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Brush with Burden Reflections and Visions

At a luncheon in April hosted by Chair Margaret Blades, the volunteer committee responsible for the Brush with Burden Art Exhibition and Sale was thanked and honored. They also reflected on this year's show and share their visions for the future of the exhibition.

In reflection they noted the steps they've made so far, such as the move to use an online service to accept and process the call for entries, the investment in attractive and stable panels to display art in the Orangerie, the purchase of professional rods and clips for hanging art and photographs at various heights in various places, and most importantly the formation of subcommittees within the Brush for Burden committee to divide and conquer the myriad of responsibilities that need to be addressed to ensure the con-



"Connected" by Cheri Fry

tinuation of an ever growing exhibition and sale.

In other reflection the committee focused on ways to enhance the show's effectiveness as a fundraiser for the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. To date, SuEllen Lithgoe has been very successful in enlisting contributions for the merit awards conferred and the use of the broader reaching on-line system for the call for entries has been successful in attracting submissions. The event is also very fortunate to have the support of Len and Lynn Kilgore as sponsors. In the future, additional sponsors and other ideas for increasing revenue will be sought.

Visions and suggestions, such as adding a second art juror from the world of art curators and collectors, are also being considered. The new ideas will come from the addition of committee members like Joette LeBlanc who has been an exhibitor in previous Brush with Burden shows and is now joining the committee. Each committee member was assigned the task of proposing three potential themes for next year's show. Look for the new winning theme to inspire the vision of artists near and far.

The show was begun five years ago with Ginnie Bolin's idea to honor Steele Burden's interest in and appreciation of all kinds of visual art. After research, and with hard work, determination and a creative spirit, the first Brush with Burden was held.

What began as a very successful local art show continued to grow under Ginnie's leadership. She enlisted the time and talents of experienced area artists and a bevy of

Brush with Burden continues on page 3

Reflections from the Chair

By Kerry Hawkins

A year of following Kitty Hessburg to the many meetings she chaired and attended as Chair of Burden Horticultural Society has truly humbled me for many reasons: for the many, many activities and projects that she and our BHS members are involved with and also for doing so with such finesse. Thanks to Kitty for so ably and graciously guiding us through another very busy and successful year.

I am continually impressed with the commitment and diligence our volunteers and the Burden staff demonstrate on a daily basis. This spring has been particularly busy with our Trees and Trails program hosting 10 schools with approximately 628 children from K through 7th grade here at Burden Woods. As Kitty wrote in the last edition, we had a number of activities that many of our members were intimately involved with, Arbor Day, the Master Gardener Plant Sale, Brush with Burden, and the Icon Workshop. We supported Gourmet in the Garden and most recently hosted the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Speaking of the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, we also owe a big Thank You to Simone Kramer and her committee for providing a super BBQ luncheon (with most able assistance from Simone's husband Steve).

The amount of planning that precedes these activities is astonishing. We have a host of things in the near future that we will be sponsoring, supporting, and actively participating in. Recently volunteers and Burden staff with assistance of Ms. Sarah Fox and the Catholic High Science Club planted approximately 500 Arbor Day bare root seedlings to grow-up for the 2016 Arbor Day event in January. And the ever capable Barbara Quirk has preparations well underway for a very active Corn Maze and Festival for the Month of October. Also, remember to save the date for the annual Evening of Wine and Roses to be held October 14th.

None of these things happen without very active volunteers. Some of the busiest volunteers make our Reflections in the Garden educational series happen. Sherry Eubanks has for 6 years done a fabulous job of providing a wide variety of entertaining, and educational programs for us on a month in and month out basis. Her gracious leadership inspires all her volunteers to strive to make each program equal to or better than the last. And she is looking for more volunteers and input to keep the program as vibrant and meaningful in the future.

And I also seek your input and support in the coming year to keep BHS a meaningful and vibrant supporter of what The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden can be for the Baton Rouge and surrounding community.



Kerry Hawkins

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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.

Newsletter Submissions:
BotanicGardens@agcenter.lsu.edu

www.discoverburden.com

4560 Essen Lane,
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

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BHS volunteers to spread the word of the call for entries, to accept and process the resulting submissions, to locate esteemed artists to serve as jurors, to find help to professionally hang the artwork, to hold an opening reception for hundreds and finally to host a weeklong exhibition and sale.

