



The Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum
of Rice University
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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

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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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Gifts can be made by check or credit card

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Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum
P.O. Box 1892, MS-83
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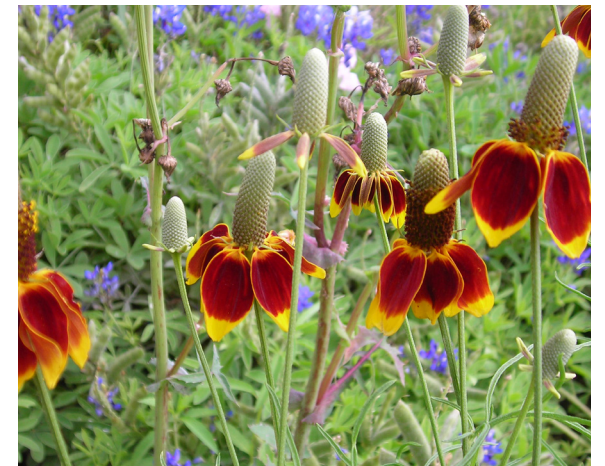
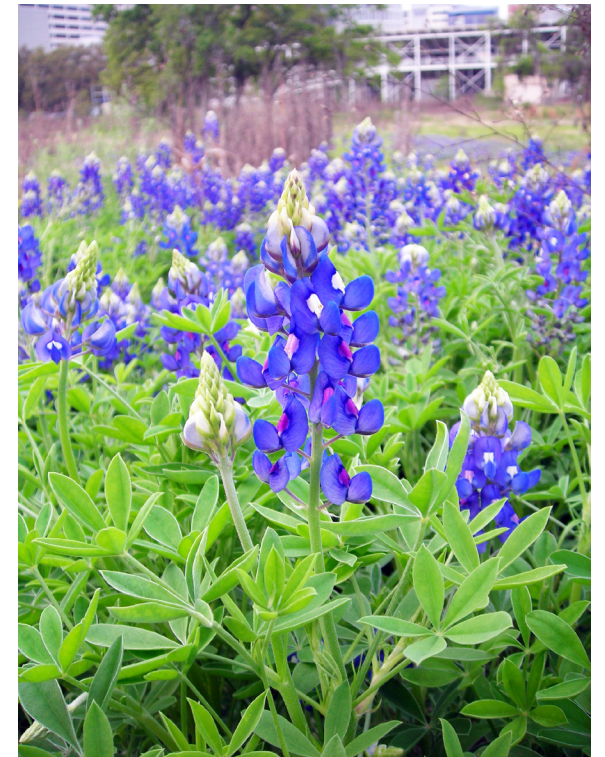
COMING SOON TO RICE—Texas wildflowers



In mid-October, the Rice University grounds department, through a grant from the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum Committee, purchased and spread wildflower seeds in the Harris Gully Natural Area, a space of special interest on the Rice campus to fans of the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum. The vision for this site is to protect native species and recreate the natural landscape. The Arboretum-funded purchase included 40 pounds of coastal prairie mix, 20 pounds of native Texas mix, and 9 pounds of wetland fringe mix.

The native Texas mix is a blend of native annuals and perennials that provide a carpet of color throughout the spring and early summer. This mix includes beautiful flowering species like: black-eyed Susan, Indian blanket, cone flowers, plains coreopsis and the State flower, the Texas bluebonnet.

For several years the Arboretum committee has funded seeding of this area, resulting in beautiful blooms with great colors every spring. Due to the wet conditions of the area, being located within Rice’s stormwater detention basin, the wetland fringe mix was used for the first time this fall in hopes of adding a mix of annuals and perennials that thrive in moist soils. For a full listing of the species used, contact the Arboretum at arboretum@rice.edu. We encourage you to visit the area in mid-April to enjoy the results of this annual project. 🌿



Tree inventory a vital part of arboretum maintenance



Last fall, twenty-two people, mostly Rice students, participated in a tree inventory of the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum on the Rice campus. Directed by Arboretum committee member and Rice arborist Neville Mann, as well as staff from the grounds department, attendees received training from Mickey Merritt and Matthew Weaver of the Texas Forest Service, and then helped to measure and inventory Rice's trees.

The tree inventory is vital to the Arboretum and an ongoing effort in partnership with Fondren Library's GIS/Data Center. One of the outcomes of the inventory is a digital campus tree map and database, containing the exact geographic position of each tree on campus. Future plans for the inventory include attaching photos and bios of significant trees, as well as tracking ongoing care and maintenance. "Every time I visit a tree, I will gather fresh data and re-enter it into the system," says Mann. The inventory will track not only general maintenance work, but also expenditures, pesticide treatments, and indicators of tree health, including incidents of tree disease and pathogen patterns. Patterns of tree pathogenesis can sometimes be missed when visiting trees on an individual basis, but the inventory will offer a much richer history, helping grounds personnel to identify if a tree pathogenesis is attributable to site conditions.

A tree inventory is strongly recommended as a component of Tree Campus USA certification by the Arbor Day Foundation, and will continue to be a part of the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum's annual recertification package. 🌿

CENTENNIAL TREE



To commemorate Rice's Centennial in 2012, the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum committee donated a burr oak, which was designated the Centennial Tree. Located at the northwest corner of the Brochstein Pavilion, it is just beyond the outdoor patio seating of the Pavilion. Last fall a marker was added to identify the tree. We encourage fans of the Arboretum to visit and enjoy the tree on future trips to the Pavilion.

Rice campus earns Tree Campus USA certification



This spring, the Arbor Day Foundation recertified Rice University and the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum through its Tree Campus USA program. As one of nine colleges and universities in Texas to earn this designation, Rice earned its first Tree Campus USA certification in 2012. To earn this recognition, a campus must follow five core requirements: a campus tree care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for tree care, an Arbor Day observance, a service learning project, and a campus tree advisory committee.

In late January, Rice observed Arbor Day by planting a variety of oak trees in the Harris Gully Natural Area through the efforts of a team of student, faculty, staff, and community volunteers. Trees for the event were donated by "Trees for Houston" and included rare post oak trees, a species native to the Rice campus in need of replenishment. 🌿

Arboretum reaches out to students in the Houston area

Last December, Andrea Galindo and Neville Mann of the Arboretum committee taught a class about trees to all first grade students at Roberts Elementary. The class included a brief history of the Earth and how and when plants and trees appeared, the importance of trees, and a short outing to the school grounds to further explore and experience first-hand what they learned.

This is one of the outreach efforts of the Arboretum. The plan is to continue and extend these classes to other grades at nearby schools. If you are interested in similar outreach activities for your school, contact Andrea Galindo at arboretum@rice.edu. 🌿



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THE LOCAL CORNER

Quercus stellata

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; there are some post oaks that played a special role in Texas history that are still alive.



Like other oaks, post oaks produce acorns when they reach the age of about 25 years. After flowering in March through 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 crops are produced sporadically at two to three-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 scene, the beautiful shade of the post oak makes it a great tree for parks. 🌿

