



## The Garden Party

*Katie Guitreau, Events Coordinator*

Spring has almost sprung, and garden party season at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is in full swing. The smell of boiled crawfish is filling the air as green leaves are popping from the trees. We are in the weather sweet spot for Louisiana. Some days are warm, some days are cool and some days decide to be a little of both, but we all know to soak in these moments before the summer descends upon us. Southern brides know to take advantage of nature's beauty, and many are walking down the aisle this time of year. Meanwhile, Baton Rouge businesses and families are hosting picnics and crawfish boils. Both event planners and blushing brides are deciding to celebrate their big day outdoors at the Botanic Gardens.

It was just 10 years ago that the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens embraced a master plan that would create a garden setting for our community to learn from and enjoy the green space the Burden Family left to us. Many visitors who drove

through the Burden property saw the gardens, but they rarely immersed themselves in the beauty these gardens had to offer. The Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie was a gorgeous conservatory that very few enjoyed. The Ione Burden Conference Center was a wonderful space that was utilized by few and remained closed to visitors.

In 2009, the planting that had overgrown the space around the Orangerie was removed. The updated landscape and the addition of a new floor breathed fresh life into the building — the last by celebrated architect A. Hays Town, who designed it in memory of his friend Steele Burden. This incredible structure and its surrounding gardens and great lawn quickly became an icon for the Botanic Gardens and a popular destination for visitors. In 2014, the adjacent Pavilion was built, providing a covered outdoor space for the Gardens' new educational programs and various volunteer organizations.

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# Reflections From the Chair

Lorice Say



When I took the Master Gardener class some 20 years ago, I had just moved to a new home, and the yard was a blank slate. I thought that this time I would like to get it right. I had been trying the simple hit-or-miss planting of whatever was pretty at the nursery. Later I would find that my timing was off, or the place I put a plant wasn't the best. I wanted to make my new garden a verdant oasis. To achieve that, I was going to need more than just my superficial gardening knowledge.

The Master Gardener class was just the beginning of a remarkable journey. It led not only to a vast increase in my gardening know-how but also to a wealth of other experiences that expanded my horizons. The class was challenging but fun. Although it was a short-term commitment, it afforded unlimited long-term opportunities in the community.

Because volunteering is a requirement for ongoing membership in the Master Gardener program, I have tested my mettle on a range of projects. I have answered the phones at the extension office, worked the plant sales in various capacities over the years, helped with school gardening, participated in library presentations, packaged supplies for 4-H'ers, worked events at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and at the AgCenter, judged 4-H student projects, judged a science fair, and even weeded and watered the Master Garden plots before there was an automatic sprinkling system. All this has opened additional educational venues and introduced me to organizations that focus on specific areas of gardening, including the Herb Society of America, the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, the Baton Rouge Orchid Society and the Louisiana Native Plant Society, to name only a few.

Currently my own garden is not a Garden of Eden, but I am pleased with what I have been able to accomplish with my expanded knowledge. I try new plantings each year and change out annuals — and even perennials — with the season. I get a great deal of satisfaction with my successes and learn valuable lessons from the failures. Of course, there is always room for improvement, and I never run out of plans for the future.

If you have ever thought about taking that journey and becoming a Master Gardener, I encourage you to seriously consider it. As you can gather, I would enthusiastically recommend it. And I would also say that people who love gardening are some of the nicest people and the best friends you could have. ■



Orchids grace the lobby of Ione Burden Conference Center.

ON THE COVER: A beautiful couple has a quiet moment in the spring garden. Photo by Andy Roberts Photography.

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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  
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# Trees & Trails and More

*Sarah Rayner*  
*Education Coordinator*

Spring is always a wonderful time of year to venture into nature and observe the first leafing, first flowering and first fruit ripening for trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, ornamentals and, of course, the weeds. The butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife abound in the gardens and woodlands with the timing of the seasonal change.

