

# Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2024

## Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles, LA 70607

### March 22 & 23

Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission is \$3 (Cash only) for adults and children 12 and under Free.

The Garden Conference and Expo is celebrating 25 years in garden education and assisting the garden public to grow in their knowledge and experience in gardening, plants and landscapes. Come join us March 22 and 23 as we continue the Celebration of Gardening in 2024.

The SWL Garden EXPO inside the Burton Coliseum is celebrating gardening with its 25th Annual Conference, Show and Plant Extravaganza about gardening, flowers, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, garden accessories, books, educational lectures, and general garden tools. Area, regional and interstate exhibitors and vendors will be there to assist you with your plant and garden needs. The Federated Garden Clubs of Southwest Louisiana will present their 2024 flower show theme: "*Wild Adventures*." They will be displaying their floral design and horticulture talents. There will be new and exciting educational programs about garden topics by LSU AgCenter specialists, as well as regional and state guest speakers.

"The Garden EXPO is a wholesome, educational environment and the perfect activity to bring together friends and families," said LSU AgCenter Extension Horticulturist, Robert Turley.

The Expo attracts over 3,000 garden lovers, residents, and visitors each year. There will be a Plant Health Clinic with professionals from the LSU AgCenter, as well as Master Gardener volunteers who will help diagnose plant problems and answer garden questions. Educational garden seminars will be on-going throughout the two day event. The 4-H Cart Service will be there to help Expo-goers carry items to their vehicles.

Educational programs include Home Vegetable Gardening, Fruit Production and Ornamental and Landscape Gardening.

#### **Garden EXPO Preview Party, Dinner & Silent Auction, Thursday**

The SWL Master Gardeners will present their *Garden EXPO Preview Party* with a Dinner and Silent Auction in the Chalkley Room of the Burton Coliseum on Thursday, March 21 - 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

A donation of \$10.00 is required for admission. Tickets may be purchased at the LSU AgCenter, 7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles or at the door. That evening, attendees will enjoy a Dinner, participate in a Silent Auction, allowed to preview the Garden Show and purchase from the Garden EXPO participating vendors.

Regular Garden Conference & EXPO hours are Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 (cash only) for adults, and children 12 and under is free. For more information if needed, contact Robert Turley at 337.721.4080 ext. 6502, or E-Mail: [RTurley@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:RTurley@agcenter.lsu.edu).

# **Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2024**

## **LSU AgCenter Educational Program**

**Burton Coliseum, Chalkley Room (South Entrance/Alley Way)**

### **FRIDAY - MARCH 22**

#### **HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING**

**Registration & Coffee - 9:00 A.M**

**Topics Instructors:**

#### **9:00 AM– 9:45 AM. – “HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING”**

with Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, Extension Specialist – Horticulture. LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. Gardening is a popular activity in Louisiana. With estimates of more than 475,000 home gardens in the State, it's clear that gardening is popular because it fits the lifestyles of many kinds of people – from young to old and very active to less active. Gardening provides exercise, interaction with nature and fresh healthy food options right in you own backyard or neighborhood garden. You will learn about site selection, soil preparation, soil testing, fertilization, organic matter, proper irrigation, cultural practices, and recommended varieties for small to 1/2 acre gardens. ~ 45 minutes.

#### **10:00 AM– 10:45 AM – “GROWING BLUEBERRIES IN THE HOME GARDEN”**

with Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, Extension Specialist – Horticulture. LSU AgCenter - Baton Rouge. Dr. Fontenot will provide information about the different types of Blueberries, their recommended varieties, planting, soil, fertilizing, watering, and harvesting. ~ 45 minutes.

#### **11:00 AM – 11:45 AM – “RECOGNIZING AND MANAGING DISEASES IN THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN”**

with Dr. Raghuwinder Singh, Extension Specialist – Plant Pathology & Horticulture, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. Vegetable gardening is the number one hobby in the United States. Keeping a garden healthy and attractive requires attention not only to its size and location but also to the soil, water availability, sunlight and air circulation in the garden. These environmental conditions can determine susceptibility to plant diseases. Diseased plants are unsightly and detract from the enjoyment and fruits of the hobby. Diseases affect home garden vegetable plants every year. Plant pathogens become established when environmental conditions are favorable. Losses due to disease can be reduced through a combination of proven disease-prevention methods. Presentation will include how to recognize the major diseases that affect home vegetables with special emphasis on Peppers and their disease management. ~ 45 min.

