

The Burdens Return to Windrush

By John Monroe

After the death of John Charles Burden, the first Burden to live at Windrush, in 1872, his widow, Emma and children moved back to the city. The Baton Rouge census of 1880 found her living in Ward 1 as a housekeeper with four of her children: Martha, age 21; John, age 14; Lucy, age 13 and William Pike, age 10. The eldest son, Dan, would have been 19 years old at that time and presumably, be out making his own way. Very little is documented about the activities at Windrush during the last twenty-five years of the nineteenth century. Probably, it was leased or share-cropped.

Dan married Tal McMurdo in 1893. At that time he was living on Moss Side Plantation, which was located just west of Windrush. Later he lived in Baton Rouge then on the Petrie place on the Model Road and finally on Woodstock Plantation at Burtville, Louisiana, which he had purchased with his two sons four years before his death in 1922. A younger son William Pike married Ollie Steele in 1895. She was the daughter of Captain O. B. Steele who had a notable career in Louisiana as a soldier, banker, state legislator and state treasurer.

Baton Rouge City Directories name a variety of occupations and addresses for William Pike Burden Senior. The 1895 directory listed his occupation as grocer located at 405 Third Street. In 1899 he was the Treasurer of East Baton Rouge Parish as well as a business proprietor (W. P. Burden & Company, livery - 117 Third Street). Their residence address was 101 Dufrocq (now 19th street) at the corner of North Boulevard. The census of 1900 listed his occupation as horse dealer.

In March of 1898 the Advocate announced the construction of "a new

residence to be built by our parish treasurer, Mr. W. P. Burden... which will be ornamental and add to the attraction and property values of the neighborhood." This residence was located at 202 College Avenue in Spanish Town. The 1906 directory listed him as a deputy sheriff and residing at this address. They had a phone by then, number 104. News

**"...thankful [to the Burdens]
for their vision and generosity."**

must have been in short supply in those days as The Advocate reported in the Society section in 1915 on the Burden's remodeling of the house which "when completed will become one of the most attractive residences in that portion of the city."

Windrush Plantation, although the family home of John Charles and Emma

Gertrude, was not deeded to them but retained in the estates of her uncle, William S. Pike, and his widow, Mary Ann Huguet. William Pike and "Miss Ollie" must have continued to be involved in some way with Windrush during their time in Baton Rouge for in 1905, after the

deaths of both Emma Gertrude Burden and Mary Ann Huguet, they purchased the property from the Huguet heirs for \$3,000.

The Burden family moved permanently back to Windrush in 1920. The Society page in The Advocate reported that they leased their house on College Avenue to the Burris family in

July of that year. Five years later in July of 1925, William Pike Burden Sr. died at his birthplace, Windrush Planta-

tion, leaving the property to his wife, "Miss Ollie," and three children, Ione, Pike Jr. and Steele, thus setting the stage for the great decision they made to donate the property to Louisiana State University to be developed for the purposes we see today. We should all be thankful for their vision and generosity.



The Burden's Home

Reflections from the Chair

By Ginnie Bolin, Chairman

There are many exciting things that have been going on at Burden and the list of upcoming events is rich and varied. As you read this newsletter you may want to note these upcoming events on your calendar so you will not miss any of it.

We continue to have our very popular and well attended monthly Reflections lectures presented by LSU faculty and AgCenter specialists. October's program is going to be a tour of Windrush Gardens including a hayride to Windush from the conference center. November's topic is going to be Birds, Bees, Shrubs, and Trees presented by [Bob Mirabello](#). We welcome any suggestions for topics for future talks. Ginger Day brought out many ginger enthusiasts to hear Dr. Jeff Kuehny lecture and answer questions. Many varieties of gingers were sold before and after the lecture. BHS also participated in Harvest Days Celebration with the Rural Life Museum.

The Portico Design Group conducted their last workshop with the Master Plan Committee in August where the final conceptual plans and timelines for implementation were discussed. The final plan will be presented to the Burden Foundation on November the ninth.

The Gulf Coast Camellia Conference was held at Burden on



October second and third. The Baton Rouge Camellia Society assisted Dr. Patrick Hegwood with the hosting of this Conference.

