



Campus Connections Alpha Tau Omega fraternity helps the Botanic Gardens for Corn Maze

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden has had the good fortune of connecting with Brayden Blanchard, who served last year as the social service chair for the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega. This year he is vice president of the chapter. The Friends of LSU AgCenter

Kids play on the hay mountain at Corn Maze

Botanic Gardens at Burden board is grateful that through this outstanding young man's leadership, this group from campus has chosen the gardens — and specifically the Corn Maze Saturdays — for volunteer support.

Blanchard explains his fraternity's decision to assist the Botanic Gardens below:

"Alpha Tau Omega fraternity is a newly rechartered fraternity at LSU that seeks to make a positive impact in the

(continued on page 3)

Reflections From the Chair

Lorice Say

Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden



In the last issue I outlined a brief overview of the sites at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden that give visitors a variety of activities to choose from on their visits. Now I would like to pique your curiosity by giving you a glimpse of what is going on behind the scenes in the front office. What is in Burden's future that will make it an even more fascinating destination?

I'll begin with the planned Welcome Center. This will be a central building where visitors can get information about all the Burden Museum & Gardens property features, including the Botanic Gardens, Windrush Gardens, LSU Rural Life Museum and LSU AgCenter East Baton Rouge Parish extension office. It will provide easy access to all the programs and activities available to the community and information about the horticultural research being done on-site. There will be new conference and meeting rooms available to community groups in addition to those currently available. The capital campaign for this new Welcome Center is ongoing, and participation by interested parties is heartily encouraged.

A change that will be sure to catch the public eye is a new, more visible entrance sign at the Essen Lane entry road. It will soon grace the entrance to Burden Museum & Gardens so that current and ongoing activities will be easier for the passing public to see. The sign will be perpendicular to Essen Lane with two sides and LED lighting.

In the Trees & Trails area, a planned treehouse will provide youngsters with a learning-through-play experience. This addition will comply with Americans With Disabilities Act guidelines and will be consistent with the educational mission here at Burden.

Coming this fall is StoryWalk, where the very young will walk through the trail and read an enlarged page of a storybook at each station. This exhibit will likely change periodically.

One of the more intriguing projects in the works is a partnership with the Baton Rouge Health District. This concept is already successful in many large cities, including Baltimore, Maryland, and Columbus, Ohio. Because Burden is adjacent to the designated health district, it follows that integration into the district, with easier access to the natural environment, will foster better health. A BREC hike and bike trail will run along the Ward Creek side of the Burden property, and a bridge is planned across the creek that will provide connectivity to the health district.

I've really just touched on a few of the planned improvements to the property that will be visible and of interest to the general public. So many things are churning in the background that may not be apparent until better defined. The Burden property is a work in progress, and every developing idea is consistent with the educational mission and the preservation of this natural habitat envisioned by the Burden family when they donated their homestead. Come out, enjoy this treasure and watch it grow. Better still, volunteer and become part of the process. ■

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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.

DiscoverBurden.com

4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



The brothers of the Epsilon Zeta chapter of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity at LSU

Campus

(continued from page 1)

lives of everyone they meet,” Brayden said. “As America’s leadership fraternity, we were selected by LSU to lead others on and off campus to become leaders themselves in their actions and everyday settings. Service leadership is one aspect of our organization that allows us to lend a helping hand to those in need while meeting others with the same mission.

“The men of Alpha Tau Omega are looking forward to their second year of volunteering with the Botanic Gardens’ annual Corn Maze event. Last year we were able to help out every weekend of the event with various tasks asked of us by the staff, who are always incredibly welcoming and fun to work with. Alpha Tau Omega, or ATO as we are known on campus, values opportunities such as this to create connections and relationships with other organizations off campus. This experience allows us to achieve our goal of uniting our community in ways that mutually benefit its residents.

