

Vol. 9, No. 2, Summer 2016

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Fifty Years of a Family Legacy: Burden Museum & Gardens

Fifty years ago, the first 50 acres of Windrush Plantation were donated to the LSU System with an agreement to add to this donation annually until the entire 440-acres of the property were transferred. This donation would become one of the most significant and valuable contributions in the history of LSU.

The story of this treasured property begins as a wedding gift to John Charles Burden and Emma Gertrude Barbee in the mid-1800s. The Burden family enjoyed this country estate, which eventually became the permanent home of the family. The family legend is that the lazy little stream (Ward Creek) that wound its way through the property near the family home reminded John Charles of the quiet and scenic Windrush River that can be found in the Cotswolds near his birth place in Whitney, Oxfordshire, England.

To understand the story of this family and Windrush, it is important to know the role of each of the Burden grandchildren. In 1895 William S. Pike Burden Sr., youngest son of John and Emma, married Ollie Brice Steele, oldest child of O. B. and Juliet Steele. They had three children-Ione Easter (1896), William Pike Jr. (1898) and Ollie Steele (1900). Although these three would be the end of the family line, each one made significant contributions to the vision that shaped the design of this property they loved.

When Pike Burden Sr. passed away in 1925, estate records show that other than the value of the property and home, debts exceeded assets. Loss of the property was averted only after many requests by Miss Ollie to a banker friend. This early struggle to keep the family estate intact influenced her children and the goal of preserving Windrush was set in stone at that point.

Pike Burden Jr. was the most colorful character of the three siblings and quite a showman. In addition to running a successful printing business, he spent his life seizing every opportunity to make a significant contribution to build up Baton Rouge, or failing that, looking for a good joke to play.



Jeannette and Pike Burden, Jr's first home located at Windrush.

Pike created "Playhouse 279" at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital because he thought the hospital too dreary a place for children. He had a room in the pediatric unit painted with murals of balloons and clowns on the wall and added toys and a fun-house mirror with a sign on the door that read "No Doctors Allowed."

Although Pike Burden Jr. loved children and spent much of his life assisting families throughout the commu-Fifty Years continues on page 4

Reflections from the Chair

By John Hough

First, let us thank our previous chair, Kerry Hawkins, for his exemplary leadership. Kerry helped us launch a membership committee and, in this column, often focused on highlighting the dedication of some very long-service volunteers. I think of these folks as the nuts and bolts (no pun intended) that make BHS a great organization. A big Thank You to Kerry!

Spring at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens has been very busy, and volunteers were key to many successful events. Our **Icon Workshop** was again a tremendous success thanks to the continued leadership of Ginnie Bolin, Connie Abboud, Donald Blanchard, Brenda Davis, Michele Deshotels, Joyce Hensley, Kitty Hessburg, Diana Wells and support by Aline Creed. The



John Hough

growing interest in this weeklong workshop has afforded us the opportunity to continue growing this event which is beginning to book reservations for the Spring of 2017.

Our signature art event, the **Brush with Burden Art & Photography** exhibition was another success, attracting a record level of entry submissions for the show. The many volunteers who made this event a success were highlighted in our previous newsletter. This event also grows each year and helps us by continuing to raise funds for BHS which directly benefit our Botanic Gardens.

Master Gardeners were so successful at propagating plants for the **Master Gardener Plant Sale**, they had enough plants after the sale for several follow-up mini sales. Well over 100 volunteers propagated plants for six months leading up to the sale, and they again volunteered during the sale!

During our **Arbor Day** celebration, participants were welcomed by plenty of volunteers who helped folks plant trees in the Burden Woods near the newly expanded Mosaic Boardwalk at Black Swamp and the newly developed James Wandersee Palmetto Trail within the Barton Arboretum. Other activities included tree climbing for youth and adults, hayrides, a wooden log playground and navigating a "monkey bridge." Thanks to Kerry Hawkins for organizing the Eagle Scouts in the construction of the monkey bridge on site, which added to the Arbor Day fun.

Gourmet in the Garden featured 11 chefs presenting their fares to our guests. Also, the Louisiana Culinary Institute students provided dessert samplings for evaluation by attendees. We certainly owe a Thank You to our local chefs and the LCI for partnering with us to help make this unique and delightful event a success.

Our spring **Trees and Trails/Project Learning Tree** program for school children concluded in May. More than 800 children from 17 schools and scout groups learned about the wonders of the Burden Woods led by over 80 volunteer docents. Many thanks to Ellen LeBlanc, Missy Jones and Rebecca White for leading this important educational program at the Botanic Gardens.

