

HORTICULTURE

Happenings

LSU Department of Horticulture Newsletter

Summer 2003

Department Sponsors First Spring Garden Show

The Department of Horticulture sponsored its first Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show at Parker Coliseum on campus in Baton Rouge March 29-30. The event was actively supported with a promotional grant from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association. The two-day event attracted more than 2,500 people. More than 75 exhibitors displayed plants and garden-related products, along with children's garden activities and exhibits of educational sessions.

Exhibitors displayed their wares around the arena perimeter, and much of the arena center was devoted to a southern garden display. Horticulture students, under the direction of instructor Bob Mirabello, designed and installed the indoor garden, which also contained a shimmering pond loaned to the show by Aquatic Creations of Baton Rouge and garden furniture from Bryan's Furniture of Port Allen.

Educational programs were presented by LSU AgCenter faculty, extension agents, emeritus faculty and Master Gardeners. A lawn mower pull sponsored by Star Equipment enter-



The Spring Garden Show was a success.

tained adults and kids alike. The EBR Parish Master Gardeners assisted with ticket sales and conducted plant health clinics. The LSU Ag Student Council

provided drinks and refreshments, with proceeds going toward its scholarship fund. The East Baton Rouge Parish Recy-

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Garden Show Scholarships Established

The LSU Horticulture Department proudly announces the establishment of The Baton Rouge Garden Show Scholarship Fund. We hope that with future successful Garden Shows, this will become an endowed fund, and we invite all exhibitors to return in 2004. The Department has established this fund in recognition of the support of the Garden Show exhibitors. The LSU Horticulture Department has always been known for its outstanding students, and the availability of scholarship aid plays a vital role in the ability to attract quality students. To build on this tradition and to remain competitive with other horticulture departments, we must continue to build scholarship endowments to attract and reward academic excellence. The scholarships will be awarded annually to a qualified undergraduate and graduate student.



Hill Farm News

● The Hill Farm is a popular destination for student tours and College of Agriculture activities. In April the College of Agriculture held its annual Tager Day activities on the front lawn of the James F. Fontenot Horticulture Classroom. Tager Day is the College's annual recruiting day. About 70 potential students and their families attended this year's festivities. Departments in the College of Agriculture presented hands-on displays and activities. The Horticulture Department sees the Hill Farm as the best recruiting tool for potential horticulture students and hopes Tager becomes an annual event at the Hill Farm.

● After a year of additional planning, work has finally begun on the Specialty and Evaluation Garden at the Hill Farm. Besides the continual questions of funding and weather, the desire to expand the current garden plan has slowed progress. New features have been added to the current plan including an expanded rose garden and water garden. The highlight of the new garden will be an immense tiger statue and display. We want this feature to become a campus highlight and a graduation day photo opportunity.

Other features of the new Hill Farm plan include a new entrance to improve access from the Alumni Center to the east. This entrance should be open for the fall semester and football season. A west entrance and a new footbridge connecting the Hill Farm to the rest of campus are on the drawing board. Details of the new plan will be presented in the next newsletter.

From the Department Head



David G. Himelrick

Hello once again from 137 J.C. Miller Hall. Many good things are happening, and we continue to be excited about our future. In terms of recent developments and new people in the Department, we just hired a State Master Gardener Coordinator to fill a newly created position. His name is Bob Souvestre. Bob comes with a broad and deep background in horticulture and Cooperative Extension Service. He has been a county agent in East Baton Rouge Parish for many years and has fostered a terrific Master Gardener program here. The Master Gardener Program is one of the true success stories in Extension, and it is destined to get even bigger and better with the dedication and passion Bob will bring to the job.

For other major projects, the Department initiated and organized its first Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show. It was a tremendous amount of work over many months, but everyone came away with a great sense of accomplishment. The campus and community were both supportive and complimentary of our efforts. The new Turf and Ornamentals area at the Burden Center on Essen Lane at I-10 is developing nicely. Plan to stop by this world class facility on your next visit to town.

Our faculty and our students continue to be recognized on a national level for their achievements. Two of our students, Paul Mumma and Jessica Laborde, were winners in the student competitions at our A.S.H.S. Southern Region meeting in Mobile. Professor Jimmy Boudreaux received a career award for excellence in Extension.

As always, keep us updated about your life and activities. Please stop by and visit us soon. Don't forget to join us at the north end of the building before every home football game.



Participants in the College of Agriculture's annual Tager Day gather on the front lawn of the James F. Fontenot Horticulture Classroom Building.

