Burden Reflections and Visions Horticulture Society April 1, 2012

The Burden Center Cultural Landscape Report: A Guide for the Future By John Monroe

It is hard to believe that it has been seventeen years since Steele died. He was the last of the Burden descendants to live at Windrush and was most responsible for developing the landscape. Steele is no longer here for us to ask what his intentions were or what he would do now. The Cultural Landscape Report documents the history of Windrush and the wishes of the Burdens, which can be used as guides as the master plan is further developed and implemented.

The finishing touches to the LSU Burden Center Cultural Landscape Report are complete. This report is the work of Suzanne Turner Associates, a Baton Rouge Landscape Architecture firm. It was commissioned in conjunction with the develop-

ment of a master plan for the LSU AgCenter's Burden Center but it covers the areas of Windrush administered by the LSU Rural Life Museum as well. The report follows guidelines from the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS defines a cultural landscape as a "geographic area associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values." The purpose of the report is to identify elements of Burden's landscape that should be preserved due to their significance.

The Cultural Landscape Report contains a list of six "characterdefining features" that "contribute most in creating the sense of place that is most positively associated with the Burden Center landscape." The entry sequence by car that sets the tone for the visitors 'impressions as they drive from the Essen Lane entrance through the display gardens and back to the Rural Life Museum is one of them. The rural character that pervades the entire property is another. Wouldn't it be wise to return to this list from time to time and inspect Windrush to ensure against loss of integrity or interference with these important features?

Steele and Ione Burden, from time to time, recorded their wishes in both writing and video, for further development of the property. These records are documented in the Cultural Landscape Report. Many of them are quite specific. On Windrush Gardens: "The design as existing today should remain the same and the feeling of an old garden kept." On the wooded areas: "Under no circumstance must the wooded areas ever be destroyed;" and, "The woods on the south side of I-10 should have walking paths serving as nature trails." A recommended plant list for the path from the *Old Gardens* to the lake:

Burden home, 1922-1925



"The woodland path should be bordered with azaleas, hydrangeas, aspidistra, ardesia, and all the hardy shade loving plants..." and "plantings of semitropicals such Windmill palms, bamboos, the varieties of bananas, livingstonia palms, etc., and such trees as live oaks, cypress, Maple, dogwood, crape myrtle, cow oak...." On maintaining the perimeter

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road and circular intersections: "The other circle and triangle should be carefully maintained with colorful plants and trees" and "The Perimeter Road flanked by woods can be made so attractive that it will be a privilege to walk or drive around it." Their comments are extensive and valuable references that should be reviewed regularly in conjunction with inspections to evaluate changes that may have occurred.

One technique used in developing the Cultural Landscape Report was a comparison of old photographs and maps with current conditions. In 1997, Tracy Stakely documented and mapped the plant materials in Windrush Gardens as part of his thesis for a master's degree in landscape architecture. Suzanne Turner Associates revisited this work and compared current conditions with those that existed in 1997. The magnitude of the change is startling. Then vs. now photographs—called "repeat photography"--were also used to evaluate the same thing.Continued on Page 2

Reflections from the Chair

By Judy Foil, Chairman

Retreat to go forward. What's that you say? As we set our course for 2012 and beyond, the BHS Board took a step back to reflect on the first five years of our organization. A small and committed group of master gardeners with a passion for Burden, Ginnie Bolin, Leslie Bardwell, Barbara Quirk, Marilyn Root, Aline Creed, Caroline Daigle, Pat Ray, Bette Stoelzing, and Judy Weaver met with LSU officials in 2006 and received authorization to form a volunteer "friends" group. A group was created in 2007 with the mission of supporting and advocating for good development and careful preservation of the 400 acres of Burden property administered and cultivated by the AgCenter. That group became the Burden Horticulture Society. We've learned that the traits of that first group, commitment and passion, are also the keys to our future.



From that small nucleus, BHS has grown into an organization that in 2012, will sponsor 24 major events, will host over 700 students for the Project Learning Tree program, and will continue to assist in the care of Windrush and the All American Selection Display Gardens. Arbor Day, featuring a "plant your very own tree" program, Smokey the Bear, give-a-ways from sponsors, and a wood products display, doubled in attendance this year. Brush with Burden, which attracted 80 paintings from artists last year drew a record 132 entries this year. All of these activities are in support of our master plan to create a destination for generations. So now, more than ever we still need committed volunteers with a passion for Burden.