All of these events are possible only by the enthusiastic support of our hundreds of volunteers. We formally recognized these volunteers in May with the annual **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** to honor these folks who give their time and care to the Botanic Gardens. We know that a growing volunteer program is key to our continued growth and success in developing our "green gem in the city." We also look forward to seeing you soon at an upcoming event either as a participant or volunteer. Thanks for your support.

> John Hough Burden Horticulture Society Chair

Note: The Board is discussing the possibility of changing the name of the organization. The name change could provide greater clarity of the function of BHS and increase promotion for the Botanic Gardens. Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions. jedgarhough@gmail.com or 225 907-6016

Burden Horticulture Society Board

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Newsletter Submissions: BotanicGardens@AgCenter.LSU.edu

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4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809



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nity, Steele Burden's passion was plants and art. As a young man, he managed to travel to Europe and South America visiting many gardens and parks that helped form his vision for the family property. His goal was to recreate at home the emotions he had felt when visiting these landscapes.

Steele began developing Windrush Gardens in the 1920s. It is said that he used his experiences developing Windrush Gardens on a shoestring, to help form his signature lowmaintenance, green landscape design that he replicated on the LSU campus during his near 30-year tenure as the campus landscaper. He also designed numerous landscapes for residences designed by renowned architect and friend, A. Hayes Town.

NIVERSE



Steele Burden, Jeannette Monroe Burden, Pike Burden, Jr. and John C. Monroe, Jr., nephew of Jeannette and Pike, at Windrush Gardens.

Steele's landscape vision did not end with Windrush Gardens. His vision encompassed the whole of the Burden property. In 1970, he began gathering buildings and artifacts that led to the establishment of the LSU Rural Life Museum. Steele's next goal was to create an extension of Windrush Gardens that closely resembled a working plantation. His purpose was to increase the appreciation of the heritage and the lifestyles of rural Louisianians: their hardships, their inspiration and their determination. To bring this experience to life, Steele created an entry off Essen Lane. It wound through the property, crossing a small country bridge, through the research fields of the LSU AgCenter.

After Miss Ollie passed away, Miss Ione became the matriarch of the family. In that role, she kept her two younger brothers in check. Ione graduated from LSU in 1917 and pursued a career in college administration at various universities, including William & Mary in Virginia, before returning to LSU as Assistant to the Dean of Women.



After 50 years of the original donation, the legacy of the Burden Family continues to grow and follow the family's vision through the efforts of LSU A&M and the LSU AgCenter. A master plan

for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens was completed in 2009 with the mission of expanding and linking each property venue into a unified whole, establishing a unique destination for the Baton Rouge community and state of Louisiana.

Since the completion of the master plan, a new entry into the property has been added to facilitate a road to a new Welcome Center. The Pavilion was completed in 2012 to facilitate children's educational programs on a new trail system called Trees and Trails, completed in 2010. This trail links the main gardens at the entrance of the property, through the 180 acres of Burden Woods to the Mosaic Boardwalk at Black Swamp and the Barton Arboretum.

Recently completed in the arboretum is the restoration of the James C. Wandersee Palmetto Walk. Currently, the Early American Camellia Garden is under construction. Three new gardens have been added to the main gardens: All-America Selections Display Garden, Children's Garden and the first phase of the Herb Garden.

In 2013, the official name of the Burden property was changed to Burden Museum & Gardens. The complex includes the LSU Rural Life Museum, the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and Windrush Gardens.

We invite you to help continue the legacy of the Burden Family by participating in Burden Museum & Gardens events, volunteerism, sponsorships and contributions. If you would like more information on how you might become involved in the Botanic Gardens, please contact Jeff Kuehny at 225-763-3990 or jkuehny@lsu.edu.

More history about the Burden family by Johnny Monroe, can be found in volumes 2, 3 and 4 of the BHS Newsletters.





Iconography Workshop Devotion

After the rave reviews from the fall workshop, which focused on St. Francis of Assisi, Ginnie Bolin and her committee of volunteers swiftly responded to the many requests for another workshop this spring. Patricia Brignac and James Hessburg (JMC Collision Repair) enthusiastically signed on as sponsors, and during the first week of April an icon workshop was offered, this time on Mary Magdalene. With the Botanic Gardens at its height of natural beauty and the Orangerie bathed in soft sunshine, 20 people gathered for instruction in the age-old art of writing an icon.

