

## Reflections

## **Visions**

Vol. 12, No.2, Summer 2019

# There Is a Place for You at the Botanic Gardens

What brings you to the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden?

Are you a kiddo? If so, you're a fortunate child with parents introducing you to the great outdoors. Did you come to play in the Pollinator Garden or under the oaks? Did you walk the trail while they read to you from the StoryWalk? We hope to see you every month at StoryTime.

Are you a young student? If so, you're getting a great

education with your teachers taking your class on a Trees & Trails field trip. Are you so excited about habitats and ecosystems and learning how trees grow that you told your parents to bring you back to hike all the trails? We hope to see you exploring more of the Burden Woods.

Are you a teenager or a tech-minded explorer? If so, you've found a great program combining technology and nature thanks to the new geocaching adventure designed by intern Kaylee Boswell. STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) isn't confined to classrooms. It includes nature, exercise and plenty of sunshine when applied with fun at the Botanic Gardens. We hope to see you and your friends searching in and around the gardens.

Are you a Girl Scout? If so, you have wonderful leaders who planned a packed day that included a hayride, exploring the trails and lunch in the pavilion with 50 other Scouts on a beautiful spring Saturday. We hope you have found the place to earn more badges and put your scouting skills to work right in the middle of Baton Rouge.



John Monroe leading a tour of historic Windrush Gardens.

Are you an exceptional Renewable Natural Resources college student? If so, you spent a week camped out near the Barton Arboretum participating in the Southern Forestry Conclave regional competition. Hundreds of students from universities across the South birled in the ponds, pole climbed, calculated timber and chopped wood in our urban forest. We hope you'll return and put your education to work in our community.

Are you a lifelong learner who is a member of LSU's Ochsner Lifelong Learning Institute program? If so, you had a special guided tour of historic Windrush Gardens during its peak this spring. We hope you discovered the beauty of Steele Burden's landscape design around his family home. Please return to see it as each season unfolds.

Whatever your age, wherever your special interests lie, there is a spot for you at the Botanic Gardens. ■



## Reflections From the Chair

Mary Tauzin

What an honor it is to have been asked to serve as chair of the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. For decades this property has been a haven for my children as they've grown up on the trails and in the gardens. As my kids are off having their own babies, this property has evolved and expanded to be my place of respite and a gathering place of friends united in our efforts to enjoy and support this urban oasis.

Please join me in thanking Lorice Say for her accomplishments as our 2018-19 chair. Lorice brought

attention to detail and thorough research to the business of the board. In collaboration with Mary Tharp, Lorice revised our organizational bylaws to better meet the needs of our current operations.

I hope you had an opportunity to come out to the Botanic Gardens this spring. Besides the gorgeous flowering plants themselves, there have been activities for all age groups. We had our first Children's Garden Festival, a morning of animals, art and plantings; the opening of our new StoryWalk, a self-guided storybook tour on a shady trail; and the addition of a plant-themed playground area for babies through teens that seems to be continuously expanding. The trails and the playground are open free-of-charge year-round. It's a great way to spend some time with your children or grandchildren during those long summer days — outside, yet out of the sun.

May was a time when we honored our volunteers as a part of our celebration of National Public Gardens Week. Volunteers are a substantial workforce for the gardens. The benevolence of one family, the Burdens, is compounded daily by the benevolence of over 300 volunteers who routinely play a role in maintaining this treasure. A luncheon was held under the trees in Windrush Gardens on a beautiful sunny day. Special recognition was made of two exceptional volunteers, Barbara Quirk and Mike Ruth, for their longtime service.

If you missed any of these events, look out for them next year. Join in the fun! Come volunteer or be a guest! Tell your friends and neighbors! We've got a good thing going here, and we want you to enjoy it, too!

