Burden Reflections and Visions Society

Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 2016

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Photo by John Wozniak

East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale set for April 9 at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

When plant enthusiasts arrive at the 2016 East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners Annual Spring Plant Sale Saturday, April 9, they will be able to choose from thousands of plants including many Louisiana Super Plants as well as older plant varieties that are often difficult to find. The one-day sale begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m., rain or shine.

Since October, East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners have been propagating plants in preparation for the sale at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden and will have over 8,000 plants for sale. This year's sale will focus on salvias with a wide selection of varieties including Salvia Purple, Pineapple Sage, Red Perennial, Bogs, Arrowleaf, Blue, Silke's Dream, Black, Black and Blue, and many more.

Louisiana Super Plants are reliable plants selected for their superior performance under Louisiana growing conditions. This year's sale will feature, Red Velvet (Aerva sanguinolenta), one of this year's new Super Plants. Also available will be old favorites such as Perennial Pink begonia, Mary Helen geranium and Barbara Rogers begonia, along with the ever-popular purple and gold petunia cultivars.

The extensive variety of succulents for sale will be second to none. Whimsical dish gardens, decorative hanging baskets and herbs ready for use by Louisiana cooks are among the many specialty plants that will be available at the sale.

East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners will be at the plant sale to help with plant selections and give pointers on how to plant your selected plants for success. Master Gardeners can help with plants already in your garden that are not growing well. Bring specimens of these plants to the plant health clinic during the sale for a diagnose of what is causing your plant to underperform.

Visit the butterfly display to learn how to attract butterflies to the garden and choose from the many butterfly

Plant Sale continues on page 5



This "Mouse House", filled with a variety of succulents, is just one of many dish gardens East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners have been making to sell at their Annual Spring Garden Sale Saturday, April 9 at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

Reflections from the Chair

By Kerry Hawkins

By the time you are reading this edition of Reflections and Visions, I hope we are seeing the trees budding out and the gloomy wet winter weather a thing of the past. I hope that you attended Brush with Burden and our seminar and reception on March 12. Our art show jurors, the renowned watercolorist Ms. Judi Betts and David Humphreys provided insight and inspiration as they discussed creativity via art and photography. My hearty thanks to Kathleen Meares and her wonderful and hardworking group of artists and art lovers, Connie Abboud, SuEllen Lithgoe, Joette LeBlanc, David Humphreys, Kathy Stone, Kitty Hessburg, Diana Wells, Barbara Laudun, Butch Spielman, Michele Deshotels, and Ginnie Bolin.

Arbor Day has been rescheduled for April 30 for tree planting and for family fun in the Barton Arboretum. This year we have extra trees for sale, maybe you have a place for a nice new planting.

We will also be kicking off the spring sessions for our Trees and Trails program. More about the Trees and Trails on page 3.

Another Gourmet in the Garden is coming up April 22. As you may recall, this started a couple of years ago when we decided to initiate an event that "married up" our new pavilion, Baton Rouge's appetite for new and different dining tastes and our growing coterie of gifted young chefs into an evening of progressive dining in our beautiful gardens. The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden will again partner with Louisiana Culinary Institute to provide an evening of dining, music and dancing. Gourmet in the Garden promotes the Baton Rouge area's interest in the farm to table movement showcasing innovative



Kerry Hawkins

dishes utilizing locally available fresh food items. Reservations can be made on Event Brite.

We were pleased to welcome five new board members to the BHS Board at our January Board Meeting. Kathleen Meares, Leo Broders, Mary Tauzin, Cindy Nobles and Richard Oliver are our new board members. Each of these new members brings new backgrounds, skills and viewpoints to our Board and we look forward to their input. More about two of our new board members on page 7.

And last, but not least, many of you will be interested in the addition of butterfly gardens and wildflower fields. BHS member Ken Bosso is working with Dr. Kuehny and Research Associate Wanda Ellis to initiate a Butterfly Garden plot on the side of the meadow by the Trees and Trails learning trails. In addition, a research plot near the road heading back to the Corn Maze Area has been seeded with wildflower seeds. We hope to provide lots of opportunities for viewing a whole host of pollinators here at the Botanic Gardens this spring. Keep your fingers crossed!

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THE NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication of the Burden Horticulture Society and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, which is part of Burden Museum & Gardens.

