



Reflecting on  
accomplishments at the  
LSU AgCenter Botanic  
Gardens in 2022 through  
your support and looking  
ahead in 2023

-Jeff Kuehny

## Celebrating 2022. Looking to 2023

*Jeff Kuehny*

### *Highlights from the past year:*

- The Holiday Lights Master Plan was completed by the landscape company 3. Fromme Design, and we have begun to actively raise funds to bring this unique event to fruition.
- An Environmental Protection Agency Trash Free Waters grant for \$500,000 was awarded to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in partnership with the Mississippi River City and Towns Initiative, the Louisiana Stormwater Coalition and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. This funding combined with supplemental funding from LDEQ and ExxonMobil will support the two-prong approach of the LSC through community engagement to help

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### *Exciting projects in 2023:*

- The first comprehensive strategic planning effort was initiated in January with Carter. The goal is for the creation of two complete strategic plans: a separate guiding strategic planning document for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and a revised strategic plan for the LSU Rural Life Museum. As envisioned, these plans will be completed in separate, parallel tracks, coming together at the end into one cohesive strategic planning framework for the Burden Museum and Gardens with mutually agreed-upon goals, measures and outcomes. This effort will affirm the missions, identify the values and co-create an aspirational vision for what Burden

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## Reflections From the Chair

*Kevin Langley*

*Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens*

### Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

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Dear Friends,

The LSU Rural Life Museum and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens (collectively Burden Museum & Gardens) are at a pivotal point in a joint history. The leadership began a partnership with Carter, a nonprofit consulting firm, to begin a shared strategic planning process to enhance the brand and visibility to ensure a sustainable future for generations.

Back in the late 1800s, Windrush Plantation was a wedding gift that passed through generations. According to the Burden Museum & Gardens website, the family, “began donating the property to the LSU System to nurture and develop the Burden legacy. Love for their family, their ancestral home and the community sparked the idea to preserve Windrush by creating a place that would foster agricultural and horticultural research, provide a destination for generations to appreciate and learn about Louisiana’s rich rural and cultural heritage, and give people a place to experience the beauty of the natural world.”

One vital part of the strategic planning process is the input on how the unique role our organization plays impacts the shared mission and vision of the Burden Museum & Gardens. Your insight is vital over the coming months and we encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences.

Thank you, volunteers and donors for your generous support, and I hope you enjoy the many opportunities listed in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you in the Botanic Gardens.

Kevin Langley



If you would like to only receive this newsletter electronically,  
please email: [Friends@FOGBurden.com](mailto:Friends@FOGBurden.com).

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

[LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens](http://LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens)

4560 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

## Past Year:

keep litter off the streets and the creation of demonstration sites to keep litter out of the watersheds. More than 14,000 pounds of litter were removed from the borrow pit and wetlands at Burden with the coordinated efforts of TriCoeur Services and the Osprey Initiative.

- The Rural Life Museum and the Botanic Gardens partnered for the first Corn Maze and Harvest Days combined event providing thousands of guests with a chance to immerse themselves in the past, present and future of Louisiana agriculture.

- A Master Plan for Burden Museum and Gardens was completed by Suzanne Turner Associates. The plan provides a new road map for envisioning a place where visitors understand the symbiotic balance between their everyday lives and Louisiana's landscapes. Its mission is to conserve and demonstrate Louisiana's native, agricultural and designed landscapes and preserve the culture that evolves in response to these landscapes. We are unique in that the Rural Life Museum preserves agricultural heritage, vernacular architecture and associated material artifacts. The Botanic Gardens demonstrates botanical, horticultural, and cultural garden traditions and innovations, and the need to conserve species, both natural and introduced. Through this uniqueness we will continue to conserve our culture and the native ecology while living in balance with water.

- We initiated a partnership with Jackson and Perkins Roses. The J&P Roses contract has established a preservation partnership with LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens to begin creating a genealogy library of their proprietary roses. Another aspect of this partnership is a five-to-six-year verification project to certify proprietary roses are free of rose mosaic virus. There will be multiple research projects improving propagation and production of garden roses.

- Permanent educational signage developed by Sarah Rayner was installed on Black Swamp Boardwalk. Luke Soileau completed the installation of this new wetland signage as part of his Eagle Scout project.

- We had four new hires in 2022. They were Leslie House, senior event coordinator; Brad Holt, senior landscape manager; Bridget LaBorde, director of development; and Taylor Constance, facilities maintenance repairer master.

## 2023:

Museum and Gardens should look like in 10 years with a set of goals to guide this vision.

- Following the strategic planning effort, a marketing and communications plan will develop a campaign theme that includes brand promises and pillars to support it, and a brand voice with a messaging platform.

- Plans are already underway for infrastructure improvements to Windrush Gardens. These improvements will include pathways, drainage and the addition of electricity to all parts of the gardens. This work will pave the way for implementing the holiday light display scheduled to open in Windrush Gardens in 2024.

