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# THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

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## NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

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### H-GAC awards the Liddell Garden

On February 19th, 2008, the Alice Staub Liddell Garden was recognized by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) as one of the “best of the best” 2007 Parks and Natural Areas. The objective of the H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Program is to facilitate information exchange and planning efforts between various stakeholders and collaborators to protect and preserve parks and natural areas across the region. The Liddell Garden was noted by the H-GAC for its excellence and grace in an urban setting, the most unique constructed water feature for wildlife, and the seamless incorporation of a new park into an existing master plan.



*The Liddell Garden*

features a welcome gate, a walkway and four benches surrounded by leatherleaf and lace ferns, dwarf ophiopogon, bigleaf golden-ray (*Ligularia dentata*), feather palms, and large camellias and English ivy in Grecian olive jars.

More information about the 2007 Parks and Natural Areas “Best of the Best” award winners is available at

[www.h-gac.com/community/livable/parks/documents/winners\\_2007.pdf](http://www.h-gac.com/community/livable/parks/documents/winners_2007.pdf)



*L-to-R: Jeff Taebel, H-GAC; Hon. BJ Gaines, Jr., H-GAC; Richard Johnson, Rice University; and Linda Shead, H-GAC.*

The Liddell Garden was designed by SWA, the Lynn Lowrey Arboretum Committee and the Grounds Department to embellish an area of the campus’ grounds that had previously lacked definition, and was completed in the fall of 2005.

This combined effort of Rice University, its students and outside supporters, provides the community a 2,500 square foot escape to enjoy and learn about nature. The centerpiece is a birdbath designed by Sarah Simpson (Arch ’07), winner of an Arboretum-sponsored student design contest. The garden also



### After Ike

Hurricane Ike struck the Rice campus on the night of September 12th. Fifty six trees were blown over, almost 75% of all trees sustained limb damage, and 20-25% of the total campus tree canopy was lost. The damage covered the entire campus and affected a large variety of tree species. Some were blown over because they were large with a greater sail area, like the two big pine trees at Entrance One. Others, like pear and crape myrtles, suffered damage because their limbs were weaker.



*Trees blown over  
(Photo: R. Saevasteeui)*

A number of the blown-over trees had to be removed. Twenty five were significant trees (>12 inches in diameter). Most of them will be replaced.

For more information, please visit our website – [arboretum.rice.edu](http://arboretum.rice.edu)

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Almost a hundred people in total, from the Grounds Department and four outside contractors, started cleaning and repairing the damage as early as Sunday morning. Most of the debris has been disposed on the west side of the stadium, where a contractor will transport all the materials to a recycling yard to chip and transform it

into mulch. Smaller debris, such as leaves and small branches, has already been chipped and left in the lawns as fertilizer.



Now that the ground level cleaning is over, the next step is to clean above ground, cutting shredded limbs and repairing canopy damage. To aid in the recovery and replanting of the grounds of the Rice campus, you can make a donation to the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum (see form in this newsletter).



### The local corner : *Sabal mexicana*

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 The Sabal palm (*Sabal mexicana*; Texas palm or Mexican palm), is the only tree-sized palm native to Texas. This giant palm can grow up to 50 feet tall or more, and its large bright green, fan-shaped leaves form a rounded crown that provides good shade and a very pleasant view. It blooms from May through June, with white to yellowish flowers of sweet odor. The edible date-like fruits are sweet and attract wildlife such as birds and bats.



In the past, this species was used as piling for wharves because its trunk is immune to the shipworm, a clam that eats other woods when immersed in water. In the early 1800's the Texas palm extended along the Rio Grande up to about 80 miles from the Gulf, and occupied approximately 40,000 acres. Nowadays, it is considered rare in the Texas wild, but is widely cultivated as an ornamental, growing faster than in the wild. Its distribution ranges from Texas to El Salvador.

In order to preserve this species, and enrich the campus diversity, the Arboretum Committee is considering the purchase of some exemplars of this native palm tree for the Rice campus. .... :

#### Friends of the Lowrey Arboretum

The Lowrey Arboretum impacts the lives of Rice students, visitors to our campus, and the beauty of our Rice neighborhood. Gifts to the Lowrey Arboretum Fund help to expand our role as a resource for Rice and the city of Houston. With your financial support we can facilitate research and educational opportunities, catalog and document the growth of our trees, increase the size of the arboretum collection and positively influence air quality.

Yes, I would like to support the Lowrey Arboretum with a gift of  
 \$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Yes, I would like to support the Lowrey Arboretum with a pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid within five years (*minimum \$2,500*).

(please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Lowrey Arboretum  
 P.O. Box 200175  
 Houston, TX 77216

Or make a gift online at  
<http://giving.rice.edu>

Payments is by      Check (*payable to Rice University*)

Credit card: MasterCard      VISA      American Express

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (*name as appear on credit card*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Account number*      *Expiration date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Billing address (if different from address on left)*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_