



Letter from the President



American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!
Hope you have had a happy and joyful holiday season.

Taking a quick look back at 2019 - the Friends began the year assisting the staff at the Arbor Day celebration. Greeting visitors, I worked behind the desk for the first time since retiring in 2012, while the staff was busy with the tree seedlings give away. For those of you that have not heard the arboretum staff are down to three (Emma, Eric, and Kim) and still doing a fantastic job. We (the Friends) purchased another 5000 trail brochures, that also have Friends information. The previous purchase of brochures was made in May of 2017, so the brochures are lasting about two years. The new Happy Trails informational signs the Friends provided are holding up well.

This years Arbor Day

celebration will take place on January 18, 2020. The celebration begins a 10:00 AM and the seedling give away will begin after a short ceremony. The Friends will have a business meeting beginning at 12:30PM. Friends members are invited to attend the business meeting.

As mentioned earlier, the staff is down to three and the arboretum is open Wednesday - Sunday and closed Monday and Tuesday. If you would like to volunteer to help the staff, please let them know.

A recent visitor to some of the arboretum programs left this comment: "the staff is so kind, attentive, and patient. They are knowledgeable and friendly. we feel so fortunate to have such wonderful opportunities. We can't recommend them enough." Could not have said it better myself. We are so fortunate to have our arboretum and staff.

Thank you for your membership dues and donations. Without YOU the Friends of the Arboretum would be unable to assist the Arboretum and it's programs. We sincerely appreciate your support and hope you will renew your membership. Membership dues for 2020 are due in January. PayPal is available on the Friends website or you can mail your check to: Friends of the Arboretum, % Patricia Lewis, 262 Country Road 3062, Newton, TX 75966. Please include an email address so we can send you our electronic newsletter. Thank you.

Get out and plant a tree on Arbor Day or walk a trail...

Sincerely,

Jim Robinson
President

Friends of the Arboretum
www.friendslaarb.org

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
Arbor Day 2020	2
Tree spotlight	2
Summer 2019 at LSA	3
Officers and Board Members	4

Arbor Day 2020 at the Arboretum

Join us for our 2020 Arbor Day celebration and tree seedling giveaway on Saturday, January, 18.

This years trees include Pawpaw, Pecan, Shagbark Hickory, Catalpa, Yaupon Holly, Fringetree, Ashe Magnolia, Wax Myrtle, Overcup Oak, Sassa-

fras and Baldcypress.

Limit of 10 seedlings per family.

Celebrations will begin at 10 am at the Arboretum Nature Center located inside of Chicot State Park. For more information call us at 337-363-6289.



Flag raising on Arbor Day 2018.

Tree Spotlight: Ashe Magnolia

Ashe Magnolia (*Magnolia ashei*) is a beautiful small deciduous tree in the Magnolia family. It has 2-3 foot long leaves that are wider at the tip than the base. The flowers are about 1 foot wide

and creamy white with a sweet smell. They usually bloom in late spring and prefer partial shade and rich, acidic soil.



Ashe Magnolia
Magnolia ashei



Summer 2019 events at the Arboretum by Kim Hollier

We had a very busy summer season at the Arboretum in 2019. In addition to our regular weekend programs we had several special events. In June and July we had our first ever Summer Day Camps for kids 5-12. We had three different sessions with a different theme for each week. The first camp was called Aquatic Adventures and the kids learned all about aquatic plants and animals that live in the park. They went dip netting in the lake to search for small fish, crustaceans, insect larvae and other cool things. They learned to cast with a fishing rod and also did lots of arts and crafts related to aquatic animals. The next camp was Forest Explorers and campers went for a guided hike to search for forest animals, they watched a puppet show about forest animals and made their own puppets. The last camp was called

Nature Detectives and campers learned how to use tools such as binoculars and magnifying glasses and microscopes to search for signs of animal life. They also learned about animal tracks and scat and saw four river otters playing in the lake.

The last day of each camp was spent in the park at the splash pad and playing games.

In August we had a special art exhibit by the Contemporary Fiber Artists of Louisiana. They made pieces with the theme "The Poetry of Nature, The Nature of Poetry". The pieces ranged from quilts to felt animals and painted silk. It was enjoyed by many visitors throughout the month. The last weekend of August we were overwhelmed by visitors coming to our programs. Most of the over 350 visitors to the Arboretum that day came specifically for our programs and were not

camping in the park with many saying they heard about the programs from our Facebook page. We had over 100 people for our Foraging for Wild Edibles program that took place at the Caroline Dormon Lodge entrance to the Arboretum. Visitors learned about what plants are good to eat and which ones to stay away from and then were divided into two groups for a short hike to look at the plants. They could then sample some sumac lemonade and pawpaw muffins. In the afternoon we had 160 people show up for the Snake program with some driving up to 3 hours to go to the program. To accommodate everyone the group was split into 4 different half hour sessions from 2pm to 4pm. We had a very full summer and appreciated the cooler autumn weather of the later half of the year.



Friends of the LSA
% Patricia Lewis
262 Country Road 3062
Newton, TX 75966

Friendslaarb.org



Indian Pipes, *Monotropa uniflora*

Officers and Board Members

MEMBERSHIP FEES (annual)

Students and Seniors (62 and older)	\$10
Individual	\$20
Family	\$25
Other	_____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please make your check payable to the **Friends of the Arboretum** and mail to: 262 Country Road 3062, Newton, TX 75966

Officers:

Jim Robinson—President
Peter Loos—Vice President
Rick Webb—Secretary
Patricia Lewis—Treasurer
Jim Foret—Past President

Board Members:

Buck Abbey
Dr. Charles Allen
Jacalyn Duncan
Carol Goldsmith
Dr. Henry Dupre
Marc Pastorek