
THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

It's springtime!

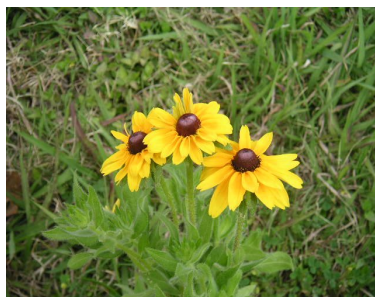
The sun is warming up the days, and all around us animals and plants welcome the spring. Last Fall, the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum Committee along with the South Plant project purchased wildflower and grass seeds in an effort to restore the area as construction is wrapping up. On November 12th, student, staff and faculty volunteers helped reseed the detention area just south of Wiess College and the new South Plant.

This spring be sure to look for other blooming trees, like the Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*), with beautiful, honey-fragrant white flowers (outside the RMC).



Volunteers that helped reseed the detention area on Nov. 12th, 2008.

With the recent rains and warm weather, the detention area boasts many colors. The grasses and flowers have now made their debut, spreading color spots along the detention area.



Photos courtesy of Nancy Rowe



Wiess Grove update

The area south of Wiess College, known as Wiess Grove, was created three years ago by the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum Committee. This spring, an update concluded, and this area looks wonderful. There are some new trees that not only increase the biodiversity, but also are native. The advantage of using native trees and grasses is that they are water-efficient, and some even tolerate drought. Come and enjoy the view!



View of Wiess Grove renovated



The local corner : *The redbud*

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The Redbud (*Cercis canadiensis* var. *texensis*), is a tree native to Houston. Its heart-shaped leaves, zigzag branches, and purple-pink flowers make it a very popular landscaping tree. As its name suggests, the flowers pop right out of the bark from red-pink buds in April or May, just before the leaves emerge.



The redbud will thrive in most soil types, including alkaline and clay; it can tolerate both drought and wet soil, though well-drained soil is preferred.

Redbud trees can grow up to 2 feet a year, forming a graceful, flat-topped or rounded crown of multiple trunks as it matures.

The redbud grows throughout much of the eastern United States including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.



Redbud flowers

Redbud is also known as "The Judas Tree" because, according to legend, Judas Iscariot used an old world relative of redbud to hang himself. The story is that the tree is now so weak-wooded in order to avoid others hanging themselves. And the flowers are pink because of embarrassment.

During this baseball season, pay special attention to the beautiful exemplars on campus, located on bikini hill, beyond the left field fence at Reckling Park.

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**).

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Mail to: Lowrey Arboretum
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Or make a gift online at
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Signature: _____ (GM20)