

## Creatures of the Night

Urban green spaces provide critical resources for animals that utilize human-dominated ecosystems. We are fortunate in Baton Rouge to have many urban green spaces, including the 440-acre Burden Museum & Gardens, which is home to a wide variety of birds, mammals, insects and more. While some of these animals are active during the day, others remain elusive to people given their nocturnal behavior.

Over the years, several LSU AgCenter faculty and students have studied these creatures of the night and have made some amazing discoveries. In this edition of the newsletter, we share photos from recent research students in the lab of Ashley M. Long, assistant professor of wildlife ecology at LSU.

Long and undergraduate researcher Ty Price (pictured below) are examining the influence of road activity and noise on amphibian distributions and call characteristics. Here Ty is deploying acoustic monitors at Burden to record calls for species identification and to quantify noise levels at increasing distances from Interstate 10.



Common amphibians at Burden include the green tree frog, Gulf Coast toad, and bronze frog. While all three species are more active in spring and summer, they can be found year-round in southern Louisiana. We found these handsome little guys in the Barton Arboretum on a warm, rainy winter night in December.



Green tree frog (left) and Gulf Coast toad (right) Bronze frog

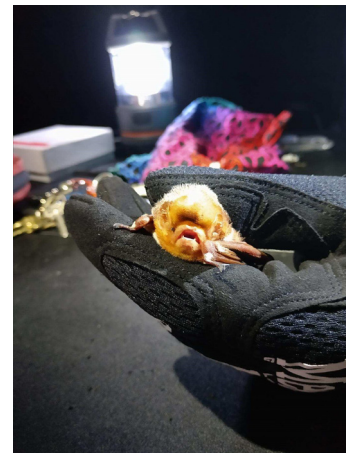
Southern leopard frogs, such as the one pictured here, use a wide variety of wet habitats and are common throughout Louisiana. As adults, they typically range between 2 and 3.5 inches in length and have smooth brown, tan or green skin. We found this frog during an evening storm, and it gave us quite the workout, jumping 2 to 3 feet away from us at a time while we slid around in the rain and mud!



Bats play an important role in controlling pest insects, nutrient redistribution and pollination. Unfortunately, several bat species have experienced severe population declines across the U.S. because of habitat loss and a deadly fungal disease called white-nose syndrome. Long and her lab are capturing bats and using acoustic monitors to record the inaudible chirps and calls that bats use for communication and echolocation to identify the species that are using Burden for roosting and foraging. Two examples from their winter surveys, the evening bat and the eastern red bat, are featured in these photos. Both are species that seem to have adapted well to living in an urban environment.



Evening bat



Eastern red bat

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## Reflections From the Chair

Mary Tauzin

*Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden*

Oh, how we welcome our beautiful spring season in south Louisiana! Please extend that spirit of welcome to our five new board members: Scott Courtright, Jim Morrison, Randy Roussel, Diana Wells and Kitty Hessburg.

Our winter season was anything but dormant at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. We began with our traditional Poinsettia Show and Sale and added a new event this year, Christmas in the Garden. The Poinsettia Show and

Sale offers our community select, locally grown varieties of poinsettias and raises money for the Botanic Gardens. Christmas in the Garden was a big hit with the younger crowd, who enjoyed pancakes provided by the Kiwanis Club and pictures with Santa.

Special thanks to the leader of Arbor Day at Burden, John Hough, who reports, “We had a great attendance of 750 guests who experienced our educational programs and planted 230 native trees in our urban forest we call the Burden Woods. The weather was perfect, and folks had fun with tree climbing for children and forestry skill demonstrations, such as ax throwing and log sawing.”

Two of the Botanic Gardens’ affiliate groups hosted the Camellia Show and Sale and Herb Day. Both events serve the special interest groups in the horticulture world and highlight the broad offerings of the property to the public.

Our most significant fundraising event of the winter was the Byzantine Icon Workshop. All the services and most of the food and supplies needed to hold the event were donated by faithful members. The workshop began in 2014 under the guidance of Ginnie Bolin and is now under the leadership of Diana Wells and Kitty Hessburg. It has introduced hundreds of people to the ancient art and spiritual experience of icon writing.

