# Burden Horticulture Society

Vol. 7, No. 4, Winter 2015

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## Cocktails in the Garden

Lights, camera, action! As you walk up to the entrance, you are greeted by the lovely Scarlett O'Hara and Groucho Marx with a chance to take a photo at the red carpet. Who could miss the fabulous Gretta Garbo serving cocktails created by Olive or Twist in her hoop skirt, art all around the gardens by metal whisperer, Joseph Jilbert and the sweet sounds of Ned Fasullo and his Fabulous Big Band? Cocktails in the Garden did not disappoint.

In the tent were top area mixologists from establishments such as Duvic's, Lock & Key, Pelican House, PF Chang's, Cove, Radio Bar, Tsunami, Beausoleil, Ruffino's, Kona Grill, Galatoire's Bistro, Flemmings, Blend, Virginia College Culinard, Louisiana Sisters, Jubans and L'auberge. We were also joined by local distilleries Rankwildcat, Cathead, Donner Peltier and others. But the night could not be possible without the help of our sponsors, Brian Harris BMW and Mini Cooper, Republic National Distributing Company, H&H Tent Specialties, Inc., Glazer's, People's Health, CH2M Hill, Blush Magazine, Pelican House and Olive or Twist.

The night was a success and talked about for weeks after by guests as well as participants. Next year will be bigger and better!

Cocktails in the Garden photo gallery on page 3





Cocktail?

Photo left: Ned Fasullo and his Fabulous Big Band entertained at Cocktails in the Garden



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# Reflections from the Chair

#### By Kitty Hessburg

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is truly a "happening" place. From September until December, we had many events that brought such a diverse group of people to enjoy this wonderful place in the middle of the city.

It began with Corn Maze Weekend, which appealed to families with children of all ages. Every Friday in October, 4-H groups were at the maze for fun and educational activities. The mMaze was open every Saturday afternoon during October, culminating with the Night Maze on the last Saturday. The attendance this year far surpassed the previous years.

Wine & Roses was the next event on the calendar. It is held under a tent in the Rose Garden with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music in our newly-completed

Pavilion. Mother Nature provided beautiful weather on the night of this event, which added to the magical atmosphere of the evening.

Two new events were held in November. An icon workshop was held during the first week of November, in which 24 people spent five days learning about and painting their own icon. Everyone left with a completed icon. Many thanks to Ginnie Bolin, Connie Abboud, Father Donald Blanchard, Ann Davenport, Michele Deshotels, Denice Ducote and Barbara Laudun for being such wonderful mentors.

The final event of the season was Cocktails in the Garden. Many restaurants and bars participated with their specialty foods and drinks. The evening was on the cool side, but the attendees had a great time.

Not all of our visitors are here for an event. I notice people just walking around the trails and gardens enjoying the beauty that is here for the taking. I even noticed some young mothers with toddlers in strollers assembling in the parking lot. I found out this is a group called Baby Boot Camp and they come every Tuesday morning with their young children and work out!

The new year brings more events, such as Arbor Day in January, where trees are planted and many educational and fun activities are available. Brush with Burden, our annual juried art exhibition, will be held again in March.

On a final note, I would like to welcome five new members to the BHS board. John Hough, Missy Jones, Mike Ruth, Lorice Say and Peggy Scott were elected at the November board meeting. I thank them for their willingness to give of their time and talents to help BHS continue with its mission.



Kitty Hessburg

#### Burden Horticulture Society Board

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The newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Burden Horticulture Society and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, which is part of Burden Museum & Gardens.

www.discoverburden.com 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

## Reflections and Visions



# Thank You Sponsors





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# All America Selections 2015 Vegetable Trial Winners!