Look what's coming up:

We've got several exciting events on the horizon. For the little ones, we've got another fun-filled Corn Maze every Saturday in October. This year we're offering free admission for members of Friends of the Gardens (family level and up) for up to four people! On the last Saturday, October 26, Night Maze offers a huge bonfire, s'mores, live music and glow-in-the-dark games for children, teens and adults.

For those interested in art, we are offering a Byzantine Icon Workshop on St. Michael the Archangel July 22-26. Contact Kitty Hessburg Wiemer at 225-284-7440 or Diana Wells at 225-927-8646 to register.

Finally, Friends members receive a discount on tickets to enjoy an elegant evening under the stars at Wine and Roses on October 16. Call 225-763-3990 ext. 6, for reservations. Visit our website at www.BurdenGardens.com for more information.

If you would like to only receive this newsletter electronically, please email

friends@burdengardens.com.

#### Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden

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The newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, which is part of Burden Museum & Gardens.

#### DiscoverBurden.com

4560 Essen Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70809

#### Volunteer Appreciation Day

This year's annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch coincided with National Public Gardens Week. How appropriate! Public gardens like ours depend on the support of the many, many volunteers who make the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden thrive.

In gratitude for the time and talent generously donated by volunteers, Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden hosted a luncheon under the oaks of Windrush Gardens. The event was chaired by volunteer board member Leigh Harris with assistance from Janie Braud, another volunteer board member, and Mary Johnson. Over 80 other volunteers attended.

The weather was picnic perfect! The words from guest speaker Janet Pace were truly inspirational! Special honorees Barbara Quirk and Mike Ruth are indeed exemplary volunteer leaders!

National Public Gardens Week programming illustrated the many aspects of the gardens, including the specialty gardens, children's gardens, farming operations and woodland trails. Volunteers serve in all these areas and help introduce the public to the natural wonders of the Botanic Gardens.

Thank you! ■



Family Day at National Public Gardens Week.



Janet Pace, guest speaker and Leigh Harris, volunteer appreciation lunch chair at Volunteer Day at National Public Gardens Week.



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Windrush Gardens.



Farm Day at National Public Gardens Week.

# Thank You, Lorice Say, for Your Service to the Board

Dr. Jeff Kuehny Resident Director, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden



Lorice Say

The Friends of the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden has been blessed with leaders who provide guidance to the board at just the appropriate time. Lorice Say, the outgoing chair, is very thoughtful in her approach and trusts in her experience from leading other nonprofits. She has used this experience to

help guide transitions and technical changes for a maturing board in much the same way as she led the Wine and Roses committee for the past two years.

Lorice provided critical guidance for the transition of treasurer from Martha Rome, who was invaluable in bringing the Friends' finances to a new level, to Leo Broders, who has overseen the finances of the East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association and will be a great asset as the new treasurer.

The Friends Advisory Committee, which represented past members of the board, has continued to be a strong source of support for many of the board's endeavors. However, there was never a defined charge for this committee, and Lorice saw an opportunity to better use the wealth of knowledge and skills among the Advisory Committee that we may have not been sufficiently tapping. After a wonderful luncheon celebrating the Advisory Committee, we asked each member if they would like to serve as an adviser to the board and in what area would be most meaningful for them and useful for accomplishing the Friends' mission. We now have a wonderful group of advisers, and we greatly treasure their support.

Using her expertise in working with other nonprofits, Lorice observed the need to update the bylaws of the Friends group. With the help of another very knowledgeable board member, Mary Tharp, amendments were made to the bylaws and adopted at the last board meeting.

It has been a pleasure to work with Lorice this last year, and I have highly valued her ability to work with the board members to make positive changes that help continue the great work the Friends do for the Botanic Gardens.

#### Jenny Jackson, Development Coordinator

We would like to introduce Jenny Jackson, one of the newest members of our staff at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. Jenny is a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge and a graduate of Episcopal High School and Louisiana State University. She and her husband, Todd, are the proud parents of 17-year-old Liza, a senior at Saint Joseph's Academy, and 12-year-old Charlie, a seventh grader at Episcopal.