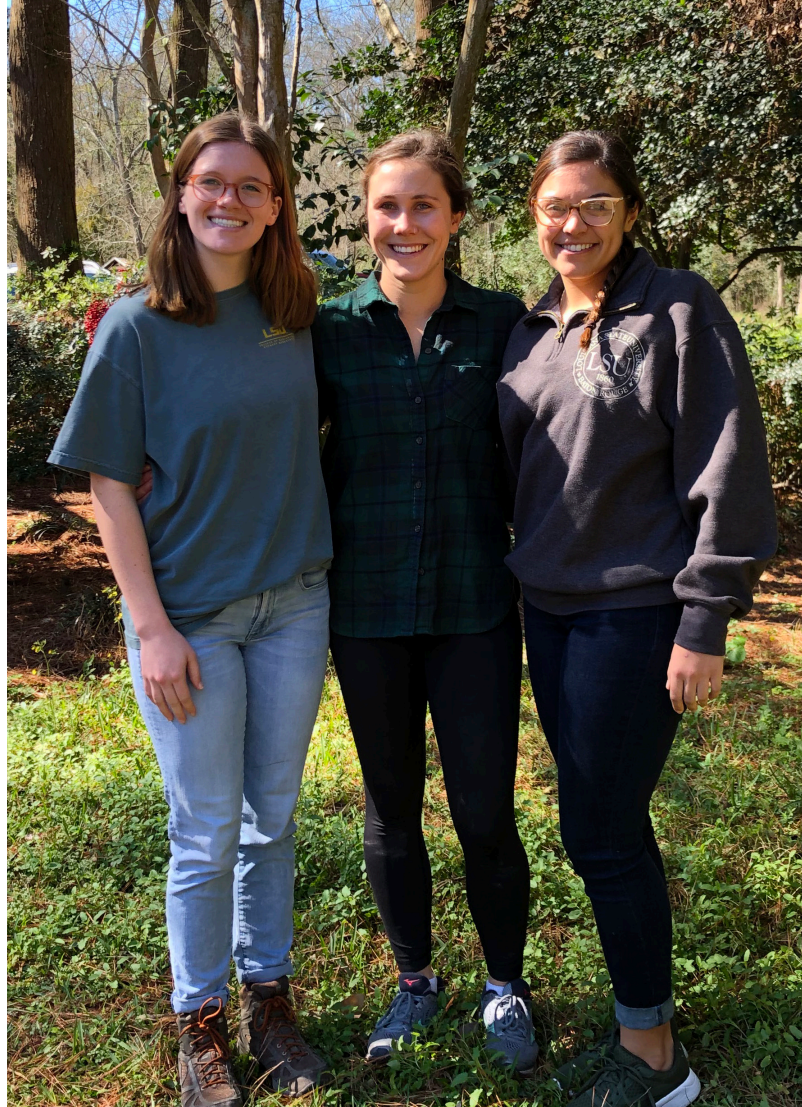
It has been a busy start to this year at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. We have nine Trees & Trails field trips scheduled for this spring with reservations for about 600 students! So many thanks to Kerry Hawkins and John Hough for the many hours of cutting tree cookies for every student! In February, we had our spring Trees & Trails meeting for the volunteer docents. We discussed the upcoming field trips, walked the trails and ate king cake. We are all excited to begin the field trips with the milder temperatures and beauty that comes with the spring. If you were unable 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 become a docent, please contact me at [srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu) or 225-763-3990, ext. 3.

In January, we added two student interns to our Learning by Leading internship program that we implemented in August 2018. The Learning by Leading program (LxL) is a novel student internship program that was first launched in 2008 at the University of California at Davis Arboretum and Public Gardens. The program's goal is for participants to develop leadership skills through real-world experiences as they climb the steps of the LxL Leadership Ladder. It differs from the traditional internship program by concentrating on more than just the learning experience. Rather, the program focuses on the student's transition from learning to leading, thereby building a culture of leadership.

Each intern is mentored by a staff member who guides the intern as the intern learns and takes on greater leadership roles. The intern will plan and develop a signature project, which is an independent project that aligns with larger initiatives and priorities at the Botanic Gardens.