This winter, the 11th workshop portrayed St. Helena, mother of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire. The summer workshop will be held on August 16. The subject will be St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American to be recognized as a saint.

Another new endeavor occurred this winter. The first Green Stick Workshop was conducted by East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners on the topic of pruning. The event was a colossal success with a sold-out crowd. Additional workshops are planned with other groups affiliated with the Botanic Gardens. Read more about this in the newsletter.

Look what’s coming up should public health and university policies permit:

**Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show — 9 a.m.-5 p.m., July 11 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., July 12**

For all of you orchid lovers, orchids are on display and for sale in the Ione Burden Conference Center from vendors across the Gulf Coast! Regional orchid growers and collectors create works of art with the orchids on display. Orchid supplies will also be sold. Baton Rouge Orchid Society members will be available to offer orchid growing and maintenance advice and potting demonstrations to showcase your beautiful orchids.

The event is free and open to the public.

**Stay abreast of the activities at the Botanic Gardens by checking our website at [www.BurdenGardens.com](http://www.BurdenGardens.com) or <https://lsu.edu/botanic-gardens/events>. ■**

If you would like to only receive this newsletter electronically, please email [friends@burdengardens.com](mailto:friends@burdengardens.com).

## Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

### Board Members

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The newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, which is part of Burden Museum & Gardens.

**DiscoverBurden.com**

4560 Essen Lane

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

# Trees & Trails and More

*Sarah Rayner, Educator Coordinator*

February weather can be a mixed bag for us in Louisiana. When the temperatures rise into the middle 60s and the sun is shining, outdoors is the place to be! The trails at the Botanic Gardens are beaming with life and light! Woodland plants that have waited patiently for some warmth are beginning to emerge. The trillium is up and carpeting areas along the Project Learning Tree trails. Leaf buds are standing ready to burst into action. All that stored energy is waiting for the mild temperatures and the promise of spring!

We celebrated Arbor Day Jan. 25. It was a perfect Saturday! Over 750 people came out to the Barton Arboretum and Burden Woods to plant native trees, climb a tree, participate in a scavenger hunt, have their picture taken with Smokey Bear and roast a hot dog at the firepit! One family found the tree that they planted at Arbor Day last year using the GPS coordinates they had been given, and they were so happy to see how much it had grown!

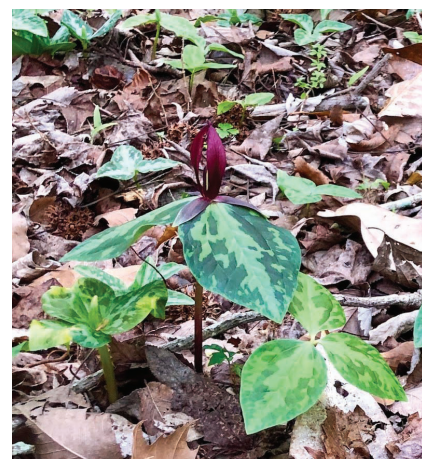
We had our Trees & Trails spring orientation meeting Feb. 19. If you were not able to attend the orientation and love nature and would like to share that joy with children, this is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for you. If you want to know more about Trees & Trails and becoming a docent, please contact me at [srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu) or 225-763-3990, ext. 3.

Part of our mission at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is sharing the importance of nature and the environment with our community. In February, we launched our first Green Stick Workshop. We are excited to offer these Saturday morning workshops that provide the community with opportunities to explore the positive impacts of plants

and the environment both indoors and outdoors. Sixty people attended the workshop on pruning. We are in the process of obtaining feedback from the attendees on topics they are interested in learning more about. We would like your insights and input into future Green Stick Workshops. Perhaps you may like to lead a workshop. Please contact Jeff Kuehny at [JKuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:JKuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu), Nancy Jurasinski at [njuras1@lsu.edu](mailto:njuras1@lsu.edu) or myself at [SRayner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:SRayner@agcenter.lsu.edu) to learn more.