Demonstrating each step of the process was Joyce Hensley. Direction and guidance also were given by Ginnie Bolin, by experienced iconographer Michele Deshotels and by Father Donald Blanchard, who has personally completed 30 icons. Assisting before, during and afterwards was a group of iconographers, artists, friends and supporters of Burden Horticulture Society:

Diana Wells, Brenda Davis, Kitty Hessburg, Connie Abboud, Betty Falgout, Barbara Quirk and Ann Davenport. Diana and her husband, Kenny, also produced the boards on which the icons were written.

Each workshop brings improvements in the operation and instructions, draws additional participants who rejoice in the opportunity to learn this art form with minimal travel and causes an upsurge in interest throughout the community, which has actually led to the formation of iconography painting groups all around Baton Rouge. Although a majority of past partici-



Dr. John Russin, Vice Chancellor of the LSU AgCenter and Ginnie Bolin.



April icon workshop attendees focused on Mary Magdalene.

pants return for each new workshop, there are always newcomers who eagerly devote a week of their time and energy for the chance to learn about iconography and to create an icon of their own.

At the workshop a special gift was presented to Dr. John Russin, Vice Chancellor of the LSU AgCenter and a dedicated advocate for the Botanic Gardens. Dr. Russin had become intrigued when he visited during the first workshop featuring St. Thomas. He immediately signed up to participate in the second workshop but was unable to attend due to work commitments. Ginnie politely refused his offer to create a commissioned work, and instead set to work to surprise him with her rendering of St. John, Russin's patron saint, as a gift of appreciation for all he has done for the gardens.

The next workshop will be held beginning October 31 with Saint Deborah as the subject. Space will be limited, and with 15 people already signed up, a waiting list may be created. Yet another workshop is set to be offered in January 2017. Please contact Ginnie Bolin at ginniebolin1@cox.net if you are interested in participating.

> Icon Workshop Sponsors Thank You

Patricia Brignac and James Hessburg JCM Collision Repair

Welcoming the Ladies to the BHS Board

Joining the board are three very talented and generous women – Kathleen Meares, Cynthia Nobles and Mary Tauzin. They come to the Botanic Gardens from near and far. Mary grew up in the little community of Chackbay, Cynthia has ties to New Orleans and Kathleen, a Baton Rouge native, returns after living all over the country.

The three also began their association with the Botanic Gardens from different points of origin. Mary first joined the BHS Advisory Committee as the President of the Master Gardeners Association, while Kathleen's interest in working with children led her to join as a docent for the Trees and Trails program. Cynthia, a cookbook author with extensive knowledge on the edible side of gardening, has been involved with the Herb Society. We are very fortunate they have agreed to join the Burden Horticulture Society's board.

Kathleen Meares spent 30 years teaching math to fifth graders, and upon her retirement and that of her husband, Bill, they returned to Baton Rouge. Kathleen not only volunteers with the Trees and Trails program, she also is a volunteer in the public school system. In addition to working with children, Kathleen is a weekly volunteer at the front desk of the conference center, and this



Kathleen Meares

year found herself tapped as chair of the Brush with Burden Art Exhibition and Sale.



Cynthis LeJeune Nobles

Cynthia LeJeune Nobles is the writer and editor of "The Southern Table" series of cookbooks for the LSU Press and is likely a familiar name to many as a former columnist for the Baton Rouge Advocate. She is the author of "The Delta Queen" cookbook and "A Confederacy of Dunces" cookbook. She is also co-author of the forthcoming "Fonville Winans Cookbook." She has been a speaker for the Reflections in the Garden program and at Herb Day at the Botanic Gardens.

Mary Tauzin applied her master's degree in information systems and decision science to a career at the Louisiana State Department of Education and the LSU Health Sciences Department. Besides becoming a Master Gardener, Mary was certified in 2010 as a Spiritual Director at St. George Parish and also serves as a Eucharistic minister, lector and RCIA facilitator there. In addition, she is a Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of the Lake and on the board at Ollie Steele Burden Manor.

The Botanic Gardens at Burden is a fortunate beneficiary of the time and talents of these dedicated women. Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Mary Tauzin

A Collaborative Research Project: LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and USDA Southern Horticulture Lab

Ambrosia beetles perform important nutrient recycling roles in a variety of natural habitats, but when ornamental nurseries border the right type of habitat, the beetles can cause serious economic damage. Chris Werle completed his doctoral program at LSU this spring working on possible solutions to help nursery owners battle this pest. His efforts earned him the 2016 Friends of Southern IPM Graduate Student award in the Ph.D. category.