- Litter catchment devices were installed at Bayou Fountain creating Baton Rouge's first litter free paddle trail. Litter catchment devices will be installed and tested to prevent litter from entering the borrow pit and wetlands at Burden. This is a continuation of the work being done through the EPA TFW grant. Pilot devices will also be installed in Capitol Lake, the third of three demonstration sites for litter abatement.

- A design for the expansion of the trail system will be completed to support the wetlands and water quality education programs that are part of the Master Plan.

- Plans with the Baton Rouge Health District are also moving forward for extending the BREC Capital Area Pathways Project under the Essen Lane bridge to the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and Our Lady of the Lake. A bridge will be built across Ward Creek to connect the trail system at Burden to the CAPP trail.

- We have five new Friends board members. They are Jeff Frost, Eva Ventress, Amber Moreau, Renee Verma and Hunter Guidry.

- Gourmet in the Garden returns on Thursday, April 20 with great tastings from the best restaurants in Baton Rouge and cocktails from the best mixologists. Discounted tickets are on sale now at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



## Everyday Roses

*Using Roses in the General Garden*

April 20 | 9-11 a.m.

*Paul Zimmerman*

*Author, rosarian and consultant*

FREE  
& open to  
the public

*Jackson & Perkins*®

# Digging Right In

Kevin Folivi



Independence Park Botanical Gardens



The Herb Garden entrance at Burden

“Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.” With the belief that health is wealth, this famous quote often attributed to Hippocrates is one that resonates with people from all over the world. As a great physician, instructor and the father of modern medicine, Hippocrates taught his students that illness stemmed from one’s diet, lifestyle and environment<sup>1</sup>. Recent developments in the health of our nation’s population, such as declining mental health and the rise of cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes and neurocognitive disorders, are major indicators that we as a collective can do more to better the lives of ourselves and our loved ones. Among the discussions of what can be done to improve the health of our community, gardening and being outdoors are activities that are often recommended. This new movement termed “Green Care” is being studied carefully. Evidence is pointing to its ability to decrease stress and reduce blood pressure<sup>2</sup>.

Gardening allows you to grow your own food, lets you harvest at optimal ripeness, is a great way to introduce variety into your diet and can serve as a form of physical exercise. Currently, the recommendation of physical activity for adults 65 and older is a minimum of

150 minutes a week of moderate activity such as a brisk walk for those who are physically able. The time spent in the garden walking, watering and pulling unwanted weeds can be an outlet to stretch your legs. Time spent in the sun and out in nature has become a much-needed commodity and makes trips to locations such as Burden Museum and Gardens, Hilltop Arboretum and the Botanical Gardens at BREC’s Independence Park valuable experiences.

Gardening can be as simple or as complex as you like. It can be executed in a variety of ways: in containers, raised beds or the ground. A simple way to begin is through container gardening. It is important that you select a container with proper drainage and an area that gets plenty of sunlight, preferably eight hours a day.

Next you must decide how big you’d like to go. Many things can be grown in containers ranging from fruit trees and bushes to tomatoes or even potatoes. When using containers, it is important to feed your plants properly since they can use up all of the nutrients available in the soil. With a simple internet search, instructions can be found on how to grow just about anything during all four seasons. One benefit of container

gardening is the ability to move plants inside when it gets too cold or into the shade when the temperature is too hot.

When it’s time to plant, seeds can be bought or gathered from many sources. Transplants can also be purchased from nurseries or from events such as Herb Day hosted by the Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit. With transplants you get a quicker start by using already established plants which allows you to harvest the fruits of your labor much sooner.

Gardening is great for both your physical and mental health, and establishing a garden can be a joyful addition to your routine. It is something for people of all ages and walks of life to enjoy, and we hope that you dig right in.

*Kevin Folivi is a member of the Herb Society of American-Baton Rouge Unit.*

#### References:

- 1) Grammaticos, P. C., & Diamantis, A. (2008). *Useful known and unknown views of the father of modern medicine, Hippocrates and his teacher Democritus*. *Hellenic journal of nuclear medicine*, 11(1), 2–4.
- 2) Thompson R. (2018). *Gardening for health: a regular dose of gardening*. *Clinical medicine (London, England)*, 18(3), 201–205. <https://doi.org/10.7861/clinmedicine.18-3-201>

# Our First LSU Giving Day!

The cornerstones of any nonprofit organization are comprised of two pillars: successful fundraising and volunteerism. We are quite fortunate to have a very active volunteer group with our Friends of the Botanic Gardens membership, so thank you all for your continued support! We are also fortunate that so many of the FOBG members are thoughtful donors as well.

However, to achieve the goals of the Burden Museum and Gardens Master Plan and to allow our beloved Botanic Gardens to continue to grow for future generations, we need financial support from the greater community including individual and corporate donors.

To reach out to a larger pool of potential donors, we will be participating in LSU Giving Day for the first time on March 29. If

you are not familiar with Giving Day, it is a one-day online event that brings together supporters to make contributions to the LSU unit they are most passionate about. Our fund



that is in need of the most additional donor support is the Destination for Generations: Welcome Center Fund. As with everything since COVID-19, the estimated construction costs for the Welcome Center have increased exponentially. Because the Welcome Center is critical to the cohesive growth of Burden Museum and Gardens, we are excited about being a part of this

year's Giving Day and look forward to increasing our donor support from the community.

