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# THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

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## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

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### Arboretum Project Highlight: Wiess College Grove

The Arboretum's newest project, the Wiess College Grove, has been completed. The grove contains approximately 40 different tree specimens from a wide range of native species and fills the lawn south of Wiess College. Native grasses and shrubs have also been planted in the beds surrounding the new trees for groundcover. As these trees grow, they will offer students at Wiess College a beautiful, shady space to relax in, and will also shield Wiess' exposed



eastern wall from the sun's morning rays. The grove was also designed to be water efficient, with its focus on native species. With both its aesthetic and practical benefits, the

grove has become a proud new addition to the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum and the Rice University campus.



### Warm Spring Brings Wildflowers

The work of the wildflower planters was evident this spring as blossoms appeared across campus. Last fall, planters worked the open hill by the baseball stadium and a plot between Wiess College and the intramural fields, lightly tilling the ground and scattering a wildflower seed mix. Arboretum co-founder and committee member, Charles Tapley, rallied a small but dedicated group to plant in October, and the fruits of their labors are now being appreciated by the entire campus.

### Arboretum Event:

### Arbor Day Celebration, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

On a Friday afternoon, members of the Houston Garden Club and the Far Corners Garden Club gathered at Rice to celebrate Arbor Day. Garden club members listened to speeches from members of the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum Committee. Speakers included Arboretum Co-Founder, Charles Tapley and Associate Vice President of Facilities, Engineering, and Planning, Barbara White Bryson. Sophomore student, Niki vonHedemann, also spoke and presented a series of images showcasing some of the arboretum's recent work. After the presentations, the visiting garden clubs presented Mr. Tapley with a cheque to support the arboretum's work, and viewed the trees that had been purchased in honor of the day. The trees, an American Snowbell and an American Hophornbeam, have since been planted on campus.



### Arboretum Project Update: Botany Garden

Sophomore student and research assistant, Niki vonHedemann, has been working to create a record of the diverse plantings in the botany garden. Under the guidance of Dr. Paul Harcombe, vonHedemann has finished a list of the Botany Garden plants by genus and species, as well as common name, and completed a computer generated map of the garden that has already benefited visitors. This work will be updated and edited as the face of the research garden changes over time. The garden has blossomed out in the early spring warmth, and benefited this semester from the care of students in Dr. Harcombe's class, BIOS 336: Plant Diversity.



## 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 of 128 different species.



### Noteworthy Spring 2006 Accessions *(Gifts of the Houston Garden Club and the Far Corners Garden Club)*

- American Snowbell (*Styrax americanus*)
- American Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)



## Liddell Garden Birdbath

The Alice York Staub Liddell Memorial Garden was dedicated last fall and currently awaits a crowning feature. A number of drawings were on view at the



dedication from Rice students of Architecture who submitted their plans for a birdbath to a competition for the garden. Near the mid-year break a winner was chosen. Junior Architecture student, Sarah Simpson, was selected for her exceptional design, and is now working with Senior Project

Manager and Arboretum Committee member, Eleni Barzouka, to see her idea take shape. It is the hope of the Arboretum Committee that the birdbath will contribute to the aesthetic of the garden while offering repose for the migrating songbirds that inhabit this corner of campus in the spring.

The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum is seeking donations to make this birdbath feature a reality in the Liddell Garden. If you are interested in making a donation to the Arboretum or to a specific Arboretum project, please read the form included below.

### 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*

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*Expiration date*

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

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*Signature*