



Garden News

Notes from the Director

By Dr. David Creech

Surely, life has got to slow down a bit, don't you think? The past couple of months has been a mini-tornado of garden mega-events. First, we had a terrific PNPC trail dedication April 22, 2007 that allowed us to showcase the place to the SFA Board of Regents, the administration, and all our garden supporters. The gardens have never looked better. With an unexpected monsoon summer, our plants are loving it and so are the weeds. Growth has been absolutely great in the garden. Our fountains are actually working! I'm still a bit shocked to know that in a few weeks we will have a brand new (over a mile long) asphalt trail network in the Mast Arboretum! It's a Vic Shepherd of the Physical Plant masterpiece in the works. What an A+ home run this will be! Then, as icing on the cake, something happened a few days ago that made me finally realize we have really arrived in the plant world. Finding *Emmenopterys henryi* in bloom July 12, 2007 in the southeast corner of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden is for the woody tree crowd the equivalent of excitement of a Jack the corpse flower! This rare tree is featured later in this newsletter!

Two weeks in china (June 9-23, 2007) was a whirlwind of Shanghai, Nanjing, Ningbo, Linhai, Shuyan, Hangzhou, and way up in the north, Changshun. These are all monster million-plus cities that are packed with folks thinking, doing, planning, and working hard on some of the most amazing projects on

earth today. We are talking serious double digit growth and a trillion dollar surplus. Anyone here remember a surplus? This is serious growth. After all, we're



talking seventy-five percent of the world's cranes and 40% of the world's concrete. Here's a recap and a few plant highlights from the trip!

The basic objective of this two-week adventure was to cram one week of nursery-greenhouse-horticulture research tours and discussions, and then follow that up with one week of work with a new and interesting blueberry industry developing in China. Here's a recap:

The first week dealt with our cooperative efforts with Professor Yin Yunlong of the Nanjing Botanical Garden, and businessman/nurseryman Zhang Xi He of Ninghai, China. They had encouraged me to bring along a few nurs-

erymen for a week-long tour of the nursery industry and I did. Mike Richards of Live Oak Gardens, New Iberia, Louisiana and Kevin Van Dyke (President, Skinners

Nursery, Florida) and his wife Marcie got a zoom-zoom view of the thousands and thousands of acres of nurseries that have made the "greening" of China a reality in this region of the country.

One of the first stops was Ninghai, China, and Zhang Xi He's Yong-Feng Garden Greenery Construction Co., Ltd. This is a share holding company engaged in planting trees and flowers, and incorporates exploration, propagation, demonstration and sale of ornamental plants. Zhang owns two nurseries. The first is several hundred acres of trees, mostly *Taxodium*. He has huge provincial and government contracts for highway plantings



Dr. Creech with Chinese colleagues

and coastal windbreak forest projects. The market for salt-tolerant, wind-tolerant trees is huge and at the top of the list is bald cypress. Professor Yin has a wide range of *Taxodium* seedlings under evaluation; many are controlled crosses of bald cypress, pond cypress and Mon-

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tezuma cypress. This native of the USA and Mexico has been in China over 100 years and in the last fifty years, the Chinese have multiplied it into the millions. Along



Mike Richards is impressed with bald cypress selections

the way, breeding programs have introduced a number of selections that have found great favor. One was Z302, a bald-cypress X Montezuma cypress cross, which was subsequently named ‘Nanjing Beauty’ as a collaborative effort between SFA and the Nanjing Botanical Garden. At Yong-Feng Nursery, the blocks of ‘Nanjing

Beauty’ were totally uniform, totally dark green, and totally knockouts. Mike Richards, a bald cypress enthusiast, came away shaking his head in amazement. Blocks of other advanced selection material caught our eye. T27 and T140 looked good. T1 was a standout and Professor Yin’s favorite for growth rate, form, and ease of cutting propagation.

