

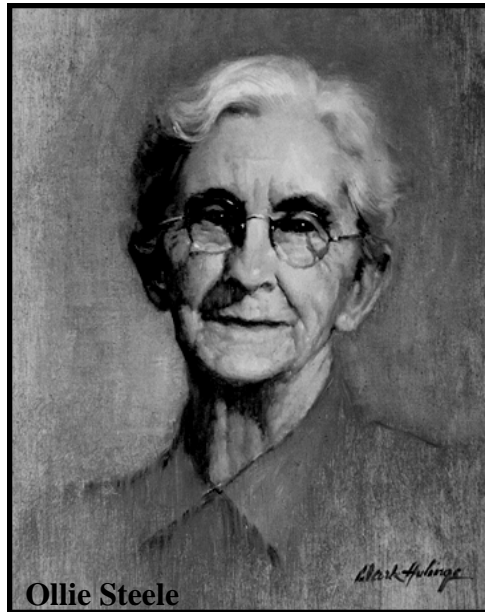
## The Women of Windrush Plantation

By John Monroe

At the time when the first Burden families lived at Windrush in the second half of the nineteenth century and early in the twentieth century, the death of a husband often, even usually, caused the surviving widow to be placed in very difficult financial circumstances. The husband was the breadwinner for the family and the wife the mistress of the house or homemaker. Women were not usually prepared as income providers. This was true at Windrush. The early deaths of their husbands left the Burden women to carry on as best they could, to maintain the family traditions and to define and to defend the goals and themes for the future of the family property they loved so dearly. The special place we know today as Burden Center is due in no small part to the determination, perseverance and dedication of the women of Windrush Plantation.

Emma Burden and John Charles Burden lived at Windrush Plantation beginning sometime before 1865. John Charles died in 1872 at age 38. Not much is known about Emma's life after that except that she survived her husband by thirty-three years. She had seven children. Her last child was born five days after the death of John Charles. Family notes written by Charlotte Conradi suggest that she wore black until her death in 1905.

Assigning the original inspiration for the future of Windrush to Ollie Brice Steele Burden, wife of Pike Burden, senior, would not be difficult to defend. "Miss Ollie" was the mother of the three children (Ione, Pike and Steele) who eventually who made the gift of Windrush to Louisiana State University. Her husband died in 1925. She was fifty-three years old. The children were young adults. Estate records show that, other than the value of the property and home



Ollie Steele

at Windrush, debts exceeded assets. The family legend is that losing the property at sheriff's sale to pay property taxes was a real threat and averted only after dogged persistence and many requests by



Ione Burden

Miss Ollie to a banker friend that she was able to obtain a loan and avoid foreclosure. This early struggle to keep the family estate intact influenced her children and the goal of preservation of Windrush in perpetuity was, probably, set in stone at that point.

Miss Ollie's ideas on developing the landscape inspired her younger son, Steele. He is, of course, the master designer of the Windrush landscape we see today but much of his early efforts were at the request of his mother. He once described his reaction to her request to plant live oaks down each side of Burden Lane to Moss Side Lane as puzzlement, wondering why he should spend time planting trees that she would not see reach maturity. She responded that they were not being planted for her. Steele would never again wonder why he planted trees.

Of all her attributes Miss Ollie is most remembered for her gracious hospitality toward friends, guests and visitors to Windrush. The Windrush mood of geniality and warmth comes directly from her.

Miss Ollie's daughter, Ione, never married and so never suffered the trial of her predecessors at the loss of a husband. She graduated from LSU in 1917 and pursued a career in college administration at various universities, including William & Mary in Virginia, before returning to LSU as Assistant to the Dean of Women. Her administrative experience was valuable to the family as they put together plans for the place and formulated the donation. Any endeavor as large and complex as the development of Windrush Plantation as a donation with clear mission will incur numerous episodes of conflict and decision, some contextual and some intensely personal.

.....continued on Page 8

# Reflections from the Chair

By Ginnie Bolin, Chairman

By now most of us have eaten all the leftovers, taken down the Christmas tree, and made our New Year's resolutions. It is a good time to look back and reflect on our accomplishments from the past year and set goals for the new year. The BHS Board's reflection on the 2009 year are chronicled in the annual report below.

## 2009 BHS Annual Report

### "Reflections in the Garden" Lunch Series

12 Reflections in the Garden lectures (First Mondays at Burden)

- January 5 From Shade to Sun: Retrofitting Your Gardens After Gustav by Dan Gill
- February 2 Fantastic Low Maintenance Roses by BRRS Members
- March 2 Spectacular New Warm-season Annuals for 2009 by Allen Owings
- April 6 Growing Tomatoes Your neighbor Will Envy by Pat Hegwood
- May 4 Eating Healthy from the Garden by Judy Myhand
- June 1 Backyard Fruit for Food and Fun by Charlie Johnson
- July 6 Crape Myrtles—Golden Oldies and New Varieties that Rock by Allen Owings
- August 3 Spice Up Your World with Gingers by Jeff Kuehny
- September 14 How to Brighten Your Landscape for Fall and Winter by Bob Mirabello
- October 5 Tour of Windrush by Peggy Cox
- November 2 Birds Bees Shrubs and Trees by Dan Gill
- December 7 Holiday Decorating from Garden to Home by Barbara Laudun and Jeanie LeBlanc



