
THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2004

About the Lowrey Arboretum

The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum is a teaching and research resource of Rice University. An outdoor classroom consisting of native and introduced species of plants spanning the Rice campus, it serves educational programs in biology, engineering, architecture, literature and interdisciplinary studies on the environment. The arboretum honors the distinguished horticulturist whose life and work were devoted to spreading knowledge and appreciation of the trees and plants of the Gulf Coast of the United States and northern Mexico.



Wildflowers



On October 22, Rice planted wildflowers with Arboretum Committee member Charles Tapley in the field by the observatory. Students planted evening primrose, winecup and several other flowers.

For photos of the planting, visit our website at <http://arboretum.rice.edu/visitor.cfm> and click "Description of the Harris Gully Natural Area."



Botany Garden

Construction has been completed on the botany garden located between Keith-Wiess Geological Laboratories and Anderson Biological Laboratories. The garden contains plants that are useful in teaching students about plant classification. Supported by funding from the District IV, Texas Chapter, National Garden Clubs, the garden will serve as a living laboratory for Rice students. Check <http://arboretum.rice.edu> for updates on the garden.

Lynn Lowrey: A Legacy of Botanizing in Texas and Mexico

On November 13, the Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation and the Lowrey Arboretum co-hosted a symposium on the life and work of Lynn Lowrey. Mike Shoup, Mary Anne Pickens, Scooter Cheatham, Carl Schoenfeld and Dr. David Creech spoke on the effects of Lynn's work on the understanding of Texan and Mexican nature.



Whack the Hedges

The wax-leaf ligustrums planted around the perimeter of Rice are getting old and spindly. Consequently, in the spirit of openness to the community ushered in by President Leebron, a plan is afoot to symbolize our new outward focus by whacking portions of our outer wall of hedges. The Arboretum Committee, in collaboration with the Facilities and Engineering Department, is proposing to experiment with replacing specific segments of the ligustrums with more open (and more diverse) plantings of mostly native shrubs. We will kick off the project with a day for students and staff to begin the removal process—i.e., to "Whack the Hedges". Watch <http://arboretum.rice.edu> to see if this 'whacky' idea makes the cut.



Arboretum Planning Committee

The Arboretum Planning Committee meets the first Friday of each month to make recommendations for plantings, activities and events connected with the Arboretum. Recently the committee identified projects that may be implemented within the next year including the development of a grove of mixed tree species, both native and introduced, that will be considered for approval by the Board of Trustees.

Liddell Garden

The Lowrey Arboretum, in cooperation with the Grounds Department, is constructing a garden honoring the life of Alice Staub Liddell. The garden will be constructed on the south side of O'Connor House (formerly the president's house) in coordination with the house's renovations. Alice's late father-in-law, renowned architect John Staub designed O'Connor House. Alice graduated from Rice Institute in 1949, after which, she became an avid gardener and president of the Garden Club of Houston. She was well known both for her own garden and for gardens she designed for others. Her husband Frank Liddell and family friends have generously supported the installation of this garden, which is scheduled for completion in 2005.



Garden Tours

Tours of the Lowrey Arboretum are now available on a limited basis to Friends of the Arboretum. If you would like to schedule a tour, please contact Kimere Kimball at 713-348-5736 or email arboretum@rice.edu. Tours will be led by Sandi Elsik, a research associate in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department. Before coming to Rice, Sandi catalogued plants at Arnold Arboretum, the most famous arboretum in North America.

Anderson Donation

Mike and Patsy Anderson of Anderson Landscape & Nursery, Inc. donated 15 trees to the Lowrey Arboretum. Arboretum Committee members Eleni Barzouka, Ron Smith and Dr. Paul Harcombe worked together to determine locations for the trees that would both meet educational objectives and enhance the existing landscape plan of the campus. The trees will be scattered across campus in the following locations:

Harris Gully Natural Area:

- Narrow-Leaf Soapberry (*Sapindus drumondii*)

Anderson Biological Laboratories:

- Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

George R. Brown Hall

- Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Rice Memorial Center

- Anagua (*Ehretia anagua*)

Martel College

- Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

O'Connor House

- Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum c. serrulata*)

Continuing Studies/ Media Center

- Persian Parrotia (*Parrotia persica*)
- Wright Acacia (*Acacia wrightii*)
- Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia semargiacta*)

Friends of the Lowrey Arboretum (GM20)

The arboretum was created as a result of a fundraising effort spearheaded by architect and landscape architect Charles Tapley (Class of 1960) and Lowrey family members Patsy and Mike Anderson. To date, almost \$500,000 has been raised for the arboretum. If you would like to help support the Arboretum, please consider becoming a Friend of the Lowrey Arboretum. Your support will help us care for the arboretum species, document their growth, and increase the size of the arboretum collection.

Yes, I would like to support the Lowrey Arboretum with a gift of \$_____.

Yes, I would like to support the Lowrey Arboretum with a pledge of \$_____ to be paid within five years (minimum \$250).

(Please print)

Name

Street address

City, state ZIP

Mail completed form to:

Office of Development

P.O. Box 200175

Houston, TX 77216-0175

Payment is by: ___ Check (*payable to Rice University*)

Credit card: ___ VISA ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

Amount to be charged: \$_____ (minimum \$10)

Name (as it appears on credit card)

Account number

Expiration date

Billing address (if different from address on left)

Signature