A couple of other high spots included seeing a field of *Hibiscus* X ‘Moy Grande’ at the nursery, all propagated from a few cut-



Professor Yin Yunlong gives the thumbs up for the T1 bald cypress selection

tings way back in 2003. Another surprise,



A field of ‘Moy Grande’ hibiscus

the sweet, delightful taste of *Myrica rubra*, which is cultivated in small hillside orchards almost everywhere. A big *Schima* in full bloom bowled me over. A field of Gardenias near Hangzhou grown solely for perfumery was another surprise; this area wants to be an inland bamboo “sea” and Gardenias are actually weeds! As usual, I returned from China jetlagged, a bit confused and disoriented, and kind of grumpy. My staff says that means I’m back to normal! Until later, keep planting!

Long Blooming Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

By Barb Stump

Since our big “garden party” with the Azalea Society of America members in March and the installation of the signs in each bed, there’s been a little more time to spend noticing special features in the garden. With more than 520 different cultivars of azaleas, we really do have a long bloom period. The Huang hybrids in Bed 31 usually begin blooming in mid-February and our Satsuki begin in May.

Satsuki azaleas are very old cultivars, which the Japanese have been selecting and breeding for centuries. The first book ever written about them was published in Japan in 1692 and was called *The Brocade Pillow*. This title is very descriptive, highlighting the highly decorative aspect of these interesting evergreen azaleas. Satsuki frequently exhibit highly varied flower forms and produce “branch sports” with unusual streaks, flecks, and alternate flower colors, all on the same plant. These azaleas could fill an important gardening function in small American gardens. If you could have many colors in a small garden space, such as a patio or condo garden, why not select a

Satsuki? We had several for sale at the Spring Garden Gala and will be looking for more for future sales. You can see ours in



Rhododendron ‘Frosted Orange’

Beds 4 (on the eastern side of the garden) and 17 (on the western side).

For example, May 17 ‘Gunbi’ (Beauty of the group in Japanese) a sport of ‘Gumpo’ was in full bloom, with 1-1/2 to 2-inch white flowers that were heavily speckled or striped as well as some flowers that are all deep red. June 6 ‘Tsuyu no hikari’ (Light of the rainy season) bloomed, with 2-1/2 to

3-inch white flowers. Both are slow growing and compact in habit (typically under two feet tall).

American azalea breeders have used Satsuki in their breeding programs to delay bloom time and add color. Two examples were in bloom May 17: ‘Painted Tips’ is Back Acres hybrid. Developed by B.Y. Morrison of Pass Christian, Mississippi, these hybrids are known for their heavy foliage texture and tolerance for high summer heat. One of the parents is Satsuki ‘Shinnyo no tsuki’ (Eternal Moon). The 2- to 3-inch blooms are off-white with vivid pink petal tips. This is a low-spreading azalea that only gets 20 inches tall in 10 years.

‘Frosted Orange’ was developed by James Harris of Lawrenceville, Georgia, using Satsuki ‘Bunka’ (Cultured) as one of the parents. This evergreen azalea has 3-1/2 inch white flowers with strong reddish orange borders. Bed 5 has a large collection of these that was in full bloom June 6. They are near mature height at 30 inches.

PNPC Garden Report

By Greg Grant

We've been blessed with rain this summer which is good or bad depending whether you're standing on the bank or in the middle of the stream. Of course it made lots of hay for my dad's cows but unfortunately lots of weeds for the PNPC. It would be nice if they were native weeds but they aren't. Of course the worst weeds of all we have at the PNPC are in the Tucker Woods with Chinese privet topping the list. We also have a good deal of Japanese honeysuckle, Chinaberry, and Chinese tallow as well. It's going to take a monumental effort or perhaps divine intervention to get these invasive exotics under control. Continuous cutting and herbicide are probably our only hope. Perhaps we can form an anti-privet brigade. Opening up the understory will sure give our wild blue hyacinths (*Camassia scilloides*) room to breathe and grow. It's actually a prairie wildflower, so there's no such thing as too much light for it.