Susan Teddlie, East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners community and school gardens coordinator, has been doing an incredible job of sparking increased interest in schools in East Baton Rouge Parish to participate in the Community and School Gardens Program. The Master Gardeners have been encouraging school gardening since 2015. Through their workshops, East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners, along with individuals from the community, Botanic Gardens staff and other volunteers, guide educators on how to develop and maintain vegetable gardens at their schools. Teddlie will hold workshops for teachers at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens using the Children's Garden as a model garden. If you are interested in volunteering to help further this program, please contact Teddlie at [steddlie@gmail.com](mailto:steddlie@gmail.com).

With the arrival of spring brings new life and transformation. It fills us with a new hope and joy! Happy spring! ■



*Trillium*



*Arbor Day activities in full swing.*

## Introducing Green Stick Workshops

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden introduced the Green Stick Workshop Series to the public on Saturday, Feb. 1. The inaugural workshop, Basic Pruning Fundamentals, was conducted by the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners. The new workshop series provides the community with an opportunity to explore the positive impacts of plants and the environment through hands-on activities that will take place in different parts of the Botanic Gardens. The first workshop was a great success with 60 registered attendees learning about basic pruning techniques focusing on roses and crape myrtles, two of the most popular landscape plants that need regular maintenance pruning.

The second Green Stick Workshop will be conducted by the Baton Rouge Orchid Society, on a date to be determined. The workshop will cover how to purchase the appropriate orchids for your home and how to care for them. The Orchid Society will also cover how you can use orchids in outdoor living spaces. The workshops are free and open to the public; however, preregistration is required through Eventbrite and is first come, first served with a limit of 60 attendees. ■

## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Date to Be Determined

Please join us as the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden honor volunteers at the Botanic Gardens with a luncheon celebration on the grounds of Windrush Gardens (weather permitting). This annual event is chaired by Leigh Harris. If you'd like to help, please contact Leigh at [leighmcmillanharris@gmail.com](mailto:leighmcmillanharris@gmail.com). Invitations will be emailed as the date nears, so be on the lookout and mark your calendars! ■



## Saint Helena Focus of 11th Byzantine Icon Workshop

Yet again a dedicated group of volunteers organized and conducted a workshop teaching the art form of iconography in the Byzantine style. St. Helena was the subject, and each participant finished the weeklong workshop that began Feb. 9 by creating their own version of this beautiful image using the techniques and methods taught by the committee with Mary Tauzin as the lead instructor.

This workshop included a special Sunday afternoon orientation in response to requests from previous participants who felt an orientation would be helpful to new iconographers. Evaluations are collected at the end

of each workshop and are instrumental in providing valuable input for improving the experience and outcome. The next workshop will be held in August, and anyone interested should contact Diana Wells at [dianawells1548@gmail.com](mailto:dianawells1548@gmail.com).

In addition to the committee of volunteers who plan and conduct the workshop, there is a committee of cooks who plan and serve lunch for the participants. This group of kitchen angels is led by Mary Tharp. If you would like to help by providing a salad, dessert or other sustenance for the painters, your assistance is welcomed. ■

# Creatures

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Long's lab has detected at least eight bat species at Burden over the last year, and it takes a number of committed students to conduct the fieldwork and analyze the call data for these types of research projects. Undergraduates Naya Black, Samantha Pettibone, Lindsey Newton and Emily Munch and graduate students Jane Kunberger and Nancy Raginski (in photos above) deserve a huge round of applause for their hard work at Burden and their other study sites throughout Louisiana!