Newsletter Submissions: BotanicGardens@AgCenter.LSU.edu

DiscoverBurden.com

4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

A Walk in the Woods

(Something not quite old and something new)

While the Trees and Trails educational program for school-age children has been growing and has been promoted for the last several years, its origins go back to walking trails traveled by the Burden family and particularly by Steele Burden. What we know today as the Trees and Trails educational program, began well before the year 2000 when the improved paths got their start. By the way, a short, but superb history of the Trees and Trails program was compiled by Penny Miller in the Winter 2009 *Reflections and Visions* (Vol. 2, No. 4).

Steele Burden had the vision of a green treasure in the heart of Baton Rouge. He and his family loved the natural resources and wildlife that surrounded the family as they grew up on the outskirts of an expanding Baton Rouge. However, as Baton Rouge grew around the Burden property, the Burden family saw a need and an opportunity for a legacy of an urban forest for future generations. And so it is that our beautiful Burden Woods, with the labor of countless individuals, as recounted in Penny's article, has become the home of our Trees and Trails program.

Dr. Jeff Kuehny often says, "Our key offering here at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens is outreach and education." Trees and Trails fits this definition like a glove. Trees and Trails is all about sharing the wonders of nature and green space with schoolage children who don't normally have free rein to run in the woods as did Steele Burden. But it is more than just walking through the woods. Programming began with the guidance of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the American Forest Foundation Project Learning Tree (PLT) lesson plans. The

program was tailored for the environment, resources and facilities found at Botanic Gardens. Fortunately, many of the volunteers working on the development of our Trees and Trails program were and are professional educators. Some are science teachers, some are grade-school teachers and some come from altogether different backgrounds, making for a super combination of ideas and skills to make learning about nature exciting and fun while providing solid natural science information.

Many volunteers have participated in Trees and Trails over the years. Some were involved in the physical preparation of the trails, and others involved with program development. Peggy Cox, Glenn Wilson, Don Thibodeaux and Phil Legendre initially developed and later cleared hurricane debris from the trails. More recently, John Hough, Randall Kolb and Ken Bosso have continued to prune and preen the trails. The most exciting recent development was the completion last fall of the extended boardwalk over the Black Swamp. Mosaic Corporation provided a grant to allow the boardwalk to be greatly expanded to traverse an expanse of the ephemeral wetland to allow an up-close examination of swamp flora and fauna. The trail ends at the back entrance to the Barton Arboretum, adjacent to the pond where further wetlands studies continue. Along Perimeter Road are additional learning stations carved out of the woods to explore woodlands topics. Both woodlands and wetlands provide opportunities for exploring the plants and the wildlife found in both habitats.

The programming development for Trees and Trails, as mentioned above, has benefitted from a host of educa-

tors and people simply interested in providing a nature and natural science experience for all ages. Penny Miller, Skippy Berner, Jim Barry, Dianna Wells, Janie Braud, Kitty Bull, Liz Roberts and Margo Spielman were key developers in the initial early programs. In recent years, Dianna Wells, Liz Roberts, Margo Spielman and Kitty Bull developed a segment oriented to K-2 early elementary school students. More recently, Ellen LeBlanc joined as a staff leader for Trees and Trails and has continued the development effort with updates to most of the program elements. In particular, she has led a group including, but not limited to, Janie Braud, Dianna Wells and Kitty Bull along with BHS Board member Missy Jones to update program areas emphasizing the Wetlands, Woodlands and Wildlife to take advantage of the expanded Black Swamp boardwalk.

None of these programs can work without the continued leadership of our dedicated docent crew to deliver them to the children for whom they are intended. Many of the docents have been with the program since we started guiding students in late 2009 and early 2010. Some of our most dedicated docents include Sally Evans, Brenda Baumgardner, René Major, Jenny Sutcliffe, Sydney Snyder and Mary Tharp. But we also have around 40 regular docents who all are essential to handle the highly variable student load that we encounter. Without these enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, this program just would not happen. Many thanks to all!

To volunteer as a Trees and Trails docent please contact John Hough at **jedgarhough@gmail.com**.

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Plant Sale continued from page 1

plants. The Treasure Booth will have trees and slightly used gardening items at bargain prices. Children can enjoy Story Time in the Rose Garden from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and then can visit the children's booth where they can pot a plant to take home.

Various plant groups – such as Capital Area Native Plant Society, Baton Rouge Orchid Society, Camellia Society and many others – will each have a booth at the sale to provide information about their organization and to give advice on purchasing plants at the sale.

To make shopping easier visit the website **www. mgplantsale.com** before the sale to see photos of the available plants. Shoppers can bring a wagon if they have one but should leave pets at home.

The spring plant sale is the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners only fundraiser. Profits from the sale help support education and outreach programs at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and to support community educational activities such as plant health clinics, school gardens, basic gardening classes at area libraries, and programs for children in elementary school. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener please contact Mark Williams at 225-389-3055.