### BHS Special Events

- February 28 Camellia morning at Burden (Art Landry and Michael Polozola) in cooperation with the BR Camellia Society
- March 15 Azalea Stroll in Windrush Gardens (Peggy Cox)
- April 19 Afternoon of Roses, in cooperation with Baton Rouge Rose Society
- August 15 Ginger Day and sale at Burden (Jeff Kuehny)
- September. 26-27 Corn Maze, Pumpkin Patch, in cooperation with Rural Life Museum & Harvest Days
- October 28 An Evening of Wine and Roses

### Master Planning for the Burden Center with Portico Group

- March 31- April 2 1<sup>st</sup> workshop and Reception
- May 27-28 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop and completion of Phase I
- August 6-7 1<sup>st</sup> workshop of Phase II
- November 9 Final Presentation of Master Plan by Portico Group  
Burden Foundation voted to approve the plan.
- December 2 Dr. Jeff Kuehny received word that LSU AgCenter has approved the Master Plan as presented by Portico Group.

### Fundraising

- Annual Appeal
- Wine & Roses contributions
- Harvest Days admission and sales
- Reflections in the Garden revenue
- Ginger Day Sales
- Poinsettia and Cyclamen Plant Sales
- Note cards and AgCenter Calendar sales

### Other Supporting Events

- March 4 Trees and Trails Volunteer Recognition and Update after Hurricane Gustav
- March 21-22 BHS Booth at LSU AgCenter Spring Garden Show
- May 23 Square Foot Gardening Lecture and Workshop (Mel Bartholomew), in cooperation with LSU AgCenter and EBR Master Gardeners
- November 7 Trees and Trails Ribbon Cutting
- November 30 Appreciation Luncheon for Burden Center Staff

### Burden Horticulture Society Board

- Dr. Pat Hegwood.....*Ex-Officio Director*
- Dr. Jeff Kuehny..... *Ex-Officio Director*
- Annette Barton.....*Ex-Officio Director*
- Ginnie Bolin.....*Chair*
- Penny Miller.....*Vice Chair*
- John Monroe.....*Treasurer*
- Aline Creed..... *Secretary*

#### Directors:

- Coleman Brown
- Ferrill Ann Coates
- Peggy Cox
- Sherry Eubanks
- Marilyn Root
- Malcolm Tucker
- Judy Weaver

#### Advisory Committee:

- Leslie Bardwell
- Art Landry
- Frances Monroe
- Barbara Quirk
- Bette Stoelzing
- Dale Walsh

#### Editors:

- Maia Butler
- Ginger Ku

## Reflections from the Chair

.....continued

### Public Information

Developed web site ([www.burdenhorticulturesociety.com](http://www.burdenhorticulturesociety.com))  
Published four quarterly newsletters in 2009

### BHS Member Benefits

Free admission to Reflections in the Garden lectures  
Reciprocal Admissions Program with American Horticultural Society (free and reduced admission to over 200 gardens in the US and Canada)

### Enhancements for Burden

Volunteer orientation (March 28) for Les Amis de Jardin (the volunteer arm of BHS)  
Promotional and informational banners for Burden Sign at Essen Lane entrance  
Enhancements to Orangerie: new floor and air conditioning  
All American Rose Garden: maintenance by BHS Les Amis de Jardin  
All American Selection Garden: maintenance by BHS Les Amis de Jardin  
Windrush Garden: maintenance by BHS Les Amis de Jardin  
Publication of Windrush Brochure, in cooperation with Rural Life Museum



The goals set by the Board for the 2010 year are:

### Capital Campaign for Burden Center Master Plan

Organize a capital campaign to support the Burden Center Master Plan.  
Produce a fundraising presentation  
Contact a professional fundraiser to explore ways for the BHS Board to implement a capital campaign.  
Consult with the AgCenter, LSU Foundation, Baton Rouge Foundation, CPEX, and other appropriate organizations.  
Recruit a special fundraising board for BHS for the capital campaign.  
Implement a capital campaign for the Burden Center Master Plan

### Trees and Trails Utilization

Recruit and train BHS docents  
Contact EBR School System to determine how to cultivate the utilization of Trees and Trails by EBR Schools  
Summer 2010 teacher training  
Explore grant possibilities to hire an educational liaison and Trees and Trails program developer for Burden Center.

### Volunteer development and recognition

All American Selection Display Garden: Asking EBR Master Gardeners to assist with the maintenance and utilization of this garden for public education.  
Plan an annual volunteer thank you event honoring BHS volunteers

### Carry out a Board Workshop for new and old board members

Develop orientation for new board members  
Describe the BHS Board process and opportunities for service.  
Identify other community leaders who might be interested in BHS.

