

## The Descendants of John Charles and Emma Gertrude Burden

*By John Monroe*

John and Emma Burden, after their marriage in 1856, lived for a time in the city of Baton Rouge before moving to Windrush. Public records and recent conversations with family members count their children at seven: three girls and four boys. Today, several of their direct descendants are involved with Windrush, supporting activities at the Rural Life Museum and the LSU AgCenter's Burden Center Research facility.

The first three children were born before their move to Windrush: Martha Pike in 1857 apparently in Mississippi, Daniel Barbee in 1859 in Baton Rouge and Oscar White in 1861 in Whitney, England. John Charles (son) was born at Windrush in 1865, followed by Lucy Bell in 1868 in Baton Rouge, William Pike in 1870 at Windrush and finally Mary Violetta in 1872 in Baton Rouge.

Martha never married, eventually living in the household of her brother, Daniel, in Baton Rouge. There is some conflict regarding her birth place. The 1870 census indicates Louisiana;

other sources indicate Mississippi. It is possible that John and Emma spent a short time at Alma Plantation located in Pikes County, Mississippi before returning to Baton Rouge.

The family story is that Oscar died in 1865 as a child, barely four years old. Records have not been found to confirm his birth and death but if it is true that he was born in England, it would support the story that John and Emma returned to England during the first part of the American Civil War.

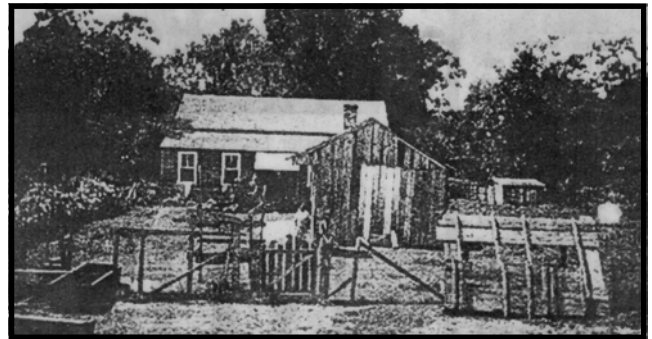
John Charles (son), the first child born at Windrush, died in 1885 at the age of nineteen. He appears never to have married and had no children.

Emma gave birth to her last child, Mary Violetta, four months after her husband died in 1872. Mary died before her first birthday the next year.

Lucy married Charles Elam, moved to Mansfield, raised a family and lived to the age of 79. One of her granddaughters, Charlotte Petty Conradi, through extensive research and family interviews has left a record providing much of what we know about the early history of Windrush and was a source for much presented here. Charlotte Conradi is now deceased.

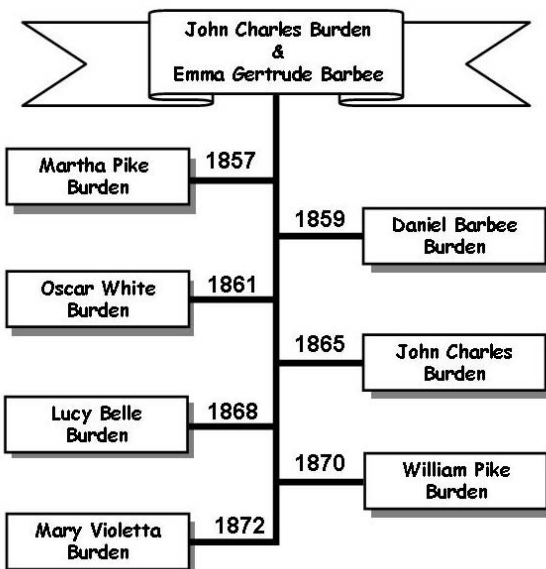
Daniel (Dan) Barbee Burden Married Tal McMurdo. He briefly ran Moss Side Plantation (near Windrush) before acquiring and operating Woodstock Plantation (located at today's University Club

subdivision) with his two sons, Dan (junior) and John Charles (another one). Several of his great-grandchildren are active supporters of the current activities



and developments on the property formerly know as Windrush Plantation. John Burden Noland and Dorsey Singletary Peek are directors on the board of the Burden Foundation; Penny Singletary Miller is on the board of the Burden Horticulture Society and acts as chair of that organization's development committee. Grandson Charlie Burden (yet another John Charles Burden) and his children, Julie, Eileen (and her husband Paul Arsenault) have regularly attended the Rural Life Museum's annual fund-raiser *An Evening at Windrush*.

