

LSU HILLTOP ARBORETUM is a 14-acre museum of plants with an extensive collection of more than 150 species of southern native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. The property was originally purchased in 1926 by Emory Smith and his wife, Annette as a working farm and country retreat.

Emory donated the property to LSU in 1981 so that his "Hilltop" could become an arboretum of native plants, and to encourage its free use by both the University and general public. The visitor will find not only a place of learning, but a quiet place, far removed from pressure of life; a space of solace and contemplation.



Ravines



Silverbell Tree (30' x 25' Average)

Halesia diptera

Native, deciduous, oval form with irregular branching, prefers full sunlight to partial shade, and slightly acid soil. Once established, growth is fast. The white bell-shaped flowers blossom in early spring before the foliage emerges. Hilltop's featured Silverbell tree is the co-champion for size in Louisiana.



Horse Sugar Tree (20' x 15' Average)

Symplocos tinctoria

Native, semi-evergreen, branches slender, giving tree a wide, loose-spreading appearance. Grows in deep acid, sandy soil in partial shade as an understory tree, moderate growth rate. A few dark purple leaves are usually present in contrast to the glossy, dark green foliage. Yellowish, fuzzy, flowers bloom in early spring.



Red Buckeye Tree (20' x 10' Average)

Aesculus pavia

Native, deciduous, irregular form, tolerates a wide range of soil conditions from moist to dry, full sunlight to partial shade. The palmately compound leaves is a distinctive foliage pattern. The fruit is poisonous to humans and livestock. Tall, showy flower panicles with red florets, bloom in early spring, and attract hummingbirds.



Cathedral & Bamboo Walk



Paw Paw (30' x 25' Average)

Asimina triloba

Native, deciduous, broad spreading crown with horizontal branches, and bold foliage. Grows best in fertile, loose woodland acid soil in an understory setting. The cup-shaped flowers with six maroon colored petals emerge in spring. The fruit tastes like banana or custard. Host plant for the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly larvae.



Native Fringe Tree (20' x 12' Average)

Chionanthus virginicus

Native, deciduous, upright, rounded canopy with lower branches spreading. Performs best in full sun to partial shade in a fertile, acid, well-drained soil. The flowers are loose, drooping panicles with fine fringed petals to eight inches long. Host plant for the Rustic Sphinx Moth larvae.



Native Azalea (15 x 18' Average)

Rhododendron canescens

Native, deciduous, upright oval form, often irregular with sympodial branching. Performs best in full sun to partial shade in a moist well-drained, acid soil. Slow rate of growth, becoming almost tree-like with advanced age. Profuse, honeysuckle-like fragrant pink flowers in early spring.



Pond Walk



Big Leaf Magnolia (75' x 30' Average)

Magnolia macrophylla

Native, deciduous, upright, oval, open canopy with strong, thick branches, and striking tropical-like leaves like bananas. Slow to moderate rate of growth. Performs best in loose, moist, well-drained slight acid soils. Ivory-colored flowers, ten to fifteen inches wide, with three purple blotches on inner petals. Highly fragrant.



Red Trillium Ground Cover (8" Average)

Trillium ludovicianum

Native, herbaceous perennial, appears as single isolated plant or in small colonies of many plants. Requires fertile, moist soil in partial shade, usually a woodland setting with a deep layer of organic matter. Three broad, whorled leaves, spotted or mottled, appear on top of stems with a solitary maroon flowers.



Louisiana Iris (2' Average)

Iris fulva

Native, rhizomatous perennial, one of four species known as "The Louisianas" because they do not cross with other groups. Performs best in full sunlight to partial shade and in a moist, acid soil of relatively high fertility, and high organic matter. Small three to four inch flowers, with rust-red shades.



Meadow

After years of planning our dream for having a Cajun Prairie inspired meadow, it is being realized in 2020. The 3-acre meadow is divided into four areas (A-D) with mowed grass pathways for strolling to allow visitors to experience a rich diversity of native annual and perennial flowers in a patchwork of grasses. Hydric swales, located on the perimeter of the four meadow areas delineate the four meadow spaces, provide drainage, and a unique growing environment for plants to grow that thrive in wet/moist conditions. An earthen amphitheater anchors the northwest corner of the meadow where visitors can sit back and enjoy a bird's eye view, take photographs, read a book or enjoy a picnic lunch.