Along the way Ginnie inspired and encouraged both novice and experienced painters. She also inspired novice and experienced volunteers and created a team that has since gone on to lead the efforts to put on a prestigious show. Added to the list of volunteers this past year was Butch Spielman, an award winning photographer, who has added immeasurable experience and leadership to bring the photography portion of the show to new heights.

Winners in art

The 2015 Brush with Burden winners in the art category were “Connected” by Cheri Fry, first place, “After the Rain” by Dawn Koetting, second place, “Moonscape” by Arthur McVicar, third place, “Spring” by Wendy Hazey, honorable mention. The Elizabethan Gallery Merit Award went to “Burning the Fields” by William McInnis, Co-op Bookstore Merit Award went to “Street View” by Andrea Kostyal, Acadian Framing Merit Award went to “Dinner at Antoine’s” by Betsy Neely, Blick Art Supply Merit Award went to “Walk Tall and Carry a Big Stick” by Jane Flowers and the other Co-op Bookstore Merit Award went to “Radial Symmetry” by Marge Campane.

Winners in photography

In the photography category, first place went to “Quiet Beauty” by Dede Lusk, second place went to “Cotton Pickin’” by Donna Futrell, third place went to “Taking Flight” by Cathy Smart, and honorable mention went to “New Orleans Street Car” by Sheldon Anders. The Renaissance Imaging Merit Award went to “Foot Happy Trio” by Steven Sotile, Daryl and Sons Merit Award went to “Heartwood Pond” by Ellen Case, Acadian Framing Merit Award went to “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme” by Butch Spielman, other Acadian Framing Merit Award went to “Mardi Gras Riders” by David Howell, and Co-op Merit Award went to “Morning Sunrise” by Randy Roussel.

Congratulations to these winners and thank you to all who attended the reception, visited the exhibition and purchased beautiful works of art and photography.



“After the Rain” by Dawn Koetting



“Quiet Beauty” by Dede Lusk



“Cotton Pickin’” by Donna Futrell

A Calm Spirit, Gentle Hand and Strong but Quiet Force

By Jeff Kuehny

Who is that BHS Chair that always looks like she walked out of the salon? That would be none other than the elegant, Katherine "Kitty" Hessburg. No matter the project, the challenges that lie ahead or the weather (very important when you chair a friends group that supports a Botanic Gardens), you can count on Kitty Hessburg to be organized and ready to move forward.

I first met Kitty when she helped with the first Corn Maze 4 years ago. The original Corn Maze was on a weekend in the middle of September and the weather was sweltering. Nevertheless, Kitty braved that heat and at the end of the day a wilted but smiling Kitty had helped BHS start one the most successful and continually growing events it has.

The most long standing annual fund raising gala for the Botanic Gardens is Wine and Roses. The most long standing Chair of Wine and Roses is Kitty Hessburg. Moving from corn to roses, Kitty has guided this event from a small gathering in the Conference Center, expanding it to include the Orangerie, adding a silent auction, and then moving the entire event into a large tent in the center of the Rose Garden. Where else would you have an event called Wine and Roses except in the Rose Garden?

And how could you host an opening reception for hundreds of artists and their guests on a shoe-string budget with flair and finesse, if it wasn't for Kitty. Maybe it was years of volunteering with the mom's club for Catholic High, or maybe some tips acquired from Chef Don Bergeron or Chef Eric Arceneaux of the City Club.



Kitty Hessburg and Jeff Kuehny at 2014 Wine and Roses

Regardless, Kitty knows how to manage big events where her heart draws her attention and skills.

Kitty's involvement in BHS and her organizational abilities led her to become the Chair of BHS in 2014. This was a big year for BHS as the organization has continued to grow under her leadership. From dramatic changes in accounting, non-profit tax preparation and growing events, Kitty has helped lead the BHS Board and volunteers through another very successful year. Thank you Kitty, for sharing your time and spirit with BHS and everyone involved in the Botanic Gardens.

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

Thank you for your generous support!