Before Jenny made her home in Baton Rouge, she spent three years in Houston teaching at Barbara Bush Elementary. We are fortunate that Jenny decided to move back to Baton Rouge to teach at Episcopal until the birth of her first child. While enjoying life at home with her new family, Jenny became more involved with volunteer work and the Junior League of Baton Rouge. She served as committee chair for decorations and later served as events chair for Hollydays. She excelled in this volunteer work and found herself drawn to fundraising and event planning when she decided to return to work.

Jenny previously worked as events coordinator for the Baton Rouge General Foundation, annual fund director at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center Foundation, and alumni relations director at Episcopal High School. Jenny's wealth of experience and understanding of the Baton Rouge Community made her a perfect fit as the development coordinator here at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden. Please help us welcome Jenny by saying hello when you are out at the Botanic Gardens. ■



Jenny Jackson

#### Trees & Trails and More

Sarah Rayner Education Coordinator

The drive into the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden is always such a feel-good experience for me. Leaving the rush of traffic on Essen Lane, I feel the calm and tranquility that carries me onward! This has been a wonderful spring for our Trees & Trails field trip program, with 695 students participating in our field trips. Trees & Trails is a docent-led educational field trip where students learn environmental content that correlates with national and state educational standards. The programs strengthen students' critical thinking, team-building and problem-solving skills.

The heartbeat of the Trees & Trails program is our docents, who love nature and want to share that joy with children, serving as instructors, navigators and cart drivers. So many thanks to our Trees & Trails docents for spring 2019: Brenda Baumgardner, Ken Bosso, Bridget Brister, Janie Braud, Leo Broders, Kitty Bull, Kathy Conerly, Kerry Hawkins, John Hough, Sheldon Johnson, Missy Jones, Nancy Jurasinski, Vicki LaPlace, Renee Major, Kathleen Meares, Elizabeth Roberts, Art Scarborough, Margo Spielman, Jenny Sutcliffe, Mary Tharp, Diana Wells, Gaynelle Wolff and Barbara Williams.

On August 20, there will be a fall orientation meeting for Trees & Trails in the Conference Center at 9 a.m. If you would like to attend the orientation and volunteer as a docent, please contact me at srayner@agcenter.lsu.edu or by calling 225-763-3990, ext. 3.

We have had a great spring semester with our Learning by Leading internship program at the Botanic Gardens! Each intern was mentored by a staff person who guided the intern to take on greater leadership roles. The intern planned and develop a "signature project," an independent project that aligns with larger initiatives and priorities at the Botanic Gardens.

Our first intern was Erin Blanchard, who began working with Dr. Becky White in August 2018 developing StoryTime and StoryWalk programs and events. Her signature project was planning and participating in the grand opening activities of StoryWalk at the Botanic Gardens on May 18. Interns Kaylee Boswell and Hadley Guidry came onboard in January of this year. Hadley worked with Katie Guitreau on social media, and her signature project was organizing the events for National Public Gardens Week May 13-17. I mentored Kaylee Boswell as she developed an educational geocaching adventure at the Botanic Gardens. Look for more on that in this issue.

This summer we have four interns participating in the EXPLORE Internship Program (Experiential Professional Leadership Opportunities in Research and Extension). The EXPLORE project is a 10-week paid program that engages undergraduates in agriculture-related issues in research,

extension and teaching, with mentorship from faculty and staff from the LSU College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. Goals for the program are to develop undergraduates' knowledge and skills in the field and to encourage interns to further their studies, which lead to a career in agricultural sciences.

Come out to the Botanic Gardens and surround yourself with nature! Grab your dog during the "dog days of summer" and hit the trails. Our trails are shaded, peaceful and beautiful! We have wonderful interpretive signage along the trails to learn about the trees as you find serenity in nature. Download the geocaching app from geocaching.com and find the caches along the trails! Nature is beautiful and nurtures the soul!