Our annual Wine and Roses Dinner will be held on the evening of Wednesday, October 28. Starting at six o'clock you can view the rose garden at its peak while enjoying champagne and hors d'oeuvres in front of the Orangerie followed by dinner prepared by Whole Foods and served by 4-H youth in the Conference Center. I hope you will join us for this very elegant event.

I invite you to read Dr. Kuehny's article on Trees and Trails and to attend the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony and reception that are being planned for November 10 to "kick off" the opening of one of the trails in the Burden Woods that was laid out by Steele Burden. Many groups have been involved in restoring these trails after the devastation of Hurricane Gustav. We are especially grateful to Baton Rouge Green, the Junior League of Baton Rouge, Forum 35, and the Les Amis de Jardin volunteers for all their efforts to make this day possible. I hope that you will be able to take a break from your activities during the holidays to treat yourself to a quiet and peaceful stroll through the woods on one or more of these trails.

You are Invited for An Evening of Wine and Roses at Burden Center

By Judy Weaver

Burden Center will be transformed on the evening of Wednesday, October 28, 2009, with a special event, *An Evening of Wine and Roses*, sponsored by the Burden Horticulture Society (BHS). The evening begins at 6 p.m. with champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and live music on the lawn of the Orangerie, across from the All-America Rose Selections Garden. The roses in this award winning garden should be in full bloom and the scent of their perfume will waft over the guests as they sip champagne and enjoy the glorious sunset and expansive vistas of the Burden property.

At 7 p.m. the guests will dine in the Ione Burden Conference Center turned dining room on a sumptuous meal donated by Whole Foods and prepared by their team of chefs. Dinner will be served by a volunteer wait staff consisting of senior 4-H students. The tables of the dining room will be graced with beautiful arrangements of roses from the All-America Rose Selections Garden. The fresh roses from the arrangements will be sold at the end of the evening. There will also be other items available for auction. The auction will take place after dessert and proceeds will benefit Burden Center.

Inaugurated in 2003, An Evening of Wine and Roses is the annual fundraiser for Burden Center. In 2008, it generated over ten thousand dollars in proceeds which are being used for upgrades to the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie. The focus for the 2009 event is raising funds to support the implementation of the Burden Center Master Plan, being developed by The

Portico Group. For a description of the Master Plan and a map of the preliminary site plan see the Burden Horticultural Society Newsletter Volume 2 Number 2 dated August 1, 2009.

We hope you will be able to join the festivities and perhaps even introduce a friend to the unique experience in Baton Rouge of An Evening of Wine and Roses. If you do not receive your invitation by early October, please email Penny Miller at psm0203@bellsouth.net. Reservations should be made by October 14.

Join us for an evening of


Wine & Roses
at Burden Center

Wednesday, October 28, 2009
Burden Conference Center · 4560 Essen Lane · Baton Rouge

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner
prepared by Whole Foods

\$100 per person

Digging in the Dirt

By Jeff Kuehny

I feel it in the air...fall is just around the corner. Mother Nature dealt us an unbearably HOT and DRY beginning to the summer, but fortunately she has acquiesced to a more humid, rainy and somewhat pleasant ending (Only if you have lived here for a few years would you be able to say that!). Many of you that grow vegetable gardens have already prepared your soil and planted your fall/winter garden. That we have the opportunity to replant our gardens this time of year is a blessing we often forget. You should start to clean up your color beds, prepare them for the fall/winter planting, and make plant selection plans right now. If we continue to have mild winters as we have had for almost over 5 years now, the fall plant palette continues to increase.

A tremendous amount of breeding has been done over the years with many bedding plants. So much so that I think some day they will run out of names for pansy and petunia. To circumvent this problem, the plant breeders have started naming a series of plants instead of a name for every plant. For example, names of just a few newer series of pansies include 'Matrix', 'XXL', 'Majestic Giant II' and 'Colossus' offering a wide variety of colors and flower sizes. Pansies are one bedding plant that requires a tighter spacing in the landscape bed than most other bedding plants for a striking color display. So plan accordingly when you purchase the plants for your beds.