“Corn Maze is an exciting and fun experience for guests, staff and volunteers, but it achieves so much more than that. While helping with the petting zoo, the hay rides, the giant slingshots, the refreshments, and the big bonfire and s’mores, my brothers and I have experienced the more important

aspects that make this event so special — the family-friendly bonding between everyone there, the connections and interactions between people of all ages from toddlers to university students to grandparents, the enjoyment of outdoor and natural fun and the appreciation of our fellow local residents and businesses that come together to make our community a beautiful place to live in.”

Join the men of ATO and volunteer at the maze! ■





Visitors enjoy a stroll on the Mosaic Boardwalk at Black Swamp

Trees & Trails and More

Sarah Rayner, Education Coordinator

With school back in session for the 2018-19 year, summer vacations with family and friends, summer camps and other outdoor adventures are now cherished memories! This summer we helped make memories, holding our first weeklong summer camp at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, which was an opportunity for kids to explore nature and have lots of fun! Dr. Kiki Fontenot and her student interns organized and led the camp. The reviews have been outstanding. Next summer we may have two sessions because more children want to attend.

Despite the soaring temperatures and high humidity, lots of parents created summer memories for their families at the gardens. Children have been playing on the equipment in the Pollinator Garden playground, investigating the different types of insects and other kinds of bugs, colorful flowers, and summer vegetables that abound in the Children's Garden while also running down the trails eagerly exploring their surroundings.

We have backpacks available for parents and teachers for use on visits to the gardens. They include materials needed to complete hourlong, hands-on activities in the Children's

Garden. The Butterfly Life Cycle adventure is designed for fourth-grade students, but younger students can complete the activity with the help of an adult. We will be expanding the backpack adventures through a Learning by Leading student internship program that will be offered to LSU students. More on this new campus connection will be forthcoming.

Garden Fest was another successful summer outdoor event. There were more than 700 visitors, primarily young families with kids in tow. It was sizzling outside, but the children were cooling down on the splash water mountain, petting the farm animals, eating snow cones and tasting the variety of tomatoes featured in our tomato trials.

Now I'm gearing up for the fall. Besides sending emails to the schools about Corn Maze Fridays and the Trees & Trails program, I have had the opportunity to visit many schools to further promote the programs. Corn Maze Fridays are coming soon, and each Friday in October, the Corn Maze will be open to schools for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. The activities will include the Corn Maze, the haystack mountain, an animal petting farm, a hayride, a giant slingshot game and much, much more. Schools have begun to request reservations for this wonderful educational event!



Backpacks for Children's Garden activities

Fall field trips begin the end of September and run through the first week of December, weather permitting. Our docents have met to review the program script and materials and to make any suggestions to further enhance the educational experiences for the students. Our Trail Masters and staff have done an amazing job readying the trails for the students and other hikers. The field trips resume the second week of March and continue until the first week of May. If you were unable to attend the orientation meeting but are interested in volunteering as a docent, please contact me at srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu or 225-763- 3990 extension 3. I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Botanic Garden programs and events! ■

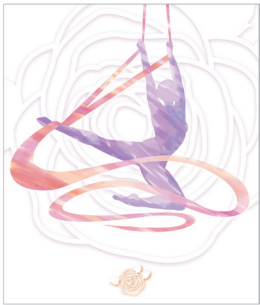


Field of Dreams corn growing in the Children's Garden



Education coordinator Sarah Rayner engages students, teachers and parents

Special Aerial Addition at Wine and Roses



Look to the grounds for the beautiful roses in bloom at Wine and Roses — and look to the skies for this year’s special addition. Allyson Huval, public relations intern at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, is also president of the Physical Theatre Club at LSU. She and Ashlynn Gremillion, vice president of the club, will perform an amazing aerial silks show to

entertain guests during the cocktail hour as they arrive for an elegant dinner in the gardens.