Happy summer! ■

#### Paint Your Pet



Dean and dad, Nick Cicero, painted their dog Jett at Paint Your Pet.



# Geocaching at the Botanic Gardens

Kaylee Boswell Student Intern

Geocaching is an international scavenger hunt that brings nature to the forefront of the adventure, and now it's at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden! As a Learning by Leading intern, I worked with Sarah Rayner, education coordinator at the Botanic Gardens, to create a fun educational adventure with content that builds upon the strengths and lessons of current national standards in science education. The geocaching adventure combines enjoying time in nature and learning with technology!

To get started, download the Geocaching mobile app. Then come visit us at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens! Geocaching uses GPS coordinates that can be tracked through the app. The coordinates lead the user to hidden caches in the trails and gardens. As you approach a cache, you may need to use provided clues to find it. Caches may be hidden in the grass below and the trees above.

My geocaching internship experience began with research into geocaching and the community culture of geocachers. A "cache" is a container that is hidden creatively and can hold trinkets and prizes. It will always have a log sheet so you can document that you found it. Historically, caching was done with GPS coordinate trackers. Today, all the tools needed to find caches are conveniently included in the Geocaching official app. With the app, you can see your real-time distance from caches, keep an active log of caches you've found, message other geocachers and win awards for high scores.

Geocaching is an international community, and you can find a geocache hidden almost anywhere you go. In Baton Rouge alone there are hundreds of hidden caches all over the city waiting to be found. Before hiding caches of our own, we went into the community to find existing caches, which is recommended for better understanding the process. Caches are hidden in so many diverse places. Sarah and I found them hidden in light poles in parking lots, tucked into gutters, hanging from trees, and disguised as rocks and other commonplace items.

After finding caches and logging them on the Geocaching app, I began researching locations within the Botanic Gardens that would work well for caches to be hidden. There are rules governing how and where caches can be hidden. For example, caches cannot be within 528 feet of another cache. They also cannot be hidden on private property without permission and cannot be hidden anywhere that might endanger geocachers. Thankfully, the Trees & Trails trail system at the Botanic Gardens is perfect for providing safe and interesting hiding spots for caches.

After determining appropriate places for the caches, the next steps were the logistics. I had to do research into the best type of container for each cache and how the containers would be hidden and secured. Many cache containers required fishing wire so they could be discreetly hung from trees and posts. The last step was to place the orders for the containers and logbooks to be able to place the caches on the property.

Now that the caches have been placed, it has been so gratifying to see the work completed and the community coming out to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the fun of the geocaching experience! Going forward, the caches sites must be monitored and maintained. Finally, we must be responsive to posts made to our Geocaching account online.



Kaylee Boswell hunting and hiding.



## Belle Jardin: A Quick Guide to Bringing the French Garden Home

Lee Rouse, Extension Agent

Like many of you adventurers out there, every time I travel, I absorb the sights, sounds and smells of a new location, breathing them in and soaking up the individuality of each atmosphere. Why can't we take a piece of each new place home with us? Can we preserve its memory and hold it as our own little secret, visiting it any time we wish? Perhaps not, but gathering those bits from each of our experiences with travel can make us more well-rounded individuals, which should be reflected in our homes and gardens.

When I consider the idea of merging gardening with travel, I immediately think of Paris. With its expansive gardens and lush rows of trees stretching down every boulevard, who could not? Recreating this concept in your own lawn could take on several different approaches: You could be imagining structured beds of wildflowers surrounded by crushed granite walkways like the Garden de Tuileries or the more formal layout of the sycamores in Luxembourg. Maybe you even visualize the farmhouse vegetable gardens of the outlying countryside.

