

Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2018

Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles, LA 70607

March 23 & 24

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.

The more you know about growing a garden, the more successful your efforts will be. Whether you have a green thumb or are just green with envy by your neighbor's garden, the Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2018 is here to help.

The SWL Garden EXPO inside the Burton Coliseum is celebrating gardening with its 19th 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 2018 flower show theme: "*A Buffett Buffet: Celebrating Jimmy Buffett Songs.*" 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 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, 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 and Silent Auction in the Chalkley Room of the Burton Coliseum on Thursday, March 22 - 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, Silent Auction and preview the Garden Show; and may 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.

For more information, contact Robert Turley at 337.721.4080 ext. 6502, or RTurley@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2018

LSU AgCenter Educational Program

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

FRIDAY - MARCH 23

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 minutes.

10:25 – 11:10 am. – “GROWING TOMATOES & PEPPERS IN THE HOME GARDEN”

with Dr. Kathryn Fontenot, Extension Specialist – Horticulture. LSU AgCenter - Baton Rouge. Tomatoes & Peppers are favorites & easy group of garden vegetables. You will learn the different types of tomatoes & peppers 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 minutes.

ORNAMENTALS & LAWNS

Topics & Instructors:

1:15 – 2:00 pm. – “ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS - THE NEW AND OLD - FOR A WINNING LANDSCAPE.” With Dr. Allen Owings, Senior Horticulturist, Bracy's Nursery and Clegg's Nursery, Hammond/Baton Rouge. Gardenias, roses, nandinas, loropetalums, camellias and boxwoods are some of our older landscape shrubs but now there are new varieties in these old favorites. Come hear about these plants and other new ones along with recommended landscape practices. ~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 minutes

HOME FRUIT ORCHARD

Topics & Instructors:

3:05 – 3:35 pm. – **“ESTABLISHING AND CARE OF BLACKBERRIES IN HOME GARDEN”** with Mr. Dan Devenport, Extension Horticulturist – Lafayette, LA. Presentation will include the site selection, soil pH, adaptive varieties, and mulches, including insect and disease management of Blackberries in the home garden. ~30 minutes.

3:40 – 4:10. - **“ESTABLISHING AND CARE OF FIGS IN THE HOME GARDEN”** with Mr. Stuart Gauthier, Southwest Regional Horticulture Specialist, LSU AgCenter - St. Martin Parish, Breaux Bridge, LA. Presentation will include the site selection, soil, varieties, and general care of Figs in the home garden. ~30 minutes.

4:30 P.M - Adjourn.

SATURDAY- March 24

TOMATOES, HERBS, CAMELLIAS & ADENIUMS

Registration and Coffee – 8:30 A.M.

Program: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Topics & Instructors:

9:00 am – 9:45 am. - **“IT'S ALL ABOUT TOMATOES”** with Sara Doherty, Doherty Tomato Patch & More, DeRidder, LA. Sara Doherty 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. You will learn everything you wanted to know about tomatoes! ~ 45 minutes.

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM – “CAMELLIAS - GENERAL INFORMATION AND CARE” with Paige Mizell, Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery. They are a family owned and operated nursery founded in 2008 by David and Mary Mizell of Folsom, Louisiana. After several years of other horticulture endeavors, they have turned their attention back to their love of growing plants, specifically camellias. Paige Mizell, the speaker, is the daughter. You will learn about the various types of camellias, their blooms, how to care for them and ones from Louisiana. ~ 45 minutes.

10:55 am – 11:40 pm. – **“ADENIUM OBESUM – THE DESERT ROSE”** with Rod Prejean, Prejean Nursery, Lake Charles, LA . You will learn how to grow and care for Adeniums, a colorful, fast-growing and rewarding patio or houseplants. ~ 45 minutes.

11:50 am – 12:35 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

Adjourned – Thank you. Visit with friends and the Garden Expo Vendors !!!

