



Botanic Gardens
at Burden

Reflections & Visions

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LSU AgCenter Introduces New Trail System for Birding at Burden

Dr. Luke Laborde and Dr. Ashley
Long

Located at 4560 Essen Lane in the heart of Baton Rouge, the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden and Windrush Gardens are part of a 440-acre "urban oasis" that hosts a variety of habitats and ecosystems that include a wide range of flora and fauna for visitors of all ages to enjoy. We are excited to announce the opening of a new trail system for bird-watching at Burden designed for both beginners and advanced bird enthusiasts. [See the Birding at Burden trail system](#)

A Serendipitous Moment

Dr. Je Kuehny, Director

The more thoughtful your work is today, the greater your reward will be tomorrow. Almost 10 years ago we began in earnest to update and upgrade the landscape at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. One of those areas is what we call the "triangle." This landscape bed is at the end of the live oak alley that you drive through when you arrive at Burden. This landscaped bed, which I believe Steele Burden planted, had become overgrown and some of the woody specimens had outlived their natural beauty. While renovating the triangle, we unearthed a piece of petrified wood with a brass plaque on it. The plaque reads: "This plot of ground shall be known forever as the John Gray Field in grateful memory of Dr. Gray's pioneering research in soybeans. March 28, 1895 – October 25, 1966." This was a very nice recognition for someone that Steele Burden must have truly admired for the work he did in soybean breeding at Burden. However, I could find no history on this John Gray among the files at Burden, so we returned the plaque to the area where it was discovered, and it now sits in front of the sugar kettle in the triangle.

Monday morning, Aug. 31, a few days after Hurricane Laura ravaged the Lake Charles area, a woman came to the Conference Center asking about the John Gray Field. This is the first time I had ever heard anyone ask about it. She was Mary Jane Coleman and Dr. Gray was her great uncle. She had just traveled from my home state of Oklahoma, where she works for the Red Cross. She was here, of course, to assist with the disaster efforts, and they had found her a room at the Drury Inn just across the street. When driving into the hotel parking lot she noticed a name she remembered on our sign out front: Burden. She wondered, "Could this be the location of the 'John Gray Field?'" So, the next morning she drove across the street to the Conference Center.



Mary Jane Coleman

Mary Jane sent me a copy of an article from LSU Outlook titled "Unusual Tribute to the Late Dr. John Gray." The article explains that Dr. Gray was a very nice recognition for someone that Steele Burden must have truly admired for the work he did in soybean breeding at Burden. However, I could find no history on this John Gray among the files at Burden, so we returned the plaque to the area where it was discovered, and it now sits in front of the sugar kettle in the triangle.



Glen Gawarecki, Frank Zachariah, Wesley Matthews and Dr. Hal Canning

Green Stick Workshop: Demystifying Growing Orchids in the Baton Rouge Area

Kathy Conerly, President Baton Rouge Orchid Society

Have you ever bought or received an orchid plant in bloom, just to throw it away after it overed because you didn't know what to do with it? Have you successfully grown orchids, but they never overed again? Have you looked longingly at the graceful blooms in the displays, just to pass them up because you've been told that orchids are difficult to grow? Fear not. The Baton Rouge Orchid Society is here to assist.

There are thousands of species and hybrids of orchids, and many grow well in our humid subtropical climate. Many can be grown indoors — at home or at work. Many flourish outside from spring to fall. The key to successful culture and bloom, with any plant, is to match the type of orchids to your growing environment. Light, temperature, media, humidity, and even the type of container determine the success of ornamental plants, including orchids. Just like other plants, each type of orchid has its preferences. What are those preferences?

Four members of the Baton Rouge Orchid Society agreed to share some of their growing tips at a recent Green Stick workshop. Here is a synopsis of their presentations.

Phalaenopsis — Hal Canning

Phalaenopsis is a "phal, o8 (" a9)As0(n)8 (a/2n (ae)ET EMs 261 >>c)6 ()25 (ers., o)r11 (29era)19 pc (o s)4 (h)3 " (ir)e Or th13

Plants do not need to be repotted often, unless the media breaks down. Use a coarse fir bark and charcoal when it is needed, and your Vandas will thrive and bloom each year.

