

HORTICULTURE

Happenings

LSU Department of Horticulture Newsletter

Summer 2004

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show Still Growing

The second Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show, held in the John M. Parker Coliseum on the LSU campus the last weekend in March, featured thousands of trees, shrubs and potted plants along with a beautiful metal gazebo, a pond and waterfall and a special lecture area that reminded some folks of the Sydney opera house.

The two-day event was a great success and a notable achievement. We received nothing but positive comments from the vendors, from the attendees and from the AgCenter and the College of Agriculture. Our best estimate is that more than 3,500 attended, about 1,000 more than last year. In addition to having about 80 vendors and educational booths, we hosted six excellent gardening lectures by such notables as Neil Odenwald, Charles Fryling, Dan Gill, Tom Pope, Rob Trawick, along with Leon Standifer and Ed O'Rourke.

Big events and intensive efforts like this can happen only when we come together as a team. We had great cooperation by the department faculty, staff, graduate students, horticulture club and the Baton Rouge Master Gardeners. Plan to join us next year the third weekend in March. We promise another great event.

We Need Your Help to Meet the Challenge

Dear Friends of Horticulture,

We have some exciting news. Joe Bradberry, Class of '57, has issued a challenge grant through the Sequor Foundation for scholarships for the Department of Horticulture. The Foundation will match up to \$50,000 any new gifts that we receive to fund scholarships in the Department of Horticulture. This gives us the possibility to create a \$100,000 scholarship fund if we can raise an additional \$50,000 from alumni and friends of the department. This is an excellent way to leverage your support of LSU, the College of Agriculture, and the Department of Horticulture in particular.

Time is of the essence. We have until only August 31, 2004, to meet the challenge. Your gift may be pledged over a period of two years but the pledge amount must be received on or before August 31, 2004.

As a special thank you for a minimum gift of \$50 to support this challenge and our new scholarship program, you will receive free

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More than 3,500 people enjoyed the Spring Garden Show in Parker Coliseum. See pages 4 and 5 for more photos.



Horticulture Club News

In January the Horticulture Club traveled to the Gulf South Trade Expo in Mobile. This trade show includes a day of educational seminars and is an excellent opportunity for students to see the diversity of the horticultural industry. At the show, Club president Kiki Karsh and vice president Mickey Kleinhenz received \$1,000 scholarships from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association.

The Fall and Spring Plant Sales were great successes. The Club continues to diversify the selection and volume of plant materials as clientele continue to grow. Participation in the Spring Garden Show has encouraged more production and dedication by the students to their growing efforts. In the Fall 2004, the Club plans to offer more trees and shrubs for fall landscaping.

As the new president in the Fall 2003, Kiki Karsh's main objective was to recruit new members. With officers and members graduating in December 2003, new blood was desperately needed. Kiki delivered! Several new students participated in club activities.



LSU students Kiki Karsh, Katherine Broussard and Mickey Kleinhenz (left to right) received a plaque and scholarship award at the LNLA business meeting in Mobile in January.

New officers for 2004-2005 are:

President	Mickey Kleinhenz, Houston
Vice President	Katie Holmes, Houma
Assistant VPs	Damask Grogan, Baton Rouge
.....	Jessica Wilsom, Madison, Miss.
Secretary	Lindsey Duhon, New Orleans
Treasurer and ASA rep	Jennifer Mader, Mandeville
Public Relations	Damask Grogan, Baton Rouge

Coastal Roots Program wins a Gulf Guardian Award

The Coastal Roots: School Seedling Nursery Program for wetland restoration received a 2nd place Gulf Guardian Award in the Youth and Education Category of competition sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Program.

Coastal Roots is a coastal restoration/nursery program designed in 2001 by Pam Blanchard of the LSU Department of Curriculum and Instruc-

tion and Ed Bush of the LSU Department of Horticulture. Rachel Somers of Sea Grant and David Bourgeois of Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes are in charge of nursery set-up, maintenance and planting assistance. Dianne Linstadt of Sea Grant Education coordinates the project.