#### **12:00 PM – 12:45 PM – “MANAGING INSECT PEST IN THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN”**

with Dr. Aaron Ashbrook, Extension Specialist Entomology with the LSU AgCenter – Baton Rouge, LA. Growing vegetables at home reduces food bills and provides recreation for many homeowners each year. This is especially true in south Louisiana where warm temperatures and long growing seasons make gardening possible year-round. Unfortunately, the same climate which is so ideal for gardening also provides conditions in which insects thrive. Many different insects attack vegetable crops and it is impossible to know from one season to the next which of these pests will cause problems. Some cause problems every year while others rarely appear. There are also many insects which are beneficial, and in some instances essential, to producing vegetables.

To grow a highly productive garden it is important to have an insect management program. This should include frequent surveys of the garden to detect problems at an early stage. For the survey to be effective, however, the home gardener must know where to look for insects and be able to identify those that are found. Without proper identification, management or control is impossible. This presentation will include a discussion on identifying the major insect pest affecting home vegetable production and their management. ~ 45 minutes.

### **1:00 PM– 1:45 PM – “Louisiana Natural Farming & Permaculture”**

with Mr. Kelsey Richard, Permaculturist, Lake Charles, LA. Mr. Richard’s presentation will highlight natural farming practices, fertilizers, and the worm farm. ~ 45 minutes.

### **HOME LAWNS AND TURF**

**Topic & Instructor:**

### **2:00 PM– 2:45 PM – “Care & Management of The Home Lawn.”**

with Dr. Eric DeBoer, Extension Weed Scientist/Turfgrass Specialist, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge.

Presentation will include how to care and maintain your lawn, including proper mowing, fertilization, irrigation plus weed identification and their management. ~45 minutes

### **HOME FRUIT ORCHARD**

**Topics & Instructors:**

### **3:00 PM – 3:30 pm – “Citrus: Establishing and Care Of Citrus Trees In The Home**

**Garden”** with Mr. Stuart Gauthier, Regional Horticulture Specialist, LSU AgCenter - St. Martin Parish, Breaux Bridge, LA., LA. Presentation will include the site selection, soil pH, adaptive varieties, and mulches, including insect and disease management of Peaches in the home garden. ~30 minutes.

### **4:30 PM – 5:00pm - “Muscadine Grapes: Establishing And Care Of Muscadine Grapes In The Home Landscape”**

with Mr. Stuart Gauthier, Regional Horticulture Specialist, LSU AgCenter - St. Martin Parish, Breaux Bridge, LA. The presentation will include information on the site selection, soil, varieties, and pest and disease management of Citrus in the home landscape. ~30 minutes.

**Adjourn.**

## **SATURDAY- March 23**

### **LANDSCAPE AND ORNAMENTALS**

**Registration and Coffee – 8:30 A.M.**

**Topics & Instructors:**

### **9:00 Am – 9:45 Am. – “Camellias: General Care, History, Louisiana Cultivars &More”**

With Ms. Paige Mizell, Mizell’s Camellia Nursery, 12497 Joseph Rd., Folsom, LA You will learn about the various types of camellias, their blooms, how to plant and care for them. Camellia Hill Nursery is a family owned and operated nursery founded in 2008 by David and Mary Mizell of Folsom, Louisiana; over 40 years of expert knowledge and hands on experience in dealing with all aspects of growing plants having been brought up on nurseries. ~ 45 minutes.

### **10:00 AM – 10:45 AM – “Hazard Tree Awareness”**

With Mr. Keith Hawkins, Extension Forestry Agent, LSU AgCenter, DeRidder, LA

Participants will learn about the symptoms of a hazard tree above ground. There are also some symptoms for below ground issues. There will be pointers about pruning to prevent some defects in young trees. ~ 45 minutes

**11:00 AM – 11:45 AM – “Registering Specimen Trees”**

With Mr. Keith Hawkins, Extension Forestry Agent, LSU AgCenter, DeRidder, LA. This program will describe how to register a state champion tree and how to register a live oak with the Live Oak Society. ~ 45 minutes.

**12:00 PM – 12:45 PM – Lunch Time / Start back time is 1:00 PM**

**1:00 PM – 1:45 PM – “Your Kinda Roses”**

with Mr. Steve Russell, Owner, New Roses, Iowa, LA . Mr. Russell is a Rose breeder and grower. He is a developer of new varieties of Roses that are adapted to hot weather climates and resistant to rose diseases.  
. ~ 45 minutes.

**Adjourned** – Thank you and come go visit with the Garden Expo Vendors out in the Coliseum Arena !!!