William Pike Burden was the second (and last) child to be born at Windrush. He married Ollie Brice Steele, acquired ownership of Windrush in 1905 and moved his family permanently there from Baton Rouge in 1920. They had three children: Ione Easter Burden, William Pike Burden Jr. and Ollie Steele Burden. These three children, Ione, Pike and Steele, were individuals of remarkable foresight, imagination and generosity. We have them to thank for the wonderful gift they made to our community: the family property, Windrush. None of the three had any children.



## Reflections from the Chair

By Ginnie Bolin, Chairman



The Board has been extremely energized by the activities of the Burden Horticulture Society (BHS) in the last three months. The Portico Design Group from Washington State has gathered information from participants from two workshops conducted at the Burden Conference Center. The Burden Foundation has recently approved funding for the final workshop to be held the first

week in August. See more details on page 4 in this newsletter.

An April shower did not daunt many rose enthusiasts from attending our Afternoon of Roses. Dr. Allen Owings, our guest speaker, gave a very informative talk about the care of roses and answered a myriad of questions. The sky cleared and the participants were able to stroll through the gardens and view the magnificent display of 1500 rose bushes, representing 150 varieties.

In May we mailed our annual appeal letter. Other than our Wine and Rose Dinner, this is our only request for support. Contributors support the educational programs and automatically become members of BHS, which allows free or discounted admission to programs at Burden Center as well as over 200 gardens throughout the country that are members of the American Horticulture Society. (For a listing of these gardens, see [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) or call our office). Members also receive our quarterly newsletter and an invitation to all special events such as Wine and Roses. Membership runs June 1, 2009 thru May 31, 2010. If you have not yet rejoined, please consider doing so by responding to our appeal letter or using the form in this newsletter.

The Square Foot Gardening Workshop held at Burden on May 23 was a cooperative endeavor between the AgCenter, East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Program and BHS. The Conference Center was filled to its capacity and we received rave reviews from the attendees. BHS hopes to sponsor more of these types of activities in the future.

We are presently enthusiastically planning for the rest of the year. Ginger Day is scheduled for August 15. All types of gingers grown at Burden will be on sale from nine until noon. Our ginger expert, Dr. Jeff Kuehny, will tell you all you want to know about gingers at his 10am lecture. If this date doesn't work for you, come to 'Reflections in the Garden—1st Mondays at Burden' on August 3rd at noon for a shorter version.

September 26th & 27th, 8:30 am till 5:00 pm we will have a fun time planned for the whole family at the Rural Life Museum's Harvest Days. Jump on the wagon for a hayride to the Pumpkin Patch, pick out the perfect jack-o-lantern, pause for a picture with the Scarecrow, admire the flowers, and then get lost in our Corn Maze. If you find your way out, catch a ride back to the Rural Life Museum and continue to join in the fun of Harvest Days as we partner to celebrate together the wonders of Burden Center.

On October 28th please come join us at 6 pm for the Wine and Roses Dinner. A pleasant evening before the spectacular rose gardens is planned for your enjoyment and for the benefit of the Burden Center. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served in the garden of the Orangerie before a lovely dinner under bouquets of dozens of roses. Whole Foods again has generously agreed to sponsor our event. You also will have the opportunity to bid on select plants and produce from the property. Proceeds will be used to help implement the Master Plan.

Many groups have spent hours of hot toiling work in the woods. Come help us celebrate the long awaited official opening of Trees and Trails on November 7th at 10am. Bring the children and take advantage of a guided tour of the trails and the refreshments served in the Ione Burden Conference Center. Photos of the damage from Gustav and the Master Plan will be available for you to compare the present to the past and to the future.

All of us at Burden hope you will come join us for some or all of these activities. We welcome any suggestions you may have for other activities you wish to see implemented. More and more members are assisting us with these programs, but we still need many more volunteers. Please email me at [ginniebolin1@cox.net](mailto:ginniebolin1@cox.net) if you can assist us in any way.

