

Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2017

Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles, LA 70607

March 24th – 25th

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

Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Whether you have a green thumb or are just green with envy by your neighbor's garden, the Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO has got you covered.

The SWL Garden EXPO inside the Burton Coliseum is celebrating gardening with its 18th Annual 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 2017 flower show theme: "**The Enchanted Forest.**" They will be displaying their floral design and horticulture talents. There will be new and exciting educational programs about garden topics 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 3 to 4,000 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, Fruit Production, and Ornamental and Landscape Gardening.

Garden EXPO Preview Party Thursday

The SWL Master Gardeners will present their Garden Expo Preview Party with a Gumbo Supper in the Chalkley Room of the Burton Coliseum on Thursday, March 23 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

A donation of \$10.00 is required for admission. Tickets may be purchased at the LSU AgCenter, 7101 Gulf Hwy., Lake Charles, or at the door. Attendees will enjoy the Gumbo Supper, and preview the Garden Show and purchase from the Garden EXPO participating vendors that evening.

Regular Garden Conference & EXPO hours are Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2017
LSU AgCenter Educational Program
Burton Coliseum, Chalkley Room (South Entrance/Alley Way)

FRIDAY - MARCH 24

HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING

Registration & Coffee - 9:00 A.M

Program: 9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Topics & Instructors:

9:30 – 10:15 am. - HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING. With Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, Extension Specialist – Horticulture. LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. 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 min.

10:25 – 11:10 am. - GROWING CUCURBITS IN THE HOME GARDEN. With Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, Extension Specialist – Horticulture. LSU AgCenter - Baton Rouge. Cucurbits are a favorite & easy group of garden vegetables. You will learn the different types of Cucurbits: cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, cantaloupe and watermelons with their recommended varieties, plus planting seed, transplanting, soil, fertilizing, watering, mulches, training and harvesting. ~ 45 minutes.

11:20 am. – 12:05 pm. - RECOGNIZING AND MANAGING DISEASES IN THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN. With Dr. Raghuwinder Singh, Extension Specialist – Plant Pathology & Horticulture, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge. Presentation will include how to recognize the major diseases that affect home vegetables with special emphasis on Cucurbits and their control management. ~ 45 min.

12:15 – 1:00 pm. –MANAGING INSECT PEST IN THE HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN. With Dr. Dennis Ring, Extension Specialist - Entomology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA. Presentation will include a discussion on identifying the major insect pest affecting home vegetable production and their management. ~ 45 min.

ORNAMENTALS & LAWNS

Topics & Instructors:

1:15 – 2:00 pm. - AZALEAS - LOUISIANA'S SPRING AWAKENING. With Dr. Allen Owings, Extension Specialist – Horticulture, Hammond Research Station, LSU AgCenter, Hammond. Presentation is Azaleas are Louisiana' favorite and most planted landscape shrub. Cultural practices such as landscape bed preparation, sun exposure, soil drainage, soil pH, mulching and irrigation are important. Also hear an overview of recommended varieties including our Southern Heritage Southern Indica varieties, fall blooming ones like Robin Hills and the great Encore azaleas that have “more blooms, more often”. 45 minutes

2:10 – 2:55 pm. – CARE & MANAGEMENT OF THE HOME LAWN. With Dr. Ron Strahan, 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 min.

HOME FRUIT ORCHARD

Topics & Instructors:

3:05 – 3:35 pm. – ESTABLISHING AND CARE OF BLUEBERRIES IN HOME GARDEN. With Mr. Dan Devenport, Extension Agent – Lafayette, LA. Presentation will include the selection of site, soil pH, varieties, and mulches, including insect and disease management of Rabbiteye blueberries in the home garden. 30 minutes

3:40 – 4:10. ESTABLISHING AND CARE OF PEARS IN THE HOME GARDEN. With Mr. Stuart Gauthier, Southwest Regional Horticulture Specialist, LSU AgCenter - St. Martin Parish, Breaux Bridge, LA. Presentation will include the selection of site, soil, varieties, and insect and disease management of Pears in the home garden. 30 minutes

4:30 P.M - Adjourn.

SATURDAY- MARCH 25

TOMATOES, HONEY BEES, HERBS & ORCHIDS

Registration and Coffee – 8:30 A.M.

Program: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Topics & Instructors:

9:00 am – 9:45 am- BENEFIT OF HONEYBEES FOR THE GARDEN. With Nola Ducote. Nola is a Beekeeper, serving as President of the Lake Area Beekeeper's Club, Louisiana Beekeepers Association Board member, and SWL Master Gardener. Presentation will be about the honeybee, facts about what they do and how you can help attract honeybees to your garden. 45 minutes.

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM – IT'S ALL ABOUT TOMATOES. With Sara Doherty, Doherty Tomato Patch & More, DeRidder, LA. Sara started growing tomatoes 15 years ago with 400 plants to teach her grandsons how to work. She has steadily increased her planting since. All her experience is just being there...doing that. Tomatoes are her passion. She has studied about them, listened to others and tried them for myself. She has 4 basic varieties that she plants, but always try a couple new ones to see how she like them. She says there is always room for improvement. You will learn everything you wanted to know about tomatoes! 45 minutes.

10:55 am – 11:40 pm. – HERBS FOR THE GARDEN & KITCHEN. With Melda Siebe, ND. Melda Siebe is owner of Wild Thymes Herb Farm, Woodville, TX. Member in the Texas Herb Industry for 29 years; she is an author and lecturer on Herbs. You will learn how to select, grow and use herbs in the garden, landscape and kitchen. ~ 45 minutes

11:50 am – 12:35 pm. - ORCHIDS ARE EASY....REALLY. With David Medus. The presentation outlines sensible guidelines that everyone, novice and expert alike can apply to the hobby of "Growing Orchids". David has grown orchids for over 50 years. He is currently President of Calcasieu Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society (AOS). David is a frequent "clerk" at AOS sanctioned judging events. He also is active in exhibiting orchids at AOS Shows from Mississippi to South Texas where he and Calcasieu Orchid Society and its members have be awarded over 100 ribbons and trophies as well as individual awards for Outstanding Culture of orchids. David's personal orchid collection exceeds 300 plants and includes more than 11 genera of orchids. ~ 45 minutes

Adjourned – Be sure and visit with the Garden Expo Vendors !!!