Large Crowd Attends A Brush With Burden Exhibition

More than 600 people came out to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden for the opening reception March 22 of the annual A Brush With Burden art and photography exhibit, and many more viewed works by local artists and photographers in the following week as the exhibit continued.

Held in the Ione Burden Conference Center and Steele Memorial Orangerie, the event celebrated Louisiana’s talented artists and their depictions of the state’s cultural and natural resources at the fourth annual A Brush With Burden art exhibition. A juried multi-media exhibition, A Brush With Burden featured all types of art inspired by Louisiana’s natural beauty, flora and fauna under the theme “The Nature and Culture of Louisiana”.

The exhibition was sponsored by the Burden Horticulture Society (BHS), and sales of art and photography benefited the Society and its programs.

New Orleans artist Billy Solitario held a workshop earlier in the day to demonstrate how he paints landscapes and his unique approach to illustrating clouds and skyscapes.

The competition jurors included: Solitario (art), C.C. continue on page 3
Reflections from the Chair

By Barbara Quirk

The year has gone by so fast there seems there is little time to reflect on all that has happened. However, as I recall all that has taken place in the past year, I wonder -- how could all of this have been done in this short, short period of time?

So what has happened? The pavilion will be completed shortly, Trees & Trails has a staff coordinator, Wine & Roses was an outstanding success, Arbor Day was expanded and received great community support and the Corn Maze was profitable again (as were the other events and activities that took place in 2013).

Three members of the Burden Horticulture Society (BHS) Board have completed their tenure, and three new members have been appointed to serve. Losing the experience and knowledge of those who step down leaves something of a vacuum, but how fortunate we are to have their positions filled by three others who will bring new and fresh ideas along with their enthusiasm.

This just barely touches on what has taken place in the last 12 months, all of which has been accomplished through a great deal of hard work and commitment. So what helps keep the dedication and excitement in volunteering at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden? One thing is success. How very gratifying it is to witness the growth and improvement of all aspects of the gardens: large crowds coming to enjoy the activities, watching the pavilion being constructed, seeing the improvements being made to Trees & Trails, increasing the membership of BHS, seeing large crowds in attendance at Reflections and developing a closer working relationship with other organizations, such as the Camellia Society, the Junior League of Baton Rouge and Cenikor. There are so many things moving in positive directions.

This will be my last “Reflections from the Chair” article and my last opportunity to say “thank you” to so many who have helped me find my way as chair of BHS. I did not realize how much is involved in this “job”. I know that with the help of the BHS Board, especially Judy Foil, Penny Miller, Mary Jane Howell and, of course everyone’s right hand, Aline Creed, we have laid the groundwork for the Board to continue to be a viable partner with the Botanic Gardens.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all of the Board members, the Advisory Committee and to Dr. Jeff Kuehny and the staff for their patience and help this past year. I will always remember my year as chair of BHS as a most rewarding experience.

Burden Horticulture Society Welcomes New Board Members

Kerry M. Hawkins is a 1967 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. He obtained a Master of Science in Environmental Health Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in January 1969 and retired from ExxonMobil Refining & Supply after 42 years in March 2011.

Hawkins’ professional experience includes three years in the United States Army during a hiatus from Humble Oil and Refining Company (now ExxonMobil Refining & Supply) at Baton Rouge. He is a licensed professional engineer in Texas and in Louisiana (Civil and Environmental Engineering). During his career, Hawkins received the Louisiana Mid Continent Oil and Gas Association Blue Heron Award for service to continue on page 3
**Burden Horticulture Society**

**Brush with Burden . . . continued from page 1**

Lockwood (photography), David Humphreys (photography) and Beverly Coates (photography). Of some 93 art entries and 46 photographic entries, there were many winners:

**PAINTINGS & 3D**
Best in Show: William Crowell, *Manchac Mansion*
Judge's Choice: Cheri Fry, *French Quarter Wheels*
People's Choice: Kate Trepagnier, *Cloud Creek*
Honorable Mention: Marge Campagne, *Texas Star*
The Royal Standard Merit Award: Jane Flowers, *Preaching to the Choir*
Dick Blick Art Supply Merit Award: Kate Trepagnier, *Cloud Creek*
Beauregard Bistro and Gallery Merit Award: Kathryn Schilling, *Wetland Whispers*
David's Art Supply Merit Award: Pat Wattam, *Reflection*
Ann Connelly Fine Art Merit Award: Meichi Lee, *Cotton Field*

**PHOTOGRAPHY**
Best in Show: Butch Spielman, *The Stalk Begins*
Renaissance Imaging Giclee Award: Gerald Burns, *American Bittern*
People's Choice: Emily Kaye Miller, *LaMe'moire*

For more information about A Brush With Burden, contact Margaret Blades at (225) 505-3105. There also is information online at [http://www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) (search A Brush With Burden).