For the past few years, Chris Werle has been studying the ecology of ambrosia beetles, focusing on a group of exotic invasives that attack a variety of ornamental trees. Werle is a Research Associate at the USDA Southern Horticulture Lab in Poplarville, Miss., and he was a Ph.D. student in the LSU School of Plant, Environment and Soil Science. Working with LSU AgCenter faculty Jeff Kuehny, Jeffrey Beasley and Timothy Schowalter, he has been testing various theories about how the beetles enter nurseries and why they prefer certain areas of the nursery over others.

As he looked at beetle ecology, he also tested various products that could deter the damaging nursery attacks. The ultimate goal was to develop an integrated pest management program to reduce beetle attacks while limiting pesticide inputs in the nursery.

After setting up research plots at several large commercial nurseries, he discovered that beetle captures decreased significantly after as little as 25 meters. Larger nurseries would have an advantage because owners could more easily rearrange where they placed susceptible cultivars. The challenge was how to help smaller nurseries ward off beetle attacks.

Werle participated in another trap experiment through a collaboration with researchers at Virginia Tech and Tennessee State University. That experiment, which tested whether bark beetles preferred certain colors, concluded that white traps captured significantly fewer ambrosia beetles compared with other darker colored traps.



From L-R: Henry Fadamiro, Chris Werle and Joe LaForest

An experiment comparing kaolin applications with standard insecticides had mixed results. Werle found that it washed off in a hard rain, so growers would have to reapply it frequently. Despite an initial deterrence in beetle attacks, three days after treatment, kaolin-treated trees were no better than untreated controls.

Werle first developed his love of entomology at the University of Maine, where he took his first entomology class and decided to take a work-study internship with his professor during the summer.

In addition to the ambrosia beetle work, he designed a trap for strawberry rootworm, a major pest of ornamentals that chews holes in the leaves of azaleas and other plants. The trap is sturdier than a regular sticky trap, and it contains a solarpowered light at the top, which attracts the nocturnal beetles. As the beetles accumulate on the trap, growers can determine whether to spray their crops. The trap proved to be an effective monitoring device, because it caught rootworms before any damage appeared on the leaves.

Werle received his award on March 15 at the Southeastern Branch Entomological Society of America meeting in Raleigh, N.C. He graduated from LSU in May, and continues working in horticultural entomology at the USDA Southern Horticulture Lab.



The Engineer That Could, Can and Does

Kerry Hawkins is a retired engineer from ExxonMobil who, like many of our BHS presidents, first became a Master Gardner. I first met Kerry when he came out to the Botanic Gardens to work with the Plant Makers. For those of you who do not know who the Plant Makers are, they are the group of EBR Parish Master



Kerry Hawkins

Gardeners that "make" plants for the annual plant sale.

As a longtime scout master, Kerry soon discovered Trees and Trails in the Burden Woods and became a docent for the Project Learning Tree educational field trip program. He also worked with the Trail Masters, who assist Glen Wilson, our arborist, with maintaining the trails and preparing for Arbor Day at Burden. Shortly thereafter, he began volunteering at the Corn Maze and worked with Barbara Quirk to grow the Maze into the biggest educational, fund-raising event we have at the Botanic Gardens.

Becoming involved in all of these activities at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and being a quick study, Kerry was destined to become the first male president of the Burden Horticulture Society. Along with his gift of being a quick learner, Kerry is always very calm and collected, and he has the patience of Jobe. That's a very good quality to have when working with the numerous personalities of the volunteers and staff at the Botanic Gardens.

That being said, Kerry is known to sneak in some wonderful sayings during a meeting or an event that help to bring a little humor to a subject but still make a point. Some are surely straight from Texas where he grew up and others he picked up along the way to Louisiana.

I will share a few of them for your enjoyment and maybe for your use someday. "Don't let the camel get its nose under the tent." The idea is that if a camel sticks his nose under your tent and you don't do anything about it, then it will be his head, then his neck until the whole camel is destructively blundering about in a space where he doesn't belong. One of my favorites because we have many wonderful ladies who volunteer, "There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works."

Thank you, Kerry, for all you have done, still do and will do for the Botanic Gardens.



Join us for an evening of Wine & Roses Wednesday, October 12, 2016 LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden 4560 Essen Lane **Baton Rouge**

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres Music The Pavilion 6 p.m.

Dinner Rose Garden at Burden 7 p.m.

\$125.00 per person

Early BHS members registration by Oct. 1 \$100 per person

Limited seating available 225-763-3990





Learn more at DiscoverBurden.com



Corn Maze Festival Oct. 1 . 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Find your way out of the corn maze, climb the hay mountain, paint a pumpkin, test your skill at the giant slingshots, visit the farm animals petting zoo and more. Concessions available. Admission - \$10.50* (separate from Harvest Days admission) . Free for children 3 and younger.