Many thanks to Nina Ellis and her band of "wild women" volunteers for helping us reclaim the xeric bed from the weeds. Since they are from the western fringes of East Texas they are uniquely qualified to tackle this sandy oasis. Student worker Bryan Deak has also adopted this bed. After the hurricane and some neglect, things had gotten a bit out of control. Unfortunately trying to duplicate a natural bare sandy xeric clearing (no mulch) means weeds are quick to grow. We removed the

irrigation there to make it truly an upland xeric site. We've also removed the water guzzlers and swamp dwellers and added some new stuff, including *Pinus palustris*, *Aesculus glabra arguta*, *Monarda lindheimeri*, variegated *Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*, *Yucca recurvifolia*, and *Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard'. We're also trying to establish an edging of Texas trailing phlox (*Phlox nivalis* ssp. *texensis*). According to friend and neighbor Diana Walker, Mrs. Tucker was quite fond of thrift (*Phlox subulata*) a southeastern look-alike. Plans are to add Dr. Parsons' collection of *Salvia greggii*. He needs help figuring out which ones are different and which ones are the same. He's trying to relocate those selections introduced from Mexico by the late great Lynn Lowry. They'll just be temporary until we can provide proper identification for Dr. Parsons.

I would LOVE to have more volunteers if anybody is up to it. Ultimately I'd like to have a "curator" for each display bed. With 40 acres and only part time student help, there's no way we can get the place into shape without like-minded volunteers.

The rain also brought out the golden chanterelle mushrooms (*Cantharellus cibarius*) in the Tucker Woods. Apparently there's a large industry harvesting and selling these in the Northwest. Although Elyce didn't think they were so tasty I managed to eat them every day for a week in late June.

One of the highlights at the PNPC this spring was watching a pileated woodpecker and a redheaded woodpecker fight over the same big dead pine for nesting cavity rights. I'm a lifelong fan of woodpeckers. Don't tell my bluebirds! After growing up with redheaded woodpeckers in the post oaks at my Granny's house in Arcadia, they went missing for the last decade or so. But for some reason they have shown back up in full force this year, not only at home and the PNPC but even in downtown Center. Most will agree that the hurricane was good for the woodpeckers.

Please do what you can to save and protect any wild spaces that you have under your control. Unfortunately there are precious too few spaces where our God-given diversity of trees, wildflowers, and wildlife can grow naturally any more. I was very saddened this spring to see the only stands of our drooping purple cone flower (*Echinacea sanguinea*) and wild blue larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*) mowed down before finishing blooming along the roads in Arcadia. There are darned few places left for our East Texas prairie flowers to grow any more that aren't grazed, mowed, or paved. We live in a unique spot in the country where we have botanical representatives from Canada, Appalachia, the Great Plains, the Tropics, and the Desert Southwest. It's a shame not to pass this diversity on to future generations. Until next time, keep Texas wild!



What's blooming in the garden?



PNPC Update

By Dr. David Creech



Dr. Baker Patillo and Ms. Valerie Ertz cut the ribbon at the PNPC trails dedication

On April 22, 2007, the Pineywoods Native Plant Center hosted the dedication of our amazing 2.2-mile trail network and kicked off a campaign to fund the Environmental Education Center. It was a perfect night. Our guests included the SFA Board of Regents, the SFA administration, our board of advisors, and an army of supporters, volunteers and staff. While Dave Creech, James

Kroll, and Mike Legg enjoyed a little time at the microphone, it was up to SFA President Baker Patillo and Valerie Ertz, Chairman of the Board of Regents, to handle the ribbon cutting. Guests enjoyed an interpretive stroll in the forest led by Elyce Rodewald and Mike Legg and learned about the PNPC, the trails, and the long range vision for this wonderful garden. A first-class dinner was followed by a presentation on the PNPC—a Dave Creech where-it's been, where-it-is, to where-it's-going moment. Larry Greer and the Shades of Blue Jazz Band provided the background music for a magical evening, which even included the song of a distant chuck-will's-widow in our forest.