Ashley Long is an assistant professor of wildlife ecology and state wildlife extension specialist with the LSU AgCenter and the School of Renewable Natural Resources. You can contact her by email at [amlong@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:amlong@agcenter.lsu.edu). ■

## Announcing New Friends Board Members

It's with pleasure and appreciation that we announce two brand new members to the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden Board of Directors and three returning members. At the November Friends board meeting, Scott Courtright, Jim Morrison, Randy Roussel, Diana Wells and Kitty Hessburg Wiemer were proposed for election to the board by the nominating committee chaired by Kerry Hawkins. These dedicated volunteers will help lead the organization in the years to come. They possess a variety of special skills and talents and a willingness to serve. Thank you and congratulations! ■



# Visions

*Sarah Rayner, Educator Coordinator*

Providing the space and assistance for research and education projects is an important part of the mission of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. Your support of the Botanic Gardens helps provide these opportunities for faculty, staff and students.



Conan Escajeda, a senior at Southern University, and Mimi Rivette, our second semester intern, an LSU wildlife ecology major, are co-coordinating the collection of data from the trees planted from previous Arbor Day at Burden events. The measurements are entered into i-Tree, a software that quantifies the benefits and values of trees in urban spaces.



Research associates Aubrey Hymel and Tyler Carr installed the first corner post for the new shade structure for the Landscape Services department. The Botanic Gardens greatly appreciates the support of the East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association and the Baton Rouge Camellia Society for providing the funds for the new structure.

The bat rocket bat habitat is an artificial roost used to study bat conservation.



Csanyi Matusicky, Botanic Gardens intern coordinator, and her two interns, Katherine Allen and Serena Mohammed, who are pursuing degrees in wildlife ecology, have been working with Maurice Wolcott, instructor in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, to map Windrush Gardens using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and the BG-BASE program used to document botanical collections.



Arborists Glen Wilson, D'Michael Lucas and Conan Escajeda installed the first of three bat rocket bat habitats for Ashley Long and her undergraduate students. The bat habitats are being used for attracting and studying bats that live in urban forests. ■

## A Note to Our Friends Community

During these challenging times, please stay connected to us through our social media platforms.

 [www.facebook.com/LSUAgBotanicGardens/](https://www.facebook.com/LSUAgBotanicGardens/)

 <https://www.instagram.com/lsuagbotanicgardens/>

We will keep you updated on information regarding the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, and we will share the beauty of nature with you in our posts.

Please check our website for updates on educational activities for youth and adults.

<https://tinyurl.com/rbbv824>

<https://tinyurl.com/y5qpsjyh>

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones during this especially difficult period in our lives.

# Arbor Day at Burden

*Thanks to our sponsors*



Baton Rouge General Gift Tree



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens . 4560 Essen Lane . 225-763-3990  
[LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens](https://LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens)



# Christmas in the Garden

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Mr. and Mrs. Claus





LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens  
128 Knapp Hall  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

*PHYSICAL LOCATION: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, La. 70809 | 225-763-3990 | DiscoverBurden.com*

**The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, in accordance with LSU AgCenter directives and local, state and federal requirements, shall take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.**

**The Botanic Gardens will be closed to the general public until further notice.**

Please see below for changes to some of our scheduled programs and events:

The following events have been canceled:

- Baton Rouge Orchid Society March 18 meeting
- Herb Society of America Baton Rouge Unit March 26 meeting
- East Baton Rouge Master Gardener April 4 Plant Sale
- StoryTime in the Garden April 4 program
- Reflections in the Garden April 6 program
- East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners April 7 monthly meeting
- Trees and Trails field trips for spring 2020

All weddings and private, third-party events will not be allowed to go on at the Botanic Gardens until further notice.

The following events have been postponed:

- Gourmet in the Garden — A new date will be forthcoming.
- Green Stick Workshop — A new date will be forthcoming.
- National Public Gardens Week — A new date will be forthcoming.
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon — A new date will be forthcoming.

For information on private events at the Botanic Gardens, please contact Katie Guitreau at 225-763-3990, ext. 2.

For information on LSU Rural Life Museum events and activities, please contact the museum at 225-765-2347.

This is an evolving situation, so please check our website for updates and changes to the Botanic Gardens schedule. During this stressful time, we ask for your patience and understanding. We hope to make the Botanic Gardens available to our community in the near future.

**For more information regarding official updates from LSU, please visit <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/covid-19>.**

Visit our website: [www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com)

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