Cattleya — Glen Gawarecki

Meet Our Summer Interns

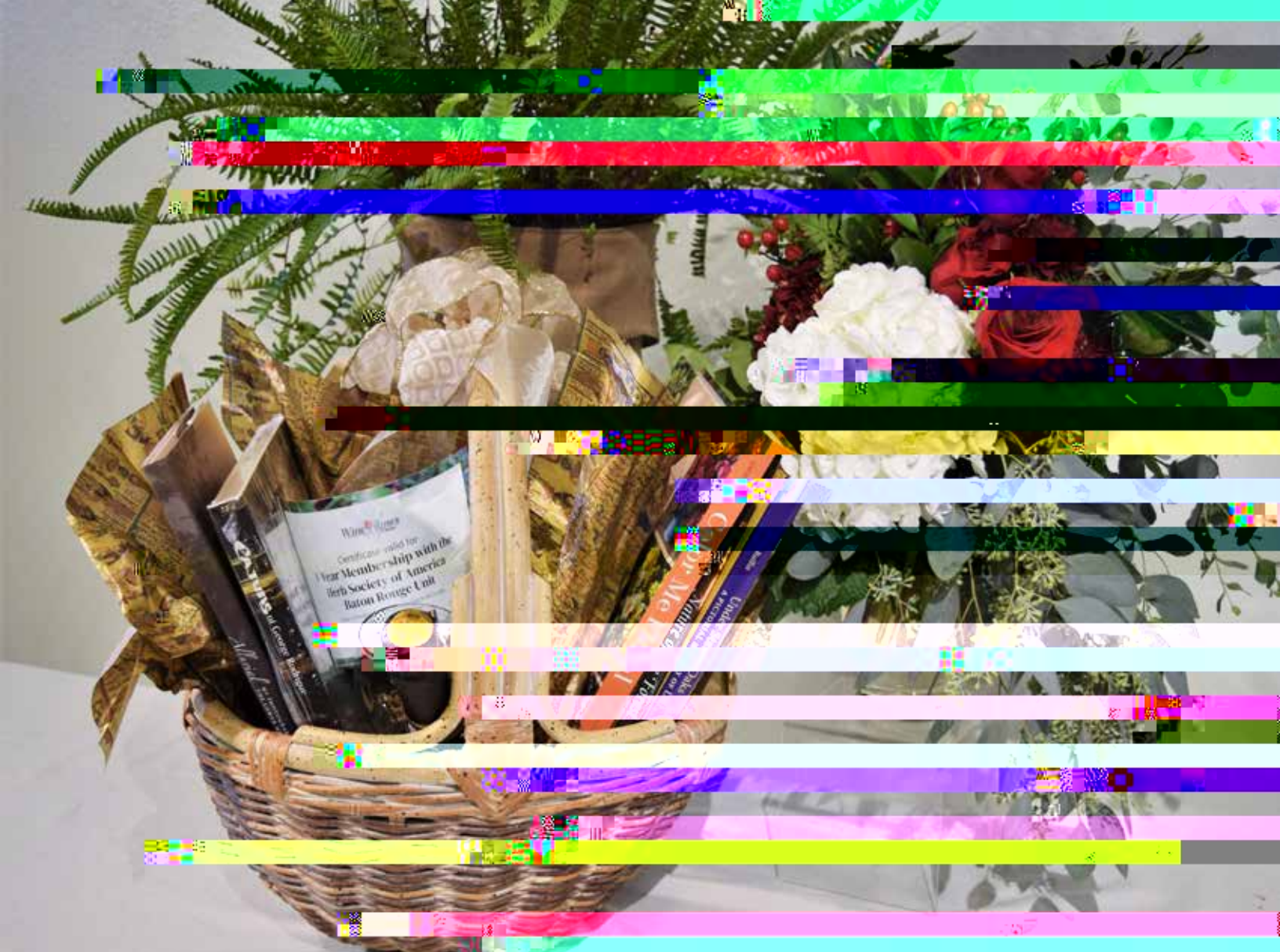
The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden was very fortunate to have Dr. Jeffrey Beasley, assistant professor in the LSU College of Agriculture, help provide funding and resources to support a summer internship program. We received many good applications, and we've outstanding students with different backgrounds and areas of study were selected. The students worked with the Botanic Gardens staff in different parts of the Botanic Gardens throughout the summer. This exposure helped them learn about research and education as well as the importance of public engagement. Meet each one of the students and learn about their experience below.

Carina Etgen is a sophomore studying agricultural and extension education. TJ Ma (a)9 (r)-6 (iSummerGa)9 (r)13 (den)8 (s t)-5. plf temtcp(ext)6 (en)12 (t)8 (ga) (l)-5 sioaa>>BD3su

Wine and Roses: A Remote Raffle

We have added a special twist to the annual Wine and Roses fundraiser — a virtual raffle. The Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden have designed 20 themed baskets. Each basket has two wine glasses, a bottle of wine and a bouquet of roses. In addition, each basket will include a variety of items to go with its theme, such as a birding basket, Louisiana artist

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Book Lover's Basket



Culinary Creator Basket



Art Collector's Dream: Robert Rucker
Watercolor Painting



CORN MAZE AT BURDEN

EVERY SATURDAY IN OCTOBER

Advanced tickets required for scheduled two-hour experiences.
Available at Bontempstix.com

Morning
10 a.m. - Noon

Midday
12:30 - 2:30

Afternoon
3 - 5 p.m.

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Due to COVID-19 and state mandate, masks must be worn in any area where social distancing is not possible.

Harvest some happiness!

Take a crazy, lazy stroll through the corn maze. Pick-a-Pumpkin in the Pumpkin Patch.
Join the Rock Rascal Rock Hunt. Climb Hay.
Soak up some sunshine in the sunflower field. Feed the farm animals and more.