Join Us For Homecoming

We invite all alumni and friends of the Department of Horticulture to join us for tailgating before the Louisiana Tech football game on Homecoming Saturday, November 1. We will eat and visit as we do before every home game on the patio at the north end of Julian C. Miller Hall. In case of bad weather, we will simply move the festivities inside. We will provide food and soft drinks for all our guests. You might want to bring along a folding chair so you can sit and enjoy the afternoon with us. The kickoff for the game is currently scheduled for 7:00 p.m. We will plan to start the party 4 hours before kickoff. It would help us plan the food purchase if you can drop us a quick note via e-mail or call to let us know how many of you are coming. You are always welcome to drop by if you forget to contact us in advance. We hope to have you join us for a great time of food and fellowship. Send your mail to 137 J.C. Miller Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 or call (225) 578-2158.

Spring 2003 graduates

B.S. in Plant & Soil Systems: (Horticultural Science, Ornamental, Olericulture & Pomology, Turfgrass Management)

Justin Andrew Fuselier, Eunice
 Brent Roy Guilbeaux, Kaplan
 Edward Ryan Heard, New Orleans
 Jessica Lynn LaBorde, Slidell
 Eugene Paul Mumma, Loranger
 Timothy John Quebedeaux, Baton Rouge
 Justin David Smith, Baton Rouge

M.S. in Horticulture

Heather Louise Carroll, Gilbert (LaBonte)
 Joey Paul Quebedeaux, Hammond (Johnson)
 Anthony Lynn Witcher, Baton Rouge (Bush)
 John Burke Young, Jr., Mamou (Kuehny)



Jessica LaBorde shows her award-winning poster, "Characterization of Flower Types Found in a Select Population of Plains Coreopsis," at the ASHS-SR meeting in Mobile.

LaBorde Wins ASHS Poster Competition

Jessica LaBorde, a senior horticulture student, won the Undergraduate Poster Competition at the American Society of Horticultural Science Southern Region meeting held in Mobile in February. Her poster, "Characterization of Flower Types Found in a Select Population of Plains Coreopsis," was a study performed under the direction of Dr. Charles Johnson at the Idlewild Research Station in Clinton. This was the second consecutive year she won the prestigious award.

Mumma Places Second at ASHS

Paul Mumma placed second at the American Society of Horticultural Science Southern Region meeting held in Mobile in February. His talk, "Effect of Potting Media on Fire Ant Colonization of Nursery Containers," described a study performed under the direction of Dr. Ed Bush, Horticulture, and Dr. Linda Hooper Bui, Entomology.



Where To Find Us On The Web

<http://www.lsu.edu/horticulture/>
<http://www.louisianalawnandgarden.org/>
<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/Communications/GETITGROW/>
<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/nav/publications/newsletters.asp#Horticulture%20Hints>

Horticulture Club Notes

● In support of the first Spring Garden Show, the Horticulture Club doubled its growing efforts to



bring a variety of plant material to the Garden Show and, two weeks later, assembled the 5th Annual Spring Sale on the corner of Highland Road and South Stadium Drive. Although the task was daunting, senior vice president and grower Teri Schexnaydre led the efforts that proved to be the most successful sale to date. A portion of the club's sales was donated to

the Department for the maintenance of the Hill Farm Teaching Facility.

● The Hort Club has established the Horticulture Club Student Nursery at the Hill Farm Teaching Facility. The club is striving to grow more trees, shrubs and tropicals to support its plant sales. The first crops will be ready for the Spring Plant Sale 2004.

● The Horticulture Club has elected new officers for the 2003-2004 school year. They are:

President - Kathryn "Kiki" Karsh, Ft Worth, Texas
 Vice President - Mickey Kleinhenz, Houston, Texas
 Secretary - Randi Hodges, DeRidder
 Reporter - Teri Schexnaydre, Baton Rouge
 Treasurer and Ag Student Council Representative - Dexter Fontenot, Eunice



New president Kiki Karsh (left) gets some important pointers on running a successful plant sale from outgoing president Tim Quebedeaux (right).

● The Fall Plant Sale is tentatively scheduled for late October on the corner of Highland Road and South Stadium Drive. Fall bedding plants, garden mums and other plants will be offered.



The Horticulture Club (foreground) was among the many vendors at the first Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show.



President Tim Quebedeaux assists customers during the 5th Annual Spring Plant Sale.

Vice President Teri Schexnaydre keeps a close eye on the plants until the moment they are sold. The warm weather mandated extra watering during the sale.



School Gardens Fun, Educational

This past fall Associate Professor Dr. Carl Motsenbocker and graduate student Leanna Smith from the LSU Department of Horticulture began working with three fifth grade classes at elementary schools in the downtown Baton Rouge area. They were joined by East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners and LSU service-learning students to assist in integrating the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program into these three classes. The Junior Master Gardener program teaches basic science concepts through hands-on activities and relates them to everyday life.