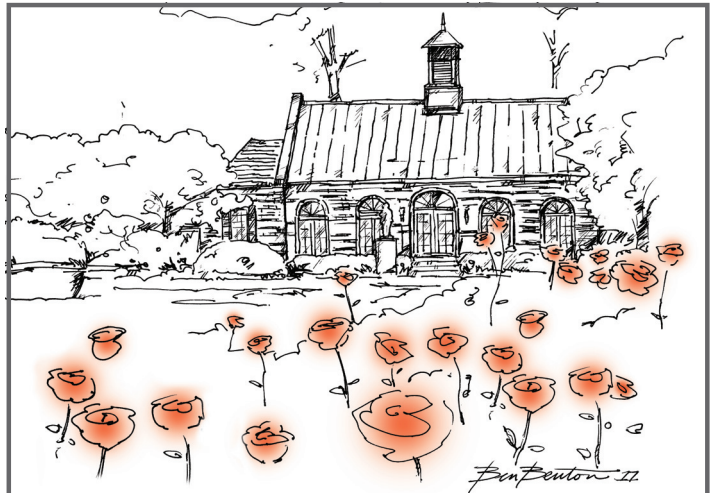
The Physical Theatre Club trains regularly in all aspects of physical theatre and also creates physical theatre works that are performed locally and abroad. Locally, the club has appeared at various showcases on and off campus. Abroad, the club performs in Scotland every other year for the Edinburgh Arts Festival. In cooperation with the Physical Theatre program of the Department of Theatre at LSU, the club provides an outlet for the members to take the skills they learn in class to a deeper level in training, creation and performance.

Allyson Huval has practiced aerial skills for two years. She is an intermediate aerial silks teaching assistant at LSU and an aerial silks teacher at GymFit. Ashlynn Gremillion, a lifelong gymnast, has practiced aerial silks for a year and a half. She is a beginner aerial silks teaching assistant at LSU and a kids’ aerial teacher at GymFit as well. She regularly performs at Live After Five downtown with Bayou Cirque.

They are both excited to perform together at Wine and Roses and to spread awareness of aerial art with the Baton Rouge community. And we are delighted they are sharing their extracurricular talents with us! ■



Allyson Huval and Ashlynn Gremillion



Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Cocktails and Hors d’oeuvres
6 p.m.

Aerial Silks Performances
by Allyson Huval and Ashlynn Gremillion
Music by John Gray Jazz Trio
6:15 p.m.

Dinner
provided by Mansurs on the Boulevard
7 p.m.

Cocktail Attire
Members \$115* . Nonmembers \$125
Limited Seating



*For members purchasing tickets by October 1

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LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

All-America Selections North American Conference Comes to Louisiana

Jeff Kuehny, Ph.D., Ola Cook Holmes Professor in Horticulture

All-America Selections (AAS) and the National Garden Bureau will host a joint fall meeting for the home garden industry in south Louisiana. AAS judges, AAS display garden staff, NGB members, AAS Ambassadors, breeders, brokers, growers, retailers, media, garden writers and anyone who would like to learn more about these organizations are welcome to attend. The conference will begin in New Orleans, travel to the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station for a visit and conclude at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. For more information on the conference, please visit the All-America Selections website at:

all-americaelections.org.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens has been an official trial site and display garden for All-America Selections for 10 years. All-America Selections is an independent, nonprofit organization that tests new, never-before-sold varieties for the home gardener. After a full season of anonymous trialing by horticulture professionals, only the top garden performers are given the AAS Winner award designation for their superior performance. The mission of AAS is “to promote new garden varieties with superior garden performance judged in impartial trials in North America.”

Before AAS, in the 1920s and '30s, consumer magazine editors knew little about new garden varieties and had few resources to obtain reliable information. As a result, articles were sometimes misleading or incorrect. The garden club movement was in its infancy and needed material. Home garden, farm, seed and florist magazines all were hungry for garden news.

In 1932, W. Ray Hastings was president of the Southern Seedsmen's Association of Atlanta, Georgia. He proposed



Farm Manager Keith Lewis tends the AAS trial gardens.

the idea of All-America Selections as a way for home gardeners to learn which new varieties are truly improved. To do so, he encouraged all seed companies to set up trial grounds, cooperatively test new varieties and agree to develop marketing efforts for new vegetables and flowers. Hastings recommended a national network of trial grounds throughout North American climates where flower and vegetable varieties would be grown and assessed by skilled, impartial judges. The seed trials would accept only new, previously unsold varieties.