## Digging in the Dirt

By Jeff Kuehny

Are you tired of dragging hoses and moving sprinklers? If there was ever a summer that mulching landscape beds was important to moisture retention and not just weed control, this would be the summer. Mulching the garden is a good procedure to follow each year, but it is even more pertinent when drought occurs. Mulch will provide your landscape beds with organic matter that acts like a sponge that holds moisture in the soil and on top of the soil for plants to use. Although clay particles in the soil have the greatest moisture holding capacity, they may also become very compacted and reduce the ability of soil to absorb moisture. Mulch will also help prevent evaporation from the soil surface when we have very hot, dry days as occurred in June. There are various types of mulch that can be used. So what is the best type of mulch, you ask?

Pine bark, pine straw, hardwood, cypress, and yard waste can all be used as mulch for landscape beds. All mulches are NOT created equal, however. Pine bark often contains wood, or the inner part of the tree and may be from a tree recently cut or it may be aged or composted. The same is true for hardwood mulch, however, hardwood mulch usually contains just that, hard wood from trees like oak, pecan, or tulip poplar. The longer pine bark or hardwood has been allowed to age or compost (nitrogen is added during composting), the

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## One of a Kind Gift...

By Jeff Kuehny

More than 30 years ago, the Burden family – Steele Burden, his sister, Ione Burden, and their sister-in-law, Jeanette Burden – graciously began donating their property to LSU and what a gift it was! They started with 50 acres, and in the intervening years the donation grew to include a total of 440 acres. This property is located in the middle of Baton Rouge, the capital city of Louisiana. It is uniquely rural, centrally located and of historical significance to the community.

Steele Burden's passions for horticulture and rural artifacts dictated the family's stipulation that the properties be used for certain purposes. As is stated in the memorandum of agreement, "The portion of the property designated as Burden Center is to be used for horticultural and agronomic research in a setting which is inspirational to those working and visiting this wonderful space, and a source of inspiration to the LSU and Baton Rouge communities by providing a place of beauty in a rural setting. The Rural Life Museum is designated as a place to increase the appreciation of our heritage and the way of life of our ancestors, their hardships, toils, vision, inspiration, and determination by preserving the architecture and artifacts of our rural past. The purpose of Windrush Gardens is to provide a tranquil setting where one might pause to better appreciate natural beauty and a simpler way of life from times gone by."

LSU AgCenter is the part of the LSU System that carries out horticultural and agronomic research. The AgCenter became the primary care taker of the property which is now known as Burden Center. There, a wide array of horticultural research is carried out relating to turfgrass, vegetable crops, ornamental plants and fruit crops. The AgCenter is also

responsible for the All-America Selection Rose Display Garden, the Vie Stone Camellia Collection, Ornamental Ginger Garden, the Trees and Trails site and education program, the Ione E. Burden Conference Center and the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie. The Rural Life Museum – which occupies approximately 20 acres, falls under the jurisdiction of the LSU Baton Rouge Campus (LSU A&M). The responsibility of Windrush Garden is shared by both the LSU AgCenter and LSU A&M.

There are three nonprofit organizations that provide support to various parts of Burden Center. The Burden Foundation oversees the development, operation, and maintenance of all portions of Burden Center, as well as, providing financial support. The Burden Foundation also acts in an advisory role to foster and encourage the full utilization and development of all of Burden Center. Two friends groups were formed to support and promote this multi faceted gem. The Friends of the Rural Life Museum was formed about 1996 to focus primarily on fundraising and on activities to increase public awareness of the LSU Rural Life Museum. The Burden Horticulture Society was formed approximately two years ago and its mission is to assist with planning and implementing activities to raise funds, assist in developing and managing programs, support and encourage public participation in the horticultural activities, and assist and support the research and educational programs, policies, procedures, volunteer activities, and developmental plans as initiated by the Burden Center.