The board would like to thank Mark Mese, Sharman Charles, and Art Landry for their service on the Board this past year. Judy Foil, Peggy Cox, and Sherry Eubanks have been elected to the Board for the 2010 year. We are also very grateful to all of the Burden Staff and all our wonderful volunteers who have made 2009 a very productive year for BHS.  
I hope you have a wonderful New Year.

# Master Plan

By Jeff Kuehny

## A New Beginning

*The Mission of the Burden Center is to promote the importance of plants and their environment to the physical, mental and spiritual well being of the citizens of Baton Rouge, the State of Louisiana, and the world.*

We will accomplish this mission through a three pronged approach:

- Performing research and facilitating the research of others to develop **sustainable** plants and landscapes for agriculture and horticulture.
- Educating the community through **demonstration** of the value of this research and these plants by enabling direct access to these fields and gardens.
- Bringing people back to nature by providing a diversity of green places and special facilities to engage in **conversation**, create a **community** and to **commune** with nature.

The master plan for the Burden Center creates a unified vision for the 440 acres and its centers of activity. It honors the legacy of the Burden Family, the Center's benefactor, by providing a botanic garden destination for the citizens of Louisiana and establishing the Center as the nation's premier horticultural research and educational facility.

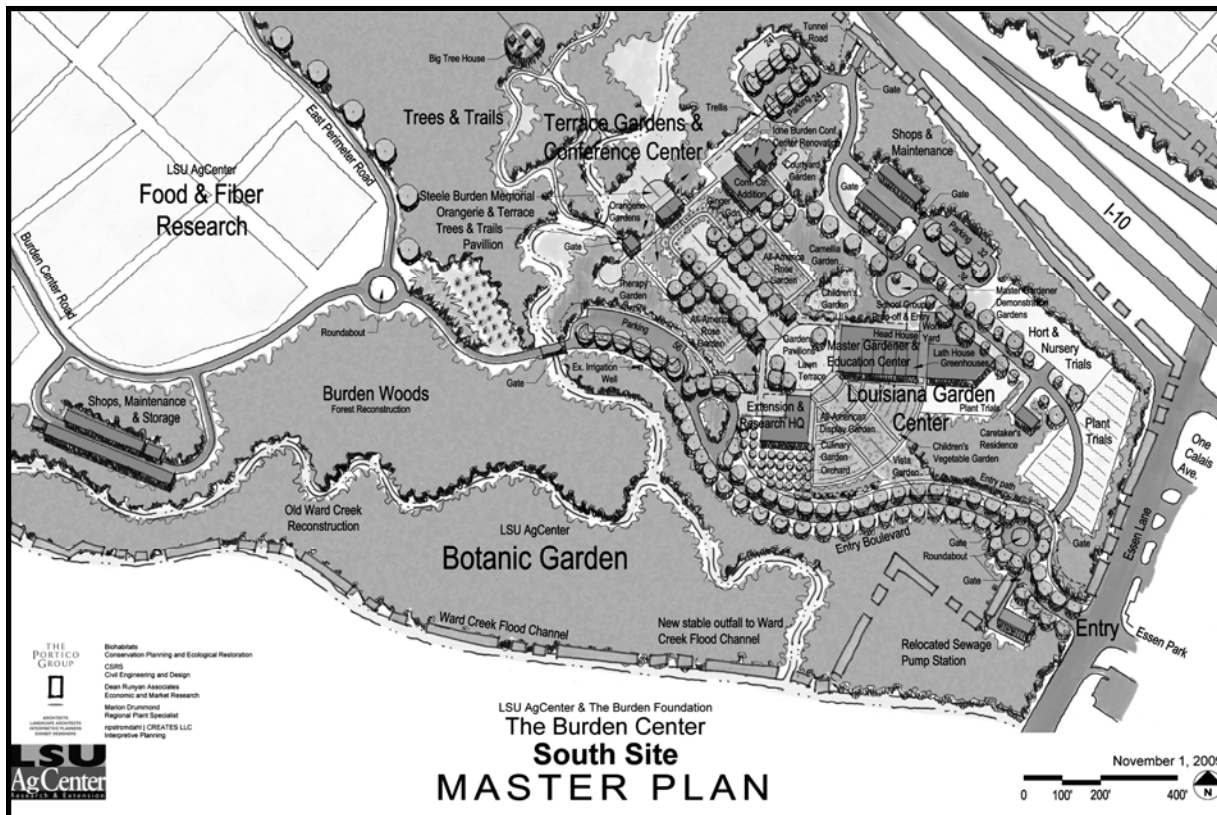
The Burden Center is composed of three destinations and points of activity that reflect the past, present and future of agriculture in Louisiana. The LSU Rural Life Museum represents the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century plantation era in Louisiana history. The

LSU AgCenter's Botanic Garden represents present day horticulture through its display and demonstration gardens, and the LSU AgCenter Ornamental & Turf and Food & Fiber Plant Research Facilities seek to discover a sustainable agricultural future. A new entry road and trail network ties the site together and creates a legible circulation system for the visitor. It clearly leads to the Botanic Garden where the visitor is introduced to the offerings available at the Burden Center. The road continues across the existing bridge and alongside the food and fiber research fields to the second visitor destination - the Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens.