Corn Maze Saturdays Oct. 8, 15 and 22 . 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The fun continues in October. Wind through the maze, climb hay mountain, try the giant sling shots, visit the

The fun continues in October. Wind through the maze, climb hay mountain, try the giant sling shots, visit the farm animals petting zoo and take a hayride. Concessions available. Admission - \$10.50* . Free for children 3 and younger.

Night Maze and Bonfire Oct. 29. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Enjoy the farm animals petting zoo, hay mountain, giant slingshots, evening bonfire, s'mores and music. Wear your costume. Concessions available. Admission - \$10.50* . Free for children 3 and younger. (*Sales tax included in admission.)









LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden Burden Museum & Gardens 4560 Essen Lane . 225-763-3990 DiscoverBurden.com





Volunteer Luncheon



Boy Scouts Gabe Reed, Ruben Lorenzo, James Lindquist, Juan Lorenzo and Kerry Hawkins

Goings-on in the Gardens



Baton Rouge Orchid Society show and sale at Burden

Trees and Trails, a 5-mile system of pedestrian, recreational and educational trails in the Burden Woods, provides opportunities for hiking and interpretive activities for youth and adults. The Mosaic Boardwalk at Black Swamp guides visitors through a hardwood swamp more than 200 years old. The trail system is open from 8 a.m. to dusk every day.

Project Learning Tree educational field trip program. Photo: Docent training with coordinator Ellen Leblanc.



Gourmet in the Garden, an annual event organized by the Burden Horticulture Society, LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Culinary Institute, featured outdoor dining and tastings from local chefs. Music from Kirk Hoder and a LCI student chef cook-off entertained guests. Gourmet in the Garden took place April 22 in the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.







LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

PHYSICAL LOCATION: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 | (225) 763-3990 | DiscoverBurden.com

Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

August 2016
Aug. 1, Noon - 1 pm Burden Horticulture Society, Reflections in the Garden Ione Burden Conference Center
Gardens of Longue Vue' Amy Graham, Director of Horticulture Aug. 17, 7:00 pm Ione Burden Conference Center
Aug. 17, 7:00 pm Orchid Society of Baton Rouge, Monthly meeting Ione Burden Conference Center
Aug. 21, 4 - 6 pm
Aug. 25, 6:30 pm Herb Society Baton Rouge, <i>Preserving the Herbal Harvest</i> , Peggy Cox Ione Burden Conference Center
September 2016
Sept. 6, 6 pm
Native Plants in Louisiana, Matthew Herron, Plant Ecologist
Sept. 18, 4 - 6 pm
Sept. 21, 7:00 pm
Holiday Decorating with Herbs and Botanicals, Joel Franklin of Peregrine Florists.
Sept. 24.9 - 11 am
Chickens: learn about raising them and how they help plants; \$15, reserve at angwall@cox.net
October 2016
Oct. 1, 10 am - 5 pm
Oct. 3, Noon - 1 pm Burden Horticulture Society, Reflections in the Garden Ione Burden Conference Center Louisiana's Cultural Heritage, Randy Harelson, Artist, Writer, Horticulturist, Educator
Oct. 4, 6 pm
Oct. 8, 10 am - 5 pm
Oct. 12, 6 - 9 pm Wine and Roses (information in the newsletter on page 8) Rose Garden
Oct.15, 10 am - 5 pm
Oct. 16, 4 - 6 pm
Oct. 19, 7:00 pm Orchid Society of Baton Rouge, Monthly meeting Ione Burden Conference Center Oct. 22, 10 am - 5 pm
Oct. 27, 6:30 pm
Oct. 29, 10 am - 9 pm Night Maze and Bonfire (<i>information in the newsletter on page 9</i>) Corn Field
November 2016
Nov. 1, 6 pm
Plants of Asian Persuasion, Wanda Chase, Imahara's Landscape
Nov. 16, 7:00 pm
Nov. 20, 4 - 6 pm
December 2016
Dec. 2, 8 am - Noon
Dec. 5, Noon - 1 pm Burden Horticulture Society, Reflections in the Garden Ione Burden Conference Center
Art Inspiration for Your Garden, Scott Bolick, Artist
Art Inspiration for Your Garden, Scott Bolick, Artist Dec. 6, 6 pm Master Gardeners EBR, Monthly meeting
For more information on these and other upcoming events at Burden Museum & Cardens, visit DiscoverBurden com

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