Another common bedding plant that has flooded back into the landscape is the various Wave series of petunias. These are excellent plants that have taken the bedding plant market by storm. There are varied growth habits to accommodate various landscape designs. Let's start with a small storm of color and finish up with a tsunami that will inundate you landscape beds pizzazz. The Shock Wave series hit the market last year and are the smallest of all the Wave petunias with a smaller flower size. So for those of you who want a sea of color in a small space,

these are your best bet. The Wave petunias are short in height, 8 to 10", but will spill over containers, planters and beds up to 24" in width. Close relatives are the Easy Wave and Tidal Wave. The Easy Wave provide the largest selection of colors with a spread of 24" but slightly taller than the Wave series. The Tidal Wave are the largest of the series and will engulf your landscape bed with a profusion of color reaching 3' x 3' in size! The entrance of Burden Center was planted with Tidal Wave Silver last fall and these plants flooded the drive with a silver/pink color. And if that wasn't enough, Double Wave is now available with a growth habit similar to the Wave series but with frilly, multiple petaled flowers. All of these petunias provide an array of colors and forms for the fall and winter seasons. However, to maximize the potential of most winter annuals, one should consider bed preparation and location.

Most of winter annuals prefer a well-drained and a sunny location. The recommended planting date for most fall/winter bedding plants in South Louisiana is mid October to late November. Most of these bedding plants, including pansy and petunia, grow best in an acid soil with a pH of about 5.5 to 6.0. Petunia and pansy, for example, are considered iron-inefficient. The roots of iron-inefficient plants have a hard time absorbing iron and iron is most available when the soil pH is acidic. Symptoms include interveinal chlorosis (yellowing between the green veins of the leaves) and stunted growth that can lead to increased susceptibility to disease. Other fall/winter bedding plant species that fit in this category are snapdragon, Calibrachoa, Diascia, and Nemesia. Many landscape beds have a pH greater than 6.0 and therefore one may need to consider adding amendments to lower the pH. Most compost has an acidic pH, however, this may not always be true. Before purchasing bulk amounts of compost for your annual color beds, you should ask what the pH of the compost is. If it is 6.5 or greater, look for another source. Composted pine bark or

sphagnum peat will almost always have an acidic pH and are good soil amendments. Besides providing for an acid pH, these amendments also improve the soil texture, porosity, water holding capacity and nutrient availability.

Speaking of nutrients, a good three to four month slow release fertilizer applied at the time of planting should last most of the fall with another application in later winter providing the nutrients your plants need for optimum growth. Fertilizers that contain either ammonium or urea are acid forming fertilizers and can also help decrease the pH of the soil. If your plants do suffer from iron deficiency (interveinal chlorosis) you may also consider adding a source of iron, for example, Ironite®.

For more information and fall/winter bedding plants Dr. Allen Owings at the Hammond Research Station has detailed information and photographs of the bedding plants I talked about in this article and many more. Visit www.hammond.com or you can go visit the All American Display Garden at Burden Center and the trial gardens at the Hammond Station.

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My Search for Old Camellia Cultivars and Their Preservation

By Florence Crowder

I come from a family that loves camellias, but never would I have thought that the attempt to identify the camellias at our family home would lead me to totally focus on the location of camellia 'oldies' and their preservation, but it did.

My parents developed friendships with other 'camellians' as we were growing up, and they enjoyed exchanging plants and scions and planting them at our home in Denham Springs in the late 1940's and early '50's. Through the years, though, the gardens became neglected, and it was following our mother's death that our family decided to 'clean up the place'. Following the cleanup, we began to put names to all the cultivars and found that we knew few of them. I began searching for the correct names, going to gardens, nurseries, scanning books, taking blooms to whomever would look at them and searching the web for possible identification. It was like having children without names!

In searching the camellia nomenclature books, I noticed that 32 entries listed the cultivar description followed by 1908-Guichard. I knew that Guichard had been a nursery in France, but no importer was listed. I was not familiar with most of the names and I wondered where were these plants now? I felt an urgency to locate older, maybe forgotten, cultivars. I asked the Baton Rouge Camellia Society to assist by sending me a list of those in their gardens so we could begin an inventory. I began going to older gardens and plantations to identify and document my findings. I also began to list Louisiana introductions.

