

“The forest with its beauty, grandeur, and mystery has always stirred my deepest feelings” Emory Smith, Hilltop Founder

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, iridescent-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** (HeightxSpread)- 4’ to 6’ x 4’ to 6’  
**Bloom Season**- Spring  
**Light-Moisture**-(Sun to Part shade) Moist clay or sand enriched with organic matter is preferred

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 seperate 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** (HeightxSpread)- 1’ to 3’  
**Bloom Season**- Spring  
**Light-Moisture**-(Sun or Shade) Prefers rich, slightly acidic soil.

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** (HeightxSpread)- 6’x4’  
**Bloom Season**- Spring  
**Light-Moisture**-(Partial Shade) Fertile, Well Drained, Acid Soil. Requires sun to flower.

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** (HeightxSpread)- 2’  
**Bloom Season**- Fall  
**Light-Moisture**-(Full Sun) Well drained soils are preferred, but tolerant to most conditions.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Visa(        ) Master Card(        ) 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

Fall



LSU’s HILLTOP ARBORETUM

Inside:

- 📖 Fall Plant Guide
- 📖 Self-Guide Tour Map
- 📖 Join Friends of Hilltop

Open Daily  
Dawn to Dusk  
Free Admission

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

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



# Welcome to LSU's Hilltop Arboretum!



## Ravines



- 1 Beautyberry\***  
*Callicarpa americana*
- A deciduous shrub that has a vase shaped spreading form with ascending branches and yellow-green leaves. Brilliant purple clusters of berries are found along the branches.



- 2 Dogwood**  
*Cornus florida*
- A deciduous tree with a dense umbrella-like canopy. The leaves have a red autumn color. Clusters of bright red berries in the fall are a source of food for wildlife.



- 3 Oakleaf Hydrangea**  
*Hydrangea quercifolia*
- A deciduous shrub with ascending branches. The 4-8 inch long leaves are shaped like the leaves of oak trees with deep sinuses. The autumn color is brilliant ranging from shades of maroon, orange and red.

## (continued)



- 4 Devil's Walking Stick**  
*Aralia spinosa*
- A small deciduous tree notorious for rings of thorns along its trunk. The leaves turn yellow in fall and has small, creamy white flowers in large clusters in the spring.



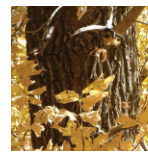
- 5 American Hop Hornbeam**  
*Ostrya virginiana*
- A deciduous tree with a mounding canopy and golden colored fall canopy. The trunk has grayish-brown shaggy bark easily brushed off by hand.



- 6 Sassafras**  
*Sassafras albidum*
- A deciduous tree with 3 leaf shapes: oblong without lobing, mitten shaped and shield-shaped. The leaves turn yellow, orange and red in fall.



## Bamboo Pass



- 7 Boxelder**  
*Acer Negundo*
- A deciduous tree with a short trunk and wide spreading branches. The leaves are elliptic-obvate, each 4 in. long and turn a brownish-yellow fall color.



- 8 Sycamore**  
*Plantus occidentalis*
- A large deciduous tree with a pyramidal form. The leaves are up to 10 inches across and look similar to a maple tree leaf. The outer bark exfoliates to reveal a green to white underbark.



- 9 Green Dragon\***  
*Arisaema dracontium*
- A herbaceous perennial that has naturalized under Hilltop's towering bamboo. A spike of tightly arranged red berries appear on the female plants in the fall.



## Meadow



- 10 Ironweed\***  
*Vernonia altissima*
- A perennial with an upright form that offers brilliant purple flowers held like torches on top of the plant. Expect butterflies and small birds to be nearby.



- 11 Goldenrod\***  
*Solidago altissima*
- A tall herbaceous perennial with multi-branching stems, linear leaves, and yellow flowers.



- 12 Wild Ageratum**  
*Eupatorium coelestinum*
- A low growing perennial with blue to violet flower clusters.



- 13 Bald Cypress**  
*Taxodium distichum*
- A deciduous tree with conical form. The Bald Cypress has soft and feathery fern-like foliage that turns a rusty-brown fall color.



- 14 Helianthus spp.**  
*Wild Sunflower*
- A herbaceous perennial that grows as a solitary plant in colonies. Often seen growing in large drifts in open fields and along roadways. The solitary ray flowers are yellow.

Highland Road



## 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!