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Breaking New Ground on the Master Plan

A historic chapter unfolded for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens on April 25, 2013 as donors, friends, and community leaders gathered for a special pavilion groundbreaking celebration. The festive occasion represented a significant step toward fulfillment of the Burden family vision stipulated long ago in the act of donation to LSU and the LSU AgCenter.

“So that they would have a green place” was the sentiment expressed by the late Steele Burden who believed nature should be made available to everyone and that beautiful gardens and plants should be a part of people’s lives here at Burden. Steele must have known about the occasion for the recent heavy rainfall ceased and sunny skies made for a picture-perfect groundbreaking day.

Groundbreaking attendees heard from representatives of the LSU AgCenter, BHS, Burden Foundation, Donna M. Saurage Fund, Charles Lamar Family Foundation, Louisiana Recreational Trails Program and LSU Foundation as friends and supporters gathered to celebrate the momentous occasion and recognize the extraordinary generosity of many who made the project possible.

“We are launching an initiative here today that is a major step toward enriching and educating the youth

of Baton Rouge,” said LSU AgCenter Vice Chancellor John Russin. “One of our goals at the AgCenter is to engage youngsters in agriculture and natural resources so that we will train the needed experts to serve future generations.”

Burden Foundation member Luke Laborde remarked, “The new pavilion and restrooms are key features for implementation of the Master Plan for the Botanic Gardens at Burden, which has the goal of making the property a centerpiece and destination for all in our state. These facilities will benefit school groups, hikers, birders, and all lovers of the outdoors, and are right here in our backyard!”

The Master Plan creates a unified aesthetic vision for Burden’s many facets and honors Steele Burden’s legacy by transforming the property into a botanic garden destination for the community, state and region. It represents a blueprint for an overall educational center that promotes hands-on learning, appreciation of Louisiana’s horticultural and agronomic history and natural surroundings, and place of respite, beauty, serenity and tranquility.

Part of the Master Plan’s first phase, the new pavilion will have a fireplace, sound system and cabinetry, which will allow it to be used for a range of educa-

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Reflections from the Chair

By Barbara Quirk



Let me begin by thanking the BHS Board for allowing me to serve as Chairperson this coming year. Their vote of confidence is humbling. I will do my best to meet their expectations.

The number of activities of the Burden Botanic Gardens and the involvement of BHS is awesome, as is the responsibility of the chairperson. I do not propose to be as effective as my predecessor, Judy Foil-that little lady sure has left big shoes to fill. However, she does leave behind a great Board to work with for which I am most appreciative. And I know she will be close by should I need her assistance.

The challenges for the coming year will be great. Nonetheless I begin with a certain level of confidence knowing that the members and board of BHS and the staff of Burden will continue to be as talented and hardworking as

they have been in the past to make our efforts continue to be successful. I ask your continued help and support so BHS can have another profitable year.

Simply put, I am asking your help because I am sure I am going to need it! So let's work hard, have fun and success will follow. That is what I plan on doing. Join me!

While I am new to the Board chairmanship I am not new to Burden Horticulture Society, its board or to Burden, having recently served on the advisory committee. I have been a volunteer at Burden for more years than I care to remember or maybe than I can remember. So let me say a few words about volunteering.

Webster's defines "volunteer" as one freely and willingly performing a task without compensation. I beg to differ a bit with that. The reward for volunteering at Burden cannot be measured in monetary terms. We just get that wonderful feeling knowing we have contributed to maintain and sustaining this beautiful oasis in the middle of a busy city. How gratifying to look at the results of our efforts: the flowers bloom, the fruit trees bear, the beds are filled with color and we all know we have done a little something to accomplish this delightful sight.

I close with quotes from two of my fellow volunteers.

"I like the sense of accomplishment with helping put plants in the ground, seeing them bloom and can say 'I helped with that'".