For additional information on giving opportunities, contact: Ellen Mathis, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens 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

Identify the funding area to direct your contribution:

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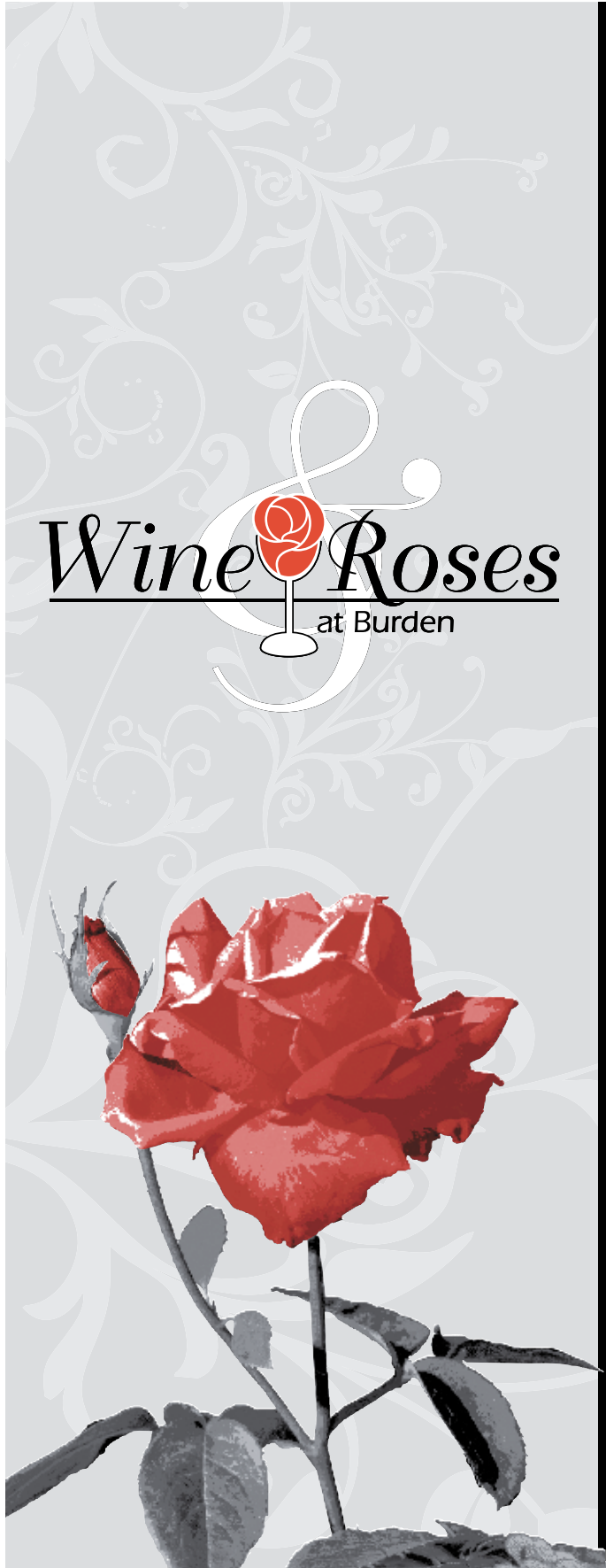
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Mail to: **Burden Horticulture Society, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809**



Join us for an evening of
Wine & Roses
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
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 per person
(for members)

\$150 per person
(non-members)

Limited seating available
225-763-3990



The Creole Tomato

One of the many interesting studies at the Food & Fiber Research Facility this summer is by Dr. Kiki Fontenot. She receives many questions every year about the “Creole” tomato, especially with the resurgence in interest of heirloom varieties. Thus, she and her Research Associate, Bobby Williams, scoured the world looking for the ‘Creole’ tomato cultivar. They found eleven different ‘Creole’ tomato suppliers and all of them have been planted in the field trials at Burden. Data will be collected this summer as well as taste tests to determine if there is one true ‘Creole’ tomato, or if this is a great way to market another tomato. Dr. Fontenot tells me that they already noticing differences in plant and fruit size and shape. One variety has large cherry sized tomatoes whereas the rest are small averaging no more than 5 oz. each. Dr. Fontenot will provide us with all her findings this Fall. However, until then, I found a very interesting article by Dan Gill that will help clarify the ‘Creole’ tomato mystery.

Creole tomato myths vs. facts: There is not just one type of ‘Creole’

By Dan Gill

LSU released a tomato cultivar named ‘Creole’ back in 1969. It’s a nice, indeterminate (vining), medium-sized, red tomato with resistance to Fusarium wilt. You can still find ‘Creole’ tomato transplants at area nurseries. We assume these are still the old cultivar that LSU released back in the 1960s. But LSU did not maintain seed stock of this cultivar and cannot vouch for their identity.