The Burden Family left an incredible legacy to LSU, the Baton Rouge community, and Louisiana. Many exciting things are happening at Burden that will enhance the vision of

the donors and provide an even greater inspiration to those who visit. The Rural Life Museum will be completing an expansion project this fall. Harvest Days, in October, provides a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy the rural landscape and see historically accurate demonstrations of farming activities. Windrush Garden, where horticulture and history meet, is being renovated and returned to its historical beauty. Besides providing a restful stroll through the historical garden, Windrush has programs for the public to enjoy its sculpture garden and plantings including Camellia Morning in February and the Azalea Stroll in March. Burden Center and the Burden Horticulture Society will finish a master plan this fall that will provide a guiding and unifying vision for the future of Burden Center. It is hoped the new plan will give even greater meaning and significance to the one of a kind gift that Burden Center is to the community.

### **Burden Horticulture Society Board**

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*Ex-Officio Director*

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*Ex-Officio Director*

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## The Burden Center Master Plan: Providing a Vision for the Future

The Burden Center master planning committee has come so far in so little time and we have so many exciting things to share. After selecting the master planning firm Portico Group, we have completed Phase 1 of the Master Plan and we will complete the Second and Final Phase this fall. The goal to provide the community with a more welcoming and enlightening experience with a unified vision for the entire 440 acres of Burden is coming closer to reality. The vision of the Burden Family stipulated that the entire property be maintained as a “green area” to be enjoyed by the public, showcase the Rural Life Museum; conduct horticultural and agronomic research and outreach; and maintain formal and informal gardens and an urban forest. The Master Plan will help continue to support this vision by building upon the “green” foundation left to us by the Burden Family and enhance the visitor’s experience through the development of a sustainable, cohesive aesthetic vision and conceptual design. So far the conceptual design includes the following:

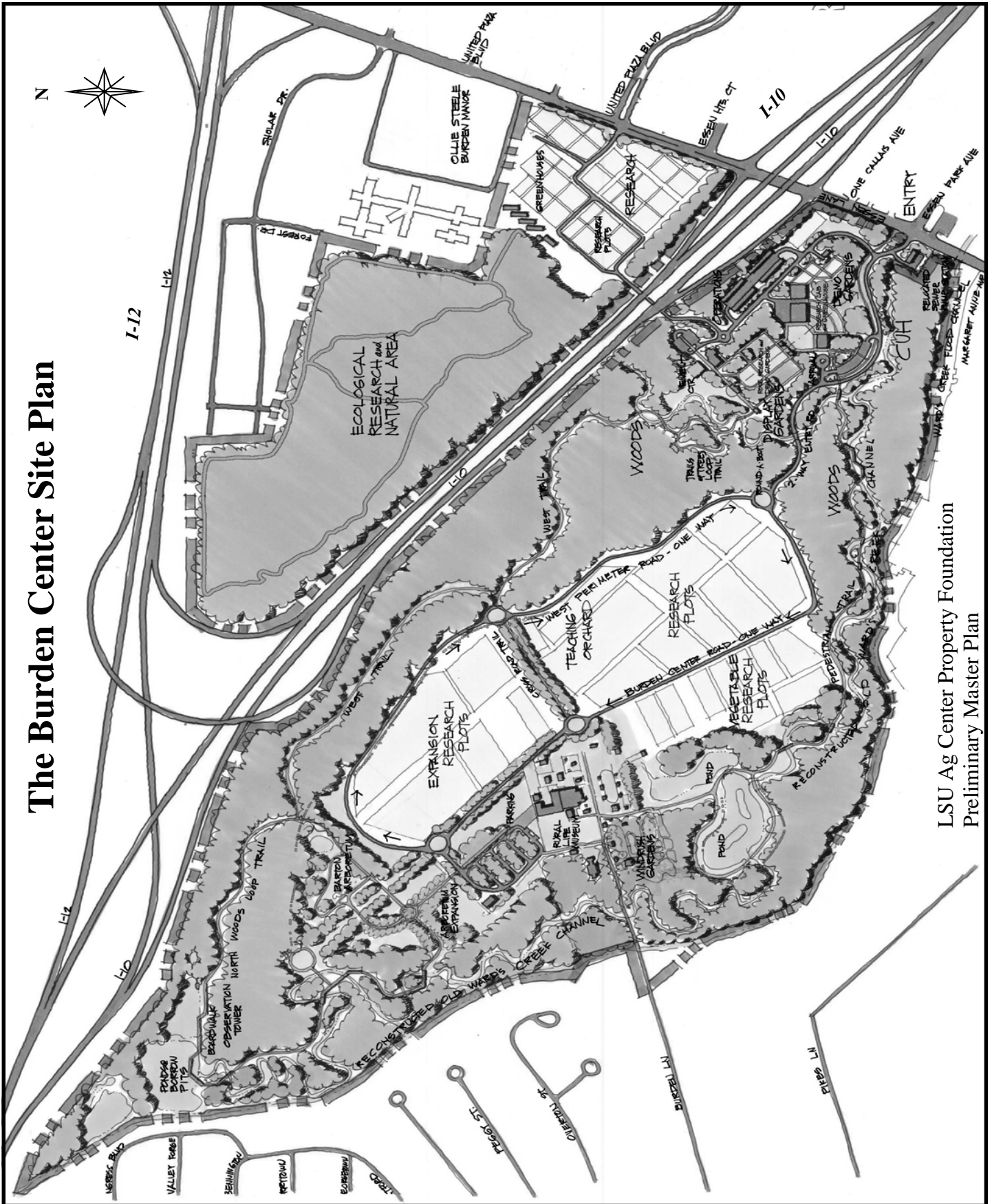
- ◆ Center for Urban Horticulture to display results from current AgCenter and LSU research and provide for organizational meetings and outreach.
- ◆ Extension and Research Headquarters that will serve as a home for AgCenter Research East Baton Rouge Parish Extension administration and programming. This building will be a Platinum building.
- ◆ Burden Green Ribbon Project which will provide a “green ribbon” of native plants along either side of the I-10 corridor along the Burden property
- ◆ Steele Burden Orangerie enhancement
- ◆ Trees and Trails expansion that will include the redevelopment of the Ward’s Creek Meanders
- ◆ Pavilion with a green roof located at the trail head and serve as an outdoor educational area.
- ◆ Barton Arboretum development and expansion