I discovered the only Louisiana introduction from my hometown was 'Alice Allen'. I had not heard of this one but I knew of the lady who introduced it. I knew that she was deceased and I was aware the property where she lived was now a subdivision. I mentioned my search to one of the developers who had a picture of the old house on the property. Guess what! In the picture there were obviously two large camellias. When I asked what happened to them, the answer was one that I have gotten a number of times, 'I don't know'. I then thought that perhaps a neighbor or relative would know something of the plant. Alas, I have not found 'Alice Allen'. Such a loss! How



Leslie Moree-Kerin and Wanda Ellis in the sunflower field at Burden.

many others have also become lost?

During all of these searches, I remembered something my dad said to me a number of times many years ago when we had commercial greenhouses. Seed companies would send new introductions, hoping growers would order them the next year. I would always give my dad some for trials and his comment was always, 'I'll try these, but where's the Marglobe, where's the.....?' Florence, these new introductions are fine, but don't forget the OLD ONES. Without them we wouldn't have the new ones. Don't forget them.'

So, on remembering this, I was more determined than ever to locate the OLD ONES. I absolutely HAD to do what I could to locate the 'oldies' and begin a preservation effort. Could my dad have known I would remember his advice and I would transfer that advice from tomatoes to camellias?

I then began to list the pre-1900's cultivars introduced in the United States. How many were there, and where are they now? At the same time I was doing this I was researching Mr. McIlhenny, the late owner of Jungle Gardens and Nursery at Avery Island, and found that he imported camellias from several countries between 1931 and 1937, many introduced internationally before 1900. I found that 50 of the ones I had not located were at one time, or are presently located there. But if they are not identified and I have not seen them, how would I be able to identify them? I am now in the process of locating photographs and botanical drawings of these so that when I visit Avery Island in the spring perhaps I will be able to make identifications.

Tom Johnson, former horticulturist with the American Camellia Society and now with Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina invited me to an organizational meeting of those interested in preserving camellias in the United States. At that meeting in Charleston, the Great Gardens of America Preservation Alliance was formed. The goals of the alliance are to identify, preserve, and defend against destruction and increase populations of older camellia and azalea cultivars. Since that time, The Preservation Alliance members have documented over half of the pre-1900 introductions. But where are the others? We continue the search.

I requested that the Burden Center be allowed to become a member of the Great Gardens of America Preservation Alliance and all consented. Camellia collections at the LSU Burden Center began with Steele Burden at Windrush Gardens. They were expanded with the Stone collection. Looking to the future, they will be increased with cultivars of the past from The Preservation Alliance and others to create at Burden Center one of the largest collections of Camellias in the United States for all to appreciate and enjoy.

Please assist us in preserving our horticultural history. We need help in locating those OLD ONES not yet found. If you have older camellias in your garden, you may have the jewel we looking for. Please contact me at florence.crowder@cox.net to discuss your garden and remember the OLD ONES.

Trees and Trails, a Dynamite Trail System For All to Enjoy!

By Jeff Kuehny

Opening November 7th!

Trees and Trails is approximately five miles of pedestrian, recreational, and educational trails that weave through Burden Woods at Burden Center in the heart of Baton Rouge (see trail map). The backbone of these trails was originally designed by Steele Burden as meandering paths through part of the Burden Woods, a natural resource and wildlife treasure, which are part of the historic 440 acres of Burden Center. These pedestrian trails were enhanced by Jose Barron and Peggy Davis in 2005 to provide a natural location for education and exercise. The Trees and Trails system was then established in part through the financial support of the Louisiana Recreational Trails Fund Program, and the financial and volunteer support of the Junior League, Forum 35, Baton Rouge Green and Burden Center who are represented by the *Trails Advisory Committee*. These organizations spent many hours of volunteer labor to lay-out and construct the nature trails, design and build bridges, to reforest and plant native shrubs and trees, and install signage.

