

Everything's Coming Up Roses

By Jeff S. Kuehny

"Everything's coming up roses." Ethel Merman sang it, and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden lives it.

The Rose Garden at Burden was one of the first formally planted garden areas outside of Windrush Gardens. This garden was the prelude to what is now the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. The story of how the Rose Garden came to be starts with Warren Meadows, who became the second director of the AgCenter research facility at Burden in 1979. Thankfully, Meadows put together a memoir and left it with me before his passing in 2014. I took excerpts from his memoir and took the liberty to add a few comments to help establish a timeline of the Rose Garden.

"One of the very first things I did after being officially named superintendent at Burden was to mow and clear the weed fields from the Essen Lane entrance to the wooden bridge on the road to the museum. The small glass greenhouse, under construction at the time, and the Caretaker's House at the entrance were the only structures in this part of the property. Unfortunately, the Burden

equipment inventory included only one old medium-sized John Deere tractor with a belly mounted mower, totally inadequate for the task. Fortunately, I obtained the assistance of the farm manager at the Perkins Road Farm in lending me a larger tractor and 'bush hog' mower for this initial clearing. The Perkins Road Farm is now the LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center facility. The access route for the equipment was rather easily managed via Burden Lane and the 'back entrance' at the museum. Enhancement of the equipment inventory very quickly moved to the top of my 'priority' list!

"While this initial 'clearing' was being done I noticed the residual form of two old rows near the new greenhouse and asked the farm manager, Al Jarreau, what they had been used for. He told me that Horticulture Department personnel had planted two rows of roses there but had abandoned them after a year or two. Mr. Jarreau lived in the Caretaker's House and had been at Burden since the beginning of the transfer of the property to LSU. He played

continued on page 4



A.R.T.S. AGRS Winner Canyon Road



AGRS Winner Brindabella Purple Prince



Reflections From the Chair

Mary Tharp

Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

Dear Friends,

We are well past the week of ice, fallen branches and no power and water, but hasn't that week fallen to the wayside now that it is spring!

We are thankful for the beauty of nature and its resilience. Do journey through your own garden, our LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens here at Burden Museum & Gardens and your friends' gardens for inspiration, and then head to the nursery or the plant sale at BREC's Independence Community Park on April 17, which benefits the foundation that supports the park's Botanical Gardens. You may find just what you are looking for to fill that corner, as the ice storm gave us an opportunity for a redesign!

In spite of the pandemic restrictions, we were able to hold a few activities:

Volunteering at ARBOR DAY on Jan. 23. Can you believe it? Since the urban forest was decimated by Hurricane Gustav, approximately 4,000 trees have been planted to replace those lost.

Our lunch and learn (without lunch, of course) REFLECTIONS on the first Monday of each month are still only virtual, but the viewership is broad. We are pleased to have such an interesting group of presenters for 2021, and we invite you to join in.

Our ICON WORKSHOP went off smoothly for 12 participants the week of Feb. 22. Another workshop will take place in late July to early August if you missed this one!

Please come and spend the day. The trails are inviting, and the new birding loops are so welcoming and full of our feathered friends.

See you around!
Mary Tharp



Botanic Gardens and Rural Life Museum staff clean up after the ice storm.

If you would like to only receive this newsletter electronically,
please email: friends@burdengardens.com

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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.

LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Nontraditional Wine & Roses a Success

Wine & Roses took on a new look in 2020. Wine & Roses: A Remote Raffle Affair was a resounding success.

Thanks to the generous donations of Selma and Gerard Ruth, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at

Burden was able to raise over \$10,000 to support the construction of a new Burden Museum & Gardens Welcome Center.

Twenty lucky winners went home with fabulous prizes ranging from

a signed George Rodrigue print to a family photography session with Baton Rouge photographer Kaela Williams of Kaela Rodehorst Williams Photography.

The Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens thanks everyone for their contributions to the success of the Remote Raffle Affair. We couldn't have done it without you!