Opportunities abound. You can be educated at Reflections monthly or you can educate others at Project Learning Tree in the spring and fall. You can actually dig in the dirt at Windrush Gardens weekly or you can help others enjoy the fruit of the digging at Burden Garden Day in June. You can treat yourself to a photography workshop April 12th and 14th or enjoy the art of others at Brush with Burden. Be entertained by some of our community's finest musicians Saturday, April 21 in Windrush Gardens and gather your family or friends for a walk through the corn maze in October.

Emilie Barnes writes in <u>Everything I Know I Learned in My Garden</u>, "Gardeners are always in the process of picturing the next phase of our perennial borders or the newest choice for our cutting gardens or next year's plans for our vegetable plots. We are continually assessing what has gone right and what has gone wrong, and what might work better and what might be simply wonderful...Lessons...are ever-renewing, a source of ongoing energy and passion. They are the impetus to our plans." So come out and join us. Help us figure out what "might work better and what might be simply wonderful." We're listening.

The Burden Center ...Continued from Page 1...

The primary recommendation in the report is *rehabilitation*. Rehabilitation is "the process of making possible a compatible use for a property...while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical or cultural value." The challenge will be to locate new features without having an impact on significant features or important landscape views. For certain areas of Windrush, where Steele Burden's landscape design is still dominant, the depiction of the landscape as it was during the period of significance is recommended. This would require a carefully kept inventory of plantings, preserving and restoring materials from the period of significance and removing materials from other periods. The recommended period of significance spans the decades from



Aerial view of Windrush Gardens circa 1940s.

the 1930s through the 1960s when Steele was most actively shaping and planting the landscape.

The Cultural Landscape Report uses the term *antebellum revival* to describe Steele Burden's landscape style and its connection with earlier landscape design history. There is no advantage more valuable than a rich cultural history to promote public interest and support. What we have is unique, significant and compelling; no other place has what we have.

Diggin in the Dirt

By Dr. Kathryn Fontenot

If you have a home garden, are interested in starting one or interested in producing vegetables for sale, then you should mark your calendar for Saturday, June 30. The Garden Fest at Burden Center will start at 8:00AM and run until 12:00 noon. The festival will start at the All America Selections (AAS) garden where you will be able to view the latest selections of vegetables, herbaceous annuals and perennials. Information on how to grow these plants that were trialed across the United States will be available. Enjoy a hayride from the AAS garden to the Food and Fiber Research Facility for a tour of the fields where experts will discuss everything from planting schedules to controlling disease and insects to favorite varieties of sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, and watermelons. Tastes tests will also be conducted to determine which are your favorites of these vegetables.

A portion of the research you'll hear about is being funded by a USDA Specialty Crop Grant through the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry which was awarded to Dr. Kathryn Fontenot and Dr. Jeff Kuehny. They along with a team of plant experts will spend the next three years looking at 4 particular crops: lettuce, strawberries, peppers, and tomatoes. The goal of the grant is to determine varieties that meet consumer demands but also yield well, are less prone to insect or disease damage, and are economically beneficial for the farmers to produce. The results from this research will help producers and home gardeners make research-based decisions when selecting a new crop or variety to plant. For instance, there is an overwhelming demand for heirloom varieties of vegetables. Consumers find they have more flavor than hybridized varieties. Local producers generally grow hybrid varieties because they have higher yields and are bred for disease resistance and blemish free fruit. But because the demand is so high for heirloom fruit, it might be worth the grower trying... especially if he or she has some data to back up the financial risk of growing heirlooms. Home gardeners may find it easier to accept growing a lower yielding heirloom variety to eat from their own garden.

Thanks to this grant and seed donations from Rupp Seed and Johnny's Seed, we will be trialing ten heirloom varieties of tomatoes. The varieties are not only being grown at Burden Center but also at seven other farms across Louisiana. We need to ensure that these varieties do well not only here in the Baton Rouge area, but to the north, south, east and west of us as well. Similar studies are being conducted on the other crops. Preliminary results from this trial will be discussed at the field day. Speaking of tomatoes...we will offer a prize for the biggest tomato brought to the Garden Festival.

