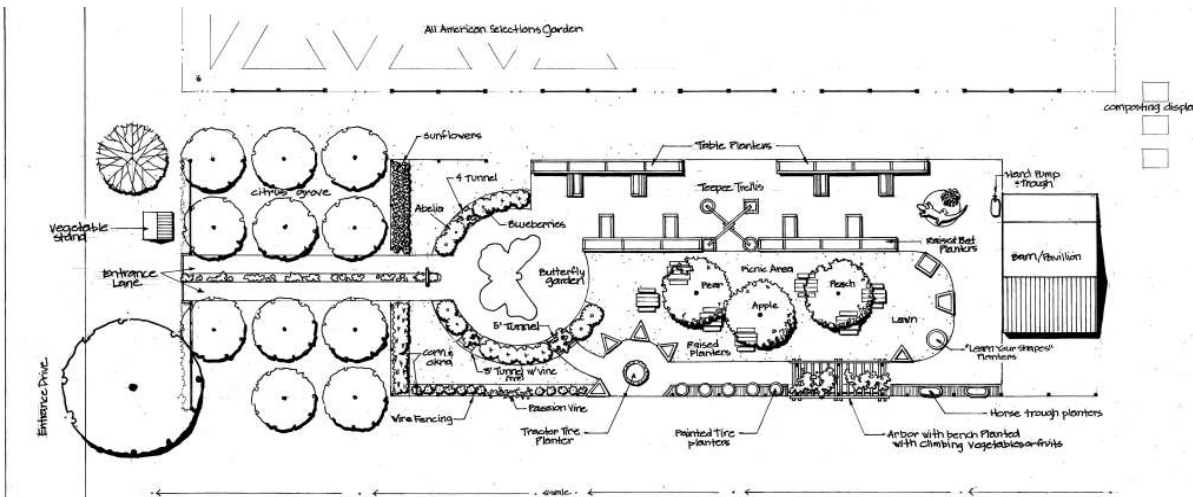
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Ginger Ku



LE JARDIN DES ENFANTS
MODEL SCHOOL/CHILDRENS GARDEN @ BURDEN CENTER

FEBRUARY 2012

Garden Fest Scheduled for June 30 at Burden Center

Garden and research plot tours, food sampling and music will be featured at a morning-long Garden Fest at Burden Center on June 30 at the LSU AgCenter Burden Center in Baton Rouge.

From 8-11 a.m. visitors will have an opportunity to take a hay ride to the Burden Center research area to hear about research with tomatoes, watermelons, peppers, cover crops and fruit crops, according to Burden resident director Jeff Kuehny. They'll also get to participate in selecting the outstanding tomato variety in the trial garden.

Other garden tours will include the All-America Selections garden and a children's garden.

The Burden Center Midway will feature displays from the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners, the Burden Horticulture Society, the Camellia Society, Herb Society, Bonsai Society and garden equipment companies.

Experts from the LSU AgCenter will conduct a plant health clinic and diagnose problems with plant specimens visitors bring to them.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Louisiana Egg Commission will prepare and serve omelets from 8-9:30 a.m. And a fresh tomato Bloody Mary contest will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Louisiana Culinary Institute and the East Baton Rouge Parish extension office will offer samples of dishes prepared from vegetables produced at Burden Center along with nutrition information for each selection.

Baton Rouge Music Studios and Visit Baton Rouge will provide live music in the All-America Rose Garden from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Baton Rouge Food Truck Roundup will be selling food and ice cream from the LSU AgCenter Dairy Store will also be sold from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission to the event is \$5 per person. Burden Center is located on Essen Lane off I-10 in Baton Rouge.

More information is available at 225-763-3990.

Contact: Pamela Hodson at 225-763-3990 or email phodson@agcenter.lsu.edu

Writer: Rick Bogren at 225-578-5839 or rbogren@agcenter.lsu.edu

A promotional banner for the Garden Fest at Burden Center. The banner features a black background with white and grey illustrations of various garden items like tomatoes, watermelon, and flowers. The text 'Garden Fest' is written in a large, stylized, cursive font. Below it, 'at Burden Center' is in a bold, sans-serif font. The website 'LSUAgCenter.com/Burden' is listed. On the right side, the date and time 'Saturday June 30 8a.m.-1p.m.' are displayed in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the LSU AgCenter logo is present, with 'LSU' in a large font, 'AgCenter' below it, and 'Research & Extension' in a smaller font at the bottom of the logo box.

Garden Fest
at Burden Center
LSUAgCenter.com/Burden

Saturday
June 30
8a.m.-1p.m.

LSU
AgCenter
Research & Extension

Peggy Cox Continued...

Love of plants is mentioned as one of Peggy's principal attributes by friends and coworkers. Another attribute that has contributed to her successful management of Windrush Gardens is her pleasant and friendly manner of dealing with the many people whose efforts and support are needed. She always has a smile on her face and listens before making decisions. She is truly a tolerant individual. As her supervisor, Jeff Kuehny says, "It is really hard to make Peggy mad."

Managing an old garden is more like working with another person than an inanimate plot of vegetation. Of course pruning, weeding, mowing, fertilizing, replanting, raking and shaping are important, but an old garden must be allowed the freedom to grow in a way that it wants to grow. An old garden needs to be worked with rather than worked on. No one since the death of Steele Burden in 1995 has understood this as well as Peggy Cox.