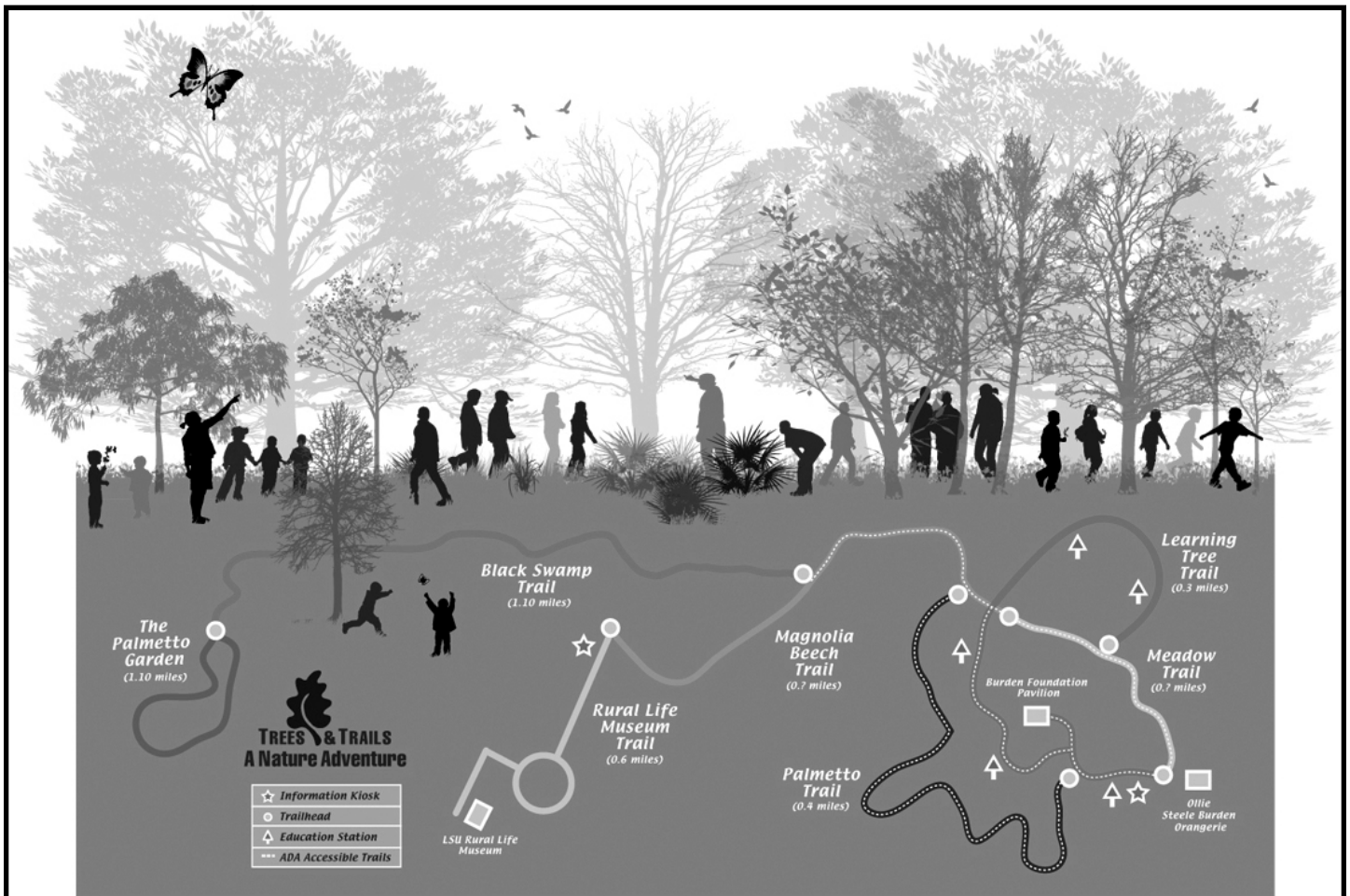
Trees and Trails was scheduled to open in September 2008. Unfortunately, Hurricane Gustav inflicted major damage to the trail system just prior to its opening and the highest concentration of downed trees was in the pedestrian trails. However, we remained undaunted by the effect of this disaster and pledged to continue to support the opening of Trees and Trails.