#### by Keith Lewis

For the past 84 years, All America Selections has been testing and releasing the newest and tastiest vegetables that breeders and seed companies can develop. On average, only about four vegetables a year have the distinction of being recognized by AAS as one of the best new vegetable varieties on the market, but this year that number doubled. Six recently tested varieties were released for the 2015 growing season as National Winners and two more as Regional Winners for the southeastern region.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden was selected this past spring to join the team of researchers evaluating these new varieties and recommending the top performers to be released to the public. The Botanic Gardens has a long history of conducting research as one of the LSU AgCenter's 17 research stations scattered throughout the state. With the addition of the AAS vegetable trials this past spring, we are now one of only four facilities in the southeastern U.S. and the only research facility in the state conducting vegetable research on newly developed vegetable varieties we can recommend for home and school gardens in the region.

The testing process started off with AAS receiving 28 new test varieties from breeders who have been working to improve the vegetables currently available to the public. The seed for these new varieties were then distributed to about 30 judges throughout North America to be independently evaluated for criteria such as taste, yield and disease resistance. The test varieties and comparisons were planted in seed trays during late winter, then transplanted into the field for evaluation in early spring. The new releases listed below scored exceptionally well in their respective categories and were recognized by the national pool of judges as worthy of the AAS seal of approval.

Vegetable/ Herb	Variety Name	Туре		
National Winners				
Basil	'Dolce Fresca'	Herb		
Pepper	'Pretty N Sweet'	Sweet; Ornamental		
Pepper	'Flaming Flare'	Fresno		
Pepper	'Emerald Fire'	Jalapeño		
Squash	'Bossa Nova'	Zucchini		
Squash	'Butterscotch'	Butternut		
Regional Winners				
Pepper	'Hot Sunset'	Banana		
Tomato	'Chef's Choice Pink'	Beefsteak		

#### **AAS National Winners**

#### Basil 'Dolce Fresca'

This Genovese Basil has an attractive compact shape with tender sweet leaves that make an excellent pesto. The plant is quick to recover after harvesting leaves and keeps a desirable ornamental shape that works well for container-grown plantings, borders or as a focal point. This selection is also exceptionally drought tolerant for use in areas where water is not easily accessible. Produced by: PanAmerican Seed



AAS National winner 'Pretty N Sweet'. A multicolored pepper described as an"ornamedible" — attractive and edible at the same time

#### Pepper 'Pretty N Sweet'

For years landscapers have included colorful ornamental peppers in their plantings to attract attention. Now we have the best of both worlds. It's an attractive, sweet, multicolored pepper that produces an 18-inch plant that can be used in the garden, or as a container or patio plant. The producer describes it as "ornamedible" — attractive and edible at the same time. Bred by: Seeds by Design

#### **Pepper 'Flaming Flare'**

Fresno-type peppers are not generally grown in the Southeast because they don't tolerate our wet, humid weather, but this variety performed surprisingly well in our trials. It's not called 'Flaming Flare' for nothing. This pepper has beautiful shiny red fruit that starts off hot and gets hotter as the season progresses. It produces an abundance of large red peppers that are great for making chili sauces. Bred by: Seminis Vegetable Seeds

#### Pepper 'Emerald Fire'

This jalapeño pepper was the most popular vegetable in our trials this year. It was also the hottest at 2500 Scoville units! The plant makes extra-large, glossy green peppers that can be used for stuffing, grilling or making salsa. It is unique among jalapeño peppers because of its excellent disease resistance. This allows it to turn red on the plant without cracking or wilting, which adds an extra pop when used in culinary dishes. Bred by: Seminis Vegetable Seeds

#### Squash 'Bossa Nova'

A great culinary squash, this zucchini has beautiful dark and light green mottling that is more pronounced than other varieties. The fruit grows on compact plants that produce earlier in the season and continues producing three weeks longer than most other varieties in its class. The flesh has a sweet, mild taste and a smooth texture. Bred by: Seminis Vegetable Seeds

#### Squash 'Butterscotch'

One of the reasons butternut squash it not grown in the South is because it is susceptible to powdery mildew. This variety has good resistance and produces an exceptionally sweet fruit. The fruit and vines are consistently compact with each fruit weighing about 1.25 pounds, which is a real space-saver in the garden. Bred by: Johnny's Selected Seeds

#### **AAS Regional Winners**

Recently, the AAS committee realized that some of the vegetable entries were doing superbly well in some climates, and not so well in others. For that reason, they decided to create six regional climate zones to give more specific recommendations to growers for each zone. In the Southeastern Zone, two vegetables performed exceptionally well.

