
THE LYNN R. LOWREY ARBORETUM

of Rice University

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

The first Baby Oaks from Rice

Last Fall 2009, Nancy Rowe (Facilities, Engineering and Planning Department) collected acorns from post oak trees in the Harris Gully Natural Area, just South of the new South Plant at Rice University. Due to sporadic production of acorns, only 20 acorns were collected, but faculty and students from the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department (EEB) successfully germinated them in the EEB greenhouse.

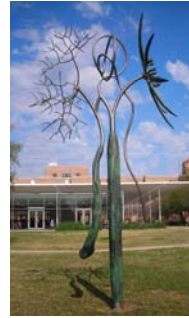


Four month old baby post oaks at the EEB greenhouse.
Picture courtesy of Ken Whitney

Many of the large post oaks in the Harris Gully Natural Area were damaged or killed by Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Since post oaks are not long-lived, even without hurricanes, seedling propagation is the attempt of the Arboretum and members of the EEB department to keep the post oak population going in the largest natural area on campus, using native genotypes that are well-adapted to the site. Individuals from EEB and the Arboretum will try in future years to collect acorns and repeat this experiment. We hope to see these babies grow and prosper!

Art on Campus

Starting February 20th, the Rice campus is hosting sculptures by Texan artist James Surls. The pieces are located in the center and west quads and can be admired over the next 6 months. With clear inspiration from the natural environment, Surls works in stainless steel and bronze to create a mix of recognizable natural features and fantasy in large scale.



Sculptures by James Surls



🌿 SPRING EVENT 🌿

“Bringing Nature Home” with Dr. Douglas Tallamy
Wednesday March 31st, 2010.
Hamman Hall, Rice University
Social 6:30pm; Lecture 7-8pm; Panel 8-8:30pm

Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Chair of the Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Department at the University of Delaware, presents what individuals can do to stem biodiversity loss. His book, *Bringing Nature Home*, will be for sale at the event.

Event Co-hosted by: Houston Audubon Society, Rice Center for the Study of Environment and Society, Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum of Rice University, Outdoor Nature Club, David and Linda Knowles, Don Verser, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston, Nature Discovery Center, and Shell Center for Sustainability.



The local corner: *The post oak*

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 Post oaks (*Quercus stellata*), sometimes also called iron oaks, owe their name to the common practice of using its durable wood for fence posts. This slow-growing tree is abundant throughout the Southeastern and South Central United States, and central Texas is part of its native range. Like other oaks, post oaks produce acorns when they reach about 25 years old: after flowering in March-May, the acorns mature, fall after ripening (September through November) and germinate soon after dropping. Acorn production is low in comparison to other oak species, and good



Post Oak tree

crops are produced sporadically at 2 to 3-year intervals. Post oaks are a very important source of food and cover for wildlife. Acorns are a high energy food consumed by wild turkey, white-tailed deer, squirrels, and many other rodents. Animals use the leaves and twigs for nest building, and its cavities provide nests and dens for birds and mammals. In the urban scenario, the beautiful shade of the post oak.....
 makes it a great tree for parks.



Rice student receives award

In January 27th, Martel College senior Carina Baskett received one of the eight Arbor Day Awards given this year. Trees for Houston, a non-profit organization dedicated to planting, protecting and promoting trees, gives this annual Arbor Day Award to honor individuals, corporations and organizations that have made exceptional contributions within the last year to make Houston a greener city. Carina was recognized for her work updating the campus tree map. Every tree on the Rice University campus is taxonomically identified and has been mapped using a GPS. The updated campus tree map can be accessed at



Carina Baskett

<http://fon-gis.rice.edu/ricetrees>



If you prefer to receive this Newsletter electronically, please send an email to arboretum@rice.edu

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
 ___\$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: _____

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Mail to: Rice University
 Lowrey Arboretum
 P.O. Box 1892, MS-83
 Houston, TX 77251-1892

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

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