

# The Lynn R. Lowrey ARBORETUM OF RICE UNIVERSITY

## Rice designated as 'Tree Campus USA'

Rice University is renowned for its lush green campus and its canopy of trees. This February, The Arbor Day Foundation recognized Rice University with its 'Tree Campus USA' designation, an honor reserved for those colleges and universities that in the words of the Foundation:

- Effectively manage their campus trees
- Develop connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy, urban forests
- Strive to engage their student population utilizing service learning opportunities centered on campus, and community, forestry efforts

More than 100 conservation-minded higher education institutions received this honor for 2011, and Rice is one of nine colleges and universities in Texas on the list. 🌿

## Mann passionate about trees

Neville Mann, Rice's lead arborist and member of the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum Committee, is passionate about trees. Here at Rice, Mann spearheaded the application for the Tree Campus USA recognition.

In addition to his service to the Arboretum, Mann is a member of the board of directors of the Texas Urban Forestry Council and the Houston Urban Forestry Council, and he serves on the Advisory Board of the Bayou Land Conservatory.

Mann, who came to Rice in 2006, cares for the thousands of trees on the Rice campus, striving to keep them healthy even in drought conditions.

But Mann devotes time to caring for more than just the campus trees; he's also involved with Rice students as an associate at McMurtry College.

"He regularly meets with a group of freshman students there for lunch," and [he] cheerfully maintains positive relationships with them and the faculty and staff members he encounters."



Neville Mann, Rice arborist

Mann has even found ways to share his love of nature with the students. He

organized a volunteer outing for a group of students—they weeded, watered trees and cleared away dead limbs at Memorial Park.

To celebrate the Rice Centennial, this year the university is honoring 100 staff members who represent the best of Rice culture. Mann's dedication to Rice—the campus and its students—has earned him the Centennial Star award.

"Neville perfectly represents the Rice mission to be of service to our city, our state, our nation, our world," Mann's nomination said, "and he does so with a smile on his face and a positive word for everyone he encounters." 🌿



## Centennial Tree planting celebrates 'Tree Campus USA' certification

On April 14th, as part of the university's UnConvention, Rice celebrated its Tree Campus USA designation in a public ceremony in the Central Quad adjacent to



the Brochstein Pavilion. Speakers included Rice University President David Leebron, Mickey Merritt of the Texas Forestry Service, Arboretum Committee co-chair Richard R. Johnson, and Arboretum Committee member and arborist Neville Mann. The celebration included the planting of a bur oak and its designation as the Centennial Tree.

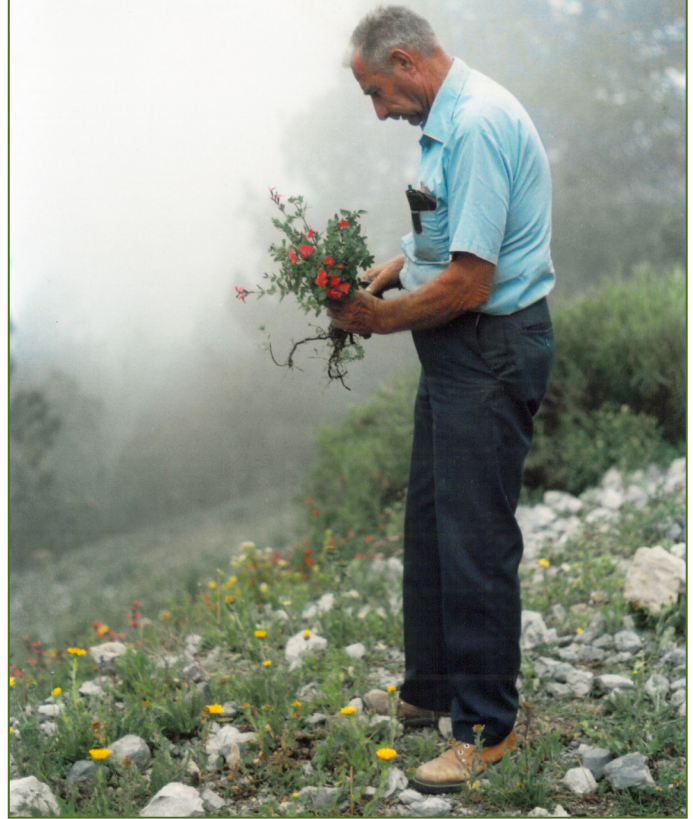
The tree, a gift from the members of the Arboretum Committee to the University and to future generations of the university community, celebrates Rice's 100th birthday and a century of visionary landscape planning. The Centennial Tree is located at the northwest corner of the Brochstein Pavilion, in a prominent site just beyond the outdoor patio seating of the Pavilion. 🌿

## The Arboretum on Facebook!

The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum of Rice University is now on Facebook. Launched on January 20, 2012, the Arboretum's Facebook page is our new way to create a two-way communication with the public. We encourage those of you who use Facebook to find and like "Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum at Rice University" to access pictures, videos, articles of interest, and other features related to the Arboretum. See you on Facebook! 🌿