Back by popular demand: A Brush With Burden will back next year with a theme on nature and culture in Louisiana. Artwork will be due in mid-January 2015.

**New Board Members . . . continued from page 2**

the Industry in 1994. He was appointed to the Louisiana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in 2001 and served through March 2008 as one of two Industrial Sector Members, as well as an officer.

After retirement, he became an East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardener and subsequently performed volunteer work with Burden’s Gardenfests and the Trees & Trails programs and has been an activity docent and trail hike leader. He worked with the EBR Plantmakers during the 2013 Plant Sales, as well as working with the Corn Maze and Arbor Day events. Married to Erin (Raschke) Hawkins, a Biochemistry instructor at LSU, Hawkins has two children now working as a veterinarian and engineer.

Emily Stich spent 30 years lobbying the Louisiana Legislature. As therapy, she’s been a licensed landscape contractor and horticulturist since 1992. Her love of plants and flowers blossomed into floristry, and she has designed altar arrangements for her church for more than two decades. Stich has trained at the Washington National Cathedral, Texas A&M’s Benz School of Floral Design and Phil Rulloda’s Southern California School of Floral Design.

Having earned the designation of Louisiana Master Florist in 2007, Stich trained at the Baton Rouge Community College and is a licensed florist and member of the Louisiana and Arkansas state florist associations. She is the owner of Trinity Flowers and The Protocol & Etiquette Institute, where she teaches executive etiquette and international protocol.

Erin P. Tadie An associate at Kean Miller, Erin P. Tadie practices environmental law. She is an honors graduate of LSU Law Center (2010), is a senior associate of the Louisiana Law Review and earned a B.A. in Mass Communication: Print Journalism (2007 with honors). A member of the Junior League of Baton Rouge, Tadie is married to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana graphic designer James Tadie, and they live in the Old Goodwood Neighborhood.
Community Members Added an Arbor Day Experience to ‘Family Trees’ at Botanic Gardens’ Annual Event

More than 700 visitors enjoyed the Arbor Day celebration at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden on Jan. 18.

Visitors planted trees in Burden Woods as part of a reforestation effort to replace damage from Hurricane Gustav in 2008. Each person who planted a tree was given the tree GPS coordinates so they may return to the tree over the years to mark its progress.

“We had 380 trees to plant this year,” said Botanic Gardens Director Jeff Kuehny. “That’s a total of about 1,000 trees planted in Burden Woods over the four years since the start of the Arbor Day program.”

“The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is a treasure not only for Baton Rouge but for all the citizens of Louisiana,” said Bill Richardson, LSU vice president for Agriculture. “We’re pleased to see how many people have come today to enjoy all we have to offer.”

Arbor Day visitors were offered tree seedlings to plant at home. Seedlings were provided by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Support in planting trees and other activities were given by community volunteers, including Burden Horticulture Society members.

Activities included a 5-K trail hike, a scavenger hunt, the Junior League of Baton Rouge-sponsored StoryTime for children, lumberjack demonstrations by LSU Forestry students (led by Burden Horticulture Society Board member Scott Courtright and Cornelius De Hoop, LSU AgCenter associate professor, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center) and children’s tree climbing.

Sponsors included Entergy, Crosby Land & Resources, Bancorp South Insurance Services Inc./Wright & Percy Insurance, Bofinger’s Tree Service, Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts and Slaughter Logging LLC.

**Workshop**

**Sponsored by the**  
Burden Horticulture Society  
**Saturday, May 3, 2014**  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens**  
Ione Burden Conference Center

Focus on plants and learn to bring their natural beauty and vibrant colors to your photographs. Bring your digital or film camera for this hands-on, creative photography workshop! Pick up your favorite plants at a special plant sale from Almost Eden nursery in Merryville, La.