The schedule for the Garden Festival is as follows:

8:00AM to 12:00PM	Hay rides to fields, AAS Garden and Children's Garden Tours,	
	vendor booths, face painting, space walk, and family fun	
8:00AM to 9:30AM	Omelets and crepes prepared by the Louisiana Egg Council	
9:30AM to 10:30AM	Bloody Mary taste test and contest.	
10:00AM to 11:00AM	Louisiana Culinary Institute cooking with vegetables tasting and	
	contest; recipes with nutritional value provided by EBR Extension	
10:00AM to 1:00PM	Live music in the All American Rose Garden	
11:00AM to 1:00PM	Baton Rouge Food Truck cooking contest and food for purchase	
Organizational booths will include information on herbs, camellias and bonsai as well as the		
Burden Horticulture Society. Equipment companies will be on hand to display the latest		
lawn and garden equipment.		

(A producers only field day at Burden Center for commercial growers is scheduled for Monday, July 2 at 8:00AM or contact Kathryn Fontenot at kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu.)

Not getting e-mail announcements?

Go to the "Join Us" page of www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com and enter your information or email Connie Abboud at abbcon@bellsouth.net

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The Herb Garden at Burden Center

by Jane Paccamonti and Lanier Cordell

Capitalizing on the proximity of the medical complexes of Our Lady of the Lake and Baton Rouge General, and the growing interest in medicinal herbs, the Burden Center will create a new teaching and demonstration Herb Garden with a focus on the medicinally useful plants that are indigenous to our region and those brought here by early settlers.

This garden is being created and sponsored by the Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit and will serve as an educational opportunities for those who wish to develop a better understanding of herbal plants and how they can enrich our mind, body and spirit. The Herb Garden is comprised of four separate gardens, each with special theme and reflecting the various influences of the peoples who have lived in our state.

The first is a "Louisiana Kitchen Garden" displaying culinary and medicinal herbs common to our early gardens. Visitors learn what role these plants played historically and their uses today. This garden will include a gathering spot for gardening clubs, school groups and individuals to learn and reflect on the garden's sensory experience.

The design of the overall garden reflects the influences of Native Americans, Africans, Caribbean Islanders, French, Spanish and other Europeans that came to Louisiana, each bringing their own gardening style and plant materials.

"The Heritage Garden" will introduce the visitor to the diversity of each of these cultures and what they contributed to Louisiana. A variety of fencing, walkway, edgings and other materials will allow visitors to see the many options connected with our rich heritage that may be useful in their own home gardens.

The last section of the garden is "The Natural Garden" which breaks away from the formal rigid lines and geometric shapes of the early gardens. Gentle curving lines and an integrated plant pallet give the visitor a more naturalistic setting with an updated interpretation. This style can be easily incorporated into the typical landscape and allow the homeowner the sensory experience herbs can provide.







Baton Rouge Unit

Please check our website for new activities, updates and changes as so much depends on the weather. www. BurdenHorticultureSociety.com

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Winners of Burden Horticulture Art Show Announced

On March 3, 2012, the Burden Horticulture Society sponsored its second annual "Brush with Burden" juried art show. The entries were required to be original depictions of scenes on the 450-acre Burden properties on Essen Lane in Baton Rouge, including the grounds, buildings, flora and fauna of the Bur-



den Center and the Rural Life Museum. The exhibition was open to all artists 18 years of age or older and all art media, including photography, were accepted.



the public was invited. Seventy-nine artists submitted 132 entries. Seventy-five of the works were juried into the exhibit, including one three-dimensional piece. Della Storm, a

well-known local artist and art teacher from Slaughter, Louisiana, was the juror. Art show sponsors were: Ann Connelly Fine Art, Co-op Bookstore LLC, Daryl & Sons Custom Framing, Della Storms, Elizabethan Gallery, Dr. & Mrs. Jack Breaux, Jr., Judy Weaver, Larry Casso, Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild, Stephen and Jane Flowers. The winners were: 1. Best in Show, 'Master Gardener List' by Larry Casso (watercolor), 2. Judge's Choice, 'Chairs' Betty Efferson (oil), 3.



