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.

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:
- 30% 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
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
Grounds open to public to enjoy the landscape and unique plant collection.

Site
Open Daily Tuesday–Friday
9am – 4:30pm
No Unauthorized Activities
Check website calendar for closures during private events.

Office
Dawn to Dusk

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
Email: hilltop@lsu.edu

Visit 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):
- $35 Violet
- $50 Azalea
- $75 Redbud
- $100 Dogwood
- $250 Magnolia
- $500 Cypress
- $1,000 Live Oak

Membership & Payment Information
Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone (81) (81)
Fax (81) (81)
E-mail
Visa () MasterCard ()
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

BEST VALUE

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL
$100 Dogwood
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)
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$250 Magnolia
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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
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** (S. x E. Average)
*Callicarpa americana*
Native, deciduous shrub with oval-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** (D. x 30' Average)
*Carya cordiformis*
Native, deciduous tree best used for large landscapes, and compound leaves turn yellow in the fall. Closely related to this pecan sharing similar leaf shape, and unlike pecan it does not have edible nut. 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 backup for authorized weddings, and is registered with the Live Oak Society.

**American Hop Hornbeam** (25' x 15' Average)
*Ostrya virginiana*
Native, deciduous understory tree with moundng 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 to moist, sandy loam soil.

**Sassafras** (30' x 20' Average)
*Sassafras albidum*
Native, deciduous tree with upright oval form. Three different leaf shapes on the same tree: oblong without teeth, two lobed (oblong-shaped), and three lobed (shiel-shaped). Leaves turn yellow, orange and red in fall. Roots yield odor that flavors sassafras tea and gumbo "Hike" is made from the dried roots.

**Yellow Poplar** (50' x 25' Average)
*Liriodendron tulipifera*
Native, deciduous tree, narrow to pyramid form with tall, straight trunk. Leaves similar in shape to the tulip, tulip-shaped flower that appears in the spring. Petals greenish yellow marked with orange bristles 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. Narrow, wavy needles, two and a half inches long. Tolerates heavier soil conditions than most other pines.

**Ironwood** (D. x 15' Average)
*Carpinus caroliniana*

**Sycamore** (D. x 40' Average)
*Platanus occidentalis*
Native, deciduous tree, upright oval to pyramid form, old bark shedding into irregular patches. Large yellow-green foliage from four 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.

**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!