Once a week for two hours each fall and spring semester, Master Gardeners and students visited the elementary schools to work with the students in small groups. The elementary students were given a test at the beginning of the fall semester to determine their current knowledge of the topics to be covered throughout the fall program and an environmental attitudes survey. At the end of the fall semester, the students were given the same test and environmental survey to determine if there were any significant changes in their scores or attitudes toward the environment from September to December. A new test that contained questions about material that would be covered in the spring program was given in January and again in May.

Funding for the project came from grants to the individual schools through the Louisiana Learn and Serve America program, which promotes service-

learning in schools. The classes used their new knowledge of gardening to produce food for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and flowers for cards sent to soldiers fighting overseas. They also used natural materials to create art for a local nursing home.

This project not only introduced gardening to many children who had very limited experience in a garden setting, it brought in adults from the Baton Rouge area to act as mentors and informal educators. From the perspective of the LSU students, it gave the horticulture majors a chance to experience the world of education and a possible career path. New research came out of this project in the form of an investigation into the effects of a formal gardening curriculum on the science achievement scores and the indirect effect of a gardening program on the environmental attitudes of the elementary students as well as the effect of the service-learning class on the science efficacy beliefs and environmental attitudes of the LSU students involved. Not only did this program benefit all involved, it will also benefit the practice of school gardening by providing information on a gardening program's effects for others. The project is continuing, and the Junior Master Gardener program is expected to expand throughout the state in the coming years when a state JMG coordinator is hired through the state 4-H office.

Faculty Recognition

Professor Dr. Jimmy Boudreaux was recognized with a career award for excellence in Extension at the southern region meeting of the American Society of Horticultural Science in Mobile, Alabama, in February.

Dr. Carl Motsenbocker received a 2003 Service-Learning Incentive Award for developing a new service-learning horticultural science education class for advanced undergraduates and graduate students in the College of Agriculture. He presented an invited talk, along with Tim Perilloux of LaPlace, titled "Agritainment" at the Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show in Biloxi in December 2002. In addition, he presented, with Leanna Smith, talks titled "College Service-Learning Students Can Teach a Garden-Based Science Curriculum" and "The Integration of a Formal Garden Curriculum into Louisiana Public Elementary Schools" at the southern region meeting of the American Society of Horticultural Science in Mobile, Alabama, in February.

A publication, "Putting Down Roots Starting a Seedling Nursery For Wetland Replanting," co-authored by Elizabeth Coleman and Dr. Ed Bush, won first prize in the manuals category at Sea Grant Week. This manual was written to support the Middle and High School initiative Coastal Roots program. Coastal Roots is a collaborative effort between the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Sea Grant.

Department Sponsors First Spring Garden Show

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cling Office offered a great deal on compost bins. The Horticulture Club students sold plants as a fund-raiser. Even though this was the Department of Horticulture's first attempt at a garden show, exhibitors seemed pleased and gave the show a consistent 'excellent' rating in their surveys. The Department anticipates growth and hopes to improve future shows by using comments provided by the exhibitors and show attendees. Thanks to all who made the show a success. Some of the proceeds from this year's show were used to establish two new scholarships. Plan to attend next year's March 27-28, 2004, show.

Thanks to the 2003 Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show Exhibitors:

4-H Youth Development Department
A&A Perennials
ABC Orchids
Advance Solar, LLC
Al Langlois
Antique Rose Gardens
Baton Rouge Cactus & Succulent Society
Baton Rouge Camellia Society
Baton Rouge Daylily Society
Baton Rouge Garden Club
Baton Rouge Gourds and More

Baton Rouge Green
Baton Rouge Hibiscus Society
Baton Rouge Orchid Society
Baton Rouge Rose Society
Baton Rouge Zoo
Belle's Nursery
Bird Houses by Rich
Botanic Garden Foundation
Braud's Wood Works
Bug Session
Capital Area Pond and Water Garden Society
CBI, Inc.
Clegg's Nursery, LLC
East Baton Rouge Mosquito Control
East Baton Rouge Recycling Office
Fire Ants/LSU Dept. of Entomology
Florikan ESA
Fronderosa
Garden District Nursery
Gingerwood Nursery
Hart's Landscape
B.R. Herb Society of America
Innovative Pond Solutions
Jay Mac Tropicals
Jill Souvestre
Jim Stone Co.
Joe Gardener
Juliette's Gardens
Louisiana Gardener Magazine
Louisiana Master Gardeners (EBR Parish)
Lobb-Alexis, Inc.
Louisiana Bonsai Society
Louisiana Fern Society
Louisiana Horticulture Commission
Louisiana Iris Farms
Louisiana Nursery
LSU College of Agriculture
LSU Hilltop Arboretum
Lucky Bamboo Designs
Mill Creek Nursery