Workshop taught by  
Ken Wilson, photographer  
Dr. Charles Allen, chief botanist at Fort Polk  
Jeff McMillian, owner of Almost Eden nursery

For more information, contact LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at 225-763-3990 or 225-766-0921.

**Admission $60 (includes lunch, lectures and hands-on presentations)**  

 Checks, made out to BHS, can be mailed to:  
BHS  
c/o Judy Foil  
434 Castle Kirk Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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**Do you recognize this “maroon bloom” from the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens? You can find it growing freely among the trees & trails of Burden Woods. (The answer is on the last page of the newsletter.)**
Thank you 2013 Bontanic Gardens Contributors

Aaron and Peggy Selber Foundation
Abboud, Charlie and Connie
Adams, Rodney and Pat
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Reflections and Visions
Baton Rouge to Host Regional Master Gardeners Conference

More than 500 gardeners from throughout the southeast are expected in Baton Rouge for the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference Oct. 21-24. Gardening enthusiasts have been invited to hear speakers on a wide range of topics focused on plants, according to Donna Montgomery, publicity chair for the event. “The East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association is hosting this conference, which will be based at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at College Drive and I-10,” Montgomery said. “The theme for this year’s conference is Sharing Our Southern Roots.”

Tours will include guided excursions to Imahara’s Botanical Garden and Afton Villa Gardens, Rosedown Plantation and The Myrtles, Houmas House Plantation, Burden Museum and Gardens, Hammond Research Station, a Cajun night at White Oak Plantation featuring Cajun food and music, a tour of Manchac Swamp and lunch at Frenier Landing.

Keynote speakers at the conference will include:

- Marcelle Bienvenu, researcher and consultant on Creole and Acadian cooking and author of “Who’s Your Mama? Are You Catholic? and Can You Make a Roux?” about her personal culinary journey
- Mary Palmer Dargan on healing the earth one garden at a time
- Norman Winter on the color presentation in your garden each season
- Joe Lamp on healthy soil and Douglas Tallamy on biodiversity in the garden.

The conference agenda includes 24 breakout sessions. Information about speakers and their topics, tours and registration is available at the conference website www.southernregionmgconf2014.com.

Summer Herbs

Bob Souvestre, LSU AgCenter EBRP Cooperative Extension Agent

Basil is the most popular summer herb. It thrives during our hot, humid summers and asks for nothing more in the garden than full to part sun and average garden soil that drains well. Basil grows quickly from seed or from transplants, which are readily available at area nurseries, may be planted in the garden through August.

For standard-size varieties, you can generally start to lightly harvest when the plants reach about 1 foot tall. Individual basil leaves may be harvested for use, but more typically the plant is pinched or cut back. When harvested regularly, basil is more bushy and attractive in the garden. Harvesting and using fresh basil for seasoning is wonderful since the full, rich flavors are at their peak when used fresh.

Another favorite summer herb is Mexican or Spanish tarragon. Native to Mexico, this marigold relative produces large, bushy plants 2 to 3 feet tall by the end of summer. The foliage is rich with the flavor of tarragon and is an excellent substitute for French tarragon. It is a hardy perennial that goes dormant in winter but returns reliably each spring.

You would not think of sesame seeds as a traditional American flavoring, but how many times have you seen a generous sprinkling of sesame seeds on the bun of an all-American hamburger? Plant seeds when the weather is warm. The plants will bloom and produce seed pods right along the stems. When the seed pods begin to mature, cut the plant off at ground level (or cut branches if it’s too large) and place it upside down in a paper bag. The seeds will fall down to the bottom of the bag.

Plant Sale April 12

The East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners will have a plant sale at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 12.

Plant Makers, a group of Master Gardeners, has raised these plants while working all year to provide the public with over 5,000 plants and 250 plant varieties, said Donna Montgomery, publicity chairperson for the plant sale.

A good selection of Super Plants and many hard-to-find perennials will be available. To make your shopping experience easier, shop our website before the sale at www.mgplantsale.com.

The spring plant sale is the only fundraising activity of the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners. Money derived from the sale is shared with The Botanic Gardens and goes to educational activities for the community.
Camellia Collection Obtains ‘Garden of Excellence’ Status

Baton Rouge Camellia Society member Florence Crowder recently received official notification that the camellia collection at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden was selected as a Garden of Excellence by the International Camellia Society. This follows a visit from International Camellia Society President Patricia Short and her husband, Herb, both of London, in December 2013.

