

The Origins of Windrush

By John Monroe

The Louisiana State University facility we now know as Burden Center occupies land donated by the Burden family, wa iich w3.5

Reforestation and Restoration of Burden Woods

By Pat Hegwood

Gustav created a unique opportunity to reestablish Burden Woods into manageable woodlands that supports growth of native flora and fauna. Previously, much of Burden Woods had been overgrown with invasive species. The debris in the maintained areas, including the trails in the woods, has been removed and stockpiled for chipping. We are in the process of implementing a sustainable forest management plan by reducing these piles of debris to wood chips which will be used for mulch and compost. This compost will be used as a soil amendment to enrich our landscape beds here at Burden Center. All merchantable logs in the Burden Woods have been salvaged for lumber.

We are now preparing the forest floor for seed drop this fall from the remaining trees. The removal of the invasive species will greatly aid the germination and growth of new seedlings in the spring of 2010. This management plan will enhance regeneration of

Digging in the Dirt

By Jeff Kuehny

The winter/spring bedding plants are in full flower, the roses have been pruned, strawberries are ripe for picking and the bedding plant and vegetable transplants ready to be planted for evaluation and research at Burden Center. However, before you get consumed by “spring fever”, plant your feet on the ground and think about the soil that these plants are growing in.

The farm crew at Burden Center has been doing just that, preparing the soil for this year’s growing season. The tractors circling the fields in the research plots as you head to Windrush Gardens, are not designing crop circles. For all the time we spend tending the plants in the research plots, we must also spend time caring for the soil. The fields at Burden are being graded to maintain proper drainage for use in the research and extension efforts

Reflections from the Chair

By Ginnie Bolin

Looking back over the last three months, the Burden Horticulture Society has been very busy with our very successful lecture series, Reflections in the Garden, and our popular special events series with the Camellia Morning and Azalea stroll at Windrush Gardens. Please refer to the calendar on the last page for future events.

The Master Plan will consume much of our time in the coming months. The Planning and Design Team of the Portico Group from Washington State will be conducting a three-day workshop with the Master Plan Working Group on March 31 through April 2. Other workshops will follow which will involve our patrons. The Portico Group plans to complete their Master Plan design by the end of the year.

BHS will 'kick off' the annual appeal the first week in May. The success of our funding is

critical to our efforts in helping the Burden Center reach its potential as center for public horticulture. Please look for the appeal packet in the mail and remember that your financial contribution will help us to begin the implementation of the Master Plan. If you are able, a contribution of time will allow us to expand our activities.

Some very exciting activities that are in the works are the All American Select Display Garden (see Dr. Kuehny's article on page 3), the ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of the Trees and Trails in October, and a cooperative effort with the LSU Press to publish a book about Steele Burden. Please come participate in these and other activities and learn about and enjoy this incredible green space in the middle of our city. Thank you for your interest; we hope that you will continue to support our efforts.

Report from the Chancellor —

By now most of you may have heard of the proposed budget cuts to higher education and, subsequently, to the LSU AgCenter. The governor's executive budget calls for a reduction of approximately \$219 million for higher education in Louisiana. This is in addition to this year's midyear budget reduction to higher education of \$55 million. For the LSU AgCenter this means an additional \$13.3 million cut (15.1 percent) for Fiscal Year 2010 over the Fiscal Year 2009 \$3.8 million midyear budget cut (4.4 percent). Cuts of this magnitude would be devastating to our educational programs, including those that affect the landscape and nursery industry. Our horticultural programs are some of our most popular and vital to the state's prosperity. I strongly urge you to contact your state legislators and share with them your personal concerns about how these cuts will affect you and ask them to take action to ensure that such cuts do not happen. Please feel free to contact me if you want more information. And please go to our Web site, www.lsuagcenter.com, for more specifics on how the budget cuts affect us. Click on Chancellor's Office and then Governmental Relations.

Bill Richardson
Chancellor, LSU AgCenter

Color, Color Everywhere

By Marianna Ritter

Charter Members

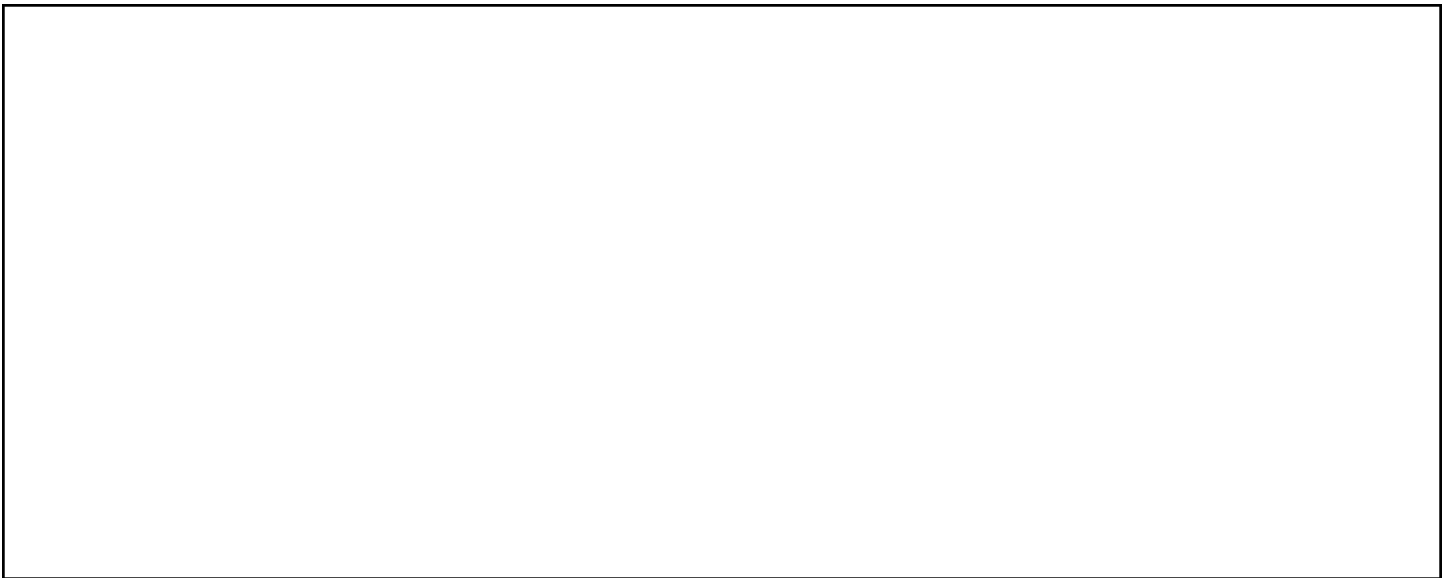
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