Lissa Lee



Rural Life Country Church by Larry Casso



Honorable Mention. 'Dapple Blue' by Carol Ordogne (oil), 4. People's Choice 'Leaves in Light' by Betsy Neely (acrylic). All four winning entries will be exhibited at the Shaw Center for one month.







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Herbal Medicine Making Workshop a Huge Hit

by Lanier Cordell

The Baton Rouge Unit of The Herb Society of America recently hosted a two-day workshop on making herbal medicines. The workshop, conducted by Rosemary Gladstar, taught attendees how to make syrups, pills, lotions, creams, tinctures, tonics and more, to use as a first line of defense against illness and as treatments for minor conditions.

Gladstar is a pioneer in the herbal movement and has been called the "godmother of American Herbalism". She is the founder of the *California School of Herbal Studies* and the author of numerous herb books including the best seller *Herbal Healing for Women*. Gladstar is also the co-founder of **Traditional Medicinal Tea Company** and did all of the original formulations for the company. She has taught extensively throughout the United States and worldwide at venues as varied as backyard gardens, native villages, garden clubs, universities and hospitals.

In addition to the extensive workshop, C. Ray Brassieur, Ph.D. presented a talk on the herbal heritage of the Atchafalaya Basin. Brassieur, an anthropologist on the faculty of the University of Louisiana Lafayette, discussed the plants that were native to the area and those that were brought by the many cultures who settled in the Acadiana area.

Lanier Cordell, a member of the Baton Rouge Unit, gave a presentation on Herbal Medicines of the Civil War. Cordell is a marketing, advertising and public relations professional, and published author who has done considerable research on the subject.

A large portion of profits raised by the event are dedicated to the construction of a Heritage Herb Garden at Burden Center that will feature the culinary and medicinal plants that are indigenous to our region and those that were brought here by the early settlers. (See article on The Herb Garden at Burden Center)

I	BHS Annual Events 2012
January 21	Arbor Day/Trees and Trails
M	10am-1pm
March 3-11	Brush with Burden Exhibition and Exhibition Reception on March 3rd
March 29	Spring Road Trip: Festivals of Flowers, Mobile, Alabama All day
April 12 & 14	David Humphreys Photography Workshop
April 21	Burden Center Music Series: Spring Sing at Windrush 6:30-8:30pm
June 30	Garden Fest at Burden Center 8am-Noon
September 22-23	Corn Maze/Pumpkin Patch Fun Family Weekend 8:30am-5:00pm
September 29, and	Corn Maze Saturdays
October 6, 13, 20, 27	-
October 24	Wine and Roses Dinner 6:30pm
TBA	Burden Center Music Series
TBA	Brush with Burden entry deadline

BURDEN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

Presents a Photography workshop With

David Carlysle Humphreys

All proceeds go to Burden Horticultural Society Introduction: April 12th, 7:00-8:30 pm Field Trip Date: April 14th, 8:00-9:30am at Burden Center

Then, a special trip to David's studio for a hands-on exploration of studio photography, Photoshop, and Lightroom

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING 3 TO 5 IMAGES ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 12 TH, FOR A QUICK REVIEW BY DAVID, AND TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.



SIGN UP! Enclose your check for payment of \$150, payable to Burden Horticulture Society Mail to: BHS, c/o Judy Foil, 434 Castle Kirk Dr. Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Thanks to our Contributors!

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"Reflection in the Garden" 2012 Lunch Series			
April 2	Herb and Kitchen Gardening Peggy Cox	Noon to 1:00 PM in the	
May 7	Artist Inspiration: Planting a Monet Garden Sandra Patrick	Ione Burden Conference	
June 4	Cool Colors that Survive the Steamy South Cindy Moran	Center	
July 2	Botanical Treasures to Tap Into	Special guest speakers!	
August 6	The "Green" Garden: Recycling in the Garden Dan Gill	Bring a brown bag	
September 10	Greauxing Organic in the South Carl Motsenbocker	lunch!	
October 1	Adding Bling to your Garden with Bulbs Al O'Brien	Drinks will be provided!	
November 5	"Pass-along" the Plants Please: Heirloom Plants' Neil Odenwald		
December 3	Building a Garden Home for your Birds Emily Winners		
* 2nd Monday due to holiday			

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Commemorating Arbor Day at Burden

One day each year caring citizens around the country gather to celebrate Arbor Day by planting and caring for trees. Burden Horticulture Society members, organizations and corporations came together at Burden Center on January 21 to commemorate Arbor Day.