#### Tomato 'Chef's Choice Pink'

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in heirloom tomatoes for their taste and size. But because they are fragile, prone to disease and typically have low yields, many growers are hesitant to grow them. You don't have to wait any longer! This indeterminate potato leaf plant has large fruit (often over a pound each), very good yields and excellent disease resistance. The fruit is an extra-large, pinkfleshed beefsteak tomato with excellent taste reminiscent of heirloom varieties. Great for tomato sandwiches! Bred by: Seeds by Design

#### Pepper 'Hot Sunset'

This banana pepper is a fantastic producer with extremely large peppers and great disease resistance. It has an excellent spicy flavor (650 Scoville units) with light green fruit that turn a bright orange-red when left to ripen on the plant. These peppers are great for eating raw or making relish. If you like a hot pepper but don't like it so hot you can't eat it, this is the perfect combination of pepper flavor and spice.

AAS recently sent us our preliminary list of new, never released trial vegetables for the 2016 season. The entries include several new tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and melons among the 25 new varieties that we will be displaying and sampling at our summer Garden Festival. We invite the public to come out and see what's new and answer any questions you might have about what's going on in your garden!

Keith Lewis is a research associate at the LSU AgCenter Bontanical Gardens at Burden and a AAS Vegetable Judge.

Volunteers Wanted

#### Want to join a great group?

Complete the form below and mail to **Burden Horticulture Society**, **4560 Essen Lane**, **Baton Rouge**, **LA 70809**. Or use the entry form on the 'Join Us' page of the Burden Horticulture Society website: www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com You also can contact our volunteer coordinator Bob Souvestre at **225-763-3990** or **bsouvestre@agcenter.lsu.edu** 

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Gardening	Speakers	Membership	Volunteer (	Coordination	Reflections in the Garden
Fundraising	Database	Annual Events	Clerical	Publicity	Trees and Trails
Other:		_			
Name:			-		
Phone:		Email:			

## Lady beetle: friend or foe?

#### by Robert Souvestre

Ladybugs, also known as lady beetles, are typically one of our most beloved beneficial insects. During summer months they are a welcome sight in gardens, preying on aphids, whiteflies and other soft bodied insects. However, during the fall and winter months, ladybugs become a nuisance to many, invading homes by the hundreds and even thousands. Ladybugs like to congregate in massive numbers on houses and trees, actually turning these locations red with their numbers. Many congregate They gather around doors and fly inside when disturbed by the opening and closing. The beetles are searching for a place to overwinter, and many enter cracks and crevices on houses getting to get into the walls and attics.

The multicolored Asian lady beetle, *Harmonia axyridis*, is the species most commonly found entering structures. This particular ladybug was introduced to the United States in the 1970's as a biological control agent. In their native habitat of Japan, Korea and other portions of Asia, they overwinter in cliffs, protected from the weather. As temperatures warm in the spring, they move from these sites in search of food. Unfortunately, the lack of cliffs in Louisiana makes the vertical walls of our homes the next best thing. Furthermore, ladybugs are often more attracted to white and light colored surfaces with a south or southwest exposure. This becomes a major problem when the weather warms or when heating your house from theduring cold temperatures. Then they think spring is here and look for a way out. They are attracted to the light inside the home and emerge through any location where they can see light.