Development Report

The George and Fay Young Foundation recently awarded us a \$12,500 grant for a "PNPC—Raising Awareness Program," with two elements: completion of signage all along the PNPC trails and a "Best of the

Best Native Plants Garden" to be designed by David and Janet Creech. Elyce Rodewald and Greg Grant have been working on the content of these signs, with advice from board member Dr. Mike Legg. The new garden will be created on a sunny knoll on the northern edge of the PNPC property and will emphasize use of colorful native perennials, shrubs, and trees.

Firewise Landscape Exhibit

Greg, Elyce and the PNPC student crew completed work on the Firewise Landscape Educational Exhibit this spring. Original artwork by local artist Bruce Cunningham shows examples of plants that will slow or even extinguish a wildfire, plants to avoid and how residential homeowners can create a 30-foot "defensible space" around their homes. When you visit the PNPC, be sure to look for firewise plants and new signage, in the "backyard" of the Tucker House. This public awareness project was funded by the Texas Forest Service through their

A *Schima* Experience in China

By Dr. David Creech

We've enjoyed *Schima* here and there in the Mast Arboretum and Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden for many years. They're attractive and durable small evergreen trees. *Schima* is in the Theaceae family, which means it's kin to the camellia. It sports dark-green, bold, elliptic leaves and a show of summertime white flowers. While we have accessions that include *S. argentea*, *S. wallichii*, *S. superba*, and *S. remoto-serrata*, most botanists lump them all under *S. wallichii*. In spite of that, no one denies that there's considerable variability in leaf size, tree form, and flowering. While it can reach over 100' in its home in China, *Schima* in our area might reach 20' to 40' in that many years.

On a recent trip to China, I was just plain lucky to catch the species in full bloom, June 17, 2007, on a mountain road near Linhai, part of the mountainous subtropical lands near the coast. The region normally enjoys good summer rains, but springs can bring extended dry spells. Some spots experience freezes and some do not with microclimates dominating here and there. In the mountains, the natural forest cover of the region depends, of course, on elevation,

aspect, and how much human interaction is going on. In many areas, it's a broad swath of factories, businesses, apartments, road and tunnel and rail projects, all quite land changing. There are other areas – wild lands, if you will, where the native vegetation has been given a chance. The diversity really is amazing. *Loropetalum* and *Gardenias* are weeds here! *Cunninghamia*, China fir, dominates the mid and upper slopes. Bamboo wants to own the place. In a wide variety of habitats, *Schima* seems to survive quite well in forest edges, bar ditches, roadsides, and fence rows. To me it looked like a durable plant in a tough landscape. The white flowers are axillary but mostly subterminal and the blooms feature a showy center of bright yellow anthers. Mildly fragrant, the flowers were caught just coming into full bloom in mid-June in central China, and, to my surprise, the same species was in full flower June 24th in our garden – that's about the same time. I'm not sure how significant that is, but I liked the idea. Hardiness remains a question mark simply because we've tested our trees only into the mid-teens. We need

some single-digit events to get a better feel for adaptation in southern landscapes.

Our conclusion: This an interesting plant, one rarely encountered in southern gardens. It appears to have horticultural potential across a wide band of the South. Dr. Tom Ranney of North Carolina State University has crossed *Franklinia* (also in the Theaceae) with *Schima*; I've seen the plants in bloom and they were quite stunning. *Schimilinas*! The next big question is has anyone ever crossed *Schima* with *Camellia*? Everyone will want a *Schimellia*, don't you think?