AAS was founded in 1932, and the first AAS Winners were announced a year later after the results were tabulated from the first trial. AAS Winners have been introduced each year since 1933. In 1934, there were 30 AAS award-winning new varieties introduced, a record number.

The Botanic Gardens is especially proud of Keith Lewis, farm manager, and Aubrey Cooper, research associate, who conduct the AAS Trials for Louisiana with the help of students from LSU. ■





Workshop becomes a family affair as mothers, daughters and sisters participate together.

throughout the week with assistance from Betty Hubbs, Leslie Bardwell, Wanda Ellis, Aline Creed, Ann Davenport and Joyce Hensley.

The interest is so great in learning and perfecting this art that two workshops are being held in the next year. The next workshop, focusing on painting Saint Therese and scheduled for Feb. 11 through Feb. 15, already has 17 of 24 spots filled. Anyone who is interested should make a check payable for \$350 for the full amount or a non-refundable deposit of \$175.00, the remainder of which is due on or before Jan. 7. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Gardens and mailed to Kitty Hessburg Weimer at 7636 Claret Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. If the class is filled by the time your check is received, it will be

Prophet Elijah Focus of Icon Workshop

Ann Davenport

This summer, for the eighth time, an icon art workshop was held at the Ione Burden Conference Center. The workshops, which are fundraisers conducted by the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden to further the implementation of the Burden Master Plan, teach participants the art of iconography, religious works of art that usually depict saints or heavenly beings. At the end of the week each artist completes a Christian icon to take home to become a family heirloom. The icon completed this session was the prophet Elijah.

“Not only do the participants take home a prized icon, but we have a lot of fun and enjoy some delicious meals,” said Diana Wells, chair of the event. “The good news is that one doesn’t need to be an artist to produce a beautiful icon.”

The cost for participating in the weeklong workshop is \$350, which includes a specially prepared board, gold leaf, brushes and all materials along with lunch, snacks and drinks each day. Sessions begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

The workshops are conducted solely by volunteers. Diana Wells is the chair and Ginnie Bolin was the teacher. Assisting her were Michele Deshotels, Kitty Hessburg Wiemer and Joyce Hensley, all seasoned iconographers. Mary Tharp served as hospitality coordinator, and she provided meals

returned to you, and upon request you will be placed on a waiting list for the following class. ■

**Poinsettia
Sale & Show**

**Saturday, December 1
8 a.m.-Noon**



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
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LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

Can't Beat Growing Beets for Fall or Spring

Lee Rouse, Extension Agent

A relatively easy-to-grow yet less common vegetable in the home garden is beets, or *Beta vulgaris*. This root was known as the blood turnip. Beets were once grown for the consumption of their foliage rather than the roots that we harvest today. While beet foliage has been replaced with spinach and Swiss chard in home vegetable gardens, we can certainly harvest a little of both.

Beets can be grown in Louisiana as a spring crop and a fall crop, although the fall crop tends to produce a higher-quality beet. This can be attributed to the falling temperature of autumn rather than the rising temperature of spring.

Beets are a direct-seeded vegetable. All root crops fall into this category. This means you will not be able to purchase transplants or grow your own transplants like you would with tomatoes or peppers. Plant your seed in rows spaced 12 inches apart. Seed should be planted at a depth of one-quarter inch. When directly seeding beets, carrots or lettuce, grab a small handful of seeds and sprinkle them in planting rows. You will most likely overplant the amount needed. This is all part of direct seeding.

Once the seed has germinated, you need to thin the plants so there are six plants in each foot of row or plant 2 inches

apart. If you are growing for winter storage, you need to have more room for the beets to expand, so thin them to one plant every 3 to 4 inches. When thinning, consider keeping the plants you are pulling up and using the tops in a salad. This will add unique color and flavor to your salad.