Jenny Sutcliff

"Even though I spend but a few volunteer hours at Burden each week, I feel a sense of ownership knowing I have helped to create the gardens. When I see others enjoying the flowers, it makes my volunteering worth the effort"

David Lorfling

Burden Horticulture Society Board

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Introducing Our New Board Members

By Aline Creed

It is with great appreciation for a willingness to serve that the Burden Horticulture Society introduces the newest board members who were elected at the May 9 meeting: Dr. Doreen Maxcy, John McCarthy, Mitzi Miller and Martha Rome. We are very fortunate to have these talented people volunteer to help our organization continue to grow as we seek to add members, expand educational programming, increase event attendance and provide financial support to further implement the master plan for Burden.

Doreen Maxcy brings extensive experience in grant writing and educational program coordination as the former Director of Public Service at LSU Continuing Education. And we know she loves the special events at Burden having been a dedicated pumpkin patch volunteer at the corn maze and hands-on helper with the children's activities at Arbor Day.

John McCarthy is an attorney that might be mistaken for a restaurateur for his ease in managing a hectic kitchen feeding a host of volunteers. His love for his Master Gardener wife, Julie and his love for Burden has brought John and Julie as the team managers of hospitality for the plant sale, Arbor Day concessions sales and Spring Sing bartending.

Mitzi Miller is the Membership Director at the City Club of Baton Rouge and her energy and enthusiasm has been felt by volunteers and attendees alike who participated in Arbor Day at Burden. She has a degree in Outdoor Programming from the University of Arkansas and has put that education to use co-chairing the Arbor Day event for the past two years.

Martha Rome has a career of experience in technology, finance and administration at the U. S. District Court as well as a lengthy history of volunteer service and leadership in the Baton Rouge nonprofit community. BHS is so fortunate to have found a place in her heart and her schedule to have her serve on the board.

Welcome to this accomplished group of individuals offering their time, energy and unique skills in service to Burden Horticulture Society. Because the BHS board is a hands-on board, each member plays an important part in supporting the events and educational programs that are so important to the creation of Burden Botanical Gardens. Thank you to all of those dedicated individuals who have and who continue to support BHS as board members. Your leadership is greatly appreciated.



Left to right: Ginnie Bolin, Ginger Ku, Judy Foil and Penny Miller

Thank You

Ginger Ku, Master Gardener and BHS member, formatted each of these newsletters since its inception. The Burden Horticulture Society and the Botanic Gardens would like to thank Ginger for sharing her time and expertise, and wish her and her family well in their future endeavors.

Master Plan continued from page 1



Donors, friends, and community leaders gathered for groundbreaking celebration April 25.

tional programs such as cooking demonstrations. “It is really going to be a multi-use facility ideal for weddings, birthdays or any other open-air type events requiring cover,” according to LSU AgCenter Burden resident director Dr. Jeff Kuehny.

BHS Chair Judy Foil thanked the many BHS members, donors, and friends for their support and the volunteer docents who contributed to success of the Trees and Trails/Project Learning Tree children’s environmental education program. The program’s extraordinary growth spurred the urgent need for an outdoor classroom and expanded restroom facilities.

Bob Hawthorne, president of the Burden Foundation, said the vision of the Burden family for the property is that it will remain a rural-type green space. “The AgCenter and BHS are providing education for adults and children with programs like Project Learning Tree where school children come out and actually learn about nature on these trails,” Hawthorne said.

Third-generation Community Coffee Company CEO and current Director Norman Saurage, his wife

Donna and their children, Matt, Hank, Susan, Stephanie, and Jennifer, supported the project in honor of Norman’s brother, Cary. The family wanted to recognize Cary’s contributions to make Baton Rouge a more beautiful place and share how much they care for him. Unbeknownst to Cary, Norman presented his brother with a treasured poem which once hung in their parents’ home.

On his and his wife’s behalf, Charlie Lamar added, “Steele Burden and his family made an extraordinary gift to all of us, assuring the preservation of a great expanse of woods and fields right here in Baton Rouge. We are happy to help add to that gift with the construction of an open pavilion at the entrance to the Trees and Trails hiking paths.” Retired General Counsel for Lamar Advertising, Charlie said it’s natural for the company to be involved in this effort. “We’re an outdoor sign company, and one of our slogans is ‘The Great Outdoors’, so we are highly related to people being outdoors.”

