Helping Hilltop Endure: Joins Friends

Friends of Hilltop Arboretum, Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization that works in partnership with LSU to preserve, protect, and enhance this natural wonder to ensure it forever benefits the Greater Baton Rouge Community. Established in 1982 with thoughtful guidance from Emory Smith, its office was located on site in 1991. Realizing the positive impact Hilltop has on education, Friends of Hilltop made a commitment to build a facility to accommodate programming in its outdoor classroom. The building design was created by Ted Flato, a vernacular architect with nationally recognized firm of Lake/Flato Architects in San Antonio, Texas. The building respects the natural landscape, is environmentally sensitive, and recognizes the legacy of the founder Emory Smith and the unique history of the area.

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:

- **Violet** $35
- **Azalea** $50
- **Dogwood** $100
- **Magnolia** $250
- **Cypress** $500
- **Live Oak** $1,000

*“The forest with its beauty, grandeur, and mystery has always stirred my deepest feelings”*

Emory Smith, Hilltop Founder

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**Beautyberry (Callicarpa americana)**

The Beautyberry is a native understory shrub with arching branches and yellow-green fall foliage, but its most striking feature is the clusters of glossy, indescent-purple seeds. The seeds are important food for many species of birds and the foliage is a particular favorite of white-tailed deer. The Beautyberry blooms in the spring and has small, pink, dense flowers that cluster at the base of the leaves.

**Average Size (Height x Spread):** 4’ to 6’ x 4’ to 6’

**Bloom Season:** Spring

**Light-Moisture:** Sun to Part shade

Enriched with organic matter is preferred.

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**Green Dragon (Arisaema dracontium)**

On a Green Dragon the long tapered tip of the spadix resembles a large flickering lizard tongue. The leaflets on the top are arranged palmately, like the upturned palm of one’s hand. On a separate flower stalk you will find the unique blossom. After blooming, the spadix produces green berries in a club shaped form that turn orange-red in the fall.

**Average Size (Height x Spread):** 1’ to 3’

**Bloom Season:** Spring

**Light-Moisture:** Sun or Shade

Prefers rich, slightly acidic soil.

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**Ironweed (Vernonia altissima)**

The Ironweed is an upright, tall perennial with a highly visible dark red stem that becomes widely branched at the top. At the end of the branches, in loose clusters, are saucer-shaped, quarter inch wide flowers heads. The Ironweed grows in association with Goldenrod, Asters, Wild Ageratums, and Sunflowers in the “Meadow” area at Hilltop. The “Meadow” is ablaze with purple and gold in the fall during football season—Geaux Tigers!

**Average Size (Height x Spread):** 6’ x 4’

**Bloom Season:** Spring

**Light-Moisture:** Partial Shade

Fertile, Well Drained, Acid Soil. Requires sun to flower.

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**Goldenrod (Solidago altissima)**

There are over 50 species of Goldenrod throughout North America. Goldenrod is extremely important to other wildlife, especially insects. Many animals are attracted to Goldenrod to drink nectar, collect pollen, nibble leaves and stems, prey on other insects, or lay eggs. The entire plant is covered in tiny, stiff hairs. During the fall, large, branching pyramidal shaped flower heads appear ablaze with color.

**Average Size (Height x Spread):** 2’

**Bloom Season:** Fall

**Light-Moisture:** (Full Sun)

Well drained soils are preferred, but tolerant to most conditions.

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Visit www.lsu.edu/hilltop for a complete list of activities, events, programs, facility rental and professional photography fees.
Welcome to LSU’s Hilltop Arboretum!

Hodge Podge Nursery
After your 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 found throughout 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!

* See Back For Additional Information