Ladybugs will not attack the structure of your home, furniture or fabric. They do not sting nor carry any diseases. Due to the benefits ladybugs provide the majority of the year, chemical control should be avoided when possible. Begin by locating and sealing any cracks or crevices in walls. Check that all doors, windows and screens are tight fitting and free of gaps. Use a vacuum to collect the insects and dispose of them far from your home. Avoid removing ladybugs by hand. Although they do not sting or bite, when irritated they may release a yellow, foul-smelling substance which that can stain fabric and walls. This substance is harmless to humans.

If you are an avid gardener or have a greenhouse, you can collect the lady beetles in round, ice cream cartons and store them in the refrigerator to use against pests in the spring. Put a small amount of hay or dry grass in the carton and dampen it, add 200-300 lady beetles and store them until they're needed. They have an 80-plus percent survival rate when stored like this. They are excellent against aphids, scales, mites and other soft-bodied insect pests.

Lady beetle: friend or foe? Once a person understands the beneficial aspects of the beetles, there is little doubt that the benefits far outweigh the nuisance aspect of their overwintering behavior.

Robert Souvestre is a Horticulture Agent & Master Gardener Coordinator at the LSU AgCenter Botanical Gardens at Burden.



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## Brush with Burden Enters 5th Year Celebrating Louisiana Artistry

Brush with Burden, a juried art exhibition and sale organized by a talented group of BHS volunteers, will offer opportunity for artists, photographers and sculptors to enter and show their work at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. The event which expanded last year with the addition of a separate category and prizes for photography is expected to grow even larger, drawing submissions from all over the state and beyond.

The Call for Entries is being broadcast far and wide and is open to all artists of any media except video and film who may submit as many as 6 pieces by the January 15 deadline. New this year is the use of the CallforEntry.org TM, a Webbased service that allows artists to submit images and pay entry fees easily online. The theme: The Nature and Culture of Louisiana. What could be more inspiring? Just take a walk in the Burden Woods, a stroll through Windrush Gardens, a tour of the Rural Life Museum, a drive past the fields, and the images are sure to appear as the Museum and Gardens at Burden epitomize the nature and culture of Louisiana and have been host to many an easel.



Photographers will be pleased to learn that the Brush with Burden committee has the addition of Butch Spielman to assist in planning the show, allotted even more space to display photographs and engaged a panel of 3 acclaimed professional photographers, John Ballance, Marie Bissell Constantin and William Greiner as jurors and judges for 2015. There will be up to 85 photographs hung for the show.



For artists the opportunity to show and sell their work is not the only prize of Brush with Burden. There is also a lecture and demonstration being conducted by this year's art juror and judge, Phil Sandusky. Beginning at 9 am on Saturday, March 21st in the Ione Burden Conference Center, Mr. Sandusky will present "Understanding Vision for the Artist and Practical Applications in Painting" explaining the counterintuitive nature of human vision and showing how this knowledge can be applied in representational painting. The fee for this lecture is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

Later on that day there will be the opening reception for the show from 4-6 p.m. at the Conference Center with the awards ceremony at 5:30. Patrons may view and purchase all the entries judged into the show. While they will receive a treasure, they will also be supporting the Burden Horticulture Society's initiatives at the Botanic Gardens. The exhibition will continue to hang in the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie and the Ione Burden Conference Center throughout the week of March 22-29 giving opportunity for contemplative viewing and purchases.



Topics and Speakers for 2015

Ione Burden Conference Center

Jan. 5 Roses: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Dr. Allen Owings

> Feb. 2 Color with Camellias Dr. Pat Hegwood

March 2 Americas Favorite Fruit-Tomatoes Johnny Naylor

April 6 Miniature Gardens: Terrariums and Fairy Gardens Angie Wall

May 4 LSU Lakes Project: Reclaiming Nature in an Urban Setting Jeffrey Carbo

June 1 Carefree Gardening with Succulents Mark Meese

> July 6 Red Stick Farmers Market: Local Farms and Food Copper Alvarez

August 3 Wondrous World of Zingiberales: Gingers and their Relatives Glenn Stokes