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Michael Domingue, recreational trails administrator with the Office of State Parks, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, said the new restroom facility will be a model for sustainable building practices with green features such as solar-powered lighting, low water-use toilets and rainwater collection system. Green spaces and recreational areas throughout the state will benefit from Burden's new environmentally-friendly facilities. They will serve as examples others can emulate and utilize for a wide range of educational programs.

Lee Griffin, LSU Foundation president and CEO, reiterated sincere appreciation to the project's supporters and recognized what they made possible in light of the ambitious scope of the master plan. He underscored what a critical role private support plays

in advancing academic excellence, especially at a time when there have been years of dramatic declines in state support for higher education.

The mission of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is to promote the importance of plants and their environment to the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the citizens of Baton Rouge, the state of Louisiana and the world. Thanks to generosity of many, the new pavilion and restroom facilities will help fulfill Burden's mission for generations to come.

Please contact Gigi Gauthier at 763-3990, ext. 3 to make a gift and/or donate a brick in support of this worthwhile project. *We need your help raising funds for the pavilion's outdoor speaker system and storage cabinets.* Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, talent and treasure to help Burden realize its potential.

Corn Maze
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
at Burden

September 28-29 . 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Find your way out of the Corn Maze, paint a pumpkin, enjoy a hayride, climb the straw mountain...and more.
Admission - \$5 for Corn Maze activities in addition to LSU Rural Life Museum Harvest Days admission

Saturdays in October . 4-7 p.m.
Walk through the Corn Maze October 5, 12 and 19. Admission-\$5
Night Maze and Bonfire . October 26 . 4-9 p.m. Admission \$10

LSU AgCenter Research & Extension
Burden Horticulture Society

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden
4560 Essen Lane (at I-10) . 225-763-3990 . LSUAgCenter.com/Burden

Music, Music Everywhere

By Judy Foil

On a perfect April evening, the Burden Horticulture Society presented its second annual Spring Sing in historic Windrush Gardens. Entering the walkway leading to the gardens, the audience was able to follow the rose petals to the cozy little garden house once used by Steele Burden as his study.

In this first garden, the vibrant duo of Richard Williams and Dana Lux, accompanied by Terry Byars, greeted the guests with glorious songs and music and actually pulled the audience into the show. One particularly charming moment occurred when a six year old and her little sister accepted the performers' invitation to waltz to the music of "The King and I" with the timeless, "Shall We Dance?"

In Garden Room II, The Dunham School Jazz Ensemble amazed a group with their wonderful sound and the very professional quality of their work. Their energetic director, John Gray, led the group in performing favorites, but also "educated" the crowd to embrace new works. Especially for the family members there, sitting in the gardens, enjoying watching their children perform was a very special pleasure.

Finally, in front of Windrush House, Baton Rougeans Ben Bell and the Stardust Boys pulled out all the stops with a variety of music, categorized as rockabilly, classic country and Americana. And, of course, they included music from the King-Elvis. While little girls did cartwheels on the lawn, many—much older—"groupies" were enjoying every minute of this performance.

At six, the scene shifted to the musical theatre students of Terry Patrick-Harris and they danced and sang to some of Broadway's greatest hits on the porch of Windrush House. Beginning with, "On Broadway," the group captured the audience with music ranging from "Dancing Queen" to the stirring "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from Les Miserables.

As the crowd enjoyed food from the Baton Rouge food trucks and the LSU AgCenter ice cream store, the team of volunteer bartenders was kept busy. By the end of the evening when sunset approached, those volunteers who had helped to put this program together were marveling at the wealth of talent these generous people had given in support of BHS. What a gift!



Spring Sing audience enjoy a perfect evening on the lawn.