Schima remoto-serrata blooms in the Azalea Garden

Pineywoods Camp

By Kerry Lemon

We had three successful weeks of Pineywoods Camp. Wonder Woods our program for 4-6 year olds was held at the PNPC and had 19 children enrolled. A record 30 campers of 7-11 year olds attended Mill Creek Camp held at Mill Creek Gardens. Wilderness Adventures for 12-16 year olds had seventeen campers enrolled and was also held at Mill Creek Gardens, including a day canoe trip on the Neches River and a camp-out at Earthsprings Retreat Center located near the Davy Crockett National Forest.

A total of 66 children ranging in age from 4 to 16 were served. Almost half of our kids are returning campers, and we had 10 campers who have attended all 6 years of camp. We were able to give scholarships to 14 campers thanks to generous donations from SFA Mast Arboretum and Pineywoods Native Plant Center board members, SFA Mast Arboretum Volunteers and members of the community.

Several guests joined us at camp to share their

expertise with the children. Dian Avriett from the Sierra Club brought turtles to Wonder Woods and "wowed" the kids. Kerry Barnes, our resident snake "charmer", brought a collection of snakes to Mill Creek and Brendan Kavanaugh, an SFA graduate student, came to both Mill Creek and Wilderness Adventures to share his widespread knowledge of turtles. Both Mill Creek and Wilderness Adventures campers were treated to guided hikes by experts in tree and plant identification: Jim Neil, Jeff Reid, Greg Grant, Dan McBride, Trey Anderson, Peter Loos, Emily Goodwin, and Andy Burrows. Greg Grant also came to Wilderness Adventures and talked about the importance, both practically and historically, of "lighter pine" in the successful building of fires. Mike Maningus from the new Outdoor Pursuits program at SFA brought a team of folks to Wilderness Adventures to present initiative and team building games for our older campers. Jim Lemon offered his canoes and canoeing skills. We had life guards from Nacogoches Recreation Center - Maroney

Pool, as well as several parents and other adults who volunteered their services to make sure all went off safely with good supervision.

We are especially grateful for the support of the Arboretum-PNPC board for the past 6 years and for the continued use of the Mill Creek Garden conservation easement granted by the Hayter Trust. Our camp is staffed by a combination of volunteers and student workers. We are lucky to have several retired teachers as well as current teachers join us for the fun of sharing their love of the outdoors with these children. It is gratifying to touch the lives of all these children as well as impact the lives of so many adults who share in the experience.

It is hard to convey the special moments and great experiences we have at camp, but Annabelle, a Wonder Woods camper, said it beautifully... "This has been the funnest day of my whole life!"



"Though the word beautification makes the concept sound merely cosmetic, it involves much more: clean water, clean air, clean roadsides, safe waste disposal and preservation of valued old landmarks as well as great parks and wilderness areas. To me...beautification means our total concern for the physical and human quality we pass on to our children and the future." - Lady Bird Johnson



SFA Mast Arboretum Update

By Dawn Stover



Dr. Creech tests out the new asphalt trails

The lazy days of summer have arrived. We have been blessed with an abundance of rain, cooler temperatures, and a lighthearted student crew. Some might loathe the amount of rainfall we have had, but I'd take rain any day over 100 degree temperatures. The gardens are lush, the grass is green, and today the sun is shining. We've had a plant sale since the last newsletter, and we raised a little over \$30,000 in about five hours. It's truly amazing, especially when you consider the amount work involved – kudos and thanks to our many wonderful volunteers. The money helps a variety of causes in the Arboretum, from educational programs to daily operations, and yes even to acquire a new plant or two. Thanks to all who support us in this regard; I hope your new plants are happy!

The Four Seasons Garden Club of Nacogdoches recently gave us a donation for picnic benches to be placed at the Children's

Garden. A big thanks to these ladies! We did have two wonderful benches donated by the Mother's Club of Nacogdoches, but unfortunately the "children" that we have on campus can be a bit rough, and a might heavy. To get the most for our money, I found some sturdy plans online, and a student with good carpentry skills. We will be able to make at least four new tables, including the two currently at the Children's Garden, with this generous donation. Roger Randall has volunteered to help us finish the remaining tables once blueberry season is over.