Keep in mind the meadows are still in their infancy. The management plan includes removing invasive plants as identified and needed. To manage the woody growth and cut down the grasses at the end of the growing season, bush-hogging is implemented once a year in December after additional meadow seeds are planted. The cutting process settles the seeds to the ground and the cut grass acts as mulch bedding down the seeds until germination in the spring. Volunteers called the Meadow Keepers, students from the LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, collect seeds from other Cajun Prairies around the state and plant them in the meadow. Dr. Charles Allen, one of the foremost experts on Cajun prairies in the State is guiding the development and maintenance strategy, and says it will take ten years for the planting to reach maturity.

Spring is here and insects are buzzing! Butterflies are flying! Birds are nesting! Visit often to watch the meadow grow and flourish with the changing seasons and years.



Ironweed



Goldenrod



Partridge Pea



Swamp Sunflower



Cloudless Sulphur



Gulf Fritillary



Hodge Podge Nursery

After a tour of the grounds visit the Hodge Podge Nursery for a great selection of native, adapted and pass-along plants grown by volunteers as a fundraiser for the Arboretum. Many of the plants in this brochure can be found in the nursery. The Hilltop staff (Tuesday-Friday from 9am-4:30pm) and nursery volunteers (Wednesdays from 9am-11am) are always happy to help you make the best selection. We are keeping with Emory Smith's tradition of growing plants for all to enjoy!





The Friends of Hilltop Arboretum is an independent non-profit organization that works in partnership with the LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture to preserve, protect and enhance Hilltop. Established in 1982, with thoughtful guidance from founder and benefactor Emory Smith, memberships from the Friends of Hilltop Arboretum make up about 20% of our annual operating budget. Memberships make it possible to further develop the site into a nationally recognized center for the study of native plants and landscape design. They also help us get kids outdoors, cultivate native trees and shrubs, and provide enriching educational opportunities for the entire community.

LSU HILLTOP ARBORETUM

Grounds open to public to enjoy the landscape and unique plant collection.

Site

Open Daily
Dawn to Dusk
No Unauthorized Activities or Groups
Check website calendar for closures during private events.

Office

Tuesday-Friday
9am- 4:30pm

Inside

- Spring Plant Guide
- Self-Guide Tour Map
- Join Friends of Hilltop

Located at 11855 Highland Road
(Between Bluebonnet and Siegen)
P.O.Box 82608, Baton Rouge, 70884

Phone 225-767-6916
Fax 225-768-7740
Web: www.lsu.edu/hilltop
Email: hilltop@lsu.edu

Visit www.lsu.edu/hilltop for visitor rules, facility rental and professional photography fees, a complete list of activities, events, and programs.

Membership Form

Yes! I wish to become a member of the Friends of Hilltop Arboretum. Here is my annual membership contribution of:

Membership level (Choose One):

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violet | \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Azalea | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cypress | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Redbud | \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Live Oak | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogwood | \$100 | | |

Membership & Payment Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

E-mail _____

Visa () MasterCard () Exp Date / _____

Card # _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Please send this completed form with either your credit card information or check made payable to : Friends of Hilltop Arboretum, P.O. Box 82608, Baton Rouge, LA 70884

Annual Levels of Membership

If you enjoyed your time at hilltop and would like to keep Emory's dream alive and enhance the site, please consider joining Friends of Hilltop at one of the following levels:

\$35 Violet

- Reciprocal Access to 320+ Gardens
- 10% Discount on Plants at Plantfest
- Reduced Member Rates for Programs, Trips, Events
- Admission to Annual Member Luncheon
- E-Notices About Programs, Events and Activities

\$50 Azalea

- All Benefits at the Violet Level, plus:
- 10% Discount on Plants at Spring Fling Sale
 - Free Admission to PlantFest Teaser

\$75 Redbud

- All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:
- 10% Discount on Plants at Year End Sale
 - 10% Discount at Gift Shop

\$100 Dogwood

BEST VALUE

- All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:
- 10% Year-Round Discount on Plants at Hodge Podge Nursery
 - Free Hilltop T-Shirt (New Selection Each Year)
 - 10% Discount Children's Camps

\$250 Magnolia

- All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:
- Free Admission to 9 Discover Nature Programs
 - 10% Discount on Consulting Arborist Fee

\$500 Cypress

- All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:
- Margaret Stones Big Leaf Magnolia Print or Choose 4 from over a dozen Nature-themed Pocket Guides
 - 2 Tickets to Annual Symposium

\$1,000 Live Oak

- All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:
- 1 Fee for Professional Photography Session Waived
 - One Guided Plant Tour of Hilltop with Refreshments
 - 15% Discount on Facility Rental