Crowder accepted the International Camellia Society (ICS) Garden of Excellence Award in Pontevedra, Spain, at the Congress of the ICS on March 15. BR Camellia Society Vice President Joe Holmes also was in attendance. LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden now is one of 31 Gardens of Excellence throughout the world.

The local organization has been active in helping maintain the camellia collection at the Botanic Gardens, which is one of the country’s largest private camellia collections.

In 2002, more than 450 identified camellia varieties from the private collection of Violet Stone were propagated from cuttings and planted in the Windrush Gardens, adjacent to the Botanic Gardens and also part of the Burden Museum & Gardens. When Stone died in October 2001, she left a Baton Rouge garden brimming with about 500 named varieties and 200 to 300 more unknown or duplicated camellia bushes.

With the help of Violet’s daughter, Stella Stone Cooper of Paramus, N.J., and longtime family friend and camellia collector Art Landry of Baton Rouge, staff from the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens identified and collected cuttings from all but about 30 varieties in the Stone collection. The cuttings—20 from each plant—were sent to two different nurseries for propagation, according to Pat Hegwood, former director of the Burden Center. Some of the varieties are rare and valuable in the collection the Stones had accumulated over more than 50 years.

During the garden visit this year, Short was in the area to evaluate the LSU Burden Museum and Gardens as a possible site for an International Camellia Society Garden of Excellence. Crowder organized the visit, which included a tour of camellias in the Denham Springs area, including the garden of Crowder and her sisters, Jama Scivicque, Janice Roach and Joan Sibley. Denham Springs Mayor Jimmy Durbin and his wife, Maurice, welcomed the Shorts to the city.

The Shorts toured the gardens which include an extensive collection of camellias that were collected from all over the world and those that were developed by the couple. The historic Windrush Gardens includes many of the older camellias popular in south Louisiana. An Alba Plena variety Camellia japonica was planted in the Barton Arboretum which will become home to the Ancient Camellias collected by Crowder. While here, the Shorts also toured the camellias at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Minsky, along with society member Trent James, as well as the State Capitol Gardens and LSU’s main campus.

The Baton Rouge Camellia Society is affiliated with the American Camellia Society and was formed in the 1970s. Today, membership has grown to more than 200 with 10 to 15 members weekly working at the Society’s nursery at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.
American Culinary Foundation Presents $500 to Herb Society

Following a presentation about herb gardens for cooking by Kathy Mullin and Rita Salman (chair) of The Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit (HSABR) in February at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, The American Culinary Federation of Baton Rouge presented the Society with a check for $500. The talk was about how to plant an herb garden and the innumerable uses for herbs. Arceneaux also is the chef at the City Club and works with children to plant school gardens.

The money will go towards a fund to build an herb garden at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

Beyond ground-planted herb gardens, the speakers discussed above-ground herb gardens as well. They also talked about the cost savings of composting, how to make soil amendments to gardens and how to preserve an herbal harvest with jelly, by drying and by making herbal concentrates. In addition, Mullin and Salman gave the chefs a taste of homemade Rosemary cookies, Roselle calyxes and soda, candied Calyx, Lemongrass/ginger soda, Blueberry spiced cordial, Cranberry Cinnamon cordial, Rose Geranium syrup and other cordials and syrups.

The biggest hit was the cinnamon tasting. The speakers set up a taste of cinnamon from the grocery store and then Vietnamese cinnamon. The chefs did not realize there was such a difference, Salman said. She and Mullin also gave out fresh Bay leaves, fresh dried ground Rosemary and some herbal vinegar for each chef to take home.

For more information, visit www.brherbs.com or www.acfchefs.org.
Cocktails in the Gardens

The Cocktails in the Gardens event is the perfect cooling off party among the garden blooms and light summer breezes of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. The theme for the Friday evening, July 25, event is “Some Like It Hot,” an early VIP entry of $50 gets you a seat at the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie’s open bar. General admission a little later is $40 per person.

Local mixologists will shake up exotic and traditional cocktails for tastings, and you can enjoy the sumptuous offerings dished up by local Louisiana restaurant chefs. The theme plays off the glamour of old Hollywood stars and films, and there will be red carpet and searchlight arrivals to paparazzi.