Beets are a relatively fast-growing crop. You should expect beet seeds to germinate within seven to 14 days with harvest typically between 55 and 60 days after planting. Later August to mid-September is a great time to plant seeds. Beets prefer to grow in cooler temperatures, so if not so cool seems to be in the future, expect to harvest slightly earlier than 55 days after planting. The hot weather will cause the beet roots to toughen and become less palatable.

If you do not like to see anything wasted, then beets are a great crop to grow. Not only are the tops and bottoms edible, but if you decide to boil the beets, you can use the leftover water as clothing dye. Use the water to dye shirts, socks and handkerchiefs. ■



Be a Friend OF THE GARDENS

You are invited to become a member of
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Enjoy exclusive benefits

Access to more than 300 public gardens nationwide.

Discounts on special events.

Free admission to Reflections in the Garden.

Opportunities to polish your green thumb.

Subscription to quarterly Friends newsletter.

And more!

For more information, visit www.LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens



StoryTime in the Garden Volunteers Needed

Rebecca “Becky” White, Ph.D.

At StoryTime in the Garden, children get to hear great storybooks read in a garden setting and can complete related craft activities. Many of the storybooks featured are nature themed, in harmony with the beautiful gardens. We typically have 60 to 100 people attend for these three-hour events held from 9 a.m. to noon one Saturday each month from September to April.

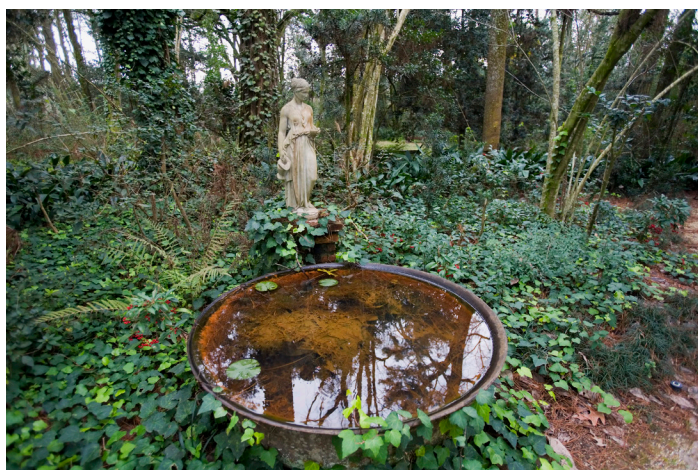
Our fall 2018 schedule for StoryTime in the Garden has been set:

- Sept. 15 (Theme: Frogs!)
- Oct. 6 (Theme: Pumpkins and Ghosts)
- Nov. 10 (Theme: It’s Fall)
- Dec. 1 (Theme: Gingerbread and Snowmen)

StoryTime craft preparation dates will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on select Wednesday afternoons at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Conference Center or the Orangerie Conference Room and primarily involve cutting out construction paper. Fall craft preparation dates include:

- Sept. 5
- Sept. 12
- Sept. 26
- Nov. 7
- Nov. 28

We are seeking interested volunteers to assist with our fall StoryTime in the Garden events and StoryTime craft preparation sessions. If you enjoy young children, reading storybooks or helping with child craft activities, this volunteer experience is for you. Interested volunteers can contact Dr. Becky White at rwhite@lsu.edu or 225-937-7366. Learn more about StoryTime at www.facebook.com/ ■



What Lies in the Future for Reflections

Lecture series plans for 2019

Leigh Harris

From wildflowers to wildlife, prairie grasses to succulents — next year’s Reflections in the Garden lecture series promises something for everyone. Since its inception over 10 years ago when the program began as a “lunch and learn,” participation has swelled as Reflections’ reputation and popularity spreads.

On the first Monday of each month, participants come from across the Baton Rouge area and beyond. Backyard gardeners, nature lovers, members of Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden and others look forward to the chance for a midday break within the beauty and serenity of the Botanic Gardens.

The 2019 speaker series continues to support the educational mission of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. Well-known professionals and gardening specialists will be discussing topics such as incorporating color into the landscape, Ikebana design and attracting winter hummingbirds. Others will shed light into the new world of succulents, intensive vegetable gardening and tips on meditation in the garden.