We now have three students participating in the internship program.

- Erin Blanchard is our first LxL intern. She began in August 2018 by working with Dr. Becky White and developing StoryTime and StoryWalk programs and events. Now she is in her second semester of the LxL program.



*Interns Kaylee Boswell, Hadley Guidry and Erin Blanchard*

- Hadley Guidry joined in January. Hadley now works with Katie Guitreau on social media, and she is developing her signature project for the Botanic Gardens.
- Kaylee Boswell also joined in January. I am mentoring Kaylee as she creates a geocaching adventure in the woodlands.

An important goal for us at the Botanic Gardens is to continue to build a meaningful Learning by Leading internship program. Dr. Jeff Kuehny and I traveled to the UC Davis Arboretum in March to participate in their LxL immersion program to observe firsthand their strategies and practices that we can adopt to further build a culture of community and leadership for the interns at Burden.

In January and February, the LSU AgCenter held their Sixth Grade Day at Parker Coliseum. I was fortunate to participate again this year. There were 849 students from seven parish schools attending on the day that I participated in the event. It was a great time for the students! There were many tables with interactive displays from different facets of agriculture. My display focused on constructing food webs with pictures of various organisms and learning about tree cookies. One of

*(continued on page 6)*

*Celebrate the Gardens*

# National Public Gardens Week

## May 13-17

Visit our website for scheduled events.

**FREE**



# Arbor Day

at Burden

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# Friends Can Help With StoryTime and Tiny Free Libraries

*Dr. Becky White*

## StoryTime in the Garden

Our fall and winter StoryTime in the Garden monthly events were a huge success! We had great turnouts each month from families with young children, and everyone had lots of fun. At StoryTime in the Garden, young children — generally ages 3 to 8— get to hear storybooks read in a garden setting and can complete cute craft activities. Often the storybooks featured are nature-themed, in keeping with our beautiful gardens. We typically have 60 to 100 people attend these events held one Saturday morning each month from September to April. We invite you to join us!

Volunteers can assist with StoryTime in the Garden events on one Saturday each month and StoryTime craft preparation sessions, which are held one Wednesday each month at 2 p.m. If you enjoy young children, reading storybooks or helping with children's craft activities, this volunteer experience is for you. Interested volunteers can contact Dr. Becky White at [bwhite@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:bwhite@agcenter.lsu.edu) or 225-937-7366. To learn more about StoryTime in the Garden events, visit [www.facebook.com/storytimeinthegarden](http://www.facebook.com/storytimeinthegarden).

Our next StoryTime in the Garden will be April 13. The readings will be held in the Pavilion. StoryTime craft preparation will be April 3. We will meet in the afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Ione Burden Conference Center. Craft preparations usually involve cutting out construction paper.

## Tiny Free Libraries in the Gardens

We have two tiny libraries in the gardens. I serve as the steward of these garden resources for the public, and we are in need of gently used book donations. We have one tiny free library in the live oak grove near the Rose Garden. We provide only children's books at that location. The other library is at the opening to the Trees & Trails system behind the Orangerie. I stock it with books for both adults and children. My favorite books to provide at this location are gardening, nature, animal and wildlife books. Popular novels are also welcome. If you have any gently used children's books or books about gardening, nature, animals or wildlife or popular novels, please consider donating them for the tiny free libraries. You may bring them to Mary Coco's office at the Conference Center. No magazines, please. ■



Please join  
Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens  
for the

# Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

HONORING THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS  
AT A GATHERING ON THE GROUNDS  
IN WINDRUSH GARDENS

May 16th | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to Leigh Harris at  
[leighmcmillanharris@gmail.com](mailto:leighmcmillanharris@gmail.com)

Friends  
of LSU AgCenter  
Botanic Gardens  
at Burden



Demolition day at the old lab.



Kaylee Boswell holds a geocaching log sheet, which allows participants to sign and date when they find the geocache container.

