

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 "Hilltop" could become an arboretum of native plants, and to encourage its free use by both the University and general public. Visitors will find not only a place of learning, but a hidden sanctuary far removed from the pressures of life; a space of solace and contemplation.



Ravines



Titi (10' x 8' Average)
Cyrilla racemiflora
Native, semi-evergreen small tree with a short trunk with broad-spreading, irregular branches. Canopy varies from dense to open depending on light and competition. Simple, willow-like alternate leaves, normally clustered at the end of twigs. Axillary, racemes are slender, nodding in clusters four to six inches long. Fragrant creamy-white blooms May to June.



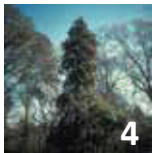
Prickly Ash (30' x 20' Average)
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis
Native, deciduous tree with raised, cone-shaped, corky, spine-tipped growths on the trunk and large branches. Broad, open canopy with odd-pinnately compound leaves, seven to fifteen inches long. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Early settlers chewed the growth on the trunks to release sap to relieve toothache pain. Larval host plant for the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly.



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.



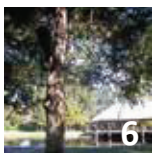
Cathedral & Bamboo Walk



'Emory Smith' Magnolia (40' x 25' Average)
Magnolia grandiflora 'Emory Smith'
Native, evergreen tree that thrives in a loose, moist, fertile, and acid soil in full sunlight to partial shade. The 'Emory Smith' magnolia, a cultivar of the Southern Magnolia, is registered with the International Magnolia Society and named in honor of Hilltop's donor Emory Smith.



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.



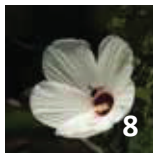
Ironwood (20' x 15' Average)
Carpinus caroliniana
Native, deciduous tree, with rounded form with broad horizontal branching sometimes arching downward. It has distinctive smooth gray bark with strained muscle-like ripples that spiral around the trunk. It has fine textured foliage with yellow autumn color. The growth rate is slow with variable adaptability to growing conditions from full sun to relatively heavy shade.



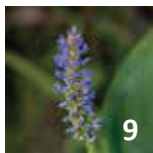
Pond Walk



Buttonbush (10' x 8' Average)
Cephalanthus occidentalis
Native, deciduous shrub or small tree with a spreading crown. The white, round flowers are two inches in diameter and bloom on terminal clusters. The plant is very adaptable to site conditions. It grows in full sun to partial shade, and in water or well-drained garden soil. It is a host plant for moths including the Titan Sphinx, Hydrangea Sphinx, and Royal Walnut Moth.



Woolly-Rose Mallow (7' x 3' Average)
Hibiscus lasiocarpus
Native, shrub-like perennial that thrives in a heavy, wet soil in full sunlight, and especially well adapted to woodland edges. A nice plant for the rear of the perennial border, native plant garden, patio area or courtyard. Also effective when grouped in moist locations such as along the edge of a pond. The funnel-shaped white to pink flowers have a maroon throat similar to a hibiscus.



Pickerel Weed (2' Average)
Pontederia cordata
Native, aquatic plant with erect heart-shaped, dark olive-green leaves. It grows in shallow water no more than a foot deep. In the home garden, pickerel weed will complement water lilies by adding texture and height. The flower spikes are deep blue to purple and rise above the foliage with repeat blooming, summer through fall.



Wildflower Meadow

There was once an extensive, 2.5-million-acre, natural "Cajun Prairie" in southwestern Louisiana between the marshes southwest of Lake Charles, the central Louisiana pine forests, and the bayous and swamps to the southeast. Today, most of the prairie has been destroyed or replaced with cultivated crops; however, few remnants remain mostly along railroad right-of-way. The estimated total area of intact Cajun Prairie is now only 100 acres.

Prairie meadows are becoming an increasingly popular alternative to the traditional landscape, as many seek to restore this historic, native plant community and support the insect and wildlife population that depend on these plants for their survival. The native perennial grasses and flowers of a Cajun Prairie are relatively low maintenance and create habitat for birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects and wildlife, and the native flowers and grasses return to bloom year after year.

In 2019, Hilltop seized the opportunity to plant a "Cajun Prairie-inspired" meadow on an underutilized 3-acre field predominant in meadow character. The meadow is divided into four areas (A-D) with mowed lawn paths that allow visitors to experience a rich diversity of native annual and perennial flowers in a patchwork of grasses. Hydric swales, located along the walkway perimeters, provide drainage and support a community of wet-loving plants. 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.

As you explore, notice the variety of insects, birds, and blooms. Visit often to watch the meadow grow and flourish with the changing seasons.



Plains Coreopsis



Lemon Beebalm



Partridge Pea



Indian Blanket



Coneflower



Ironweed



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!



LSU HILLTOP ARBORETUM

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

Site	Office
Open Daily	Tuesday-Friday
Dawn to Dusk	9am- 4:30pm
No Unauthorized Activities or Groups	
Check website calendar for closures during private events.	

- Inside
- Spring/Summer Plant Guide
 - Self-Guided 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
Web: www.lsu.edu/hilltop
Email: info@friendsofhilltop.org

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



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 to ensure it forever benefits the Greater Baton Rouge community. Established in 1982, with thoughtful guidance from founder and benefactor Emory Smith, its office was located on the site in 1991. 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.

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:

\$50 Azalea / \$35 Student

- Admission privileges and discounts at 380+ gardens throughout North America through American Horticultural Society Garden Network
- 10% Discount on plants at fall, spring, and year-end sales
- Reduced member rates for programs (including children's camps) and events
- Admission to annual membership luncheon
- Email notices about programs and events

\$100 Dogwood

BEST VALUE

All Benefits at the Above Level, plus:

- 10% Year-Round Discount on Plants at Hodge Podge Nursery
- Free Hilltop T-Shirt (New Selection Each Year)
- 10% Discount at Hilltop Gift Shop

\$250 Magnolia

All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:

- Margaret Stones Magnolia Print from Hilltop Gift Shop
- Free Admission to Discover Nature Programs

\$500 Cypress

All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:

- 4 Nature-themed Pocket Guides from Hilltop Gift Shop
- 2 Tickets to Hilltop Annual Symposium

\$1,000 Live Oak

All Benefits at the Above Levels, plus:

- 1 Free Facility Rental, Room(s) of your Choice

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

Membership & Payment Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Card # _____

Exp Date _____ / _____ CVV _____

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

