



Pope John Paul II, a Jackson & Perkins rose.

Jackson & Perkins Roses: A New Partnership for the Botanic Gardens

Jeff Kuehny

Ring. Ring. “LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, this is Jeff.”

“This is Paul Zimmerman, independent consultant for Jackson & Perkins Roses.”

“The Paul Zimmerman? The rose guru for — among other things — the Biltmore International Rose Trials and author of ‘Everyday Roses?’”

“Yes, that would be me”.

“How can we possibly assist you?”

“Allen Owings told me that the Botanic Gardens at

Burden had a fantastic Rose Garden and was part of the two national rose trial programs, American Garden Rose Selections and American Rose Trials for Sustainability. He said that I should contact you about the possibility of the Botanic Gardens becoming the location for a repository for all Jackson & Perkins heritage roses.”

That initial conversation with Paul in October of 2021 lead to an introduction to Wes Harvell, who runs the rose program for J&P Park Acquisitions (JPPA), the parent company of Jackson & Perkins (J&P). The result is the

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Reflections From the Chair

Leigh Harris

Chair, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

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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.

LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

4560 Essen Lane
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Dear Friends,

And so, south Louisiana's lovely spring gives way to the hot and humid days of summer. As our plants strive to adapt, so do those of us who spend time outdoors and in our gardens. While it may slow us down, the heat doesn't deter garden enthusiasts from donning hat and gloves, applying sunscreen and "going in."

Before summer began in earnest, Byzantine Icon Workshop participants enjoyed a quality experience in February painting St. Patrick. Iconographers are planning the next workshop in August, with artists painting Jonah and the whale. These volunteer-led workshops are the backbone of the fundraising activities of Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

As a thank you for the generosity of our volunteers whose willing hands and hours help nurture and improve the Botanic Gardens, the Friends of the Gardens honored them in May at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The event coincided with National Public Gardens Week and was held inside the Rural Life Museum beside beautiful Windrush Gardens.

Make plans now to attend the second Wine and Roses Rambler on Sunday, Nov. 13! Preparations for this event are underway, led by Co-Chair Ramona Hill, and with Judy Foil, Danielle Mensman and others through their committees. This year's Rambler will again feature delightful food and drink, music and surprises. You don't want to miss this!

Reflections in the Garden continues on the first Monday of each month with entertaining and informative lectures. James DelPrince's presentation is such an example. In April Jim delighted a full house audience as he built fascinating floral arrangements of natural elements, much of it gleaned from the Botanic Gardens property. Who knew weeds could become key elements in gorgeous centerpieces?

There is always something to do and experience. I hope to see you in the Gardens very soon!

Leigh Harris



Mississippi Coastal Extension Agent demonstrates flower arranging for your Eastertime table at Reflections in the Garden on April 4.

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Jackson & Perkins rose plot at the Botanic Gardens.

Jackson & Perkins Roses *continued from page 1*

establishment of a project partnership for JPPA and specifically Jackson & Perkins. While the primary purpose of this project is for LSU to serve as the archivists for exclusive and proprietary J&P roses introduced over their long, rich history, there are many more parts of this project that the Botanic Gardens is also excited to be a part of.

Led by Research Associate Wanda Ellis, the work began in earnest this spring by preparing a large block of land at LSU's Landscape Services and Research Facility. The land was graded and rows prepared to begin planting the first shipment of roses. All the roses that we receive are known to be free of rose mosaic virus (RMV). This element of the program is part of a robust, multiyear initiative by JPPA to ensure all J&P roses are free of RMV. This is known as virus indexing. What is a virus-indexed rose, you might ask? A virus-indexed rose variety is one that has been deemed free of RMV.

An additional element of the project will include working with Texas A&M University on roses that have not been virus indexed to date. Rose varieties that are not currently virus indexed will be grown at the Botanic Gardens and tested at Texas A&M.