Coastal Root's primary goals are to help restore critical Gulf of Mexico coastal habitats, help

students develop a sense of stewardship toward wetlands restoration and to inform the public of coastal restoration needs. The program includes 17 schools in 12 south Louisiana parishes.

Bush commented, "What is outstanding about this project is that it integrates classroom instruction with field experiences concerning basic horticultural and coastal restoration concepts. Students are growing native trees and shrubs from seed in their self-constructed nursery, while having a positive impact on rehabilitating a disturbed costal habitat. Students can see a direct connection between what they learn in the classroom and what is happening on the coast."

Blanchard said, "I'm very proud of the students and organizations that have come together to make Coastal Roots work." She was project coordinator from 2001 to 2003.



Dedication of the St. James Tree Nursery at St. James Math & Science Academy this spring.

Horticulture Student Teaches Middle and High School Students Horticulture

Kathryn “Kiki” Karsh, a master of science student studying under Dr. Ed Bush, has developed a science curriculum introducing middle and high school students to horticulture, while satisfying State and National Science Standards.

The core of her program is carefully planned lesson plans that include teaching hands-on classroom and field activities. Karsh served as the instructor at St. James Math and Science Academy, Monteguet Middle School, St. Louis King of France and Pierre Part middle schools for each lesson. Her 22 lessons included topics such as Plant Identification and Morphology, Habitats, Pollination, Photosynthesis, Composting, Genetics, Wetland Soils and Media, and Global Warming.

Examples of the activities the students participated in were extracting plant pigments and using chromatography paper to separate chlorophyll, carotenoids and other pigments during fall transformation. A favorite lesson of the students was blowing bubbles with a tree. Students used wooden dowels made from a red oak tree and dipped in a detergent solution to show that the xylem was a continuous vascular tissue. Another favorite lesson was developing plants that could survive in a flooded area. Many students drew plants with aerenchyma cells to get oxygen to the roots. Other students drew a floating Venus fly trap to take advantage of the available nutrients.

Students also learned how to compost waste products while learning how to graph their monitored



compost temperature through the entire process. One lesson that caused students to think was developing a picnic menu without foods that relied on honey bees for pollination. The menu was sparse at best. One of the last lessons was teaching students how they can positively affect the environment using a game called “Hydropoly.” Students were given situations where their decisions could help, maintain or destroy native landscapes.

After this first year of teaching, Karsh plans to refine and compile her results for publication. She is also working on the Coastal Roots Project in the LSU Sea Education Project and is Horticulture Club president at LSU. To contact her, please e-mail her at kkarsh1@lsu.edu.



Steven Adams with his family in front of their booth at the 2003 TAN-Misslark Nursery Show (left to right, Anjelica, Steven, Barbara and Brandon)

Alumni Profile Class of 1976 Steven Adams

Adams Nursery was established in 1956 by Fred and Billie Adams. In 1976 the operation of the nursery was turned over to Steven Adams after he earned a B.S. in Horticulture at LSU. After the death of Fred Adams in 1978 until 1983, the nursery was owned and operated by Steven and Billie Adams. Now the nursery produces mainly an array of 3- and 10-gallon plant material. Adams Nursery has earned a reputation for carrying high-quality nursery stock.

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show



Rob Trawick, above, and other gardening experts used this screen during their lectures under the big white tent at the Spring Garden Show.



Susan Ludwig, center, and helpers setting up their booth.



Fall and Spring Plant Sales



Michael Courtney carves pumpkins during the Fall Plant Sale.



Spring Plant Sale 2004.



Terri Schexnaydre (right) assists another happy customer.

Our Department is Growing

David Lee, who is expected to join the Department of Horticulture August 1, is finishing a Ph.D. in Turfgrass Science at North Carolina State University.

Bob Souvestre transferred into the department as the Master Gardener coordinator.

Ron Strahan accepted the Ornamental and Turfgrass Weed Science position.

Linda Bonnette recently transferred into the department as a clerk chief.

