



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  
Check website calendar for closures during private events.

### Office

Tuesday-Friday  
9am- 4:30pm

### Inside

- Fall 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](http://www.lsu.edu/hilltop)  
Email: [hilltop@lsu.edu](mailto:hilltop@lsu.edu)

Visit [www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://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





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



**Beautyberry** (6' x 6' Average)

*Callicarpa americana*

Native, deciduous shrub with vase-shaped form, yellow-green leaves, rosy-pink flowers in summer, and brilliant purple clusters of berries from August-November. Very tolerant of most soils in full sunlight to partial shade.



**Bitternut Hickory** (50' x 30' Average)

*Carya cordiformis*

Native, deciduous tree best used for large landscapes, and compound leaves turn yellow in the fall. Closely related to the pecan sharing similar leaf shape, and unlike pecans it does not have edible nuts. Prefers moist, well-drained soils, but is often found in drier conditions.



**Mr. Emory's Wedding Tree** (50' x 75' Average)

*Quercus virginiana*

Native, iconic evergreen tree best used for large landscapes. Leaves drop at the same time new leaves emerge in late spring. The tree grows best in full sun, and tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. The tree is a popular backdrop for authorized weddings, and is registered with the Live Oak Society.



**American Hop Hornbeam** (20' x 15' Average)

*Ostrya virginiana*

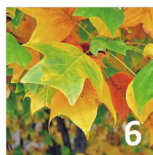
Native, deciduous understory tree with mounding canopy, golden yellow foliage in fall, dark brown shaggy bark, male and female catkins (flowers) in late winter and early spring. Performs best in partial shade in moist, sandy loam soil.



**Sassafras** (35' x 20' Average)

*Sassafras albidum*

Native, deciduous tree with upright oval form. Three different leaf shapes on the same tree: oblong without lobing, two-lobed (mitten shaped), and three-lobed (shield-shaped). Leaves turn yellow, orange and red in fall. Roots yield oil that flavors sassafras tea and gumbo "file" is made from the dried leaves.



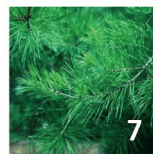
**Yellow Poplar** (50' x 25' Average)

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

Native, deciduous tree, narrow to pyramidal form with tall, straight trunk. Leaves similar in shape to the tulip. Solitary, tulip-shaped flower that appears in the spring. Petals greenish-yellow marked with orange blotches near the base. Grows best in moist, fertile, and slightly acidic to neutral soils with good drainage.



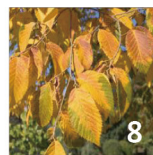
## Bamboo Pass



**Spruce Pine** (25' x 20' Average)

*Ostrya virginiana*

Native, evergreen tree with a broad oval form, older specimens have a more open, irregular form. Pine cones two to three inches long, persisting on tree for two or more years. Twisty waxy needles, two-and-a-half inches long. Tolerates heavier soil conditions than most other pines.



**Ironwood** (20' x 15' Average)

*Carpinus caroliniana*

Native, deciduous tree, rounded form with horizontal branching sometimes arching downward. Fine-textured, refined foliage with yellow autumn color. Crooked, muscular smooth gray trunk. Thrives in sun to relatively heavy shade. Slow growth rate under normal conditions.



**Sycamore** (70' x 40' Average)

*Platanus occidentalis*

Native, deciduous tree, upright oval to pyramidal form, old bark shredding into irregular patches. Large yellow-green foliage from four up to ten inches across with yellow fall color. Thrives in a fertile, slightly acidic soil and full sunlight but tolerant of most conditions from dry to moderately wet.



## Meadow

After years of planning our dream for having a Cajun Prairie inspired meadow, it is being realized in 2019. The 3-acre meadow is divided into four areas (A-D) with mowed grass walking paths to allow visitors to experience a rich diversity of native annual and perennial flowers in a patchwork of grasses. Insects are buzzing! Butterflies are flying! Birds are nesting! When you reach the amphitheater in the northwest corner, sit back and enjoy the beautiful meadows from a birds eye view, take photographs, read a book, or enjoy a picnic lunch.

Keep in mind the meadows are still in their infancy. We will plant more seeds and plants annually in December to establish stable native plant communities with volunteers called the Meadow Keepers. The management plan includes removing invasive plants, and bush-hogging once a year to remove woody plants. Dr. Charles Allen, one of the foremost experts on Cajun Prairies in the State, says it will take ten years for the planting to reach maturity. 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!