The results of the master planning efforts will allow the Burden Center to move forward with a common vision for the property, the organization and the research and outreach programs it offers to stakeholders and the public. The LSU AgCenter, the LSU Rural Life Museum, the Burden Foundation and the Burden Horticultural Society are united in their commitment to extending the legacy and dreams of the Center's benefactor, the Burden Family.

Phase one of the master plan will include a new entry road, multi-purpose paths, parking lot, gateway garden, lawn terrace, plant trial gardens, a new headquarters for Burden Center and the East Baton Rouge Extension personnel, Trees and Trails Pavilion, Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie Enhancement and the Orangerie Gardens.

We encourage you to help us move forward in this great endeavor that will leave a legacy for our children, grandchildren and generations to come.



## Trees and Trails Open

By Penny Miller

It's time for congratulations! Trees and Trails at Burden Center are officially open at last! What a perfect Saturday morning it was to mark that milestone: beautiful weather, LSU playing an afternoon game out of town, and people, lots and lots of people came out to celebrate. Dreams do come true!

The Trees and Trails Project was initiated in 2000 when Dr. Paul Murrill, representing the Burden Foundation, challenged Dr. Patrick Hegwood, Resident Director of LSU AgCenter's Burden Center, to reclaim and develop the trails that Steele



Burden established many years ago. Since Burden Center's primary mission is horticultural research and teaching, money was not budgeted for trail development. Dr. Hegwood set about to develop partnerships that could help him accomplish this directive and the financial backing necessary to complete the projects. He contacted Sue Heflin, then Executive Director

of Baton Rouge Green and her Program Director, Peggy Davis, with a vision to transform Steele's roads through the woods into something more than rugged paths. His vision recognized that such a serene and splendid site could and should be enjoyed by others. It seemed like an ideal educational opportunity for environmental studies for people of all ages in the Baton Rouge community. When the rough plan was formed and the backing of the Burden Foundation and Baton Rouge Green were secure, the Junior League of Baton Rouge and Forum 35 became players. The Recreational Trails Program of Louisiana blessed the group with a generous grant, as did the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, lead by Wade Dubea. Naturalist Aimee Robert with the Office of State Parks provided expertise on signage and developing a good facility use policy.

The timing for this project was right for the Junior League. Here was a project that met all three of their goals at that time: environmental, educational, and beneficial to the community. With machetes in hand, the ladies responded by hacking trails out of those briar patches. Forum 35 members dedicated precious weekends to the same. Maybe that glorious outdoors came with thorns, mud, and mosquitoes, but they forged forward with determination and focus. They created a sylvan cathedral out of those tangled woods, but no one had any idea how soon we would discover how fragile that environmental project really was!

As in 'Field of Dreams,' the Trees and Trails were ready 'for them to come' when Hurricane Gustav hit. What devastation was ravaged, both environmentally and emotionally. So much of the work was ruined; it was like an ocean wave hit a sand castle. This turned out to be an environmental education opportunity on the



grandest scale!

Coming back was hard - Baton Rouge was suffering, Burden staff was suffering, and volunteers were suffering. It seemed so much emotional energy had to go into just getting through the things we had to do just to keep life going. The added tasks of cleaning up the environment seemed overwhelming. Then slowly, opportunities started materializing: a logging company bought and hauled

off the downed trees; heavy duty equipment was purchased to restore and maintain the trails in-house, rather than paying for outsourcing; the Recreational Trails of Louisiana awarded the trails another generous grant; and the volunteers came back, including new groups like the Baton Rouge Hiking Club and Burden's Les Aimes de Jardin. In slightly over a year, the trails were reclaimed.

What seemed so destructive turned to favor. Indeed, beautiful old trees were lost, but that provided the opportunity to clear out massive numbers of invasive species. Come Arbor Day, on January 15, volunteers will gather again to help plant over 100 trees donated by Resource Environmental and the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council. Will that ever help reforest Burden Woods with desirable trees! Plans are also being made to break ground close to the Orangerie for the new pavilion. It will include restroom facilities and a covered area so that schools will be able to better utilize Project Learning Tree, the nationally recognized, multi-disciplinary environmental education program developed for use in Trees and Trails. The good news here is that funds have already been secured for the building.