Sept. 14 Plants A-Z (26 Wanda-Proven Louisiana Favorites) Wanda Chase

> Oct. 5 Trees for Small Spaces Scott Courtright

Nov. 2 LSU Agcenter Food Incubator Program: Turning your Passion Into a Dream Gaye Sandoz-Director

> Dec. 7 Louisiana Culinary Institute: Holiday Cuisine Charlie Ruffolo

## Dine with Wine & Pose with Roses

Once again, Burden Horticulture Society celebrated their fabulous annual gala, Wine & Roses. The evening started with cocktails in the Pavilion. The guests enjoyed light music by the Crazy Janes while admiring the chandelier made by our arborist, Glenn Wilson. Speeches were then made by Dr. Jeff Kuehny and Vice Chancellor, Dr. John Russin thanking BHS for all of its hard work to make the Pavilion a reality.

Dinner was served by Chef Eric Arceneaux from the City Club, Chef Don Bergeron Enterprises and Magpie Café. The menu comprised of a shredded Brussel sprout slaw, pork osso bucco, root vegetables and smashed potatoes and a trio of deserts.

No one could miss the huge flower display in the center of the tent with roses and hydrangeas. NOLA, 225 Magazine, The Advocate and InRegister were there to cover the event and marveled at how beautiful the grounds look. Special thanks to the committee, Kitty Hessburg, Mitzi Miller, Judy Foil, Ginnie Bolin, Cornelia Weldon, Penny Miller, Jeanie LeBlanc, Leslie Bardwell, Barbara Hughes, Margo Spielman and Annette Barton. The floral committee, Jeanie LeBlanc, Barbara Laudun, Connie Abboud and Jan Soule.

Special thanks need to go out to our donors; Annette Barton, Malcolm Tucker, Pat Alford, & Benny's B-Q Stores, Tiger Canopy, Chef Eric Arceneaux from The City Club, Chef Don Bergeron Enterprises, Magpie Café and Blush Magazine. We also need to thank the sponsors; Newton Landscape Group, Len & Lyn Kilgore, Jim Stone and Milton J. Womack.



## Camellia Society at Work at Burden and Beyond

#### By Kay Clark, BRCS Secretary

The Baton Rouge Camellia Society was founded in 1971. With its 200-plus members and many activities throughout the year, BRCS is one of the largest, most productive camellia clubs in the country. The purposes of BRCS are to promote the growth and propagation of camellias and to participate in exhibiting blooms at shows.

Following the seasons of camellia culture, members work year-round to propagate through grafting and rooting cuttings and to maintain the plants, getting them ready for planting or for selling in about three years' time. This schedule results in about 1,000 plants being available each year.

Propagation takes place on the grounds at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, where the club also maintains the Vi and Hank Stone Memorial Camellia Collection, the Oriental Garden, the Higo Garden and other camellias planted on the Burden property. The club's newest project at Burden is to develop a garden of antique varieties. In a ceremony to break ground for the Antique Garden, an 'Alba Plena' was planted.

In 2013, BRCS applied for and received a designation for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens to be recognized as an International Garden of Excellence for camellia gardens. This is a high honor as it is awarded by the International Camellia Society, and Burden is one of only 40 gardens in the world to attain this award.

The mission of BRCS is to stimulate general interest in camellias, promote research, and disseminate horticultural information concerning the growth, care and propagation of camellias. To that end, members speak to garden clubs and civic groups and participate in other gardening events. Teams make visits to home gardens to help identify varieties, diagnose disease, and advise on pruning and plant care.

Many club members are affiliated with other camellia clubs and hold office in regional, national, and international societies. They participate by entering blooms in shows, acting as show judges, attending conferences, and sharing information.

The biggest event of the year is the BRCS annual show. This show is held at the Rural Life Museum, and is free and open to the public. Some 1,500 blooms are entered, and accredited judges from around the southeastern states award prizes in a number of categories. There is no entry fee, and anyone can enter blooms, as club membership is not required.