The Parisian garden is the combination of formal and relaxed design. Although this seems oxymoronic, it's not as impossible as it appears. Wooden borders, stones or brick laid out in long rectangular stretches clearly define gardening

space. If the rectangular sections culminate with a central circular design, such as a fountain or sugar kettle pond, even better! The contradiction of shape allows one to meander with purpose and land on a spot to quietly reflect. Small hedges of lavender or rosemary planted in straight lines along the defined beds are permanent staples emitting a seductive French aroma. The interior space may be filled with taller wildflowers for a happy little reverie or plants that demand to be devoured, such as red mustard greens or a trellis of peas. Outside the hedge, decorative edibles, like kale or lettuce, or annual colors grab the attention of a passersby. Flagstone, crushed granite or other stone materials can create pathways or a seating area accentuated by a stylish bistro set from which to admire the landscape. Even in a quaint backyard, hints of statuary among the foliage add a thoughtful appeal to the Francophile in us all. Further from the house, trees are planted equidistant from one another in straight rows, and benches rest between, paying homage to the sprawling Parisian parks.

You can now sit back and enjoy the casual luxury of a good wine while you bask in beauty and nostalgia, café style, on your own back porch. C'est si bon! ■



Junior League of Baton Rouge president Zelma Frederick and sons Jacob and Nathan cut the ribbon at the grand opening of StoryWalk along with Drs. Becky White, Jeff Kuehny and Wade Baumgartner.



Dr. White reading "Please, Please the Bees" along the StoryWalk trail.

#### StoryWalk Has Arrived

On a shady, meandering trail at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden, there are now 21 storyboards that feature pages from a children's book that families can read while walking the woodland path.

"It combines family activities with early literacy while enjoying nature and the outdoors," said Becky White, who retired from the LSU AgCenter as a family development specialist and is an amazing volunteer who brought StoryTime to the Botanic Gardens. Now Dr. White has brought us StoryWalk with the support of the Junior League of Baton Rouge.

The grand opening was held May 18 with close to 150 visitors at the ribbon cutting. The first story to be posted is "Please, Please the Bees" by Gerald Kelley. About every three months a new book will be installed on the one-third of a mile trail that was unused because of devastation by Hurricane Gustav in 2008 and was replanted at Arbor Day 2010.

There is always something new and interesting happening at Burden as educational programming continues to grow for both children and adults. Come be a part of learning about — and in — nature, either as a volunteer or a student. And don't forget that we have two tiny free libraries in the Botanic Gardens.

# A First for Burden and a First for LSU

LSU hosted the Southern Forestry Conclave for the first time in the 62-year history of the event, and Burden Museum & Gardens was chosen as the site for the meeting and competitions. The most tranquil piece of property in Baton Rouge was abuzz with activity for a week this spring when more than 250 students from 14 universities competed near the Barton Arboretum, in the Burden Woods and in the ponds at Windrush Gardens. The circus had not come to town, nor was there a scout jamboree in full swing. Instead, all the colorful tents were evidence that the area was occupied by lumberjacks.

According to an LSU AgCenter press release, the conclave is part brain and part brawn and includes more than 20 technical and physical forestry competitions that challenge students with identifying wildlife, estimating timber, climbing poles, chopping logs, throwing axes and log birling — running on a log in water while trying not to fall. Stephen F. Austin State University placed first overall, the University of Arkansas at Monticello was second and Clemson University came in third.



Students compete in log birling event on the ponds at Windrush Gardens.

The LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden has been fortunate to have the support of Niels de Hoop from the LSU College of Agriculture, an associate professor of forestry. Not only did he help bring this unique event to Burden, he also has brought some of his LSU student competitors to demonstrate a few of the dramatic deeds that are a part of a full-blown conclave just for Arbor Day at the Burden Woods.

## Membership Benefits Update

Family memberships have a new special benefit. This fall anyone with a Family Membership to Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden will be eligible for four free admissions to any and all Corn Maze Saturdays. Family Memberships are \$70 per year. Just one fun-filled day at the maze with kids or grandkids in tow makes this membership level extra appealing.

