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# THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

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## NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

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### Brochstein Pavilion receives landscape and design awards

Each year, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Professional Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe. This year, the Brochstein Pavilion received the 2010 Honor Award in General Design. Developed as a key element of the “Vision for the Second Century” strategic plan, the Brochstein Pavilion has transformed the Central Quadrangle into the social center of the Rice University campus. The pavilion is 6,000 SF surrounded by a covered outdoor terrace.



*The Brochstein Pavilion at sunset*



*Garden between the Brochstein Pavilion and the Fondren Library*

Between the Pavilion and the Fondren Library, 48 Allee Lacebark Elms and two low concrete fountains provide the perfect setting for movable seating where people can gather. This special place has reached beyond the hedges of campus and attracted the adjacent Houston community to join the Rice community for meetings and discussion. James Burnett, president of The Office of James Burnett and landscape architect of the Brochstein Pavilion, presented this ASLA Honor Award to Barbara White Bryson, associate vice president for facilities, engineering and planning this September.

The Office of James Burnett has also received the Landscape Architecture Citation from the American School and University Magazine (AS&U) for its work at the Brochstein Pavilion; quoting the jury, the Pavilion is an “...amazing, tranquil space. The variety and flair will attract various personalities.” Since 1998 AS&U has recognized outstanding work in the field of educational design.



### *paraMuseum at the Pavilion*

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the photographs of Charles Mary Kubricht entitled *paraMuseum* were installed at the Brochstein Pavilion wall. The four oak leaves from



four different indigenous varieties on the Rice campus are printed on canvas and coated with an eco-friendly sealant. The pieces reflect the artist’s conception of natural landscapes as “museums”;



as Kubricht says “In order to protect the site and create only the slightest disturbance, I photograph in order to record a biography of the site”.

## The local corner: *The loblolly pine*

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The Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), is one of several pines native to the southeastern United States. In the northern range, loblolly pines are found in forests consisting solely of this pine, whereas in the rest of the south the composition will include the loblolly



*Loblolly pine*

pine among other species. The word loblolly means *low, wet place*, but such areas are not its only habitat. Loblolly pines can grow in clay soil and tolerate a wide range of site conditions, but prefer good drainage. Because of its early colonizer characteristics, it is also known as oldfield pine, and because of its distinctive fragrance, rosemary pine.

The trees can reach a height of 115 feet, with some exceptional 160 feet specimens. The needles of this pine last up to two years before they fall, making it an evergreen species. The rate of growth is rapid, even among the generally fast-growing southern pines. The yellowish, resinous wood is highly prized for lumber, but is also used for wood pulp. This tree is commercially grown in extensive plantations, along with Slash Pine. The famous "Eisenhower Tree" on the 17th hole of Augusta National Golf Club is a Loblolly Pine.



*Needles and cones*

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## Wildflower planting

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum Committee organized its annual Wildflower Planting at the Harris Gully Natural Area, located south of Wiess College and next to the South Plant. The seeds used were a mix of wildflowers called Texas-Oklahoma native roadside mix, composed by 18 different species. Rice faculty and students helped out, along with members from West University Elementary School. This event marks the third time that the Arboretum Committee has had an outreach activity with this elementary school as an effort to sensitize young kids towards the natural world and its delights.



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### Friends of the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum of Rice University

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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