...continued on Page 7



Ribbon Cutting for Trees and Trails

## Digging in the Dirt

By Jeff Kuehny

Green to orange, yellow, and red; the leaves are falling about my head. Although the loss of leaves signals the end of the growing season and the beginning of winter, it also results in the garden birds becoming much more visible. The bright colors of cardinals, golden finches, red-bellied woodpecker and blue jays and the muted browns, grays, and rusts of wrens, nuthatches, cedar waxwings and tufted titmouse come alive in the trees and shrubs of our dormant gardens. This time of year our gardens fill with birds that are seeking a warmer climate and the plentiful foods produced by our ornamental and food producing shrubs, grasses and trees. It always renews my interest in plants that can be used in our gardens to provide food and shelter for these winged seed planters and insectivores. Dr. Tom Pope wrote a wonderful book with Drs. Neil Odenwald and Charles Fryling titled "Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens". Dr. Pope indicates that there are approximately 70 species of birds that may be attracted to your Southern garden! However, one must give careful consideration to selection, planting and maintenance of plant material so that they produce a succession of flowers, foliage, fruits and nuts that both you and the birds can enjoy. Dan Gill gave a great presentation on just that topic at the November 'Reflections in the Garden'. For those of you who were not fortunate enough to attend his presentation, I will share with you a few notes that I took.

I know everyone is being very cautious about planting certain large species of trees in their yards after the destruction created by Gustav. However, there are some small to medium sized trees that can be planted as understory material or small ornamental shade trees that will provide both beauty to your landscape and should be somewhat tolerant of hurricanes. *Chionanthus virginicus* or fringe tree is a small understory tree that performs well in full sun to part shade and prefers a well drained soil slightly acidic soil. This native tree produces an abundance of white fringelike flowers in spring and olive-shaped fruit (Not a surprise, it belongs to the Oleacea or Olive family) in the summer. Birds that feed on this tree are mockingbird, blue jay, pileated woodpecker and cardinal.

The hawthorns are another group of small deciduous trees that have white flowers in the spring and bright red berries in the autumn. Dr. Pope mentions *Crataegus Marshallii* (parsley hawthorn), *C. Phaenopyrum* (Washington hawthorn) and *C. viridis* (green hawthorn). Of course, there is the mayhaw, *C. opaca*, that will give you fruit for making jelly in the late spring but only if you beat the birds to it! Birds that feed on the hawthorns are cardinal, blue jay, mocking bird, evening grosbeak and brown thrasher.

Another medium sized native tree that is being used as a replacement for dogwood is *Helesia dipteral* or Silver-Bell. Silver-Bell does well in full sun to part shade with white, bell-



shaped flowers that hang in clusters. They also have a wonderful yellow autumn color. Humming birds are attracted to the flowers of this tree.

The beautyberry is an underutilized shrub for the landscape that produces amethyst colored fruit in the fall. The fruit is relished by mockingbird, cardinal, brown thrasher and American robin. These deciduous shrubs have either a mounding or cascading growth habit that will thrive in most all soil types. They prefer morning sun and afternoon shade. There are several types of beauty berry: *Callicarpa americana* (American Beautyberry), *C. dichotoma* and *C. japonica*.

Of all of the plant materials, the hollies offer the greatest source of food, shelter, and nesting sites for an array of birds. The wide variety of hollies available and their adaptability to various growing conditions make them an excellent landscape plant as well. The *Ilex x attenuate* 'Fosteri' (Fosters holly) and the *I. cornuta* 'Burfordii' (burford holly) are two large evergreen hollies that have large red berries that are a favorite of the cedar waxwing. The inkberry or *I. glabra* is a native deciduous holly that grows in moist boggy soil and will form large colonies of fruit producing plants. Bluebird, mocking bird, robin, and woodpecker are just some of the birds that feed on the fruit of the hollies.

The *Viburnums* are another group of shrubs that are mostly deciduous and provide food for bluebird, cedar waxwing, cardinal, mockingbird, robin, finch and vireo. *Viburnum dentatum*, arrowwood, prefers an organic, acid soil. It bears white flowers in the spring and bright red foliage and blue-black clusters of fruit in the fall. *Viburnum Opulus* or cranberry bush produces clusters of white flowers in the spring followed by red berries in the early autumn. This viburnum will grow well in a wide range of soils and conditions.

Blueberries (*Vaccinium* species) can serve as a great ornamental shrub with wonderful deep red and orange fall color, flowers for the bees in early spring and berries for you and the birds in the early summer. Blueberries prefer a well drained, but moist organic soil and take a couple of years to get established. Because our soils are a bit heavy blueberries are best planted in raised beds with irrigation and lots of organic matter and a pH of 6 or less. I simply mulch mine with lots of pine straw, pine bark and leaves and they do quite well. Blueberries also lend themselves to pruning, so don't be afraid to prune them back after fruiting in late June or July. But remember, to get the best fruit set blueberries require cross-pollination so plant a couple different varieties.

A couple of vines in the Bignoniaceae family are the cross vine, *Bignonia capreolata*, and the Trumpet Vine, *Campsis radicans*. Both of these are rapid growing vines that tolerate most any growing condition and have.....continued on Page 7

## American Camellia Society

By Pat Hegwood

The American Camellia Society (ACS) will hold its Annual Convention at the LSU AgCenter's Burden Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 28-31, 2010. Registration is now available on the ACS website at [www.americancamellias.org](http://www.americancamellias.org). Registration is open to anyone who has an interest in camellias and would like to learn more about them. Walkup registrations at Burden Center will be welcome too.