Arbor Day offered several opportunities to get children engaged in the natural world around them. The children used rubber stamps and leaf presses to explore characteristics of different types of trees. Some even participated in a



Judy Foil, Smokey Bear, Susan Thompson, Mitzi Miller, Ginnie Bolin



scavenger hunt in Burden woods and enjoyed the bonfire that blazed just outside of the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie. Presentations by Smokey The Bear were a fun way for children to learn how to protect the woods that they enjoy by preventing wildfires.

Adult and youth patrons participated in planting trees that will continue to enhance the beauty Burden woods. Each tree planted came with a set of GPS coordinates so participants could come back to find their trees one, two or even ten years later and track its growth.

Arbor Day was a grand success: hundreds of people who gathered in apprecia-









Karen Holden, Benjamin Holden, Pat Bergeron

****Volunteers Wanted****

Want to join a great group? Mail the below form to 4560 Essen Lane (70809) or use the entry form on the 'Join Us' page of BHS website (www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com) or call or email our new volunteer coordinator, **Simone Kramer** (225-235-8896, SKramer@agcenter.lsu.edu). We'd love to hear from you.

	Gardening	Publicity	
	Clerical	Speakers	
	Annual Events	Volunteer Coordination	
	Reflections in the Garden	Membership	
	Database	Fundraising	
	Clerical	Trees and Trails, Maintenance and Development	
	Wine and Roses Committee	Trees and Trails, Docents	
		Other:	
Your	Name and phone number:		
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Annual Membership Drive

Dear Friends of BHS,

What a thrill to receive a rare passalong plant. We can't wait to watch it grow. But, as anyone who loves plants knows, the advice that is passed along with the plant is every bit as important as the plant. Our mother-in-law shows us how to divide the crinums and our neighbor tells us how to cut back our iris.

Just like those special people, the Burden Horticulture Society is here to offer you advice or hands on experience. Our Burden Center, 440 acres located off Essen Lane, offers a rare opportunity to learn from the experts, many of whom are volunteers, who maintain our gardens and our trails.

Membership in the Burden Horticulture Society offers free entry to our monthly Reflections programs, a quarterly newsletter with informative articles, and special privileges when visiting any of the over 250 member gardens of the American Horticulture Society. Your memberships also allow BHS to sponsor our most important education program, Project Learning Tree, designed especially for school children.

The Burden family had a big vision when they donated this property to LSU. Join us as we grow into that vision. With your membership, we come closer each year.

Sincerely,

Juite J. Foil

Chair BHS

PS> If your membership is current, you will receive a reminder to renew when it is up.

.....

Please detach and mail to the Burden Horticulture Society, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 with your check made payable to the LSU Foundation/BHS.

Annual Membership Dues: _____ Individual \$40 _____ Family \$50

I would also like to make a gift in the amount of \$____

(Your gift will be accepted by LSU Foundation for the benefit of the Burden Horticulture Society.)

TOTAL \$_____

_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities!

Member Name	
Daytime Phone	_
Address	
Email (optional)	City/State/Zip

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Burden Center 4560 Essen Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70809



What's Happening with Our Friends:

Hilltop Arboretum: www.lsu.edu/hilltop

> Junior Master Gardener Spring Camp April 10-11, 9am-1pm

Hilltop Summer Academy June 4-14 Spring Garden Tour I Gardens in the 'Dales' April 15, 1-5pm

Spring Garden Tour II Gardens in the 'Dales' May 6, 1-5pm

Junior Master Gardener Summer Camp June 8-22

Baton Rouge Green:

Baton Rouge Green "Online Plant Sale" March 15-April 16 Pick up plants April 19 at Burden Center Place your orders at www.batonrougegreen.com