Anthony Witcher transferred from Burden Center into the extension ornamental research associate position.

Departures

Rob Trawick transferred into the East Baton Rouge extension position vacated by Bob Souvestre.

John Young has accepted a position as horticulturist with Chef John Folse and Company.

Courtney Slavich graduated with a B.S. in marketing. She was an office assistant while working on her degree. She will attend the University of New Orleans to earn an M.S. degree in business administration. We will miss you. Best of luck!

Ornamental and Turfgrass Open House Attracts Attention

Horticulture Department faculty members Ed Bush, Jeff Kuehny, Dan Gill and Allen Owings hosted an Open House for the new Ornamental and Turfgrass as part of the field day that attracted about 80 visitors to the research area at Burden Center.

The area consists of 20 acres adjacent to Burden Manor and I-10 directly across the street from the Shaw Building on Essen Lane. This event provided an overview of current research and what is being implemented for 2004 and 2005. LSU AgCenter researchers and extension personnel presented information on nursery crops and demonstration plots on an array of early-season bedding plants and woody ornamentals.

Many of the landscape performance trials shown were in various stages of development. The wholesale production of nursery plants is a \$100 million to \$120 million per year industry. When retail sales, landscaping, turfgrass and other segments of the green industry are included, the contribution to the Louisiana economy approaches \$2.2 billion a year.

Larry Bourgeois of Covington Nursery was one of the visitors at the inaugural open house. He commented, "The last time I was here two years ago, this was a hay field. It was fun to drive up and see what they've done."

Cody Arceneaux, president of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, said his organization contributed funds to the research facility with part of a grant it received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He operates Live Oak Gardens in New Iberia.

"The nursery industry appreciates the AgCenter's efforts," Arceneaux said. "Our commitment

stands because what the researchers do affects us every day."

"What's happened here would not have happened without support and encouragement from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association," said LSU AgCenter Chancellor William Richardson. "This is the beginning."



Vice Chancellors Paul Coreil and David Boethel also expressed appreciation for the support of the Nursery Industry and the Louisiana State Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Commissioner Bob Odom expressed his support of continuing a close relationship with the LSU AgCenter Ornamental and Turf research program.

David Himelrick, head of the LSU AgCenter's Department of Horticulture, said future plans include research areas for turfgrass, nursery and floriculture crops, as well as greenhouses.

The core support staff members working on this project include research associates Ann Gray, Anthony Witcher and John Young. Tim Raiford, assistant professor, and Pat Hegwood, director of Burden Center, also worked to make the field day a success.

Watch for a notice about our Fall Field Day in September!

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Terri Schexnaydre of Baton Rouge was named the American Society of Horticultural Science outstanding undergraduate student from Louisiana State University for 2004. One undergraduate, chosen by the faculty members, is recognized by the ASHS from each horticulture program around the country. She was an outstanding performer in the classroom and an active member and officer of the Horticulture Club throughout her undergraduate career. Schexnaydre plans to attend graduate school in the fall.



Terri Schexnaydre



The Horticulture Office received 1st place for its "Hot Pepper" Christmas Tree. From left to right are Courtney Slavich, student worker; Victoria Hurst, executive secretary; and Donna Elisar, bookkeeping.

Visit our Web site: www.horticulture.lsu.edu

We Need Your Help to Meet the Challenge

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membership in the College of Agriculture Alumni Association.

Please designate your tax-deductible contribution on the form at the bottom of this page and return it with your gift very soon. If you are interested in estate planning or in making a bequest or planned gift, please contact us at (225) 578-2158 and we can plan to visit with you or send you additional information.

This is an unprecedented opportunity for us to create a substantial new scholarship fund. Thank you for your support of the Department of Horticulture. Your gift is greatly appreciated and will go directly to helping worthy students to finance their educations while learning, working and preparing for a career in Horticulture.

David Himelrick
Professor and Head

We Need Your Help to Meet the Challenge

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Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show Gardening Experts' Lecture Tent



The gardening experts' huge white lecture tent and screen were a big success at the Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show.



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