## Signs of Progress

Have you noticed there is now a dedicated left-turn arrow at the traffic light on Essen Lane that allows access to Burden Museum & Gardens? After many years of advocacy and the requisite traffic studies and with the continuing support of state Rep. Franklin Foil, it is now possible to access the property with the safety of a dedicated arrow. As Essen Lane is no longer a country lane but a major thoroughfare with hospitals, hotels, office parks and restaurants, visitors can appreciate the green oasis of serenity at Burden Museum & Gardens. Now they can also arrive with ease.

Have you noticed that the old lab that was once a volunteer office and a potting shed is gone? The much beloved but obsolete structure was demolished to make way for the new entrance road. There is a new modular building on the tract to the north of the interstate that houses all the landscape facilities materials.

What should we look for next?

- A new state-of-the-art entrance sign to not only identify the location but to also announce upcoming events at both the Botanic Gardens and the LSU Rural Life Museum.
- A new entrance road to bring visitors onto the property along the pathway designated in the master plan in alignment with the site for the Welcome Center.
- Upgrades to the field offices and barns to house harvesting and food safety education programs for area farmers.
- Restroom facilities to accommodate the many visitors, especially the groups of schoolchildren on field trips to Trees & Trails

What will remain the same? The mission to enhance and support the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden and its serene environment for the benefit of the public through educational programs, volunteerism and fundraising! ■

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## Trees

*(continued from page 3)*

the teachers attending with her classes was a student of mine in 2003 at Bishop Sullivan, which is now known as St. Michael the Archangel High School.

Lastly, I close with a passage from the book, “The Garden Awakening, Designs to Nurture Our Land and Ourselves” by Mary Reynolds: “We are drawn to certain locations where the land resonates with us and pulls us towards it. People can spend their entire lives looking for the places where they belong, places where they feel at home, where they fit and can comfortably set down roots. We are simply a reflection of the land beneath us, and nature is always waiting for us to return home.” ■

# Planting Trees Can Minimize Our Carbon Footprint

*Katie Costanza*

Climate change is an environmental phenomenon that is of interest to scientists and citizens everywhere. Of the many greenhouse gases that accelerate global warming, carbon dioxide is one of the most concerning gases being released by human activities at a rapid rate. One huge contributor to atmospheric carbon dioxide is automobile transportation. In the LSU College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter School of Renewable Natural Resources alone, vehicles were driven about 213,000 miles in 2017 for educational and research-driven activities. This means that the department released about 142 tons of carbon into the atmosphere.

Faculty and students have expressed a desire to offset this carbon footprint. One surprising solution to this dilemma is simply planting trees. Trees and other plants sequester atmospheric carbon as they grow, with one tree capable of storing about 1,760 pounds of carbon over 20 years of growth. Based on these estimates, the planting of 200 trees each year can help counteract the school's carbon emissions from the previous year over time.

To achieve this goal, students and faculty from RNR participated in the Arbor Day tree planting at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden on January 26. Together with the public and Botanic Gardens staff members, the RNR team planted 280 trees from about 20 species, including the cherry bark oak, eastern persimmon, bald cypress, black locust and southern magnolia.

The annual Arbor Day at Burden event is open to the public. Participating in Arbor Day tree plantings is just one example of how carbon emissions can be offset. It is important to recognize how human activities can have a positive impact on the environment when people are informed and are provided the opportunities to become involved!

*Katie Costanza is an undergraduate student in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources.* ■



**Tree planting is in full swing at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden during the Arbor Day at Burden celebration.**