Ben Bell and the Stardust Boys



The Dunham School Jazz Ensemble

Trees and Trails for Little Tykes

The Project Learning Tree educational programming for Burden's Trees and Trails is growing. Starting this fall a pilot program for children in kindergarten through second grade will be initiated, thanks to the work of a volunteer committee of experienced elementary teachers, artists, writers, health care professionals, and higher education program coordinators. Their knowledge and expertise have been put to work developing an age-appropriate program for younger students not currently served by the existing program, which was designed for the grades 3-7.

Learning stations along the trails in the Burden Woods and in the Children's Garden will feature interactive environmental and nature lessons led by trained docents teaching about trees, insects, and edible plants. Students will learn about tree parts and their products in an "I Spy" adventure in the woods. They will also see real citrus trees and learn that vegetables grow in the ground not on grocery store shelves. Finally, they will learn about the "good bugs" that benefit gardens and the forests.

Plans currently include offering the program on a pilot basis free

of charge to four area schools, with first and second graders visiting during the mornings in the fall of 2013 and kindergartners coming in the spring of 2014. Help is needed and fun is guaranteed for volunteers available to serve as guides and navigators. Come see the outside world through the wondrous eyes of a child and be a part of the ever growing educational opportunities offered by the Burden Horticulture Society. To explore ways you can lend a hand, please email Diana Wells at dianawells1548@gmail.com.



Wine & Roses
at Burden

Celebrate the life of Marilyn Root and her contributions to the Burden Horticulture Society with us. Marilyn had a love for gardening, people and art. Please mark your calendar and join us and the Root family in honoring Marilyn and all she did to support the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens.

Join us for an evening of
Wine & Roses
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
4560 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge

Cocktails 6 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m.

\$125 per person
Limited seating
available
225-763-3990

LSU
AgCenter
Research & Extension

Burden Horticulture Society

Summer Fun at Burden

By Jeff S. Kuehny

You can create your own summer camp at the Botanic Gardens this summer. There are two outdoor options that are fun for everyone, educational and FREE! Come and explore the Children's Garden and/or Trees and Trails.

Children's Garden

The Children's Garden was designed for people of all ages to enjoy but especially designed for children. The garden encompasses about 1/3 acre. Visitors are encouraged to touch, feel, smell and taste. We have many different types of fruit and vegetables planted in the garden. Depending on the season, various edible plants will be ready for harvest. Children are encouraged to snap off a tomato, pull an onion or pick a squash and take a bite. There are two sections in the garden. As you enter you will walk through the butterfly garden. Take your time and really observe the plants. Look under leaves for tiny butterfly eggs, hungry caterpillars and wiggling chrysalis! Be careful as you walk through so you don't run into a fluttering butterfly. Take a look at the plant labels in the butterfly garden. Some have caterpillars on them. These are host plants, or those that butterflies lay their eggs on and caterpillars prefer to eat. The plants with adult pictures of butterflies on them are nectar plants, or those that adult butterflies feed from.

The garden is open to the general public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Currently there is no fee to visit. We also have a self-guided tour complete with backpack activities. Twenty backpacks full of materials and supplies are ready for your use as you lead your own fun, interactive and educational visit.

For more information you can call the Botanic Gardens at 225-763-3990 or visit our website at http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/school_gardens/model/

Trees and Trails

Take a hike on Trees and Trails and enjoy the lush growth of the Learning Tree Trail. This area was

replanted three years ago by the attendees of the first Arbor Day at Burden. Since then, this part of the Burden Woods has begun to resemble the bottomland hardwoods that it once was. Many of the trees are labeled so you can learn many of the native tree species of our area. We have also installed signage that provides information on the history of the Burden Woods and why this woodlands is a very special urban forest. Hiking down the Magnolia Beach Trail you will find the newly planted trees of Arbor Day 2012 and 2013. From the Black Swamp Trail head you will hike one mile through the remnants of the woods and find the research plots from Dr. Smith's graduate Renewable Natural Resources class demonstrating different methods of invasive species control and reforestation. The Black Swamp Trail is also a wonderful place for bird watching. There were hundreds of gold finches and indigo buntings flying through the woods this spring. The Black Swamp is a remnant of an almost pristine 200 year old rain-fed swamp of black tupelo and swamp tupelo, swamp red maple, button bush and sweet spire. From the Black Swamp, walk to the Barton Arboretum and enjoy a peaceful respite sitting under the pavilion overlooking the pond. From the Barton Arboretum you can take the Perimeter Road Trail through the meadows and fields back to the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie. This hike is approximately 4 miles.