The Arboretum is a mess! A good mess. Work on our trail network is finally underway. Mr. Vic Shepherd and his crew from Grounds and Transportation have removed sod, installed culverts, added limestone, and laid a bit of asphalt. We've quite a ways to go, but there is finally some progress! A switchback was created by the Children's Garden to facilitate movement down from College Avenue. There's a great spot in the middle just begging for a specimen tree. The ground needs to dry up a bit before the paths in Asian Valley are made, but no one around here is asking the rain to go away. With luck and sunshine we'll be able to have stroller races through the Arboretum by the end of summer.

The groundwork is laid for the "dinosaur/prehistoric/we need a better name" garden. There are some great "bones" here in the

form of ginko, elms, dogwood, banana shrubs and lots of palms. Fleshing out the bones are lush gingers, bear's breeches, sedges, and other interesting-foliaged beauties. Highlights occur with a golden Japanese plum yew, Japanese maples, and several species of voodoo lily. This fall we are looking to fill the empty spots with a pretty outstanding collection of ferns. We have been working with a grant in conjunction with Dr. Shiyou Li from the Center for Medicinal Plant Research at SFA. The grant funds Dr. Li's fern research and provides money for enhancement of the fern collections in the gardens.



An improved *Hedychium* x 'Mr. Moy' blooms in the new prehistoric area

There are many new things happening in the Arboretum. I hope that you take a moment to visit and enjoy the things that are here and take a peek at the improvements too. And just wait until you see what I've got planned for the Children's Garden...

Rare Tree Blooms in Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

By Dr. David Creech

One of the rarest trees of China is blooming in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. Native to Burma, Thailand, and China, the specimen is actually related to *Gardenia*. The famous plant explorer, E. H. Wilson, who discovered *Emmenopterys henryi* in 1907, wrote that he found the tree to be "one of the most strikingly beautiful trees of the Chinese forests." White winged bracts surround a cluster of fragrant white to cream colored flowers and blooms normally appear at the top of the tree. The tree features bold dark green leaves and a pleasing form. In China, the timber wood was once popular

in the construction of houses and furniture, but because of deforestation in the lower subtropical mountains, the species is rarely encountered in the wild. The tree is rare in USA gardens and flowering events even rarer, and when they do occur, they garner much interest and attention by enthusiasts of rare woody trees. Many reports suggest that the tree takes many years to flower. In fact, a UK tree took 75 years before it flowered in 1987 at Wakehurst Place and it hasn't flowered since. Dr. Creech, Director of the SFA Mast Arboretum, commented "Our eight year old specimen seems to prove that all

this tree really needs is some of our blazing Texas heat."



Emmenopterys henryi blooms in the Azalea Garden

Plant Profile: *Rudbeckia hirta*

By Dawn Stover

As a huge fan of annuals and perennials, there is an occasional tree or shrub that catches my eye and enters my repertoire. I think the same can be said, vice-versa, for Dr. Creech. Last year I planted some 'Indian Summer' and 'Prairie Sun' black-eyed Susan, my two favorites, in the color display gardens and I'm pretty sure that the lovely Mrs. Janet Creech had a bouquet or two picked for her. Of course Dr. Creech was merely deadheading for the sake of experience in the herbaceous world, but it did prompt him to ask for a deeper look-see into the world of *Rudbeckia hirta*, commonly known as black-eyed Susan. My affection for this southeastern US native began in my younger days when I asked my mom what her favorite flower was. I'm pretty sure she pointed at the pasture across the road to the cheerful yellow flowers and said "black-eyed Susan." While the wild

species is pretty, it's not up to the Disney World status of most of our landscape plants. Luckily, someone along the way saw enough potential to do some selection and breeding, and today there are many neat cultivars to choose from.