# Super Plant Henry's Garnet Virginia Willow

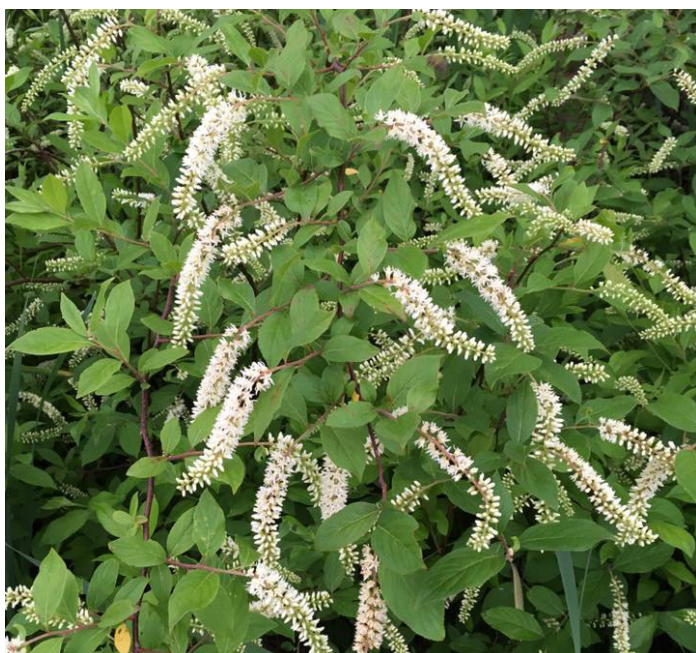
Lee Rouse, Extension Agent

Gardeners have become more environmentally conscious over the past few decades. They are employing more environmentally sound principles by using fewer pesticides, composting more and even installing rain gardens. Gardeners' plant palettes have also changed slightly. They are incorporating more pollinator-friendly plants as well as native species.

Virginia willow, also called Virginia sweetspire and known botanically as *Itea virginica*, is one of our more popular native shrubs in Louisiana. Interest in this shrub has increased in the past 10 to 20 years with the use of the variety Henry's Garnet. The Henry's Garnet Virginia willow was an addition to the LSU AgCenter Louisiana Super Plants program for spring 2017.

The Louisiana Super Plants program is an educational and marketing campaign of the LSU AgCenter that highlights tough and beautiful plants that perform well in Louisiana landscapes. Louisiana Super Plants have a proven track record. They are "university tested and industry approved." Homeowners and horticulture professionals alike can benefit from using Louisiana Super Plants to ensure a successful landscape.

The intoxicating smell of the Henry's Garnet Virginia willow flowers is a major feature of this native shrub. These white flowers are borne on 4-to-5-inch clusters. This shrub will bloom for a 4-to-6-week period in spring, starting roughly the same time azaleas finish up. The flowers stand out next to the lush, dark green foliage.



*Henry's Garnet Virginia Willow*

Henry's Garnet Virginia willow is a lower-growing shrub, topping out at 5 feet tall while having an equal spread. Sometimes the plants can be slightly wider than tall because of its clump-forming growth. Prune any undesirable growth in spring after flowering is completed. Avoid pruning in winter or early spring as this will inhibit flower production the following spring.

Foliage of Henry's Garnet Virginia willow is especially handsome in fall. The leaves turn a brilliant deep red-purple and persist late into the fall. The plants are deciduous in some areas but actually are semi-evergreen in the Baton Rouge area, retaining some foliage all year.

This plant tolerates Louisiana's wet and heavy soils but also performs well in drier sites. It is frequently found in the wild in locations that have moist soil. Henry's Garnet is now being used in rain gardens in commercial landscapes around the state.

Virginia willow is also adapted to a wide range of soil pH levels and can adapt to almost any soil type or drainage situation. Even though they prefer a slightly moist soil, they are very drought-tolerant. Morning sun with afternoon shade is a nice planting location.

Fertilize once annually with a 3-to-4-month slow-release fertilizer. It is best to apply fertilizer in late winter just prior to new growth or in mid- to late spring after flowering.

Henry's Garnet Virginia willow would look great paired with other Louisiana Super Plants, such as the evergreen sweetbay magnolia, Conversation Piece azalea or Mrs. Schiller's Delight viburnum. Attractive flowers, nice foliage and great site adaptability make Henry's Garnet Virginia willow a perfect addition to your landscape. ■

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## Garden Party

*(continued from page 1)*

With the generosity of the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and other gracious supporters, the Pavilion became the third facility available for use at the Botanic Gardens.

