

Trees planted in the Brazos County Arboretum:

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
Chinese Fringetree (*Chionanthus retusus*)
Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)
Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)
Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
Little Gem Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem')
Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana* or *Quercus fusiformis*)
Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*)
Monterrey Oak (*Quercus polymorpha*)
Montezuma Cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum* or *T. distichum* var. *mexicana*)
Oklahoma Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma')
Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)
Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)
Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)
Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*)
Texas Whitebud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Texas White')
Vitex (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

This arboretum is intended to be a living resource for the citizens of Brazos County. It provides horticultural information, encouraging not only community beautification, but also conservation of natural resources. Trees reduce erosion, stabilize soils, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce noise pollution, provide shade and help home owners minimize water and energy use.

This project was made possible through the financial and in-kind donations of Ms. Atkins, the Brazos County Commissioner's Court, ISA-certified arborists, the Brazos County Road and Bridge Department, Texas AgriLife Extension Agents, Extension Specialists and Brazos County Master Gardeners. Thank you.



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Welcome to the dedication of
The Brazos County Arboretum
In memory of Mary and Ira Lee Dewees

Arbor Day
Friday, April 30, 2010
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Brazos County Master Gardener
Demonstration Idea Garden
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Brazos County Office
2619 Highway 21 West
Bryan, Texas



The dedication of the Brazos County Arboretum acknowledges a gift to the Brazos County Master Gardener Association from Ms. Janis Atkins, founder of Brazos Natural Foods. The gift, given in memory of her parents Ira Lee and Mary Dewees, recognizes their life-long dedication to gardening and preservation of nature.

Ira Lee and Mary Dewees moved to Bryan, Texas upon Ira Lee's retirement in 1980. One of the first things they did was plant trees on their new property. In Baytown where they previously resided they grew bay, camphor, oak and pecan trees. They brought seedlings of these trees with them and slowly added tree varieties adapted to this region, primarily oaks, that were readily available at the time. They then built their rose, perennial and vegetable gardens amongst them.

The Dewees were very generous in sharing the bounty of their gardens. Mary especially enjoyed passing along seeds, cuttings and divisions from their garden with her family, friends and neighbors as often as she could. The Dewees' generous and curious nature passed onto their children and grandchildren who were fortunate to spend many moments in the gardens. Together they appreciated the seasonal experiences that nature provides.

The 24 trees that were planted are adapted to the growing conditions of the Brazos Valley, and will provide a living resource for its citizens to learn from and enjoy.

The Brazos County Arboretum

In memory of Mary and Ira Lee Dewees

Dedication Program

AgriLife Extension Service Introduction

Mr. Eric Zimmerman

County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Association Introduction

Ms. Charla Anthony

Extension Program Assistant - Horticulture

Recognition of Ms. Janis Atkins' Donation

Ms. MiChal Hall

Vice President, Brazos County Master Gardeners

Guest Speaker

Dr. Barron Rector

Extension Range Specialist

TAMU Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

Official Garland Cutting and Opening of the Arboretum

Informal Arboretum Tour

Master Gardener Volunteers

"Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life... Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter."

– Rachel Carson, *The Sense of Wonder*