Winners and Prizes:

Art Collector's Dream: Don Wright Oil Painting Basket.....	John Hough
Art Collector's Dream: Collette P. Heldner Oil Painting Basket	Bob Lank
Art Collector's Dream: Robert Rucker Watercolor Painting Basket.....	Tracy Evans
Art Collector's Dream: Rodrigue and Roses Basket	Cindy Nobles
LSU AgCenter Poinsettia Basket	Vicki Frick
Christmas with Clegg's Basket	Jennifer Mistretta
Art Collector's Dream: Beth Watson Pen and Ink Drawing Basket.....	Dorsey Peck
Best of Burden Basket	Judy Foil
Culinary Creator Basket	Elena Fennell
Home Garden Face-lift Basket.....	Emily Saska
Family Photography Basket.....	Katherina D'Aquila
Get Your Family Gardening Basket.....	Barbara Matens
Sucker for Succulents Basket.....	Margo Spielman
Guided Birding at Burden Basket	Bonnie Vivian
Bleed Purple and Gold Basket	Leo Broders
Picnic in Windrush Gardens Basket.....	Randy Rousell
Garden Wellness Basket Featuring Grace Yoga	Mary Tharp
Book Lover's Basket	Patty Newton
Art Lover's Basket: Featuring Original Painting by G.C. Stewart and Three Signed Prints	Kitty Hessburg
Tropical Plant Paradise Basket	Jodi Marton

Many Baton Rouge businesses and organizations donated or were featured in the raffle:

- Alumni Hall
- Acadian Frame & Art
- Baton Rouge General Gift Tree
- The Baton Rouge Orchid Society
- Billy Heroman's Flowers & Gifts
- Plantscaping
- Clegg's Nursery
- The East Baton Rouge Parish
- Master Gardener Association
- Grace Yoga on Highland
- The Herb Society of America
- Baton Rouge Unit
- Imahara's Landscape
- Louisiana Culinary Institute
- Purple & Gold Sports Shop
- Queen Bee Gift Shop
- Teatery Tea and Tapioca
- Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop



Kitty Hessburg accepts the Art Lover's Basket she won in the raffle.



A.R.T.S. Winner Easy Elegance Chi

ROSES *continued from page 1*

a very important and credible role in early development of the station property. As mentioned previously, under Dr. Anzalone's (first superintendent at Burden) supervision, a 'farm fence' of creosoted posts and barbed wire was installed around the entire periphery of the property. The irrigation system in the open fields was also completed — two major accomplishments by Dr. Anzalone.

"In the late 1950s, as a graduate student and student worker in the Department of Horticulture, I worked many hours in the rose variety planting on the campus. This gave me some insight into the intense public interest that can be drawn to an officially ordained research project. At peak bloom, campus police were called upon to prevent a 'traffic jam' in the adjacent streets. This area is now covered with buildings and concrete parking lots, a predictable progression. Later, observing the early transition stages of this area from horticultural experiments to massive buildings was a signal to me that the beautiful rose experimental area on campus was not going to survive!

"After clearing of the entrance area at Burden, I had the two 5-foot rows reformed and started a new rose variety planting there. I also had the crew form eight flat beds for bedding plant trials. The beds for the bedding plants were about 6 feet wide and 30 feet long. The small glass greenhouse was used to produce early bedding plants for transplanting to these beds. In the beginning, the bedding plants drew more public interest due to the fact that with successive plantings color could be maintained almost year-round. ...

"I kept Mr. Burden and Miss Ione informed of this activity, and they seemed pleased, but reservedly so, in light of the fate of the previous rose planting there. Each year

I expanded both the rose planting and the bedding plant trials until the entire area was covered with this combination. Equally important, as the plantings were expanded, so did public interest and visitation, particularly during peak bloom in the spring and fall seasons.

"Eventually, the rose planting occupied the entire area where it is now located, and the bedding plant beds were moved to beds on the north side of the Ione Burden Conference Center. Steele Burden also took great interest in the Rose Garden as he was known by many for his generosity of bringing a bouquet of roses to those he admired. For many years after Steele passed, Father 'Rose,' one of the local priests, carried on that tradition by bringing

roses to parishioners that were ill or in need of something to brighten their day.