Patron members are eligible for three Louisiana Super Plants. This benefit for those members donating \$300 was launched in May. These super supporters are given their choice of a beautiful coleus, angelonia or salvia as a token of appreciation.

Associate memberships are available for \$30 for members of the organizations that make the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens their home — the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, the Herb Society of America, the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners and the Baton Rouge Orchid Society. As the nonprofit supporting the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in volunteerism, educational programming and fundraising, the Friends organization appreciates all the folks who share a love of the gardens.

Individual memberships offer free admission to the monthly lunch-and-learn program, Reflections in the Garden. Non-members pay \$10 for each of these informative lectures, so this benefit carries a \$120 value to lifelong learners.

All members from students to sustainers are encouraged to take advantage of the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program. This benefit offers discounts to more than 300 other member gardens around the United States. Be sure to check out which other gardens are participants by visiting www.ahsgardening.org.







An LSU AgCenter Food Incubator business sets up shop at Garden Fest.



Chefs taking a moment for party pics at Gourmet in the Gardens.



Miniature donkey from Bayou Goula Farm at Garden Fest.



The Lorandos at Gourmet in the Gardens.



Tomatoes for tasting at Garden Fest.



Hayrides bring visitors to the fields during Garden Fest.



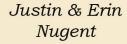
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July 2019			
July 1	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Gardening for Butterflies and Other Pollinators and Making a Difference As a Citizen Scientist," Ken Bosso, master naturalist, and Sarah Rayner, youth education coordinator, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden.
July 13 July 14	9 a.m5 p.m.; 10 a.m4 p.m.	Orchid Society Show	Annual show and sale, orchid exhibition, growing advice and vendors. Free admission.
July 17	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
July 22-26	9 a.m4:30 p.m.	Byzantine Icon Workshop	Create an icon using gold leaf and paint. Five-day retreat with lunch included. \$350. Limited enrollment of 20.
July 25	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting. "Journey Through a Magical Garden: Kitty Bull's Wonderful Garden."
August 2019			
Aug. 5	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Gingers: Foliage, Fragrance and Flowers" Tim Chapman, owner of Gingerwood Nursery.
Aug. 6	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association	Monthly meeting.
Aug. 21	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
Aug. 22	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting. Learn new herb crafts.
September 2019			
Sept. 3	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association	Monthly meeting.
Sept. 9	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Meditation and Wellness Gardens," Wanda Chase, landscape architect, Imahara's.
Sept. 18	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
Sept. 26	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting. "Native Plants in the Herb Garden," Ashley Tracy
October 2019			
Oct. 1	6 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association	Monthly meeting.
Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26	10 a.m5 p.m.	Corn Maze Saturdays	Farm animals, pumpkin and face painting, corn box, zip line, hay maze, giant slingshots, hay mountain and hayride. \$10. Free for children 3 and under.
Oct. 5	10 a.m1 p.m., every 30 minutes	Storytime in the Garden	Storybook reading and imagination-themed activities at the Corn Maze. Ages 3 - 8. Free
Oct. 7	Noon-1 p.m.	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens	Reflections in the Garden — "Creative Cooking Demonstrations," Louisiana Culinary Institute instructors and students.
Oct. 9	7 p.m.	Baton Rouge Orchid Society	Monthly meeting.
Oct. 16	6-9 p.m.	Wine and Roses	Friends of LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens at Burden annual formal dinner with cocktails in the Rose Garden. \$125 members, \$150 nonmembers.
Oct. 24	6:30 p.m.	Herb Society of America, Baton Rouge Unit	Monthly meeting. "Myths and Mysteries of Herbs," Mary Williams.
Oct. 26	6-9 p.m.	Night Corn Maze	Farm animals, hay and corn mazes, corn box and hay mountain. Evening bonfire with s'mores and music. \$10. Free for children 3 and under.