An important factor in choosing LSU for this project is that we are 300 miles south of any known case of rose rosette disease (RRD), according to Mark Windham, one of the country's leading experts on RRD. RRD is a virus that causes roses to grow strangely deformed stems, leaves and flowers. A tiny mite spreads the disease between plants. The LSU AgCenter is also included in a multiuniversity partnership to research RRD <https://roserosette.org/>.

An exciting element of this LSU/JPPA partnership for rose growers is the reintroduction of J&P Heritage Rose Varieties. J&P Heritage Roses were introduced mostly in 1950, 1960



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Research Assistant Wanda Ellis.

and 1970. Additionally, Jackson & Perkins was one of the founding partners of the All-America Rose Selections (AARS) rose trial program in 1938, an organization that the LSU AgCenter was also involved with for over 25 years. Attesting to our long-standing commitment to successful rose gardening, LSU is part of the AGRS and ARTS national rose trial programs. These trials were spawned by the now retired AARS trial program.

LSU is thrilled to provide real life educational opportunities that a major commercial plant company like JPPA can provide our students. By involving our students, staff and volunteers, LSU and JPPA are committed to training the next generation of horticulturists by giving our students unique insight into the world of commercial horticulture.

We are excited about the many opportunities that this partnership will provide the Botanic Gardens, but for rose growers, landscapers and homeowners around the country. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with this innovative, instructional and unique partnership with one of the premier rose and horticultural products companies in the United States.



Cut Costs by Composting

Bert Hammett

As we all know, the cost of living has been steadily increasing. From food to gas, nothing is spared. Unfortunately, these price increases have also hit our gardens, which many have been planting to offset the increased cost of living. Although primarily affecting commercial agriculture, the cost of inputs to our home gardens has continued to rise. I am mainly speaking about fertilizer. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that some fertilizer prices have increased by nearly 300% since 2021. Although it seems that the prices have stabilized, there are no predictions that we will see them fall back to normal anytime soon. Price is one concern, but availability is also an issue for our growers who have larger plots at home.

One method that many homeowners are starting to implement to offset the cost of fertilizer is composting. Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plants. Anything that grows will eventually decompose; composting speeds up the process by providing an ideal environment for bacteria, fungi and other organisms to do their work. There are many benefits to composting and using this compost in your gardens and flower beds. It will provide vital nutrients to your plants while recycling waste. Furthermore, it can also improve your soil profile by improving drainage in clay soil or improving moisture retention in sandy soil.

I have spoken to many clients who say they would like to start composting but are nervous about taking on the task, and they don't know where to turn for information. Others have started piles but are having trouble obtaining a high-quality finished product. If this sounds familiar, I have good news for you. A project is currently underway at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden that I believe can be a vital resource to those interested in beginning a home composting project. Faculty from LSU AgCenter Food Science along

with extension personnel are teaming up to construct a composting demonstration site. The site is designed to be a self-guided educational experience where visitors of all ages and backgrounds can see and learn about various compost methods.

Some of the exhibits include a large-scale three-bin system, an aerated static pile, a traditional static pile, tumble bins and vermicomposting. Each demonstration will be paired with signage to explain the basics behind each composting method. At the bottom of each sign will be a QR code that will bring you to the LSU AgCenter composting website, where you will be able to find more detailed publications.



East Baton Rouge Parish Extension Agent Bert Hammett and Botanic Gardens student employee Allen Singletary set up sections of the new teaching compost facility.

The demonstration site will be open at all times for walk-throughs, and my goal for the future is to hold hands-on workshops. So, if composting is something that you are interested in, or if you would like more general information, stop by the demonstration site, visit our website, or as always, e-mail me at ahammett@agcenter.lsu.edu.



LSU AgCenter Extension Agent Bert Hammett inserts an aeration system into a composting bin at the new teaching compost facility.



Inviting you to share the vision

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF BURDEN MUSEUM & GARDENS

BURDEN
Museum & Gardens

Contact Jeff Kuehny at jkuehny@agcenter.lsu.edu for giving opportunities.