Coming soon to Burden Woods

This spring we began the journey of planning the Big Tree House with a workshop led by Didier Design Studio. The Big Tree House is part of the master plan and with the concept of expanding the educational activities in the woods for the entire family. Through this workshop it was determined that the mission of the Big Tree House is to promote the importance of trees and their environment to the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of the citizens of Baton Rouge, the state of Louisiana, and the world.

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A sneak peek at the Big Tree House design concept.

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Goals of the Big Tree House:

- To be an icon of reforestation efforts in the Burden Woods: a symbol of growth for children and trees
- To be used as a tool for education with a learn through play approach
- To be a destination within the woodland garden
- To be a point of connection between people and nature
- To provide a physical experience within a safe environment: a sense of adventure
- To be used as an interactive environment that engages all senses

We are excited about moving forward with this project as it will provide another avenue for our community to better understand the importance of urban forests and their environment. If you would like to find out more about the Big Tree House please contact Gigi Gauthier at 225-763-3990.

BurdenHorticultureSociety.com

Botanic Gardens and LSU Class Partner to Restore the Burden Woods

By Dr. Sabrina Taylor

The Botanic Gardens hosted the field component of a graduate class in LSU Renewable Natural Resources: Current Topics and Techniques in Conservation Science taught by Dr. Sabrina Taylor. Eight intrepid graduate students were the first involved in a long-term project to examine canopy regeneration in a forested area of the Burden Woods damaged by Hurricane Gustav. During Hurricane Gustav, the overstory canopy was almost completely destroyed, allowing several invasive species to become established. Instead of a forest composed of species such as elm, oak, and sugarberry; Chinese privet, tree ligustrum and native blackberry abound.

A native forest is preferred over invasive and scrub species because it provides native habitat to wildlife, a screen to the noise and sight of the highway, and educational opportunities for schools, universities, numerous organizations and the public. To examine how to best promote the regeneration of a native forest canopy, students established three blocks, which each consisted of a control area, an area where invasive

species and blackberry are treated with herbicide, and an area where all undergrowth is mulched by a forestry cutter and as many native trees as possible are kept.

Trees were counted and measured on each area prior to treatments to examine species composition and to make sure that replicate areas were similar. Soil samples were also collected to measure nutrient content and organic matter. At the end of May, the mulching treatments took place, and later this June, the herbicide treatments will be initiated. Future classes from Renewable Natural Resources will examine tree species type and size on each plot to determine which treatment best allows native trees to become established.

If you are interested in viewing these plots and following their progress you can do so when you hike the Black Swamp Trail to the board walk. The student plots are located on the northern or right side of the trail. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this research project please contact Jeff Kuehny at jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu or call at 225-763-3990.



Recognizing Another Great BHS Leader: Judy Foil

By Jeff S. Kuehny

Approximately three years ago I was in the kitchen at the conference center making blueberry pancakes for a staff breakfast when Frank and Judy Foil came by. I offered them some pancakes and thus started what would be the beginning of a wonderful friendship with the Foils. Judy became a very involved member of the Burden Horticulture Society family working on various projects with BHS and then was elected the Chair in January 2011.

Although Judy is small in stature her leadership ability has great depth and breadth. Her determination to get things done is unmatched and comes with a no nonsense approach. The old saying goes, "There is more than one way to skin a cat." I have now learned from this little lady that there is more than one way to twist an arm. Judy has helped move BHS events and programs to the next level while keeping costs to a minimum. She has also helped add more structure and guidelines so that the chair of each of the committees can more easily do their job.