- ◆ Windrush Garden and Rural Life Museum garden connection
- ◆ Specialized Gardens
  - ∴ Discovery Garden for children and the entire family
  - ∴ Healing Garden to provide a therapeutic setting with pharmaceutical and medicinal plants
  - ∴ Japanese Garden
  - ∴ Burden’s Bluff which will provide an overlook of the Barrow Pit Lakes
  - ∴ Azalea and camellia garden expansion of the current collections
  - ∴ All American Selections Garden
  - ∴ All American Rose Garden
  - ∴ Heirloom Garden
  - ∴ Ginger Garden

The master planning committee will continue to meet with Portico group to further development and finalize plans in the coming months. We would love to have your input! The LSU community, Burden Horticultural Society Members, Master Gardeners and the general public are invited to view a larger copy of the conceptual plans on display at Burden Center.



# The Burden Center Site Plan



LSU Ag Center Property Foundation  
Preliminary Master Plan

## The Burden Rose Garden Receives National Recognition

The All American Rose Selections Garden at Burden Center in Baton Rouge was recently recognized with an "Outstanding Rose Garden Maintenance Award" for 2008.

Dr Pat Hegwood, the Burden Center Coordinator, stated the private evaluators found the garden to be in excellent condition and that it "is a real tribute to the All American Rose Selections (AARS) varieties on display."

Louisiana State University's Rose Garden has for many years been famous in Baton Rouge as a family destination and place to visit to enjoy outstanding rose horticulture. It formerly was located at the Horticulture Hill Farm Teaching Facility on the LSU Campus behind Sorority Row where the intramural fields and tennis courts are now. The AARS roses have been grown at Burden Center since 1983, but this is only the second time the Garden has received this recognition.

**Congratulations to Burden Center** and the many contributors to the hard work of pruning and weeding to produce this out standing Garden and earn this recognition. **Congratulation especially to the volunteers** of Les Amis de Jardin who contributed time and energy to maintain the garden including: Judy Amedee, Ginnie Bolin, Leo Broders, Aline Creed, Pat Crochet, Francis Fontenot, Diavanna Hart, Sarala Palliwath, Annette Presller, Mike Ruth, Don Thibodeaux, and Barbara Quirk.