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Louisiana Super Plants

Allen Owings, Professor (Horticulture), LSU AgCenter

It may be hard to believe, but the LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Super Plants program is now on year 6. With the announcement of three new plants for 2016, the program has now named 35 great landscape plants as winners for home gardeners in Louisiana.

The goal of this program has been to identify and promote exceptional plants that perform well in Louisiana. Some of these are new varieties and some are older varieties with a prior proven track record.



Evolution salvia



Serenita raspberry

The LSU AgCenter and Louisiana's nursery and landscape industry, through the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, identified the need for a state-based program that uses university research to identify and promote exceptional plants. The LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station, partnering with the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, leads the program.

Each Super Plant must have at least two years of rigorous evaluations and have a proven track record under north and south Louisiana growing conditions. Louisiana Super Plants must prove hardy across the state. Louisiana Super Plants must be easily produced and available for all nursery and landscape industry wholesalers and retailers to market and sell.

Louisiana Super Plants are selected a year or two in advance of a public announcement. A selection process involving LSU AgCenter horticulture faculty and members of the Louisiana nursery and landscape industry. The program results in home gardeners having an increased awareness of better performing landscape plants.

2016 Louisiana Super Plant winners are the Evolution series salvia, Mrs. Schiller's Delight viburnum and Serenita Raspberry angelonia.

Evolution salvia is a smaller growing S. farinacea species. Commonly called mealycup sage, it will reach a height of 14-16 inches in the landscape. Flower spikes are 4-6 inches long. Space 16-18 inches apart in the garden. Plants need full sun to perform best. Evolution salvia is available in violet and white flower colors.

Serenita angelonias are the smaller growing version of Serena angelonias. The raspberry color flowers of **Serenita raspberry** are unique to the seeded type angelonias. Plant angelonias in full sun. They prefer drier landscape beds and less fertilizer than other warm season bedding plants. Height in the landscape will be 12-14 inches. Space plants a foot apart on center.

Mrs. Schiller's Delight viburnum is a great native shrub and would be

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Mrs. Schiller's Delight viburnum

continued from page 6

a terrific replacement for the typical green foundation shrubs, like boxwoods, yaupons and Indian hawthorns. This viburun is a Walter's viburnum (V. obovatum). Plants can be nicely maintained at 3-4 feet tall and do well in full sun, part sun and part shade. An abundance of white flower clusters cover the plant canopy in April. Plants prefer acid soil.

Louisiana Super Plants

Cool Season Flowers

Amazon dianthus Swan columbine 'Diamonds Blue' delphinium 'Redbor' kale Sorbet violas Camelot foxglove

Warm Season Flowers

BabyWing begonias
Bandana lantanas
Butterfly pentas
'Little Ruby' alternanthera (Joseph's coat)
'Senorita Rosalita' cleome,
Serena angelonia
Luna hibiscus (rose mallow)
Kauai torenia (wishbone flower)
Mesa gaillardia*
'Homestead Purple' verbena
'Fireworks' fountain grass
'Henna' coleus

Shrubs

'Aphrodite' althea (rose of Sharon)
'Belinda's Dream' rose
'Conversation Piece' azalea
Drift roses
'Frostproof' gardenia
'Penny Mac' hydrangea
'ShiShi Gashira' camellia
'Flutterby Petite Tutti Fruitti Pink' buddleia (butterfly bush)
Rabbiteye blueberries
'Leslie Ann' Camellia

Trees

'Shoal Creek' vitex (chaste tree) Southern sugar maple Willow oak Evergreen sweetbay magnolia.

Come hear about landscaping with Louisiana Super Plants at the Reflections in the Garden program on Monday April 4.

Hope to see you there!

Gentlemen Joining the Board

Burden Horticulture Society has expanded its board and is very pleased to announce the addition of five new members. In this issue we will meet Leo Broders and Richard Oliver. The next issue will introduce the ladies, Mary Tauzin, Cynthia Nobles and Kathleen Meares.

Leo Broders and his wife, Kay, have lived in Baton Rouge for 40 plus years. For 27 of those years he worked for Albemarle Corporation, initially as an industrial engineer and ultimately as a R & D administrator.

Horticulture has been a love and avocation throughout Leo's life. He is a familiar face to many at the Botanic Gardens and in the community as he has been very active in the Louisiana Master Gardeners program for 13 years with emphases on plant propagation, making horticulture presentations at libraries and conducting plant clinics at local nurseries. For the last few years he has been involved as a volunteer at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden Arbor Day and Corn Maze events. He is also a member, but less active in the Baton Rouge Camellia Society and the Louisiana Native Plant Society.

