
THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005

About the Lowrey Arboretum

The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum is a teaching and research resource of Rice University. An outdoor classroom spanning the Rice campus, it serves programs from biology to engineering to architecture to literature to interdisciplinary studies on the environment. Dedicated on March 18, 1999, the arboretum honors the distinguished horticulturist whose life and work were devoted to spreading knowledge and appreciation for the trees and plants of the Gulf Coast of the United States and northern Mexico.

The Lowrey Arboretum Collection is a set of woody plants that represents native and introduced species suitable to the soils and climate of the Houston area. At present, the arboretum collection numbers 84 specimens, representing 76 species catalogued on the Rice grounds. Across campus, some 4,605 trees and shrubs have been recorded from 128 distinct species.



Arboretum Project Update: Whack the Hedges

The Lowrey Arboretum sponsored a project this spring called "Whack the Hedges" to involve Rice students, faculty, and staff in pruning back the old *Ligustrum* hedges that surround campus. The hope was that this project would rejuvenate the aging plants, but more work is needed on Rice's border. The Arboretum is turning its attentions towards finding new variety of plants for that space and creating a softer, more varied edge to campus.



Wildflower Planting in October

Arboretum co-founder, Charles Tapley, spearheaded the on-campus wildflower planting for another year. Several areas were targeted this fall, including a swath of ground near Wiess College and the Harris Gully Natural Area that has been the site of wildflower planting in the past. This year the planting was expanded to include the grassy hill near Rice's baseball stadium, Reckling Park. The planting took place across two weekends in October, and brought out students, faculty, and staff, including President Leebron's wife, Y. Ping Sun, to help beautify the Rice campus.



Progress on the Tree Map

Former Arboretum Coordinator, Kimere Kimball, and sophomore student, Niki vonHedemann, worked together over the summer to expand and improve the arboretum tree map. The tree map can be accessed online through the arboretum website (www.arboretum.rice.edu) and shows the location and species of each woody plant on campus. Kimball and vonHedemann photographed and measured each plant designated as a part of the arboretum's collection. They also collected information about where the plants came from, who they were donated by, and when they were planted on campus. This data is being gathered to create a more complete database for the arboretum, which will be used as a tool for education and research in the future.



Arboretum Project Highlight: Liddell Garden Dedication

The Alice York Staub Liddell Garden was dedicated on October 21st at a mid-morning ceremony. The dedication featured a history of the Liddell Garden space, delivered by Dr. Paul Harcombe and a tribute to Alice York Staub Liddell, given by Lowrey Arboretum co-founder, Mike Anderson. To conclude, Barbara White Bryson presented plans for the ongoing development of the memorial garden. The space will soon feature a birdbath designed by a student from the Rice School of Architecture, and a variety of new plants will be introduced in the future. In attendance at the dedication were many family members and friends of Alice and Frank Liddell, as well as benefactors of the garden and Lowrey Arboretum, including members of the Garden Club of Houston.



Lowrey Arboretum benefactor, Frank A. Liddell Jr. and guests at the dedication of the Alice York Staub Liddell Garden.

Wiess College Grove

The planting of the Wiess College Tree Grove got underway on November 1st. Work began with a collaborative effort between students at Wiess College and arboretum committee members Mike Anderson, Paul Harcombe, and Charles Tapley. With guidance from the committee members, the student volunteers helped mark the tree beds and lay out plastic to suppress the existing grass. Approximately 40 trees will eventually fill the grassy triangle between Wiess College and the Harris Gully Natural Area near the south corner of campus.



Noteworthy 2005 Accessions (Gifts of Patsy and Mike Anderson)

- Acacia (*Acacia wrightii*)
- Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia semargiacta*)
- Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
- Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum c. serrulata*)
- Narrow-Leaf Soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*)
- Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*)

The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum would like to congratulate arboretum co-founder, Charles Tapley, who received an award this fall from the Native Plant Society of Texas in recognition of his ongoing work with the Lowrey Arboretum.

Friends of the Lowrey Arboretum (GM20)

The arboretum was created as a result of a fundraising effort spearheaded by Charles Tapley (Class of 1960), architect and landscape architect, and Patsy and Mike Anderson, Lowrey family members. To date, more than \$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