Through these facilities and garden improvements, along with the efforts of a devoted staff and the Friends, the number of educational programs and events has grown exponentially. Tens of thousands of guests now experience the Botanic Gardens at Burden in a way that was not possible before. Families are hosting garden-themed birthday parties at the newly renovated Children's Garden and Pollinator Playground. Prominent Baton Rouge businesses are booking conferences, parties and meetings in a unique setting immersed in beauty and nature. The Botanic Gardens has entered a new and exciting era that is connecting people with plants and horticulture through private and public events. The Botanic Gardens continues to put horticulture and agriculture education at the center of each phase of improvement by bringing people to Burden not just for another event, but for a cultural — and horticultural — experience. ■



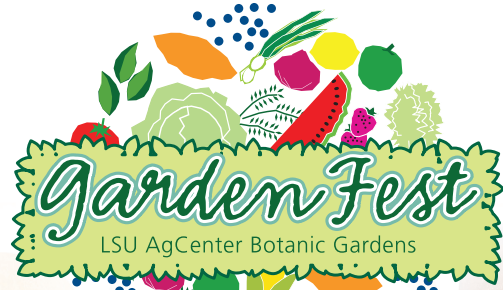
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# Gourmet IN THE Garden

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Randy Wright  
Ellen Wydra  
Janice Wynn  
Martha Yancey  
Regina Yarbrough  
Claire Yeargain  
Steve Zанovec



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

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Baton Rouge, LA

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## Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

### April 2019

April 1	Noon -1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "The New World of Succulents." Rozlan Fransen, Baton Rouge Succulent Company.
April 2	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting. "Shooting Nature — Nature Photography." Ken Wilson.
April 6	9-11 a.m.	Paint Your Pet	Guided pet painting class led by Violet Tremblay of Painting and Pinot. Participants go home with a painted canvas of their pet. Registration closes on March 30. \$55 per person.
April 11	6-9 p.m.	Gourmet in the Garden	Stroll through the gardens and savor the best local flavors from Baton Rouge chefs and creative mixologists!
April 13	9 a.m.- noon, every 30 minutes	StoryTime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities in the garden. Ages 3-8. Junior League of Baton Rouge.
April 17	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting. "Growing Orchids Without a Greenhouse." Terry Rehn.
April 19	All day	Botanic Gardens holiday	Good Friday.
April 25	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting. "Propagating Herbs from Cuttings." Debi O'Neill.

### May 2019

May 4	8:30-11:30 a.m.	Children's Garden Festival	Topics include vegetable painting, composting, snakes, bees and butterflies, bird feeder stations, planting plants and more. \$10 per car.
May 6	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Friendship Through Flowers: East Meets West." Terri Lamb, president Ikebana International Baton Rouge Chapter.
May 7	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
May 13-17	9 a.m.- noon	National Public Garden Week	Join us and hundreds of gardens across the United States for National Public Gardens Week. Activities and educational sessions for all ages themed around the importance of our environment. Local organizations will provide information on plants. Free admission with a free pollinator plant to take home. Supported by American Public Gardens Association.
May 15	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting. Potting orchids workshop.
May 16	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Windrush Gardens.
May 23	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Annual Meeting. Business meeting, election of officers and the 2019 Herb of the Year, anise hyssop.

### June 2019

June 3	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "The Wide World of Wild and Wonderful Wildflowers." Dr. Charles Allen, professor, University of Louisiana Monroe (retired), research associate Colorado State University (retired).
June 4	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners	Monthly meeting.
June 15	8 a.m.-1 p.m.	Garden Fest	A celebration of the Louisiana garden and all of its bounty. Garden taste-testing, trial garden tours, bloody marys and family friendly activities. \$5 admission. Children 3 and under free.
June 19	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
June 27	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting. "Harvesting and Preserving Herbs." Sarah Liberta.

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

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The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.