Ginnie Bolin always told me to turn off my brain and give everyone a break; however, I think this applies to Judy as well. There are many mornings when I check my email and there are several from Judy written late at night full of questions and suggestions. The only problem here was that Judy thinks best at night and I think best in the morning. So I am playing catch up but somehow we have always been able to work it out. To spare confusion with her family where there are two Franklins and a Jeff, I am now called Jeff #2 which is truly an honor coming from the wife and mother of a family who contributes so much to our community.

The Botanic Gardens has been blessed with three terrific leaders of the Burden Horticulture Society, Ginnie Bolin, Penny Miller and Judy Foil. Each one has stepped in with talents that have come at just the right time as BHS matures into a truly outstanding volunteer organization. I was asked by Penny if I grew up with sisters in that I seem to be able to manage to keep my sanity between all three of them.

My answer was "No, I didn't have sisters but have always wished I had had at least one and now I have three." All three BHS Chairs are also Master Gardeners which shows that they are not only masters of gardening but masters at providing the Botanic Gardens and their communities with great leadership. I think this is also a great reflection on the Master Gardener organization and the Extension Specialists that lead them. We are very fortunate to have another outstanding Master Gardener take the reins of BHS, Barbara Quirk. I look forward to working with Barbara as she leads BHS into another exciting year... sister number four.

August 13

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Ladies and gentlemen, please mark your calendars and save the date of August 13 for the 4th Annual Volunteer Luncheon to be held at the Burden Conference Center. This luncheon is hosted by volunteers for all volunteers, to celebrate the many hours given each year to ensure the success of every BHS event and activity.

As the date draws near, be sure to check your email inbox for more information. BHS wants to show its appreciation with great food, fun and fellowship for the many fabulous volunteers who make it all possible. For information, you may email the luncheon chair, Simone Kramer, at skramer@agcenter.lsu.edu or 225-235-8896.

A Zest for Life, Flair for Textiles and Infectious Spirit

By Gigi Gauthier

“Now you know, the king size candy bar needs to be at eye level while the 25 cent one belongs at the bottom. Architectural Digest should be by the cash register – at eye level of course - while the less expensive magazines people find everywhere go on the bottom shelf.”

We’ve all done it, succumbed to temptation at a B-Quik convenience store. Whether it’s fine wine, a favorite snack or childhood beverage we thought was no longer produced and had to have, we’ve admittedly been enticed and relieved of all self-control while leisurely strolling B-Quik as our cars went through Benny’s Car Wash. No, it’s not a plot to exploit us in our moments of weakness. Rather, it’s part of the clever merchandising strategy that’s key to B-Quik’s successful business, and Pat Alford is in the driver’s seat. Move over Danica Patrick and fellow auto racing legends!

This savvy businesswoman, world traveler, master gardener, and philanthropist has inspired many with her zest for life, flair for textiles and infectious spirit.

Twelve years ago, Pat assumed responsibility for B-Quik convenience store operations. At the time, there were two B-Quik stores. Her husband Benny was president of the International Carwash Association and ran the family business, Benny’s Car Wash. When Pat assumed the reins at B-Quik, she completely changed the merchandise mix and product placement and ultimately transformed the business.

Today, the Port Allen native runs three B-Quik stores. Their sons, Justin and Jason, oversee operations for all six Benny’s Car Wash locations, allowing Benny a little more time to enjoy hunting and traveling. Pat’s emphasis on buying specialty merchandise and negotiating with vendors are just a few ingredients in her recipe for success.

She gives tremendous credit to LSU for the education, skills, training and principles she learned when she enrolled at age 40 to pursue her bachelors degree. Her children were in high school and she sensed something was missing from her life. She al-



Gigi Gauthier (left) and Pat Alford (right)

ways had a strong desire to earn her degree and fulfill this personal goal, but the time had never been right. With much resolve, Pat pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in merchandising with an emphasis on textiles and never looked back. She took classes year round every year until she graduated in 1992 at the age of 45 and only missed one day of class the entire time due to the flu.

Because her mother (now 99!) and grandmother were seamstresses and Pat sewed all her life, her degree and major choices were a natural fit. While some classmates balked at the usefulness of alge-

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bra class, she considered the subject “grease for the brain that makes the gears turn.” To this day, she still keeps in touch with many faculty and recalls one of her favorite classes was “history of textiles” which addressed the historical, demographic and socio-cultural significance of textiles and apparel.