On Thursday, there will be an optional tour available for \$25 per person. The tour is separate from registration and will include a tour of the Stromeier's beautifully restored home (c. 1825-30) on Highland Road, lunch at the Greek-inspired Hemingbough and a tour of Rosedown Plantation and Mt. Carmel Church both located in St. Francisville. Transportation will be provided throughout the whole tour. Make sure to add this tour when you register online.

On Friday, ACS will hold their business meetings. If you are not planning to attend these business meetings and are interested in further exploring Baton Rouge and surrounding areas, please contact Gerald Phares at 225-261-3123. Mr. Phares is President of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society (BRCS), a knowledgeable native Louisianan and he is looking forward to showing you some southern hospitality! Please give him a call to set-up your tour. A spicy Cajun dinner will be held on Friday night at the rural life museum followed by a live auction that will benefit the American Camellia Society.

The ACS National Camellia Show in conjunction with the Baton Rouge Camellia Society show will be held on Saturday. If you haven't been to a camellia show this is an event you will not want to miss, because it is an opportunity to see the crème de la crème of camellia blooms from around the country; there will literally be hundreds of these beautiful flowers on display Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. If you have

### ....Digging in the Dirt.....continued

brightly colored red/orange, tubular flowers all summer long that are a favorite of hummingbirds. These vines are quite vigorous so be ready to do a little maintenance pruning. I have a trumpet vine in one of my cypress trees and it seems to have established a nice symbiosis with the tree. I often get asked if my cypress is producing orange flowers!

There are numerous perennials and annuals that provide for a colorful garden from which hummingbirds get nectar. These include *Hedychium* (Butterfly ginger), *Lantana*, most of the Malvaceae (Turk's cap, Rose of Sharon and tropical hibiscus), *Salvia*, and *Cuphea*.

These trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants and many more will provide food and shelter for birds, however, you can enhance these factors by providing supplemental food, shelter and water. Wisely chosen and carefully placed bird feeders, bird houses and bird baths can increase your success in developing your own backyard aviary, as well as, providing ornamental features to be enjoyed through out the year.

camellias we encourage you to enter your best blooms in the show as this can be a lot of fun, and who knows, you might win a blue ribbon. If you do not want to register for the conference and participate in the show you can still view the blooms with the general public Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. Tours of Burden Center, Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens will be available. We will also hold an educational program and panel discussion on Saturday which is free and open to the public. The BRCS will also be selling camellia plants on Saturday and Sunday, so please save some time to check out their selections. The banquet will be held on Saturday night at Burden Center where we will find out who wins the camellia quilt raffle. You can purchase your tickets at the check-in table at Burden Center when you arrive in Baton Rouge! Here too, you do not have to be a member of ACS or register for the conference to buy raffle tickets for this beautiful camellia quilt.

If you do decide to join us for this conference we guarantee you the opportunity to pass a good time, eat good Cajun food, see many beautiful camellia flowers, and learn about camellia culture.

### ....Trees and Trails Open.....continued

How's that for a jump start on the Master Plan! (Read more on it in this newsletter *Page 4*.)

So, the future of Trees and Trails looks as bright as that sunny November 7<sup>th</sup> morning when all the major players were gathered to celebrate and give thanks to the many volunteers for their hard work: LSU AgCenter Chancellor Bill Richardson welcomed guests, Peggy Davis and Dr. Hegwood briefed the crowd on the history, Mike Domingue of the Recreational Trails of Louisiana gave his supportive words, Diane Losavio of Baton Rouge Green, Irina Sterpu of Forum 35, and Laura Poche, President of the Junior League shared perspectives from each of their organizations, and Dr. Jeff Kuehny described what the future looks like. What do you want to bet that Steele Burden is smiling down on us?

(See *Page 9* for more pictures of the Opening Ceremony!)

### Trees and Trails Opening at new trail head kiosk.



## An Evening of Wine and Roses Delights Guests

By Judy Weaver

Burden Center was once again beautifully transformed on October 28, 2009 for an *Evening of Wine & Roses*, the signature fundraising event for the Burden Horticulture Society. A brilliant pink sky at dusk complimented the All American Selection Rose Garden in bloom for the occasion. On the lawn of the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, guests enjoyed champagne and a variety of hors d'oeuvres including jumbo boiled shrimp and spanakopita prepared by Whole Foods Market and served by members of East Baton Rouge 4-H Clubs. Kenny Kleinpeter completed the delightful setting with his keyboard music.

Dinner with wine was served in the Ione Burden Conference Center, transformed by elegant round tables, each with a towering centerpiece of rose. LSU AgCenter Chancellor William B. Richardson welcomed guests and Burden Center Resident Director Patrick Hegwood gave the invocation. Whole Foods Market prepared and donated the delicious dinner of maple-glazed pecan and cranberry salad, pumpkin soup, cherry pork loin, creamy mashed potatoes, grilled asparagus, and sliced berry Chantilly cake.

