
THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009

Planting for the future

Temperatures are dropping as we say goodbye to summer and we welcome fall with its cooler winds. This October 16th, the Arboretum Committee hosted a fall wildflower planting involving not only Rice students, staff, and faculty, but also 9 Daisy Troopers from West University Elementary School.



Volunteers and Daisy Troopers from West University Elementary that helped re-seed Harris Gully on Oct. 16th, 2009.

Daisy Troopers were first reminded how plants start from a seed, and then guided by Rice graduate students on how and where to sprinkle the seeds.



The general area, known as Harris Gully, is located north of the new path to the BioScience Research Collaborative, south of Wiess College and next to the South Plant. This low-lying area was seeded with a mix of eighteen wildflower varieties that include the Texas bluebonnet, Indian blanket, bush sunflower, purple prairie clover, golden-wave, Indian paintbrush, and a selection of daisies and coneflowers.

For the Rice Arboretum Committee, increasing plant diversity on campus and restoring the Harris Gully natural area has been a top priority, and part of this effort to beautify the area is to use a Texas-Oklahoma native roadside mix.

We hope to see these seeds grow and bloom next spring!



Palm trees at the new Recreation Center

A pool surrounded by palm trees always gives a pleasant sense of warmth. This fall, along the sides of the recreation pool at the new Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center, one can enjoy the 15 Florida sabal palms. The Arboretum Committee recommended the Florida sabal to the construction project team as a good palm tree for the needs of the “Rec Center.” The Florida sabal palms can grow up to 65 feet tall, have yellowish white flowers, and always have leaves; for this reason, this tree has been widely planted along city streets. The Florida sabal palm is the state tree of Florida and South Carolina.



Palm trees coming to Rice

For more information, please visit our website – arboretum.rice.edu
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The local corner: *The live oak*

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 The live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), is a common species all around Houston, and the most common tree species at Rice with 2221 exemplars. The live oak is an evergreen or nearly evergreen oak tree native to the southeastern United States. More than its height, the live oaks are well known for their lower limbs that often sweep down towards the ground before curving up again. The branches also frequently support other plant species such as mosses, ferns, and mistletoe. The tree crown is very dense, making it valuable for



Live Oak

shade, and the trees provide nest sites for many other species. Live oak acorns are the food source of many animals, including various species of squirrel, black bear, and the white-tailed deer. Live oaks can grow in moist to dry sites. Although they grow best in well-drained sandy soils and loams, they will also grow in clay, withstand occasional floods and hurricanes, and are resistant to salt spray and moderate soil salinity.



A little bit of campus history: the Teas family

One of the main characteristics of the Rice campus is its green, forested look. But it hasn't always looked the way it does now. At the very beginning, the land where the Rice campus is now located was a bald prairie with no trees. In February 1913, Rice president Edgar Odell Lovett reported to the Board of Governors that "it was now time that a number of trees should be set out upon the Institute grounds, following the landscape plans, and asked that an appropriation of a sum between \$3,500 and \$5,000 be made for such purposes." This job of planting trees on campus was a task for several people, among whom we should note the contribution of Edward "Papa" Teas, the founder of Teas Nursery. The architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson contracted with the Teas family, which opened a landscaping business in the Bellaire area in 1910, "for professional services rendered in connection with contract for tree planting." Teas said that "we were not in business long enough to plant [the] whole campus, we didn't have enough product" and he blamed a 1913 freeze for destroying much of the nursery's plant life. "Papa" Teas and his family helped plant the live oak trees on the Rice campus and on Main Street whose lushness and beauty have now become the defining characteristic for both the campus and the street.

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
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(GM20)