"During the expansion period I obtained the cooperation of the Jackson and Perkins Rose Company in Oregon in obtaining new varieties and evaluation of some of their selections for disease resistance in our area. Dr. Gordon Holcomb, professor of plant pathology, conducted these evaluations, which proved very valuable to Jackson and Perkins' plant breeders and to our overall research program. This also resulted in having the planting designated as an All-America Rose Selections display garden. This designation meant that we would receive the new All-America varieties a year before they were released to the public.

"In 2007 Dr. Pat Hegwood, (formerly) serving as resident director, made a major change in the rose planting by installing brick-lined beds and other improvements."

As was mentioned in Dr. Meadow's memoir, the Rose Garden became a display garden for The All-America Rose Selections trials, which were initiated nationwide in the 1930s and were the national rose trial program for the United States. The focus on rose breeding during these many years shifted with the cut flower industry developing varieties that produced long stems with large blooms that could be cut and used in arrangements. These rose hybrids are best known as hybrid tea roses. Growing these roses, especially in the deep South, involved using lots of pesticides to thwart the many disease and insect pressures. Fast forward to 2013, and the world of roses began to change as landscapers and home gardeners no longer had the desire to maintain these roses. The Knock Out rose was introduced to the world in 2000, and the history of roses changed course once again.

The All-America Rose Selections program was revamped, and the result was the idea to create a trial that would recognize roses that were easy to care for, disease resistant and suitable for different regions of the country. The program was renamed the American Garden Rose Selections (AGRS) program. At about the same time, another rose trial program was initiated, the American Rose Trials for Sustainability (A.R.T.S.). This program also focuses on identifying, through regional evaluation and testing under low-input conditions, the most disease- and pest-resistant, hardiest and most garden-worthy rose cultivars and to provide objective, accurate and reliable information about the cultivars tested for each region to industry professionals and the gardening public. One of the most important features of the A.R.T.S. program is that its trials are based on regionality.

“Regionality” is the recognition that different places are, in fact, different. There are many variables that define a particular region. Some of these variables are the type, duration and seasonality of weather, temperature extremes, precipitation and availability of water. Other factors include topography (mountains, valleys, deserts, plains and coasts), altitude and air movement. The many combinations of these variables produce unique climates and, by association, unique environments. Temperature and moisture are the two most critical factors that determine climate. Unfortunately, delineating regions based on the combination of even just these two

factors does not result in a United States map split into clean-cut lines. A.R.T.S. uses the Köppen climatic classification system to distinguish regions, a system that is well-recognized by ecologists throughout the world. The National Gardening Association and popular garden centers across the United States also recognize regionality as the best guide to selecting easy-to-grow plants in your area. The Botanic Gardens is one of three trial sites in the humid subtropical climate region, which makes up the major portion of the southeast United States.

Research associate Wanda Ellis maintains the Rose Garden with her faithful volunteers and conducts the trials with the assistance of Dr. Allen Owings.



A.R.T.S. Winner True Passion



AGRS Winner Tropica

2020 AGRS and A.R.T.S. Winners

We reorganized the Rose Garden in 2020 so that all of the winners of both the AGRS and A.R.T.S. programs are on display for home gardeners and landscapers. We encourage you to come and visit the Rose Garden to help make the best selections for your landscape.

2021 AGRS Winners

Brick House
Brindabella Purple Prince
Easy to Please
Sweet Spirit
Tropica

2021 A.R.T.S. Winners

Canyon Road
Cherry Frost
Easy Elegance Chi
First Editions Campfire
True Bloom True Grace
True Bloom True Sensation
White Knock Out

For more information on the history of roses, there is a great new book, “Rosa: The Story of the Rose,” by Peter E. Kukielski.

To learn more about the two nationwide rose trial programs that the Botanic Gardens participates in you can go to the following links.