Serene gardens and towering oaks provide a fitting place for

A Lasting Tribute

A donation to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is appropriate for any occasion. A tribute in memory of a special person or group, an anniversary, wedding, graduation, birthday, holiday or other event may be celebrated with a gift in the name of the honoree. Honor a loved one with a name or distinctive message on a paver in the Memory Garden, a beautiful iron bench with a plaque, or even dedicate one of our beautiful live oak trees to a loved one.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden has recently updated a program designed to honor a special person or group. An anniversary, wedding, graduation, birthday, holiday or any other event may be celebrated with a gift in the name of the honoree. The program offers three options to create a lasting tribute: engraved pavers, iron benches and live oak dedications.

Two paver sizes are available to engrave as an addition to the Memory Garden. You may also choose a beautiful live oak on the property to dedicate. A bronze plaque will be placed at the base of the tree with your special message. The program most recently incorporated beautiful iron benches with a plaque for your special message into the Lasting Tribute options.

For more information, contact Mary Coco at mcoco@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Campus Connections



Instructor Bob Mirabello and his Woody Plant Materials course students visit the Flavors of Louisiana Herb Garden.



Students gather around instructor Christopher Reid in the Barton Arboretum, taking careful notes for their dendrology class.



Instructor Bob Mirabello has a laugh with his Woody Plant Materials course students in the Flavors of Louisiana Herb Garden.



Get Ready For Some Crazy, Mazy Fun! Every Saturday in October

Burden Conservatory



Bougainvillea blooms in the Burden Conservatory.



The Burden Conservatory recently opened to the public to showcase a wide variety of display plants.



Houseplant lovers can find corners full of their favorite selections

Master Gardener Plant Sale



This wagon is overflowing with plants purchased at the Master Gardener Plant Sale.



Children make fairy gardens at the children's table.



A young woman fills her wagon with succulents at the Master Gardener Plant Sale.

Herb Day



Close-up of some of the offerings at Herb Day.



Families that garden together stay together!



Two gentlemen and their herb selections.

Icon Workshop



Completed St. Patrick icons.



Trained iconographers help participants perfect their paintings.



Working diligently on his St. Patrick icon.



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June 2022			
Please check our website for up-to-date information on these events.			
June 6	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: “The Pitot House and Gardens” with Jenny Dyer, landscape architect René Fransen and house and garden manager.
June 18	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Luke Laborde, interim vice president for agriculture and dean of LSU College of Agriculture, through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens. Tickets available online at www.Eventbrite.com .
July 2022			
July 9 July 10	9 a.m.-4 p.m. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Orchid Show & Sale	Baton Rouge Orchid Society proudly presents their show and sale. A wide variety of orchid species will be available for viewing and purchase. Get all the latest tips and tricks on orchid growing and bring home an orchid of your own.
July 11	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: “Vegetable Garden at Angola” with Colonel Roland Sylvester, assistant warden, Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.
July 23	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Harriett Pooler through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens. Tickets available online at www.Eventbrite.com .
August 2022			
August 1	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: “Serene Gardens for Meditation and Reflection” with Wanda Chase, president of Imahara’s Landscape Co.
August 20	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Ashley Long, LSU AgCenter assistant professor and wildlife extension specialist, through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens. Tickets available online at www.Eventbrite.com .
September 2022			
September 12	Noon-1 p.m.	Reflections in the Garden	Topic: “The Crosby Arboretum and Pinecote Pavilion” with Patricia R. Drackett, director of Crosby Arboretum and assistant professor at Mississippi State University.
September 17	7-9 a.m.	Birding at Burden	Guided walk with Luke Laborde, interim vice president for agriculture and dean of LSU College of Agriculture, through one of the six birding loops at Burden Museum & Gardens. Tickets available online at www.Eventbrite.com .

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com/BotanicGardens

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