A second proposal to the Louisiana Recreational Trails Fund Program was funded this summer to help provide the support to implement trail restoration, signage and a reforestation plan to provide an even greater opportunity for all age groups for recreation and education in a natural environment.

November 7, at 10:00 a.m., BHS will sponsor a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Trees and Trails. These trails will support a variety of pedestrian activities including hiking, accessibility for the disabled, and interpretative and educational activities for adventure and discovery. This provides a framework of nature experiences with interpretative rest stop areas, while at the same time accommodating the need of the general public for access to a safe environment designed to promote exercise and fitness. Glen Wilson and Kyle Huffstickler of Burden Center and Hunter Guidry of Baton Rouge Green have been working diligently with the groups represented by the *Trails Advisory Committee* to prepare the trails for this exciting event.

The opening of Trees and Trails is just the beginning, however. January 15, Louisiana's Arbor Day, the Burden Horticulture Society will host a tree planting as part of the reforestation plan of the trails. Mark your calendar for this special

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Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference Coming to Burden Center

By Pat Hegwood

Burden Center and the Baton Rouge Camellia Society joined forces to host the annual Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) conference this year. Camellia lovers from across the



Gulf States gathered in Baton Rouge on October 2nd and 3rd to attend this event at Burden Center. This event marked the inception of the 2009-2010 camellia show circuit comprising of 14 shows beginning in November with the Ft. Walton Beach show and ending in February with the

Atlanta show. The Baton Rouge show will be held on January 30th and 31st at Burden Center. Additionally, the American Camellia Society will meet in Baton Rouge during the same week of January as the Baton Rouge Camellia Society show.

Local camellia expert, Art Landry, initiated this year's GCCS program with a camellia judging school on Friday morning and followed by the Friday Evening Affair at the Rural Life Museum. The Friday Evening Affair consisted of a taste of fine Cajun foods which included 5 gallons of homemade ice-cream. Following the meal was a live auction of specimen camellia plants and other items. On Saturday morning, GCCS business convened for a meeting which led into educational talks at the Ione E. Burden Conference Center. During the

afternoon, several tour options were arranged for conference attendees. The President's Banquet was held at the Burden Center conference facility Saturday evening. Federal Judge and ACS President, Roger Vincent, and ACS Operations Manager, Celeste Richard, were presented as banquet speakers.

This year's main fund raising item was the camellia quilt. A lucky raffle ticket holder at the banquet won the camellia quilt on Saturday night. The quilt was made and donated through the generosity and talents of Warren and Gertrude Thomasson, Sandra Guilbeau and Mynan Guidry, the co-owners of Quilt Corner, LLC. This quilt measured 96" x 96" containing 49 square images (8"x8") of camellia blooms. These images were from Vi Stone's personal collection of camellia pictures.



Community members enjoying Camellia blooms at the Camellia Show.

...Trees and Trails...continued

event and come join us in planting trees along the trail system. You will also be able to purchase trees for planting in your own yard. But wait, that's not all!

Trees and Trails was also built with the intent to increase opportunities for youth in recreation programming and planning for teachers and school children, and other youth organizations (i.e. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H) in the natural world. Plans include the building of an outdoor classroom which will be implemented to bring students in touch with the natural world, the importance of maintaining ecosystems in an urban environment and the cultural heritage of our region. An interactive website (<http://treesandtrails.com>) was designed to support the educational aspects of the Trees and Trails project using many useful teacher tools including downloadable pre-tests and post-tests. Once the development of this program is completed, teachers in the East Baton Rouge Parish School District (grades K-5) participating in a Trees and Trails field trip will receive six contact hours to be applied towards their staff development requirements in the public school system. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry has worked closely with

many of the project partners to develop learning opportunities along the trails that will use award-winning Project Learning Tree activities (correlated to state benchmarks). If you are interested in joining us and becoming involved in any of the numerous Trees and Trails activities, please contact Penny Miller at psm0203@bellsouth.net.



Learning at Trees and Trails
(Photo from <http://treesandtrails.com>)

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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!**

Nov 2nd — Birds, Bees, Shrubs and Trees

Bob Mirabello

Dec 7th — Holiday Decorating from Garden to Home

TBA