Richard Oliver shares a professional background with Leo as an engineer. Six years ago he retired from Jacobs Engineering as Deputy Director of testing and maintenance. He and his wife are frequent travelers and are active in St. George parish where Richard serves as a Eucharistic minister.

His horticultural interest has a focus on roses and fruit trees, so the Botanic Gardens are a natural fit. With the Rose Garden continuing to evolve, there is always a need for helping hands to care for it and the orchards on the property in need of maintenance. Richard says he enjoys fulfilling projects which are plentiful at Botanic Gardens.

Welcome, gentlemen and thank you for your willingness to serve.





Youth Education Programs Continue to Grow at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

The East Baton Rouge Parish Master Gardener Association and Dr. Kiki Fontenot have developed a series of interactive gardening activities to add to the Youth Education Program at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. Children ages 6 through 10 will have an opportunity to come play in the soil and learn about gardening.

The events have been scheduled as follows:

- Feb. 20, 2016. Vegetable gardening: What is native to America and what is not; creating vegetable characters and vegetable gardens.
- April 30, 2016. Terrariums: Create your very own tiny ecosystem in a bowl.
- June 25, 2016. Frog and toad: Learn how to create miniature gardens to entice frogs and toads to your yard.
- Sept. 24, 2016. Chickens: Chickens are a great backyard animal; learn about raising chickens and how they help plants.

Each activity will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., and children will receive snacks and take-home garden crafts. There is a small fee of \$15 per child, and an adult must

accompany each child to all activities. Reservations may be made by email to Angie Wall at **angwall@cox.net**. Attendance is limited so make your reservation soon!

The Tiger Gardens Program created by Dr. Fontenot and part of the Youth Educational programing at the Botanic Gardens continues to grow. Last year 11 schools participated in this program that provides Louisiana teachers with the knowledge and materials to establish and maintain a sustainable school garden program and incorporate these gardens into their curriculum. Like most of the educational programs at the Botanic Gardens, the more we can partner with local industry and the community the better the program. Last year's partners were Albemarle Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield, East Iberville Incorporated and the Pennington Family Foundation.

PCS Nitrogen, a subsidiary of Potash Corporation of Canada, made it possible for Ascension Parish students to participate in this program this year. The company donated \$30,000 to the LSU AgCenter and Ascension Parish Public Schools to establish gardens at 13 schools in the parish with the possibility of adding other schools. Another key partnership for this program is the Ascension Parish Extension Office led by Craig Roussel and the Ascension Parish Master Gardener Association. Each school is assigned a Master Gardener, who can help the teachers with maintaining a sustainable, productive garden. An all day workshop for the teachers and Ascension Parish Master Gardeners was held to kick off the program for each school and form these valuable teacher/mas-

ter gardener partnerships. Teachers learned how to grow vegetables, how to work with kids in a gardening setting and how to integrate gardening into a curriculum. The teachers and Master Gardeners will reconvene in a year for a half-day workshop to present their gardening successes and problems and get refreshed on continuing the garden at their school.

For more information on this program contact Dr. Fontenot at **kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu.**





Saturday, April 30 9 a.m.-1 p.m. LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

Plant a family tree and make a memory.
Celebrate Arbor Day and learn more about trees
and their uses at this family-friendly event
during the LSU AgCenter's Arbor Day
celebration at Burden.

Activities include:

Family Tree Plantings

A Scavenger Hunt

StoryTime

Children's Tree Climbing

A Visit with Smokey Bear

A Bonfire

Hayrides

...And More

Visit the new James Wandersee Palmetto Walk, Mosaic Black Swamp Boardwalk and the Early American Camellia Collection.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (4-10). Free for children age 3 and younger.
Refreshments available for sale.







LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden . Burden Museum & Gardens 4560 Essen Lane (at I-10) . Baton Rouge . 763-3990 . DiscoverBurden.com

Arbor Day rescheduled for April 30

The seventh annual Arbor Day at Burden in the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event coincides with the National Arbor Day which is April 29. Festivities will be held at the Barton Arboretum, celebrating the restoration of the James Wandersee Palmetto Walk, the Mosaic Black Swamp Boardwalk and the Early American Camellia Collection.

Visitors will have the opportunity to plant a tree grown by LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens volunteers to help reforest Burden Woods, which was damaged by Hurricane Gustav. Each individual or family who plants a tree will be given a certificate with GPS coordinates so they can monitor the growth of the tree they plant.

Other activities will include a scavenger hunt, children's tree climb, hayrides and more.