But even back in the 1970s and 1980s, the ‘Creole’ cultivar was not used much by the local Creole tomato farmers in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. The term “Creole tomato” was created by farmers in those parishes to distinguish their locally grown tomatoes from those grown elsewhere. It did not indicate a particular cultivar.

The term “Creole” was part of the culture and often applied to both people and things. (There was an Easter lily growing industry in Plaquemines back in the 1940s. The growers called them “Creole lilies” not Easter lilies.)

In the 1980s and 1990s, the ‘Celebrity’ cultivar was the one most commonly used by Creole tomato growers, but they also grew others. When someone in New Orleans purchased a Creole tomato back then, it was most likely a ‘Celebrity’.

When the farmers in St. Bernard and Plaquemines called their tomatoes Creole, it meant they were grown in the rich alluvial soil of the area and vine ripened because they did not



Dr. Kiki Fontenot is field testing ‘Creole’ tomato varieties at Burden

have to be transported long distances to market. This gave them a rich flavor. It did not designate a particular cultivar.

The public in general has not understood this. In many minds, the Creole tomato is a particular cultivar with a wonderful flavor. The name Creole has become mythic for “that old-fashioned wonderful tomato flavor I remember from the old days.” And in actuality, there never really was one specific cultivar used by the Creole tomato growers.

These days, the term Creole is used to market tomatoes from a much larger geographical area. I was roundly chastised by a grower in St. Tammany when I mentioned on my radio program that Creole tomatoes were historically grown in St. Bernard and Plaquemines. He also called his tomatoes Creole (although he did not grow that particular cultivar) because it made people want to buy them.

I suppose someone growing tomatoes in Shreveport could call them Creoles as well. As far as I know, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has not placed any state regulations on how the name is used.

So there you have it. You can find tomato transplants labeled as the ‘Creole’ cultivar at local nurseries. Feel free to plant them as thousands of Louisiana gardeners do. But it never was the cultivar primarily used by Creole tomato farmers in the “old days.”

When farmers called their tomatoes Creole, it meant they were grown in the rich alluvial soil of the area and vine ripened.

‘Celebrity’ is still around. It’s one of my favorite cultivars and wins blind taste tests at LSU AgCenter home garden tomato trials.

Creole Tomato *continues on page 7*

Creole Tomato *continued from page 6*

But there are lots of great modern cultivars with increased disease resistance and vigor that produce great-tasting tomatoes.

Heirloom cultivars are the current choice of tomato gardeners looking for outstanding flavor; they have a well-deserved reputation for great taste. But heirloom cultivars have poor disease resistance and are unpredictable in our climate, often yielding poorly. (As a LSU AgCenter retired vegetable specialist used to say, "If they don't produce a crop, how good does nothing taste?")

Most gardeners hedge their bets and plant several tomato cultivars in their gardens and see which they like best. I think that is the best thing do.



Volunteers Wanted

Want to join a great group?

Complete the form below and mail it 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
- Clerical
- Annual Events
- Fundraising
- Volunteer Coordination
- Trees and Trails
- Other _____
- Speakers
- Database
- Membership
- Publicity
- Reflections in the Garden

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Thank You Sponsors

COCKTAILS IN THE GARDEN

Nov. 6, 2015 · 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

CELEBRATE THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD

Dance among the roses and the stars to the music of
NED FASULLO AND THE FABULOUS BIG BAND

Come dressed as your favorite star or just the way you are. Enjoy a taste of stellar beverages created by local mixologists and sample some of Baton Rouge's best cuisine.

Tickets at EventBrite.com

(search Cocktails in the Garden)

VIP admission \$50 per person

(Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. for VIP guests)

General admission \$40 per person



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden
Burden Museum & Gardens · 4560 Essen Lane · 225-763-3990
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BHS' Gift to the Welcome Center

Dear BHS Members,

On behalf of the LSU AgCenter and the especially of all the staff here at the Botanic Gardens, thank you. The BHS board recently approved a \$100,000 gift to the Botanic Gardens to support our planned new Welcome Center. We are grateful to the BHS membership for your dedicated volunteer and leadership support, but now also for this extraordinary investment in this organization's home.