Continued....from page 2

better the mulch. The reason for aging or composting is due to the fact that these wood products may contain resins and tannins, and other chemicals that can be deleterious to your landscape plants. This mulch also has a very high ratio of carbon to nitrogen and may cause a nitrogen deficiency in your soil and thus be deleterious to plant growth. Pine straw is probably one of the most common types of mulch and has proven to be good at helping with moisture retention, weed suppression and adding organic matter to the soil. Cypress mulch, on the other hand, is most often not composted or aged and is primarily wood, but breaks down more slowly than other types of mulch. There is much debate concerning the use of cypress mulch as it is thought that this use of cypress is part of the reason that there are fewer cypress trees in the swamps. However, most



of the cypress trees that are used for mulch are grown in cypress plantations. We will leave this argument for another time. Yard waste is another good source of mulch, however, this is the most highly variable type of mulch. It can hold many surprises; trash such as cigarette butts, weeds- plants and seeds, a less formal and more natural look, quickly decomposed leaves or complete branches of trees. The best part about yard waste is that it is free, but keep in mind..."you get what you pay for". The last type of mulch that is new to the market is plastic pine straw. Yes, you read that correctly, *plastic*. It appears that plastic pine straw is a good alternative to the "real thing", however, it is not going to improve the moisture holding capacity of the soil. If you are interested in viewing the different types of mulch and want more information, go to Louisiana House just next door the new Alex Box stadium and tell John Young, Extension Associate, that I sent you.

### Annual Appeal Notes:

As of the end of July, we have received \$7500 in contributions. The really good news is most of these are new members. On the other hand, we haven't yet heard from many of our previous supporters. Officially, our membership runs June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. If you're one of our dear supporters who contributed last year or before June of this year, please consider joining our ranks again. We want you; we need you; we love you; we miss you. The forms are here in the Newsletter for your convenience.

## Support Burden Horticulture Society

*I would like to be a patron and support the Burden Horticulture Society*

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for LSU Foundation/BHS in the amount of:

\$1000    \$500    \$200    \$100    \$50    \$30    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my **check made payable to LSU Foundation/BHS**

Please charge my    Visa    Mastercard    AmEx    Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations may also be made online at [www.LSUFoundation.org](http://www.LSUFoundation.org),  
For the Benefit of:   Select Other, then specify BHS**

This gift is a tribute (circle one):

In Celebration/honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me about corporate Matching Gifts
- Please contact me about Volunteer opportunities
- Please send me planned giving information
- Please contact me about sponsoring an event or project

[www.lsuagcenter.com/BHS](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/BHS)

(225) 763-3990

### ***Burden Horticulture Society***

BHS is a 501 (c) 5 non-profit organization recently formed to promote, support, and expand the use of the LSU AgCenter's Burden Center. It operates under the auspices of the LSU Foundation solely for educational and fundraising purposes. Partnering with other gardening and outdoor organizations, plus the Rural Life Museum, we strive to offer informative opportunities for the public and to increase awareness of this local resource.

Your gift will allow us to develop a Master Plan for Burden Center and will help sponsor special educational events.

Please mail to:                      Burden Horticulture Society  
   4560 Essen lane  
   Baton Rouge, LA 70809

**B**urden Center  
4560 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



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***“Reflection in the Garden” Lunch Series***

**Noon to 1:00 PM in the Ione Burden Conference Center on  
the first Monday of each month**

**Special guest speakers! Bring a brown bag lunch!  
Drinks will be provided!**

Sept 14th	— How to Brighten Your Landscape for Fall and Winter	Bob Mirabello
Oct 5th	— Those Sultry Gardens of the Deep South	Neil Odenwald
Nov 2nd	— Birds Bees Shrubs and Trees	TBA
Dec 7th	— Holiday Decorating from Garden to Home	TBA

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BHS  
SPECIAL EVENTS**

Gingers, Talk and Sale (August 15, 2009)

Hayrides and Pumpkin Patch (September 26-27, 2009)

Wine and Roses (October 28, 2009)

Trees and Trails Ribbon Cutting (November 7, 2009)