Rudbeckia hirta is best classified as an annual, although it is sometimes listed as both a hardy biennial and a perennial. From my experience, I prefer to think of it as an annual. It prefers a very sunny location with lean, sharply drained soil. It doesn't like excess water, but does benefit from supplemental water in the summer. Armyworms and grasshoppers can be a problem, but both can be controlled quite easily. Black-eyed Susan is a terrific cut flower, and will reward you with more blooms as they are cut for a vase or periodically deadheaded. Most varieties peter out in the latter part of

the summer, but a few manage to hang in there with a good display until frost intervenes. Thankfully my two favorite varieties mentioned earlier seem to have a bit more longevity than the others, and are the largest flowers out of the bunch. Individual flowers have a conical central disk, and narrow to broad yellow petals sometimes with varying degrees of maroon at the base of the petals. The biggest reason black-eyed Susan isn't used as a professional bedding annual is its high degree of variability even within a select cultivar. Plants just don't perform as uniformly as most landscapers prefer, but they are still quite worthy of planting in the garden. Again, 'Indian Summer' and 'Prairie Sun' seem to be the exception to the rule. Seeds are easy to find, and you can bet there will be a variety or two at the next spring sale, so there's no excuse not to try this lovely little gem!



Indian Summer



Chim Chiminee



Sonora



Marmalade



Cherokee Sunset



Prairie Sun



Toto



Goldilocks

Rudbeckia hirta

We celebrate the life of the exceptional Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson whose efforts to preserve our native wildflowers gives us cause for celebration every spring in Texas. We are grateful that Mrs. Johnson's efforts led to the creation of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and are proud to be affiliated as a Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Demonstration Garden at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center. Mrs. Johnson was present at the dedication of our Demonstration Garden as well as the "grand opening" of the PNPC in April of 2000. We are thankful for her legacy...

"Some may wonder why I chose wildflowers when there are hunger and unemployment and the big bomb in the world. Well, I, for one, think we will survive, and I hope that along the way we can keep alive our experience with the flowering earth. For the bounty of nature is also one of the deep needs of man." - Lady Bird Johnson 1912-2007

**Stephen F. Austin State University
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture
PO Box 13000-SFA
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-3000**



<http://arboretum.sfasu.edu>

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

We Have a New Neighbor - the Jimmy Hinds Park!

By Dr. David Creech

Fresh off the Press and Great News! On April 24, 2007, the family of James Herbert "Jimmy" Hinds (1893-1944) donated 2.34 acres of land on East Austin Street to SFA's Tucker Woods Trail. This parcel of land, known as Jimmy Hinds Park, has been the north end of the LaNana Creek Trail since the City of Nacogdoches was granted an easement in July of 1991. Jimmy Hinds Park provides the perfect "North" entrance to the Tucker Woods Trail and the Pineywoods Native Plant Center. Plans for an accessible parking lot are in the works! What a wonderful addition to the LaNana Creek Trail and PNPC! Stephen F. Austin

State University and Drs. Dave Creech and James Kroll, co-Directors of SFA's PNPC, and Dr. Abernethy of the Lanana Creek Trail committee, all thank the Jimmy Hinds family for this wonderful gift. We will make you proud. The family includes daughter Mrs. Barbara Hinds Finney of Houston, daughter Mrs. Patricia Hinds Spearman of Raleigh, N.C., and grandchildren Mrs. Susan Hinds Knox of Austin and Mr. Dan Hinds, Jr. of Houston. Jimmy Hinds was truly a one-man band in the early years of the SFA Agriculture Department of the 1920s. He's best known perhaps for being the very first pioneer in the introduc-

tion of the best poultry breeds and technology into East Texas 90 years ago. He was an avid gardener and led a long-ago troop of early "Ag" majors to tending a sizeable garden which included fruit trees, vegetables, and ornamentals. He was a hands-on teacher who loved to grow things, tend livestock, and was known as a hard worker who enjoyed his work. In a later issue, we will provide more of a tribute to Jimmy Hinds. This green garden spot will be a fitting memorial to this pioneer in the field of science and education in East Texas agriculture.