Arbor Day at Burden is presented by the LSU AgCenter, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Burden Horticulture Society, which welcome participants of all ages.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with children 3 years old and younger free. Funds support the Project Learning Tree program for Louisiana school children.

For more information, contact the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at 225-763-3990.



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Honoring Each and Every
Botanic Gardens Volunteer
Hosted by Burden Horticulture Society

May 17, 2016

11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. At the Pavilion



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G Progressive Dinner in the Garden LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden





Join Us for Dining, Music and Dancing

Among the Blooms and Under the Stars

Friday, April 22 . 7-10 p.m. LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden 4560 Essen Lane at I-10

A benefit for the Botanic Gardens and educational programs at the Louisiana Culinary Institute

Featuring

Award-winning, local chefs from top restaurants! Tastings at the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, the gardens at the Orangerie, the Rose Garden and the Pavilion! People's Choice awards for best chef creations!

Student chef cook-off! Live music.

Advance Tickets: \$60 . At the door: \$70 Includes dinner, local beverages and live music (Advance tickets available at Eventbrite.com - search "Gourmet in the Garden")







Sponsorship opportunities are available

For more information, visit www.DiscoverBurden.com or www.facebook.com/LSUAgCenterBotanicGardens Call (225) 763-3990 . Email BotanicGardens@agcenter.lsu.edu or charlie@louisianaculinary.com

Meet Shawn Zeringue

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you all as the new Parish Chair of the East Baton Rouge Parish Extension Office. My name is Shawn Zeringue, originally from Raceland, LA, now living in Baton Rouge. I have been an Assistant Extension Agent in East Baton Rouge Parish for four years. While I will continue conducting 4-H and youth development work, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead through this new position. I look forward to working with all of you in hopes to strengthen the collaborative efforts of the Extension Office with the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.

The East Baton Rouge Extension Office is home to several different programs that work together to improve the lives of local citizens in various ways. Through agricultural and nutrition based education, it is our goal to provide resources to participants to make better, more informed decisions for themselves and their families. Our Extension Office consist of staff in Agriculture & Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H. In the coming issues, I will be highlighting programs and staff in each of these three areas and inform you on how you can become involved.

As my primary role, I work with fellow Assistant Extension Agent, Katie Strecker, to provide 4-H and enrichment programing to the youth of East Baton Rouge Parish. Currently, the East Baton Rouge 4-H Program reaches over 1,400 youth and is in over 65 schools. It is our goal to provide youth with the tools they need to be successful through positive relationships, serving others, engaging learning, and assisting them achieve mastery. Outside of the traditional school club, the East Baton Rouge 4-H Program offers enrichment programming and project club opportunities such as Livestock Club, Horse Club, Shooting Sports, and Junior Leaders.



Shawn Zeringue

As we look to expand our programming, we hope to increase our interaction with the Botanic Gardens and take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

For more information regarding any programs associated with the East Baton Rouge Extension Office, please contact us at 225.389.3055. To contact me directly, please e-mail

szeringue@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Volunteers Wanted

Want to join a great group?

Complete the form below and mail it to Burden Horticulture Society, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Or use the entry form on the 'Join Us' page of the Burden Horticulture Society website: www.BurdenHorticultureSociety.com

You also can contact our volunteer coordinator John Hough at 225-763-3990 or jedgarhough@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Gardening	Speakers	Fundraising	Publicity
Clerical	Database	Volunteer Coordination	Reflections in the Garden
Annual Events	Membership	Trees and Trails	Educational Programs
Name:			
Phone:	Ema	il:	

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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

Upcoming Events at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

April 2016
April 4, Noon - 1 pm
Creating Color with Super Plants - Dr. Allen Owings, LSU AgCenter Horticulturist
April 9, 9 - 10:30 am, every 30 mins Storytime at Burden
April 9, 8 am - 3 pm
April 17, 4 - 6 pm Capital Area Native Plant Society - Native plant propagation Ione Burden Conference Center
April 20, 7 pm Orchid Society of Baton Rouge
April 28, 6:30 pm
April 30, 9 - 11 am
Terrariums: create your own tiny ecosystem; \$15, reserve at angwall@cox.net
April 30, 9 am - 1 pm
May 2016 May 2 Noon 1 nm
May 2, Noon - 1 pm
May 3, 6 pm
May 15, 4 - 6 pm
May 17, 11:30 am - 1 pm Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Ione Burden Conference Center
May 18, 7 pm Orchid Society of Baton Rouge Ione Burden Conference Center
May 26, 6:30 pm
June 2016
June 6, Noon - 1 pm
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June 6, Noon - 1 pm