## THE VISION OF LYNN R. LOWREY



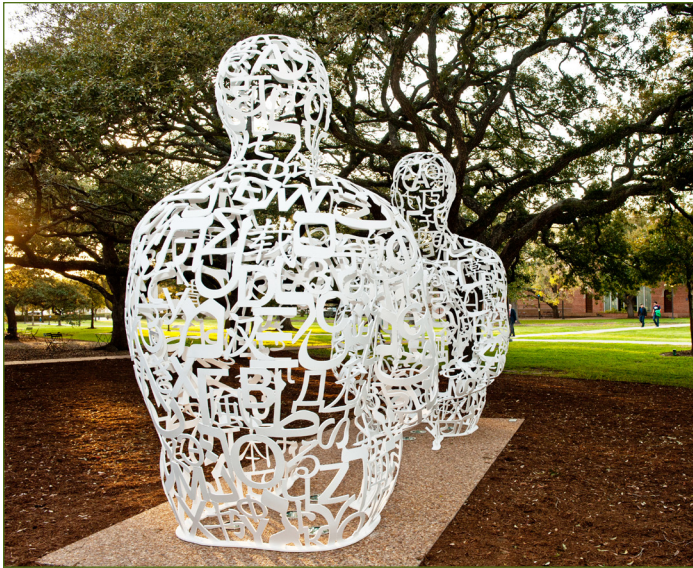
Lynn Lowrey was a visionary. He was able to walk through the woods and natural areas of Texas and see the beauty in the native plants that grew there. He would collect seeds and take cuttings of plants he thought would do well in Houston gardens and grow them in his nursery to use on landscape jobs. Lynn gave plants to people in the nursery business and landscapers whom he felt would utilize these new plants and see how well they grew in gardens all over the state. Wherever Lynn had a nursery he would gather collections of native and rare plants and he would say, "someday people will come from all over the country to see these plants and enjoy them."

The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum of Rice University will someday be a place where people will come from all around the country and even the world to see these plants that Lowrey dedicated his life to growing and sharing. His legacy will be the people he has influenced and the gardens that are filled with his plants. 🌿

## THE LOCAL CORNER

### Art in the Arboretum: *Mirror*

*The Lowrey Arboretum at Rice University is not only a fantastic collection of woody plants and wildflowers; it is also home to a burgeoning collection of campus art, including many pieces that tie directly to the landscape.*



In late February, a new piece entitled *Mirror* by acclaimed Catalan artist Jaume Plensa was unveiled outside Herring Hall in the Academic Quad. President David Leebron said that *Mirror* reflects Rice's aspirations as a university, calling it "an artwork not designed to sit quietly in the distance, but an artwork designed to attract people to it, to engage—a sense of conversation."

The two 12-foot-tall human figures are made of white-coated marine steel letters from many alphabets, positioned as if they were in conversation with one another. Plensa said: "My piece is in a certain way an homage to the tree—a conversation between all the branches."

*Mirror* was made possible by the generosity of Bill '67 and Stephanie Sick.

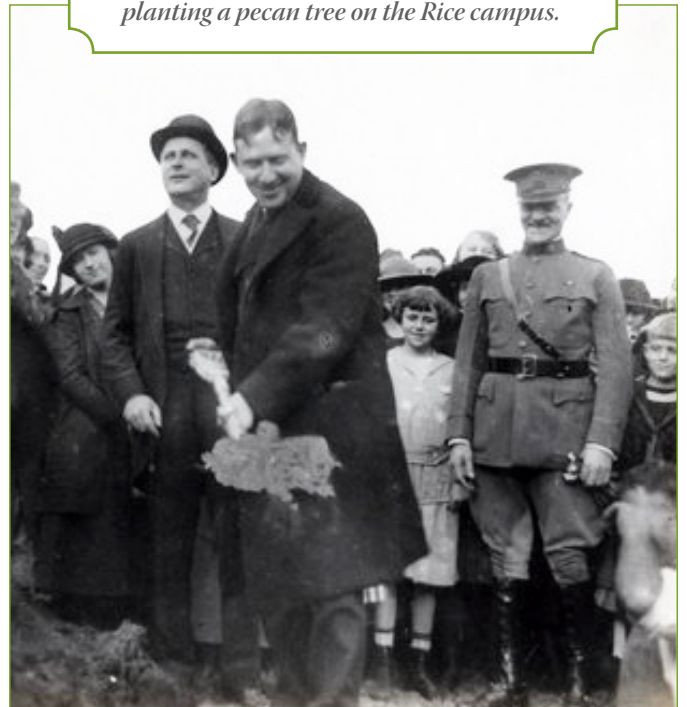
*Mirror* joins several other recent additions to the Rice campus by artists including Geoffrey Dashwood, Charles Mary Kubricht, Aurora Robson, James Surls, Lino Tagliapietra, James Turrell, and Leo Villareal. This fall a statue of Rice's first president, Edgar Odell Lovett, by Bruce Wolfe will be unveiled. 🌿

### *The Pecan Tree*

The pecan tree (*Carya illinoensis*) is native to the south-central United States as well as Mexico, and in 1919, by act of the Texas Legislature, became the State Tree of Texas. A mature pecan tree is usually 70 to 100 feet tall, but can grow as tall as 150 feet and live over 150 years. Their trunks can grow to more than three feet in diameter. The pecan is well known for its sweet edible nuts, brown in color, which range from 1 to 2 inches in length. Texas is the largest producer of native pecans, and second only to Georgia in production of hybrid (orchard grown) varieties. Its name comes from an Algonquian word, meaning "a nut requiring a stone to crack".

The Rice campus has a great exemplar of a pecan tree. On February 5, 1920, General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I, planted a pecan tree in Founder's Court in front of Lovett Hall. The tree is commonly referred as the Pershing Pecan. 🌿

*President Edgar Odell Lovett, Governor William P. Hobby, and General John Pershing planting a pecan tree on the Rice campus.*





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**Visit our website:**

[www.arboretum.rice.edu](http://www.arboretum.rice.edu)

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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 Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum with a gift of

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other

Yes, I would like to support the Arboretum with a pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid within five years (minimum \$2,500).

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*Make your check payable to Rice University with  
“Lowrey Arboretum” on the memo line.*

*Mail to:* Rice University  
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