



## 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 to train the needed experts to serve future generations.”

Burden Foundation member Luke Laborde re

marked, “The new pavilion and restrooms are key

## Reflections from the Chair

*By Barbara Quirk*



Let me begin by thanking the BHS Board for allowing me to serve as

## 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 ser-

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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 com0570003004B9(e)6.5(y29(h)8.9(e)6.5(y73005 h)9.9(o

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









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- 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

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## 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





## 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.



## 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