[AmericanGardenRoseSelections.com](https://www.AmericanGardenRoseSelections.com)
[AmericanRoseTrialsforSustainability.org](https://www.AmericanRoseTrialsforSustainability.org)

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David Austin
Certified Roses
Altman Plants

Now Is a Great Time to Get Your Soil Tested

by Russell Harris

Spring is here, and a common question asked this time of year is, “What fertilizer should I buy, and how much fertilizer should I use in my garden?” This is a very difficult question to answer without performing a soil test. Routine soil tests indicate the level of essential nutrients in the soil and the soil pH. Without knowing this information, it is easy to apply too much or too little fertilizer, and what you apply may not be effective.

Plant health is linked directly to soil pH because it controls nutrient availability in soils. When soil is either too acidic or too alkaline, some essential nutrients are unavailable to plants because they are chemically bound to soil particles, while others are readily available at levels that may be toxic to plants or interfere with the absorption of others. Most soils contain adequate concentrations of nutrients plants need, and the soil pH can be adjusted for optimum nutrient availability. Adjusting soil pH reduces the need for fertilization and makes the fertilizers you apply more effective. Routine soil test results will give you recommendations on adjusting soil pH into the best range for the plants you grow.

The most important essential nutrient, nitrogen (N), is not tested for in routine soil analyses because its level in soils fluctuates rapidly. Recommendations for nitrogen applications are based on research conducted on the needs of individual crops. A wide range of fertilizers will contain different amounts of nitrogen from different sources. The different nitrogen sources are either acidic or basic. Selecting the correct nitrogen form is important for maintaining proper soil pH. Routine soil test results come with recommendations on using different sources of nitrogen appropriate for your soil pH.

As you can see, meeting the nutritional needs of your garden is more complicated than tossing a few handfuls of fertilizer on the ground. To get a handle on soil pH and fertilization, have your soil tested by the LSU AgCenter Soil Testing & Plant Analysis Lab. Soil testing is inexpensive and will save you money because it will help you avoid spending money on fertilizers you do not need. Soil sample submission kits are available at local nurseries, parish extension offices and at the Ione Burden Conference Center at Burden.



Meet Chase Breitenbach, the New Horticulture Tree Specialist

Chase Breitenbach, the new horticulture tree specialist at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, is a Baton Rouge native who recently made his way back to his hometown all the way from Denver.

As an LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences student, Breitenbach had an interest in every area of horticulture from turfgrass to farming. It wasn't until he discovered rock climbing at the LSU UREC that he felt like he had found a real passion. It was this passion for rock climbing that took him to the mountains of Colorado, where he found a way to combine his love of horticulture and passion for climbing: arboriculture.

"There's just something about taking care of the largest plants out there," Breitenbach said.

While in colorful Colorado, Breitenbach worked for Swingle, a well-known tree care company in Denver, before he started his own tree care business.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Denver started to feel more and more isolating for Breitenbach and his family as social interactions came to a screeching halt. On a trip home to visit with family, Chase and his wife, Ashley, realized how much they missed the warmth and hospitality of south Louisiana. After their visit, Chase reconnected with an old professor and learned there was an opening at the Botanic Gardens for an arborist.

Having his first day immediately follow the ice storm damage, Breitenbach got to know the trees and the staff very quickly.

Chase and Ashley, along with their 17-month-old son, Parker, and their two Australian shepherds, are thrilled to be back in Baton Rouge. We are just as thrilled to have them be a part of our family at Burden.



Chase Breitenbach



Haleigh Judge

LSU Grad Hired as Communications Coordinator

Haleigh Judge, the new communications coordinator at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, is a recent graduate of the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication who started at the Botanic Gardens as a student worker in 2019.

During her time at the Botanic Gardens, Haleigh increased the quantity and quality of postings on our Facebook and Instagram pages and substantially increased the followers of the pages. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she created the Great Garden Giveaway, which increased our social media following by tenfold. She was also instrumental in creating the virtual Wine & Roses raffle and in bringing Reflections in the Garden and the Green Stick Workshop to your home through Microsoft Teams.