The dates for the next annual show are Feb.ruary 14-15, 2015. There will also be plants for sale and opportunities for membership.

There are many advantages to membership in BRCS: fellowship, experience in camellia culture, social events, and promotion of the most beautiful of flowers. The membership fee is \$10 annually. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/brcamellias.

See you at the show!

# Burden Horticulture Society

Burden Horticulture Society Mission: In cooperation with the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens' master plan, the mission of the Burden Horticulture Society is to enhance, promote and preserve the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and its serene environment to benefit the public through educational programs, fundraising and volunteerism.

Please visit our website for information on events and programs: www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com

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Mail to: Burden Horticulture Society, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809				
For Additional Information giving opportunities, contact: Ellen Mathis, Burden Center Director of Development, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, 102 J. Norman Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Office 225-578-5261 Email: emathis@agcenter.lsu.edu				



Plant a tree and make a memory. Celebrate Arbor Day and learn more about trees and their uses at this family friendly event during the LSU AgCenter's Arbor Day celebration at Burden.

## Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015 9 a.m.-3 p.m. LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Just \$5 per person. Free for children age 3 and under. Refreshments available for sale.

Family Tree Plantings A Scavenger Hunt in the Burden Woods StoryTime in the Orangerie Lumberjack Demonstrations Children's Tree Climbing A Visit by Smokey Bear A Bonfire Hayrides ...And More









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# Byzantine Icon Workshop

#### By Ann Davenport

The Friday Icon Group, led by Ginnie Bolin held a week-long workshop starting on November 3, 2014, on beginning Byzantine iconography. The proceeds from the workshop, which was held in the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, went to the Burden Horticulture Society for the furtherance of its mission to enhance and promote the Botanic Gardens and its serene environment for the benefit of the public through educational programs, fundraising and volunteerism.

There were 23 participants in the program of various ages and walks of life and 6 volunteers from the Friday Icon Group, Father Donald Blanchard, Connie Abboud, Ann Davenport, Michele Deshoteles, Denice Ducote, and Barbara Laudun who assisted Ginnie with the workshop. Only a few participants had experienced icon writing previously and most had no previous art experience. At the end of the workshop,



all 23 participants had produced a 10" x 12" icon of St. Thomas the Apostle like the one shown here by a participant, Joyce Hensley.

Lunch was served four days on the premises which provided time for rest, relaxation and socialization. Ginnie stated "It was a totally rewarding week. I think the participants went away with a great feeling of accomplishment on seeing their beautiful icons. Their work was very impressive. I know that a lot of us renewed old acquaintances and all of us made new ones as we worked together in this gratifying endeavor."



Byzantine iconography workshop held in the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden





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

#### PHYSICAL LOCATION: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, La. 70809 | (225) 763-3990 | www.discoverburden.com

### Upcoming Events at Burden Museum & Gardens

#### January 2015

Reflections in the Garden Jan. 5, Noon - 1 p.m
EBR Master Gardener Assoc.  Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.  Ione Burden Conference Center    Storytime at Burden  Jan. 17, 8-11:30 a.m., every 30 mins.  Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie    Arbor Day at Burden  Jan. 17, 7 a.m 1 p.m.  LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens    Baton Rouge Herb Society  Jan. 22, 7 p.m.  Ione Burden Conference Center
February 2015
Reflections in the Garden
EBR Master Gardener Assoc.  Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m.    Storytime at Burden  Feb. 7, 9-11:30 a.m., every 30 mins.    *BR Camellia Society Show (see page  Feb. 14-15, Sat. 1-5 p.m., Sun. 10-3 p.m.    Baton Rouge Herb Society  Feb. 26, 7 p.m.
March 2015
Reflections in the Garden
EBR Master Gardener Assoc.
Brush with Burden Opening Reception Mar. 21, 3-6 p.m
Brush with Burden ExibitionMar. 22-29, MonSat. 9am - 4 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m.Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie and Ione Burden Conference Center
Baton Rouge Herb Society