The new Welcome Center will help us orient visitors to all that is on offer at Burden Museum & Gardens and will allow us to capitalize on the rapid program growth we have seen over the last few years, due in no small part to your great efforts.

The Welcome Center will also be the new home for the rest of our East Baton Rouge Parish Extension agents, who are currently housed downtown. Their relocation will enable them to conduct more programming for the community at the Botanic Gardens. New conference and meeting space allows us to expand our student and adult education opportunities that are critical to our mission. Also, we will dedicate space in the Welcome Center where we can share the history of this special place with visitors and future guardians.

The Welcome Center is the keystone of our Master Plan, created in 2009 to guide our growth for a sustainable future. This planned growth model will ensure the Botanic Gardens will continue to serve our community for generations.

These big plans for the future are all made possible by your dedication, volunteerism and now especially through the Burden Horticulture Society's financial support. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeff Kuehny



The Perfect Place

Plan your wedding or special event at a lush garden oasis in the heart of Baton Rouge. The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens offers several unique venues for the perfect day or evening event. Formal and informal gardens provide a beautiful setting for a lifetime of memories.

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden
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Packing the Pavilion

The pavilion was buzzing with volunteers on May 22nd for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch hosted by Burden Horticulture Society and chaired by volunteer board member, Simone Kramer. Team leaders from the many plant societies, committee chairs for BHS programs and events and Botanic Garden staffers who receive assistance from volunteer groups all came together to enjoy this special event given by volunteers for volunteers. Scores of men and women who contribute their time and talents to the Botanic Garden were served a barbecue lunch and lauded and applauded for their service.

Dr. John Russin cheered on the volunteer spirit of those dedicated to community service, while Dr. Jeff Kuehny highlighted all the groups that call Burden their home turf recognizing the cumulative effect of so many helping hands. Kitty Hessburg, chair of Burden Horticulture Society, concluded the gathering by giving out door prizes. They included tomato plants donated by the EBR Master Gardeners Association and an assortment of LSU AgCenter designated Super Plants, honoring both the AgCenter and the super volunteers who keep the Botanic Gardens growing.



**LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens
Has Gone Green!!!!**
You may have noticed the new
recycle bins in the lobby and in the
kitchen. We are recycling paper,
cans and plastic.
Please be kind to Mother Earth
and use the receptacles
provided.

The first phase of the Herb Garden being built by the Burden Gardens Staff supported the Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society



Corn Maze

at Burden

Corn Maze Saturdays

Oct. 3, 10, 17 and 24 . 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The crazy, maze Corn Maze fun continues in October. Wind through the maze, test your skill at the giant sling shots and take a hayride.

Admission \$5 · Free for children 3 and younger.

Night Maze and Bonfire

Oct. 31 · 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Bring the family and enjoy an evening bonfire, corn dogs, s'mores and music.

Admission \$10 · Free for children 3 and younger.



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

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Upcoming Events at Burden Museum & Gardens

July 2015

Reflections in the Garden	July 6, Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Orchid Society	July 15, 7:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
What's Cooking – Kid's	July 16, TBA	Ione Burden Conference Center
Baton Rouge Herb Society	July 23, 6:30 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Bonsai Society	July 25, 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
What's Cooking – BBQ Picnic	July 31, TBA	The Pavilion

August 2015

Reflections in the Garden	August 3, Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
EBR Master Gardener	August 4, 6:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
What's Cooking – Mommies	August 12, TBA	Ione Burden Conference Center
Orchid Society	August 19, 7:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Baton Rouge Herb Society	August 27, 6:30 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center

September 2015

EBR Master Gardener	September 1, 6:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Reflections in the Garden	September 14, Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Orchid Society	September 16, 7:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Baton Rouge Herb Society	September 24, 6:30 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center

October 2015

Corn Maze	October 3, 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Corn Field
Reflections in the Garden	October 5, Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
EBR Master Gardener	October 6, 6:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Corn Maze	October 10, 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Corn Field
Wine and Roses	October 14, 6:00 p.m.	Rose Garden
Corn Maze	October 17, 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Corn Field
Orchid Society	October 21, 7:00 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Baton Rouge Herb Society	October 22, 6:30 p.m.	Ione Burden Conference Center
Corn Maze	October 24, 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Corn Field
Night Maze and Bonfire	October 31, 10 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Corn Field

Upcoming Events Calendar: www.discoverBurden.com