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 entertained 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-

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.
From the
Department Head

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.

The Hill Farm is a popular destination for student tours and College of Agriculture activities. In April the College of Agriculture held its annual TAgger Day activities on the front lawn of the James F. Fontenot Horticulture Classroom. TAgger 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 TAgger 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.

Participants in the College of Agriculture’s annual TAgger Day gather on the front lawn of the James F. Fontenot Horticulture Classroom Building.
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. Charles Johnson at the Idlewild Research Station in Clinton. This was the second consecutive year she won the prestigious award.
The 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 Kleinhens, Houston, Texas
  Secretary - Randi Hodges, DeRidder
  Reporter - Teri Schexnaydre, Baton Rouge
  Treasurer and Ag Student Council Representative - Dexter Fontenot, Eunice

- 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.
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.

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. 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.

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.
clinging 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
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Garden District Nursery
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Hart’s Landscape
B.R. Herb Society of America
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Jay Mac Tropicals
Jill Souvestre
Jim Stone Co.
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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
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Naylor’s Garden Center
Orchids Plus
Ornamental Pond Fish, Inc.
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Passion Orchid
Pelican Design-Build, Inc.
Perrien Hardscape, Inc.
Poly Drip Irrigation Supply
Pottery Galore
Proscape, Inc.
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Silvercreek Woodworks
Soil Polymers/Living Wreaths
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Tom’s Thumb Garden & Gifts
USDA/APHIS/PPQ
Water Ballet Sprinklers
Wild Birds Unlimited

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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
The 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.

- Sunflower $50 to $99
- Gladiolus $100 to $499
- Sasanqua $500 to $999
- Camellia $1,000 to $4,999
- Tulip $5,000 to $9,999
- Rose $10,000 or more

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) ____________________________________________________________
Street ____________________________ City __________________ State __________ Zip __________________
Home Phone ______________________ E-mail Address ______________________

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

Charges to my __ Visa __ MasterCard __ American Express __ Discover
Acct. No. ______________________ Exp. Date __________

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 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: ____________________________
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Send to: Ed Bush, editor or Tel: (225) 578-2158
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Baton Rouge, LA 70803 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).
A family enjoys watching a “turf expert” mow the lawn at the Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show.