Her keen business sense and love of learning extend far. Fueled by three newspapers she regularly reads - namely, The Advocate, New York Times, and Wall Street Journal Home and Garden Section, Pat also finds time to work out six days a week. In addition to weight training and spin biking, she runs 15 miles a week. She especially looks forward to running every Saturday with her friend, June Peay, 2006 master gardener graduate who encouraged her to enroll in spring 2007.

When Pat started Rob Trawick’s master gardener class, she didn’t know a soul; yet she embraced the course and the opportunity to make new friends with the same zeal that has filled her life with joy. It was in those classes where she met the most down-to-earth, wonderful people whose fellowship was nurtured through regular study classes in a conference room at Benny’s Car Wash. There, the group shared their different perspectives on horticultural topics and collaborated on open- book exercises. The best part, according to Pat, was the bonds of friendship formed which still exist today. She has particularly fond memories of her classmate and friend, Chip Ducote, with whom she shared a ride for class and who recently passed away. She knew her late friend had a passion for gardening and chose to honor him by donating a paver in his name to support Burden’s new pavilion.

Not afraid to roll up her sleeves and provide assistance where it’s needed at the master gardener plant sale, she’s been known to recruit a plant sale customer or two to enroll in the master gardener program.

Her love for plants, gardening and Burden’s beauty inspire her home gardens and landscape. Every year, she plants 200 jumbo caladium bulbs in her yard and adds the special ingredient bone meal to help them flourish. Other favorites include purple angel trumpets, agapanthus, Persian shields, purple

salvia, lavender, red geraniums, and fall crotons.

When she finds rare time to slow down from life’s hectic pace, she enjoys reading home, garden and landscape magazines and listening to audio books in her car. Compelled by a strong desire to give back to the community that has given so much to her and her family, she is also a member of several organizations such as East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardeners and BHS and serves on a number of community boards.

A regular Burden visitor over the years, Pat recalls receiving the invitation to the grand opening of the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie which featured a sketch of the historic structure. She loves everything about Burden -its beauty, the Orangerie, Windrush Gardens, the Rose Garden, Trees and Trails and especially, the Evening of Wine & Roses fundraiser which she is not about to miss. The annual BHS fundraiser is particularly special to Pat. When she attended the very first Wine and Roses a few years ago, she didn’t know anyone but quickly made friends with a great group of people with whom she looks forward to sharing a table each year. Pat and B-Quik have also contributed much to Wine and Roses’ success through their generous support.

Her love for her four grandchildren, Benton (14), Helen (13), and 3 year old twins J.W. and Margaret J. inspired her to donate bricks in each of their names for the garden pathway to be built near Burden’s new pavilion. It meant a lot for Pat to be able to make a gift that her grandchildren can treasure in such a beautiful setting she loves. In fact, she donated bricks at Lod Cook in her children’s names when she graduated from LSU. She wanted her children to return there, find their bricks and remember how their mother’s LSU experience shaped their lives.

“I hope many others will donate pavers so their children and grandchildren know what their parents and grandparents did for them ...so they’d cherish not only their memory and the beautiful place enjoyed by their loved ones but also be inspired to take master gardener classes one day at Burden.”

We cherish your friendship, Pat, and thank you for making a difference at Burden and in our community.

Picture This

By Judy Foil

The Art of Seeing Creatively—an interactive photography workshop, was presented by Beverly Coates, Dede Lusk and Toni Goss April 27 at the Burden Conference Center. This was the third annual photography workshop presented as a benefit for BHS, the first two being given by C.C. Lockwood and David Humphreys. Each workshop has attracted a very high caliber of photographers.

Continuing that success, the Tripod Group also attracted many members of the Louisiana Photographic Society. Their presentation did not disappoint, as Beverly, Dede and Toni captured the crowd with a stunning power point presentation of their own work as well as with numerous exercises to stimulate the creativity of the audience.