In her new role, Haleigh will continue to manage the Botanic Gardens' social media and help coordinate programming while working with the Friends to implement the new membership platform, Wild Apricot.

"I am so looking forward to the growth I know is ahead of the Botanic Gardens," Judge said, "and I am eager to play my part."



Arbor Day at Burden



Arbor Day sponsors Blake, Lauren, Sage and Riley Huvval.



An LSU AgCenter employee helps a young child plant a tree at Arbor Day.



A man and a toddler carrying their tree to the tree-planting site.

Save the Date WINE & ROSES

Sunday Brunch in the Garden
NOV. 7, 2021
12 P.M.-3 P.M.



Friends
of LSU AgCenter
Botanic Gardens
at Burden

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens | 4560 Essen Lane | 763-3990

Icon Workshop



Above (left to right): Mary Tauzin, Lynda Williams, Kim Gaurteau, Michelle Reimsnyder, Dee Cavalier, Barbara Barnes, Wendy Carbo, Ann Nette Pearce, Cynthia Prestholdt, Betty Schoettle. **Left:** Michelle Reimsnyder shows off the progress made on her icon.

BIRDING *at Burden*

Birding at Burden is a guided birding excursion perfect for both beginning and advanced bird enthusiasts to spread their wings!

\$5 per person
Last Saturday of each month

Visit Eventbrite for tickets, dates and times.




LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
4560 Essen Lane | 763-3990

AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

GO PUBLIC GARDENS DAYS

MAY 15-16, 2021




LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens | 4560 Essen Lane | 763-3990

Campus Connections



Phil Stouffer, Mason Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, holds a common garter snake while he teaches his Louisiana Wildlife class how to identify amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.



Louisiana Wildlife students examining a house mouse in the field.

The Perfect Place



Plan your wedding or special event at a lush garden oasis in the heart of Baton Rouge. The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens offers several unique venues for the perfect day or evening event.

Formal and informal gardens provide a beautiful setting for a lifetime of memories.



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Contact us for rental facility information
4560 Essen Lane . 225-763-3990 . LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens . Baton Rouge



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
 128 Knapp Hall
 Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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

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

April 2021			
April 5	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: "The Gardening Legacy of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath." Speaker: F. Todd Lasseigne, Executive Director, Bellingrath Gardens and Home.
April 24	9-11 a.m.	Green Stick Workshop	Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard: Container Gardening for Every Season
April 24	7-10 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with a local birding enthusiast through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum and Gardens.
May 2021			
May 3	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: "Bee Experience with Honey Tasting: Introduction to Beekeeping Pollination for Your Garden and the Taste of Honey." Speaker: Kevin Langley and a tour of Burden Pollinator Garden following.
May 15-16	TBA	Go Public Gardens Days!	LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is proud to join the American Public Gardens Association and 500+ gardens nationwide in celebrating Go Public Gardens Days! The theme for these free and exciting activities is Health and Wellness in Nature. Check website for more information and schedule.
May 29	7-10 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with a local birding enthusiast through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens.
June 2021			
June 1	6 p.m.	Master Gardener Monthly Meeting	East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners host their monthly meeting at the lone Burden Conference Center.
June 7	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: "Enrique Alferéz's work in New Orleans City Park and the Botanical Garden." Speaker: Paul Soniat, director of Botanical Garden at City Park.
June 26	7-10 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with a local birding enthusiast through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens.
July 2021			
July 12	Noon - 1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: "The Challenges and Rewards to Doing Conservation Along a Highly Dynamic (Ephemeral) Coast." Speaker: Seth Blich, director of Coastal and Marine Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana.
July 10-11	Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.	2021 Orchid Show and Sale	Join the Baton Rouge Orchid Society for their Annual Show and Sale at the lone Burden Conference Center. Local orchid enthusiasts will show and sell some of their plants. Come shop, buy, chat and enjoy the beauty of this magical plant.
July 31	7-10 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with a local birding enthusiast through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens.

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

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The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.