Plan now to join like-minded folks at Reflections in 2019. Sessions are free to members and \$10 for guests.

Come be inspired by landscapers, designers and even a local celebrity or two. It’s never dull in the garden. ■

Membership has its benefits.
Friends with a Family Membership
receive a 50% discount for themselves
and up to 5 kinfolks at the Corn Maze.



Corn Maze Saturdays

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27 . 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Enjoy some crazy, mazy family fun as you find your way through the maze. Test your skill at the giant slingshots, climb Hay Mountain, visit the farm animals and take a hayride. Other activities include pumpkin decorating, children’s zipline, corn crib and more. Concessions available.

Night Maze & Bonfire

October 27 . 6-9 p.m.

Cozy up to the bonfire and listen to live music. Climb Hay Mountain, decorate a pumpkin, try your hand at glow-in-the-dark games and more. Make s’mores and enjoy other concessions.

Admission to each event is \$10 per person. Free for children 3 and younger.



Special thanks to our sponsors





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Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

October 2018			
Oct. 1	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "The Courtyards and Gardens of A. Hays Town," Leslie Gladney and Blanche Town Gladney.
Oct. 2	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
Oct. 6	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Corn Maze Festival	Farm animals, pumpkin and face painting, corn box, zip line, hay maze, giant slingshots, plus hay mountain and hayrides. \$10.
Oct. 6	9 a.m.-11 a.m.	Children's Gardening Series	"Berry-rific Plants." With snack and take-home craft. Ages 6-12. Register at angwall@cox.net . \$15.
Oct. 6	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3 - 8.
Oct. 6-7	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Harvest Days	Living history demonstrations and activities of harvest times in the 1800s. Regular museum admission charged.
Oct. 17	6 p.m.	Wine and Roses	Friends of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden's annual formal dinner with cocktails in the Burden Rose Garden. \$115 members/\$125 non-members
Oct. 13, 20 and 27	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Corn Maze Saturdays	Farm animals, hay and corn mazes, corn box, pumpkin decorating, zip line, hayride, hay mountain, giant slingshots, and concessions. \$10.
Oct. 17	7:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
Oct. 25	6:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America	Monthly meeting. "Beekeeping in South Louisiana: Yes, You Can," Capital Area Beekeepers Association.
Oct. 27	6-9 p.m.	Night Maze & Bonfire	Farm animals, hay and corn mazes, corn box and hay mountain and evening bonfire with s'mores and music. \$10.
Oct. 28	3:30-6:30 p.m.	Haints, Haunts and Halloween: A Rural Life Fall Fair	Old-fashioned country fair activities and treats for ages 2-9. \$5.
November 2018			
Nov. 5	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "Decorating for the Holidays," John Grady Burns. Free for members, \$10 for nonmembers.
Nov. 6	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
Nov. 10	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3 - 8. Free.
Nov. 14	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
December 2018			
Dec. 1	8 a.m.-noon	Poinsettia Show and Sale	Annual show and sale.
Dec. 2	12:30 p.m.-6 p.m.	A Rural Life Christmas	Ring in the holiday season with a 19th-century Louisiana celebration at the LSU Rural Life Museum. \$10 per person.
Dec. 1	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3 - 8. Free.
Dec. 3	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflections in the Garden — "A Ghost of Christmas Past: The Great Epidemic of 1918 in Baton Rouge," John Sykes. Free for members, \$10 nonmembers.
Dec. 4	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners	Holiday social.
Dec. 24, 25 & Jan. 1		Botanic Gardens Holiday	The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
January 2019			
Jan. 7	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden	Reflection in the Garden. Free for members, \$10 nonmembers.
Jan. 8	1 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
Jan. 16	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
Jan. 19	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Arbor Day at Burden	Family friendly event with children's activities, concessions, a tree planting and much more. The event is free and open to the public.
Jan. 19	9 a.m.-noon, every 30 mins.	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3 - 8. Free.