In fact, many of the participants in The Tripod workshop have professional credentials themselves, but they remarked about how much they had learned from these three. Each of them presented a different view of the creative process in their day long workshop. The lectures were interspersed with activities, such as photographing a pine cone or a white handkerchief to challenge the students for the day to stay “in the moment” and totally focus on the project presented.



Photography workshop exercise: photographing a pine cone

Those who attended felt the Tripod’s question, “Do you desire to develop your unique photographic vision?” was answered with a most powerful presentation. BHS is most grateful for this very generous gift of time and talent given by The Tripod Group.



The Tripod Group: Beverly Coates, Dede Lusk and Toni Goss



Wanda's Work

By Aline Creed

Did you ever wonder when the rose garden is at its peak, when the All-America Selection Garden will be replanted for the new season, when the tomatoes are due to be harvested? Wanda knows.

Did you ever wonder where the Master Gardeners store the pots for the next plant sale, where the coolers and ice chests are located, where the ant killer chemicals are to be found, or where the Camellia Society volunteers are holding their grafting work day? Wanda knows.

Taking care of all the little things and working hard on all of the big things are what makes Burden as beautiful as it is and makes Wanda the wonder woman that she is. Wanda Ellis is the Research Associate who has responsibility for almost all of the front area at Burden, and like so many other staffers at Burden is involved in so much more than maintaining the grounds. Neither the clock nor the calendar count to Wanda-she is there whenever and wherever



Wanda (left, holding poinsettia plant) conducts the poinsettia trial and sale every year.

needed for as long as she is needed.

Among her many jobs, Wanda coordinates volunteer activities with Les Amies, helps set up, take down and man's special events for Burden Horticulture Society. She also serves as a staff coordinator assisting the volunteer docents and hiking the trails with the students for Project Learning Tree. All of that work is

on top of supervising and working side-by-side with the horticulturist and student worker to plant and care for the rose garden, plant and care for the AAS garden, and plant and care for the gardens around the Orangerie, conference center, and triangle entry bed. Wanda also conducts the poinsettia trial and sale every year.

Oh, and there is more because Wanda is wonderful. Rain or shine, hot or cold, Wanda greets everyone with a smile, "how are you" and "so glad to see you". She finds an extra pair of pruners, rake or shovel for a volunteer who needs a tool. She readily shares her knowledge of the variety of petunias that overflowed the beds in front of the Orangerie or the foxgloves standing tall this spring around the conference center. She fills the water jugs with ice water for those doing battle with her on the Burden vine or helping with the ever necessary weeding.

All the while those working alongside Wanda get to know about her life lived always near the Mississippi whether in her childhood in North Louisiana, her time in New Orleans or at present time in the Baton Rouge area. They also find out what a nurturer she is. From her nursing days to her nursery days, she helps people and plants grow healthy and strong. What a blessing it is to flourish under Wanda's care.



Wanda Ellis



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Upcoming Events at Burden

July 1	Reflections in the Garden “Beat the Heat with Succulents” Noon-1pm
August 5	Reflections in the Garden “Gingers-Foliage, Fragrance And Flowers for Sale” Noon-1pm
August 13	BHS Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	
September 9	Reflections in the Garden “Antique Roses” Noon-1 pm
September 28	Harvest Days and Corn Maze 8:30 am-5 pm
September 29	Harvest Days and Corn Maze 8:30 am-5 pm

What’s Happening with our Friends

LSU Hilltop Arboretum

Plantfest Teaser Featuring Dan GillSaturday, September 28, 1-4 pm

Baton Rouge Green

5th Annual Green Paradise Gala At the Rural Life Museum Saturday, August 24, 7-10 pm
The evening with Honorary Co-chairs, Paul and Karen Mainieri, will feature live music by the Phat Hat Band, dancing, games, silent auction and specialty dishes from favorite restaurants and caterers benefiting Baton Rouge Green and its urban forestry work. Tickets are \$75 per person and available at www.batonrougegreen.com or by calling 225.381.0037.