Morning Glory Iron & Clay
Naylor's Garden Center
Orchids Plus
Ornamental Pond Fish, Inc.
Paradise Landscapes, Inc.
Passion Orchid
Pelican Design-Build, Inc.
Perrien Hardscape, Inc.
Poly Drip Irrigation Supply
Pottery Galore
Proscapes, Inc.
Red Onion Gulf Coast Plantsmen
Silvercreek Woodworks
Soil Polymers/Living Wreaths
Star Equipment
Surplus Inventories
Tom's Thumb Garden & Gifts
USDA/APHIS/PPQ
Water Ballet Sprinklers
Wild Birds Unlimited

2003 Donors to Fontenot Bldg. Fund

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Dr. Franklin Schales
Salisbury, Md.
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sorbet, Jr.
St. Louis, Mo.
Ms. Marie Touchet
Baton Rouge

Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout

The 3rd annual Nursery and Landscape Golf Shootout was held Friday, May 30 at the LSU Golf Course in Baton Rouge. Thanks to sponsors and supporters for making this another successful event. The winning team shot a 60 (-12) and included Bobby Fletcher, Jr., David Boldt, Adolph Boldt, Steve Borel and Dave Picha.

Thanks to the following for making this year's event successful.

Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association - Baton Rouge
C.J.'s Nursery - Folsom
Covington Nursery - Covington
George Johnson Nursery - Forest Hill
Southeast Louisiana Nurserymen's Association - Amite
Baton Rouge Landscape Association - Baton Rouge
Louisiana State Horticulture Society - Baton Rouge

Metro Area Horticulture Foundation - New Orleans
Syngenta Turf and Ornamentals - Franklin, Tenn.
Southwest Louisiana Nurserymen's Association - DeRidder
McIlhenny Company - Avery Island
LSU Department of Horticulture - Baton Rouge
Meadowbrook Insurance Group - Kansas City, Mo.
BWI Companies - Jackson, Miss.
LSU College of Agriculture - Baton Rouge
Henry Lastrapes - Baton Rouge

James F. Fontenot Building Fund

Dedication of the teaching building has initiated the establishment of the James F. Fontenot Building Fund. This fund will serve many purposes including: purchasing a permanent sign for the building and supporting student workers who will help maintain the landscape around the building.

Your contribution will help ensure that this facility remains something that honors the memory of Dr. Fontenot. There are six categories for giving. Please mark the level of your contribution.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower | \$50 to \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> Camellia | \$1,000 to \$4,999 |
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A plaque listing the contributors to this fund will be placed in the building. Please tell us how you would like to have your name(s) listed.

Name(s) _____

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Please make your check payable to the *LSU Foundation* and indicate Fontenot Building Fund on the memo line. Contributions are tax deductible.

Charge to my Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

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Signature as shown on card _____

Please mail this form to:
LSU Department of Horticulture
137 Julian C. Miller Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-2120

Alumni- Where Are you?

George G. Wilkes Jr. (52)

George is a resident of LaGrange, Ga. He has been trying to retire for almost five years and is almost there. His family members include his wife Royetta, and Dr. George G. Willis III and Rebecca Yarbough.

Jeffery Brocato (97)

Jeffery is the golf course superintendent at Baton Rouge Country Club. He received his B.S. in turfgrass science.

Daniel Folse (00)

Daniel is the assistant superintendent of the Baton Rouge Country Club. He received his B.S. in ornamental horticulture.

Alumni - Where Are You Now?

Tell us what is going on with your life and career. Classmates like to know what other classmates are doing! Here's your chance to share your news with the LSU Department of Horticulture alumni and friends. This information will appear in an upcoming *Horticulture Happenings*.

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME TEL: () _____ WORK TEL: () _____

E-MAIL : _____ CLASS OF: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

NEWS: _____

Send to: Ed Bush, editor
LSU Department of Horticulture
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

or Tel: (225) 578-2158
Fax: (225) 578-1068
E-mail: ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu

John Quebedeaux (65 B.S. and 66 M.S.) John retired with 25 years of overseas service. For the past 12 years, he had worked with the World Bank in Saudi Arabia. His family members

include: Dr. Bruno Quebedeaux, Jr., (brother), Timothy Quebedeaux (son, 02), Patrick Quebedeaux (son) and Dr. Teme P. Hernandez (father-in-law).

LSU and LSU AgCenter
Department of Horticulture
137 J.C. Miller Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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A family enjoys watching a "turf expert" mow the lawn at the Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show.

HORTICULTURE Happenings

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