We will need all the help that we can get on Giving Day for the Botanic Gardens. What can you do to help? Check your email on March 29 and share the provided link with your friends, family and coworkers. Every donation matters, so whether it is \$5 or \$500, more donors on Giving Day will help us reach our goals.

If you or anyone that you know would like more information on Giving Day or have questions about how to donate to the Burden Welcome Center, please call or email Bridget LaBorde, director of development for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Garden at Burden, at 225-405-3612 or [blaborde@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:blaborde@agcenter.lsu.edu)

An advertisement for a plant sale. The background is a grey surface with various potted plants, including pink and white daisies, purple flowers, and blue flowers. A silver trowel and a silver rake with wooden handles are placed on the right side. In the center, the Louisiana Master Gardener logo is visible, featuring a green leaf and a white shield with a green leaf. Below the logo, the text reads "East Baton Rouge Master Gardener PLANT SALE MARCH 25 8 A.M.-2 P.M." and "Thousands of locally grown perennials, annuals and succulents specifically selected by East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners for success in your garden." At the bottom, it says "LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens".

LOUISIANA  
Master Gardener™  
An educational program of the LSU AgCenter

East Baton Rouge Master Gardener  
**PLANT SALE**  
MARCH 25  
8 A.M.-2 P.M.

Thousands of locally grown perennials, annuals and succulents specifically selected by East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners for success in your garden.

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens



# Gourmet IN THE Garden

COCKTAILS & CUISINE

APRIL 20 | 6-9 P.M.

*Savor the best local flavors from Baton Rouge chefs and creative mixologists.*

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens



Tickets available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



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AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

**GO** PUBLIC  
GARDENS DAYS  
MAY 20-21, 2023

## Wine & Roses Rambler



*A group of friends enjoy the sunshine and each other's company.*



*A guest wins big at the wine toss tent.*



*Members of the Civic Orchestra of Baton Rouge serenade guests in front of the display house.*



*Ladies sip as they stroll through the Orangerie Garden.*



*Guests ramble through the Botanic Gardens on a gorgeous fall day at the Wine & Roses Rambler.*

## Poinsettia Sale & Show

The 2022 Poinsettia Show and Sale was one of the most successful to date. Greenhouses teeming with colorful, show-stopping poinsettia varieties were rapidly emptied by hundreds of holiday shoppers. Luckily, most of the holiday shoppers were eager to participate in the consumer evaluations. Each year only a few are completed, but this year, there were more than ever!



*The greenhouse looked empty as the sale's end approached.*



*Jeff Kuehny speaks to an event attendee.*

Get some fresh air. Walk the trails!



TREES & TRAILS



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

*PHYSICAL LOCATION: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, La. 70809 | 225-763-3990 | [LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens](http://LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens)*

**Please check our website for up-to-date information on these events.**

<b>March</b>			
March 4	9 a.m.-Noon	StoryTime in the Garden	Children will have a blast interacting with other kids, making arts and crafts, and listening to stories. Every half hour, we switch between stories and crafts to keep young children interested and engaged. For children ages 3-8. Free.
March 6	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	“Jackson & Perkins: A Preservation Partnership” with Wanda Ellis, LSU AgCenter, research associate, and Jeff Kuehny, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, resident director.
March 18	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Harriett Pooler through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum and Gardens. Tickets available online at <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com">www.eventbrite.com</a> .
March 25	8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Master Gardener Plant Sale	Shop from thousands of homegrown perennials and annuals specifically selected by the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners for success in your garden.
<b>April</b>			
April 1	9 a.m.-Noon	StoryTime in the Garden	Children will have a blast interacting with other kids, making arts and crafts, and listening to stories. Every half hour, we switch between stories and crafts to keep young children interested and engaged. For children ages 3-8. Free.
April 3	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	“Super Plants for a Super Landscape” with Allen Owings, LSU AgCenter, professor emeritus of horticulture.
April 15	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Ashley Long through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum and Gardens. Tickets available online at <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com">www.eventbrite.com</a> .
April 20	6-9 p.m.	Gourmet in the Garden	A foodie’s dream! Bring your food-loving friends to savor dishes and cocktails from your favorite Baton Rouge chefs and mixologists. After you’ve tried them all, vote for your favorite in the People’s Choice Awards!
<b>May</b>			
May 8	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	“Composting: The How and Why” with Bert Hammett, LSU AgCenter, extension agent for East Baton Rouge Parish
May 13	9 a.m.-Noon	StoryTime in the Garden	Children will have a blast interacting with other kids, making arts and crafts, and listening to stories. Every half hour, we switch between stories and crafts to keep young children interested and engaged. For children ages 3-8. Free.
May 20	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Dr. Luke Laborde through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum and Gardens. Tickets available online at <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com">www.eventbrite.com</a> .