After dinner, Marilyn Root, chair of the event, thanked her committee and event sponsors: Whole Foods Market and their chefs, Kenny Kleinpeter, and East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners. Auctioneer Brian Fourroux conducted a live auction of art work donated by the artists: *L'Orangerie II* by Sandra Roccaforte, *Rural Life Series VII* by Virginia Donner and *At the Gate* by Marsha Barkemeyer. Completing the auctioned items were home-delivered holiday poinsettias grown at Burden, roses from the All American Selection Rose Garden delivered several times a year, and a year's worth of fresh produce raised at Burden as part of the LSU AgCenter's research mission. Proceeds for the event are dedicated to developing the Burden Center Master Plan.

**From left to right: Jeff Kuehny, Patrick Hegwood, Ginnie Bolin, Leslie Bardwell, Marilyn Root, Penny Miller, Barbara Guglielmo, Chancellor Bill Richardson**



**From left to right: Coleman Brown, Johnny Monroe, Aline Creed, Ginnie Bolin, David Boethel, Penny Miller**

### ...The Women of Windrush Plantation.....continued

Because her brother, Pike, died in 1965, a few years before the donation of Windrush Plantation was consummated it would be Ione who usually confronted these issues head on and carried through to their resolution. Her other brother, Steele, is today popularly known as the creator of Burden Center (Windrush Plantation) due to his landscaping and layout genius; however, we can be sure that none of this would have been possible without Ione.

Ione and Steele lived modestly in the old family residence. Ione was able to accumulate, by the time she died in 1983, a significant sum which is now managed by The Burden Foundation and used to support, through grants, many projects at Burden Center. This foundation is an important resource for the future. It must also be said that the traditions of social courtesy, grace and hospitality came from Miss Ollie.

The only one of the three Burden children to marry was Pike. He married Jeannette Monroe in 1922. They built the second home at Windrush in 1940. Jeannette survived her husband but only by five years. The home they built is now occupied by her nephew, John Monroe, and his wife Frances. Frances continues in the traditions of Windrush as hostess in their home but also serves on boards and committees to further the dream of the Burden family: a Rural Life Museum docent, a Burden Foundation Board member and co-chair of the recent capital campaign, *Whispers of Change*, to raise funds for a new Rural Life Museum Visitor's Center.

The important contributions of the women of Windrush to the development and defense of the mission of the Burden Center should never be forgotten. They made Windrush a place of hospitality, serenity and contemplation. They wanted it to stay that way. Part of our mission is to fulfill these wishes.



## Trees and Trails Ribbon Cutting

Photos by John Wozni



## “Reflection in the Garden” Lunch Series

Noon to 1:00 PM in the  
Ione Burden Conference Center  
the first Monday of each month

Special guest speakers!  
Bring a brown bag lunch  
Drinks will be provided!



Jan 4	The Art of Bonsai and Bonsai Workshop	Lowell Tilley
Feb 1	Succulents You'll Love	Carlos Smith
Mar 1	Spectacular Warm Season Annuals and Companion Planting	Allen Ownings
Apr 5	Sustainable Home Gardening	Carl Motsenbocker
May 3	Weed Out Those Weeds	Ron Strahan
June 7	Design, Build, and Maintenance of Ornamental Ponds	Greg Lutz
July 5	Dispel the Heat: Easy Landscape Irrigation	Ron Sheffield
Aug 2	More Than Ginger Ale	Jeff Kuehny
Sept 13	Fall/Winter Landscape Planning	Dan Gill
Oct 4	Sweet Potatoes: They're Not Just for Thanksgiving Anymore	Don Labonte
Nov 1	Strawberries: Planting, Caring and Eating	Charlie Johnson
Dec 6	Design on a Dime Holiday Decorating	Barbara Laudun and Jeanie LeBlanc

## Bonsai

By Lowell Tilley

Bonsai is a Japanese word that literally means “tree in a tray.” It was introduced to Japan from China where it is called “penjing,” but the word penjing can mean “a landscape in a tray.” The Japanese word for landscape in a tray is “saikai.” The Japanese made some innovations to the art and exported it to the world. Bonsai is a Japanese word, but now the art is world wide. It is now a hobby enjoyed by people all over the world and supports a world wide industry growing and developing bonsai.

Just as paintings are a way of capturing many diverse scenes to bring into a single room to be enjoyed, bonsai can bring the beauty of a diverse variety of trees and landscapes into one backyard or garden. Bonsai uses artistic principles to create the illusion of a large old tree or a tree that has some very interesting features. In addition to being a three dimensioned art, bonsai has another component, life, sometimes called the fourth dimension. This makes it a very complex art with two disciplines, artistic and biological. The artistic rules are subjective and change with the culture. The biological rules are less flexible, but not completely understood in the bonsai environment. It is a very challenging hobby and can be appreciated at many levels from just looking at pictures of bonsai to actually developing a bonsai from seed. It has something for everyone to enjoy. The Louisiana Bonsai Society is working to help more people enjoy bonsai and make Baton Rouge a major point of interest for bonsai enthusiasts from all over the world.

