Native Azalea (Rhododendron canescens)

Beautiful accent shrub with white-pinkish flowers. It’s elegant, airy, with an irregular yellow-green open form and sympodial branching. Naturalistic planting. One of Emory’s favorite native plants. Shrub feature was planted by Emory Smith near the “Bamboo Pass” at LSU Hilltop Arboretum. Only one of these shrubs Mr. Smith planted still remains.

Average Size (Height x Spread): 6’ x 4’
Bloom Season: Spring
Light-Moisture: Partial Shade
Fertile, Well Drained, Acid Soil. Requires sun to flower.

Silver Bell (Halesia Diptera)

Silverbell is an excellent substitute for dogwoods, in decline in our area. The white bell-shaped flowers blossom in early spring before the foliage emerges. The tree featured at Hilltop is a co-champion for size in Louisiana. It can be found at the entrance near the footbridge at Hilltop.

Average Size (Height x Spread): 30’ x 25’
Bloom Season: Spring
Light-Moisture: Sun (Part-Shade) tolerant of dry to moist soil. Flowers are sparse when the tree is grown in shade.

Arrowwood Viburnum (Viburnum dentatum)

A showy, deciduous shrub with upright, arching branches and a spreading umbrella-like crown. White spring flowers and black-blue clusters of autumn fruit. Good for naturalistic plantings in understory and woodland settings. Relatively easy to grow, tolerant of most growing conditions. Featured shrub found in the “Cathedral” at LSU Hilltop Arboretum.

Average Size (Height x Spread): 8’ x 4’
Bloom Season: April-May
Light-Moisture: Sun (Part-Shade) Easy to grow, tolerant of most soil conditions.

Louisiana Iris (Iris fulva)

For best performance, provide nearly full sunlight for plantings. Moisture is especially critical during late fall, winter and spring when the plants are actively growing. Showy rust-red flowers twenty-four to thirty-six inches tall. Can be found around the pond at LSU Hilltop Arboretum.

Average Size (Height): 1’-3’
Bloom Season: Spring
Light-Moisture: (Partial Shade) Moist wet soil

Thank You!

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 $25
- Azalea $50
- Dogwood $100
- Magnolia $250
- Cypress $500
- Live Oak $1,000

Welcome

LSU’s HILLTOP ARBORETUM

Inside:
- Spring Plant Guide
- Map and Self-Guide Tour
- Details and descriptions of important plants

Open Daily
Dawn to Dusk
Free Admission

Located at 11855 Highland Road
(between Bluebonnet and Seiseng)
P.O. Box 82608
Baton Rouge, LA 70884

p. 225 767 6916
f. 225 768 7740
www.lsu.edu/hilltop
hilltop@tigers.lsu.edu

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

Highlands

1. Tung Oil Tree
   - Aleurites fordii
   - A small deciduous flowering tree. Has white flowers with orange centers that bloom during February and March. Excellent ornamental features.

2. Parsley Hawthorn
   - Crataegus marshallii
   - Deciduous tree with parsley shaped leaves. White to pinkish flowers that bloom during March and April. Attracts birds.

3. Chinese Fringe Tree
   - Chionanthus virginicus
   - Deciduous, fringe-like ornamental tree with simple opposite leaves. White, fragrant flowers that bloom in March and April.

Cathedral

4. Arrowwood Viburnum
   - Viburnum dentatum
   - A deciduous shrub with showy, creamy white spring flowers, and blue-black fruit in clusters in the fall.

5. Quercus michauxii
   - Oak
   - Deciduous handsome Oak tree with beautiful fall foliage. Has an oval form and a high canopy. Very long-lived. The leaves look like cow ears.

6. Spicebush
   - Lindera benzoin
   - A small deciduous shade tolerant shrub with maroon flowers that bloom in early spring. All parts have a spicy odor when bruised.

Pond Walk

7. Louisiana Iris
   - Iris fulva
   - A rhizomatous perennial with rust red flowers that bloom in early spring in full sunlight to part shade. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Bamboo Pass

8. Trillium
   - Trillium recurvatum
   - Herbaceous perennial in southern woodlands with deep topsoil and a thick layer of humus.

9. Green Dragon
   - Arisaema dracontium
   - Herbaceous perennial that grows best in woodland settings in rich well-drained soils with high organic content.

Ravines

1. Native Azalea
   - Rhododendron canescens
   - A delicate deciduous shrub. Blooms in early spring and has white and pink flowers shaped like honey-suckle blossoms.

2. Silverbell Tree
   - Halesia diptera

3. Big Leaf Magnolia
   - Magnolia macrophylla
   - A stunning deciduous native tree with foliage that resembles banana leaves. Creamy white, fragrant flowers with a maroon center. Requires moist soil.

4. Horse Sugar Tree
   - Symphoricarpos tinctarius
   - A small evergreen tree with glossy foliage. Yellow, spherical fragrant flowers bloom in winter and early spring. Grows in association with Swamppop Magnolia.

5. Red Buckeye Tree
   - Aesculus pavia

6. Paw Paw
   - Asimina triloba
   - Deciduous tree. Maroon flowers that bloom in March. Very shade tolerant. Leaves turn golden yellow in the fall. The fruit is edible.

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 collection. 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 for your very own garden. We are keeping with Emory Smith’s tradition of growing plants for all to enjoy!

Visit www.lsu.edu/hilltop for additional information about plants growing on site.