

Scheduled Event:

Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2018

Start Date: Friday, March 23, 2018

End Date: Saturday, March 24, 2018

Duration: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Burton Coliseum, 7001 Gulf Hwy., Lake Charles, LA 70607

Description: March means Spring and Spring says it is time for the Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO. The weather is right, the sun is bright; let's make ready our gardens to grow.

The Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO inside the Burton Coliseum is celebrating gardening with its 19th Annual Show and Plant Extravaganza about gardening, flowers, trees, shrubs, garden accessories, books, demonstrations, 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 "*A Buffett Buffet: Celebrating Jimmy Buffett songs,*" their 2018 flower show theme. They will be displaying their floral design and horticulture talents. There will be new and exciting educational programs about garden topics of interest by LSU AgCenter specialist, 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 out items to their vehicles.

Educational programs include Home Vegetable Gardening and Fruit Production held on Friday while programs on Ornamentals and Landscape Gardening & Herbs being held on Saturday. The SWL Master Gardeners will present their Garden EXPO Preview Party with a Gumbo Supper & Silent Auction in the Chalkley Room of the Burton Coliseum on Thursday, March 22nd, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Donation of \$10.00 for admission. Tickets can be purchased at the LSU AgCenter, 7101 Gulf Hwy., Lake Charles or at the door. Attendees will enjoy the gumbo supper, Silent Auction and allowed to preview the Garden Show and purchase from the participating Garden EXPO vendors that evening.

Regular Garden EXPO hours are Friday and Saturday, 9 AM - 5 PM. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

For more information, visit www.gardenfest.org, or, contact Robert Turley at (337) 721-4080 or E-Mail: RTurley@agcenter.lsu.edu