When bonsai was first introduced to the United States, people had problems growing bonsai and they thought the bonsai had to be a special variety until they learned that it required a special soil mix. When a tree is grown in a bonsai pot, it requires soil with different drainage characteristics than regular soil. Water is adhesive and tends to stay in shallow pots and not drain very well. As more was learned about bonsai, it was discovered that local varieties of trees and shrubs usually do better than imported varieties.

Almost any variety of tree or shrub can be used if the correct care procedures are used. However, some varieties are easier to grow and develop than others. There are some dwarf varieties of shrubs and trees that work very well. The varieties to avoid are the ones that have compound leaves or large leaves. This is not a fast rule and there are exceptions. Some with large leaves will reduce their leaf size with the correct bonsai techniques. Bonsai are generally from four inches to four feet tall.

There are many ways bonsai are started. They can be started from seeds, cuttings, from nursery stock, or collected. Collected trees can be from imports or dug from forest, mountains, fence rows, or landscapes. Landscape discard plants and nursery stock are two very good sources.

Some plants such as junipers and boxwoods can be transformed into a nice looking bonsai almost instantly, while others like maples and oaks may take 5 to 10 years. All of them should show improvement each year. Many people think that you

need patience to enjoy bonsai when actually you need perseverance to develop bonsai and it teaches you patience. Although it may take 10 years to develop some bonsai, there is much gratification in planning and seeing it grow into a bonsai. Unlike paintings, bonsai can improve year after year. It gives you the sense of working with nature while you develop a respect for nature.

One of the most sought after characteristics in Bonsai is to make it look old. There are three ages in bonsai, the chronological age, the number of years it has been in a bonsai pot, and how old it looks. In other words it doesn't matter the exact age as long as it looks old.

There are several misconceptions about bonsai. Many people think they should be kept indoors and protected from cold weather. Some tropical bonsai must be protected from cold weather and can be kept indoors all year, however, they will do better outside during the summer. Cold hardy bonsai can live outdoors year round. In very cold weather the pots may have to be protected from freezing. Any bonsai can be brought indoors for two or three days for a party or special event, but they should stay outdoors on the patio, deck, or backyard most of the time. They can add a lot to landscapes.

Another mistake people make with bonsai is the watering. Bonsai will require more water when outdoors than indoors. They must be watered more frequently than most other pot plants because they are in shallow pots. Most often they die from lack of water, but they can be over watered, if they are in the wrong pot or soil that cannot drain properly. Generally they need to be watered thoroughly once a day. A good understanding of horticulture is a help, but there is lots to be learned growing and developing bonsai.

Bonsai is a hobby that is growing slowly, but all over the world. Some bonsai trees and very limited bonsai supplies can be found in local nurseries. The local libraries and book stores have some bonsai books. But many of the tools and materials have to be ordered. There are some bonsai nurseries in Louisiana, but they are open generally by appointment only or have very limited hours. Like many other hobbies, bonsai is a very good reason to travel out of town to see what is being done in the rest of the world.

Lowell Tilley, Past President of the Louisiana Bonsai Society, will be doing a bonsai program at “Reflections in the Garden”, the Burden Horticulture monthly lunch and learn at Burden Conference Center, January 4. He will bring some bonsai for show and will talk about how to start and care for bonsai.

The Louisiana Bonsai Society meets monthly at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, Independence Blvd, Baton Rouge, on the third Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:00 PM. They have spring and fall bonsai shows each year and sponsor a mid-winter bonsai workshop each January. They also work with other bonsai clubs in Louisiana to conduct a state wide bonsai event each year. For more information contact: Lowell Tilley, 225-241-2396.



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### ***Burden Horticulture Society***

BHS is a 501 (c) 5 non-profit organization recently formed to promote, support, and expand the use of the LSU AgCenter's Burden Center. It operates under the auspices of the LSU Foundation solely for educational and fundraising purposes. Partnering with other gardening and outdoor organizations, plus the Rural Life Museum, we strive to offer informative opportunities for the public and to increase awareness of this local resource.

Your gift will allow us to develop a Master Plan for Burden Center and will help sponsor special educational events.









Please mail to:                      Burden Horticulture Society  
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**Azalea Stroll through Windrush Gardens**

Blooms of Camellias and Azaleas will show in abundance as we approach an early March Azalea Stroll (Sunday, March 7th, 2010). Joining these flowers by February, Sweet Olives, Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Magnolias, Taiwan Cherries, Redbuds, Spireas, and numerous Narcissus will be brightening up Windrush into Spring.

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**BHS Special Events 2010**

January 15 & 16, 2010	Arbor Day/Trees and Trails
February 20, 2010	Camellia Morning
March 7, 2010	Azalea Stroll
April 18, 2010	Afternoon of Roses
August 14, 2010	Gingers and Sale
October 16 & 17, 2010	Corn Maze Pumpkin Patch
October 2010	Wine and Roses