

New Beginnings

On October 3, 2009, the Burgess Arboretum will be officially dedicated and open to the public. In celebration of the College's 125-year Anniversary (1883-2008), visitors can take a tour of Reinhardt's 125 Most Noble Trees and Shrubs Walk. More tree walk paths and signs will be added as Arboretum restoration efforts continue into the future.

Mission Statement

The Burgess Arboretum at Reinhardt College has been established to preserve and promote the beauty of the Reinhardt College campus landscape and to educate the community of the scientific, aesthetic and economic values of plants in our environment. The Burgess Arboretum was also established to preserve the legacy of Dr. James Rowland Burgess Jr. and the horticulture stewardship he demonstrated on the Reinhardt College campus landscape.

Come Visit Us!

Free and Open Daily from dusk to dawn.
Guided tours for groups available upon request.

Donations Welcome!

An endowment fund has been established for student projects, memorial trees, tree planting and labeling initiatives.

If you are interested in supporting these activities, please contact:

Zach White
Horticulturist at Reinhardt College
Waleska, GA 30183-2981
Phone (770) 720-5988
Fax (770) 720-5602
Burgess Arboretum
Reinhardt College
7300 Reinhardt College Circle

Visitor Information & Directions

www.reinhardt.edu/visitors
www.reinhardt.edu/OurStory/Directions

Restoration Updates

<http://burgessarboretumatreinhardtcollege.blogspot.com>

Join Us On FaceBook

At Groups under Burgess Arboretum at Reinhardt College

Arboretum Partners

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
Cherokee County
Cherokee County Master Gardeners

The Burgess
Arboretum
Est. 1951

Lagerstroemia indica
'Near East', Crapemyrtle

Liquidambar styraciflua, Sweetgum

¹⁸⁸³
T Reinhardt College
in Waleska, Ga.

The Burgess Arboretum

The Reinhardt College campus contains a unique arboretum, initiated by the late Dr. James Rowland Burgess, Jr. in 1951, which contains heritage trees of historical and noteworthy value to Cherokee County and Georgia.

The Arboretum is located on the 540-acre campus of Reinhardt College in Waleska, Ga., just 45 minutes northwest of downtown Atlanta and within easy driving distance of the metro area's many educational, cultural and recreational resources. The convenient location of the Arboretum makes it easily accessible and a desirable destination point for eco-tourists, hobby gardeners, green industry businesses, horticulture enthusiasts and interested students.



The Burgess Arboretum comprises "one of the finest and most varied collections of plants on the Eastern seaboard."

Paul Pugliese
County Extension Agent
Cherokee County



Picture above: Dr. Burgess (left) and Secretary of State Ben Fortson pause to admire the "Fortson Oak" (transplanted 1970). The tree was grown from an acorn taken from the State Capital grounds.

Creation of an Arboretum

Dr. Burgess dedicated his time and service to the creation of an arboretum on the Reinhardt campus. The work done by Dr. Burgess still remains in the archives of the College's Hill Freeman Library and Spruill Learning Center. During his 28-year presidency (1944-1973), more than 550 trees and 800 shrubs were planted by Dr. Burgess. Although the Reinhardt College campus has changed dramatically since the Burgess Era, the landscape still contains large green space tracts that are intact with numerous, noteworthy tree specimens.

Restoration Begins

Since 2008, the Arboretum and associated data have undergone a revival and restoration so to be utilized and more greatly appreciated by the general public and the Reinhardt College community. The College partnered with the Cherokee County Cooperative Extension Office and Cherokee County Master Gardeners to restore the campus arboretum into a modern arboretum for historical and educational value.

The restoration effort has included entering data from the original card catalogs into a database, conducting surveys on new trees and shrubs and original specimens according to the map and cataloging system used by Dr. Burgess, and posting new signs to mark trees for identification.

New tree tag purchased as part of the restoration program

Water Oak
Quercus nigra
Fagaceae family
Eastern North America

1885
II

Liquidambar styraciflua, Sweetgum

Tsuga canadensis
Eastern Hemlock

Original tree tag first implemented by Dr. Burgess

Quercus nigra, Water Oak