Her love and understanding of Windrush Gardens was eloquently expressed in an article she wrote for *Louisiana Gardner* in 2005, Steele Burden and His Masterpiece: Windrush Gardens, where she said "Only special gardens created in another century can evoke such a sense of tranquility and peace and yearning for a simpler, less hectic lifestyle." The evidence of her success is what we see today in Windrush Gardens.



The LSU AgCenter, BHS and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry appreciate the generosity of all who contributed to the success of Arbor Day at Burden Center. **We thank you!**

Sponsors

Baton Rouge Parents Magazine
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation
Entergy
ArborGen-Richard O. Barham SuperTree Nursery
ExxonMobil

Supporters

Acadian Ambulance
Associated Grocers
Baton Rouge Coca Cola Bottling Company
Baton Rouge Green
Louisiana Forestry Association
Whole Foods Market



Volunteer Spotlight: ‘Life on the Edge’ Skippy Berner

By Penny Miller



In her cool, calm, flexible manner, Cecile “Skippy” Berner has taken the Trees and Trails at Burden Center program to the next level. Using lesson plans from Project Learning Tree, a nationally recognized environmental education program, students and teachers alike are loving learning about nature and the importance of protecting it.

Skippy has been with the program since its inception in the fall of 2010. With just four pilot schools attending, it was the ideal time to test logistics and activities. She gravitated to “Life on the Edge”, one of the students’ favorites, which exemplifies what happens to animals when their habitat is taken away by natural or man-made causes. Each student takes on the role of an animal and must find a new place to live as disasters hit their natural habitat, or they die. However, when an animal was eliminated, that student became bored, so to keep these students engaged for the rest of the activity and to think deeper about what destroys habitats, Skippy has them join Mother Nature to think of the next disaster. It is creative thought like this that she

brings to Trees and Trails that is making it so successful.

The following two years, Skippy helped further develop the program. Building on a firm foundation with Jim Barry, she helped expand the program by innovatively devising better ways to support and communicate with docents during the hectic time when the school buses arrive – color coding groups, posting a chart of docent assignments, drawing maps to help our Navigators guide the students to their activities in the woods, and providing more training opportunities to better prepare our volunteers – good, common sense methods of making the program run so much smoother. Most recently, because of requests from the schools, she helped design logistics to double the number of students able to attend, from 60 to 120, no small feat when working with 4th through 7th graders.

All of this and much more, Skippy has brought to Trees and Trails at Burden. Her creative, sharp thinking, dedicated, and calm manner under storm are invaluable to this extremely important program, and Burden Horticulture Society and Burden Center are forever grateful to be blessed with such talent.



Volunteers Wanted

Want to join a great group? Mail the below form to 4560 Essen Lane (70809) or use the entry form on the ‘Join Us’ page of BHS website (www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com) or call or email our new volunteer coordinator, **Simone Kramer** (225-235-8896, SKramer@agcenter.lsu.edu). We’d love to hear from you.

Volunteers Opportunities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reflections in the Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Database | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and Trails, Maintenance and Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wine and Roses Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and Trails, Docents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Your Name and phone number:

Burden Horticulture Society Mission:

In concert with the Burden Center Master Plan, the mission of BHS is to enhance and promote the Burden Center and its serene environment for the benefit of the public through educational programs, fundraising, and volunteerism.

Please check our website for up to date information on events and programs:

www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com

Thank you for your generous support of Burden Center.

1. Identify the funding area to direct your contribution: _____
2. Identify your means of contributing:
____ Enclosed is my check made payable to **LSU Foundation**. Memo designated funding area.

____ Please charge my ____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ AmEx ____ Discover

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

3. Name _____ Phone _____

4. Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Mail to: Burden Horticulture Society, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
For additional information about these and other funding opportunities, contact: Gigi Gauthier, Burden Center
Director of Development, 225-763-3990, ext. 3 or ggauthier@agcenter.lsu.edu

Not getting e-mail announcements?

Go to the “Join Us” page of www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com and enter your information or email Connie Abboud at abbcon@bellsouth.net

Burden Center
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



What's Happening with Our Friends:

Hilltop Arboretum: www.lsu.edu/hilltop

August

Saturday, August 25, 9am-12pm

PLANTFEST! TEASER

Baton Rouge Green:

Baton Rouge Green's Green Paradise Party 2012

Presented by Honorary Co-Chairs Gwen and

Todd Graves

Saturday, August 11, 7pm-10pm

Featuring the Grammy Award-winning Rebirth Brass Band, great food, cool drinks, spectacular auction—all in the beautiful green setting of the Baton Rouge Gallery at BREC's City Park.

Tickets will soon be available at

www.batonrougegreen.com

Sponsorship opportunities available—contact Baton

Rouge Green 225-381-0037 or email

diane@batonrougegreen.com

BHS Annual Events 2012

September 22-23

Corn Maze

Pumpkin Patch Fun Family Weekend

8:30am-5:00pm

September 28, October 6, 13, 20 & 27

Corn Maze Saturdays

October 24

Wine and Roses Dinner

6:00pm

TBA

Burden Center Music Series

November 30

Brush with Burden entry deadline