For more information, email jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu, visit www.LSUagcenter/botanicgardens or call (225) 763-3990. The event benefits the gardens and its educational programs.

What’s Growing On

The roof is going up at the Burden Pavilion, and construction is nearing completion. Staff anticipates the open-air pavilion will be open for use around May. Located next to the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, the pavilion also is situated near the trailhead of the Trees & Trails in Burden Woods so it can provide a convenient location to conduct the Project Learning Tree program with school students. The program is led by Burden Horticulture Society and Master Gardener docents. The site also will be available for event rentals, and the open-air layout will include an outdoor fireplace. It is part of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens’ master plan for expansion and improvements.

Volunteers Wanted

Want to join a great group? Just fill out the entry form on the ‘Join Us’ page of the BHS website (www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com) or call or email our volunteer coordinator, Simone Kramer (225-235-8896, SKramer@agcenter.lsu.edu), or our Cooperative Extension agent, Bob Souvestre (225-763-3990, bsouvestre@agcenter.lsu.edu).
Upcoming Events at Burden Museum & Gardens

April 7, noon-1 p.m. ............ Reflections in the Garden: Bocage Bee; Milou Barry and Elizabeth Holloway ............. Ione Burden Conference Center
April 12, 9-11 a.m. .............. StoryTime at Burden, Every 30 minutes .............................................. Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie
April 25, 6:30-9:30 p.m. ........ Gourmet in the Garden ............ LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, Burden Pavilion
April 20, 6-11 a.m. .............. Easter Sunrise Service .............................. LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
May 3, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ............ Plant Photography Workshop ...................................................... Ione Burden Conference Center
May 5, noon-1 p.m. .............. Reflections in the Garden: Red Stick Spice, Anne Milneck .................................. Ione Burden Conference Center
May 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. ........ Volunteer Appreciation Lunch ....................................... LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, Burden Pavilion
June 2, noon-1 p.m. .............. Reflections in the Garden: Weed Be Out; Dr. Ron Strahan, LSU AgCenter .................. Ione Burden Conference Center
June 21, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. ............. Garden Fest at Burden .................................................. LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
July 7, noon-1 p.m. .............. Reflections in the Garden: Simple Water Features for the Yard; Charbel Harb ............. Ione Burden Conference Center
July 25, 8 p.m. (7 p.m. VIPS)  . Cocktails in the Garden  ........................................................................ LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
August 4, noon-1 p.m. ......... Reflections in the Garden: Fall Planting Season Favorites; Dr. Dan Gill, LSU AgCenter ...... Burden Conference Center
September 8, noon-1 p.m. .......... Reflections in the Garden: History of the LSU Rural Life Museum; David Floyd, ...... Ione Burden Conference Center

What’s Happening with our Friends

Baton Rouge Green
July 19, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ........ PlantSmart, a green education event. .................................................... HilltopArboretum

LSU Rural Life Museum
April 13 ................................ An Old Fashioned Easter Celebration ....................................................... LSU Rural Life Museum
May 2 .................................... Evening at Windrush ................................................................. LSU Rural Life Museum

EBR Master Gardeners Association
April 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. ......... East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners Plant Sale ........................................ Ione Burden Conference Center
May 6, 3:30-8:30 p.m. ............. Monthly Meeting ................................................................. Ione Burden Conference Center
June 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m. ............. Monthly Meeting ................................................................. Ione Burden Conference Center

The Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit
April 24, 7 p.m. .................. Society Meeting, Herbs and Bees; Holiday Tea and Book Signing ................. Ione Burden Conference Center
May 22, 7 p.m. .................. Society Meeting, Herbs and Bees; Holiday Tea and Book Signing ................. Ione Burden Conference Center
June 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. ......... Society Meeting, Artemisia: Herb of the Year ...................................... Ione Burden Conference Center
July 24, 7 p.m. .................. Herbal Craft ......................................................................................... Ione Burden Conference Center

LSU Hilltop Arboretum
Through April 30 ................. Every Tree Tells a Story: Outdoor Signboard Exhibit ............... LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road
April 10 ............................... Spring Garden Trip to the East ...................................................... LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road
April 24-25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. .... Junior Master Gardener Spring Camp ........................................... LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road
May 18, 1-5 p.m. ................. Flora after the Freeze ................................................................. LSU Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road