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Red Maple Rill Opens at Dallas Arboretum Creating a Major, New Public Garden

DALLAS, TX - The Nancy Rutchik Red Maple Rill opens October 6, 2011, at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, adding another new, iconic feature to the internationally recognized display gardens.

The two-acre site, originally a ravine filled with bamboo and poison ivy, has been transformed into a series of Texas Stream cascades and reflecting pools, lined with Encore azaleas and woodland plants, and featuring more than 80 varieties of Japanese maples. More than 200 trees were hand-selected and range in size from weeping varieties only two feet tall to a large, signature specimen believed to be more than 100 years old.

Mike Rawlins, Dallas Mayor, Joan Walne, Park Board President, Steve Coke, Chairman of the Arboretum Board, City officials and other distinguished guests will be in attendance, including Rowland Jackson, President of Newman, Jackson Bierbestein, along with architect Milton Powell and Partners, who designed the Martin Rutchik Concert Lawn and Stage four years ago.

A gathering plaza off the Arboretum's main walkway, the Paseo de Flores, is at the top of the hillside. Clear sheets of water spill from the limestone walls into two, large bowls that flank the spectacular view of the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage and White Rock Lake in the distance. At the Plaza level, a quiet reflecting pool cascades down the narrow, boulder-shaped ravine and meanders down a stone rill to dark reflecting pools at the base of the hill. The concert lawn walk is enhanced with views of natural waterfalls and rivulets for concert patrons.

More than 1,000 tons of giant boulders were installed by the Beck Group to create this natural water course. Winding walkways lead visitors down the hillside, crossing the rill (or stream) on a featured Maple Bridge. West of the bridge is the Maple Terrace display that features circular rows of contrasting colors of Maples. Distinctive night lighting will create a magical setting for evening concerts, garden parties and weddings.

Designed by H. Rowland Jackson, FASLA of Newman, Jackson Bieberstein, Inc., the Red Maple Rill completes the master plan for the adjoining concert lawn and stage that was also commissioned by Mrs. Rutchik in honor of her late husband, Martin Rutchik. The concert lawn has consistently been recognized as one of the "Best Places in Dallas" to attend an outdoor concert. The completion of the Red Maple Rill provides additional VIP concert seating in an overlook that offers a gorgeous vista of both the Rill and White Rock Lake.

"I was thrilled with the design when I first saw it and have been thinking about it ever since," Mrs. Rutchik said, "because it would add to the ambience of the concert lawn and stage, both named for my husband, Martin. As I see it completed, it has fulfilled my greatest expectations and I know it will bring such joy to millions of visitors for years to come."

The Red Maple Rill gives visitors better access to the concert lawn and ties the Paseo, A Woman's Garden and the Camp House into a seamless whole," explained Dave Forehand, vice president of gardens. "And, there's nothing more soothing than the sound of falling water, gushing from the top of the hill and tumbling over the giant boulders into the lily pond at the bottom."

Completing the Red Maple Rill also increases the Arboretum's collection of Acer species and cultivars to over 120 varieties, explained Jimmy Turner, senior director of gardens. "This installation will help us evaluate these new varieties and species for their adaptability to Texas gardens and

landscapes. From a horticultural standpoint, the Red Maple Rill is an important addition to the gardens because of the impressive collection of Maple species and cultivars".

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road in Dallas, Texas. The Arboretum is open daily from 9 am until 5 pm. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65 and older, \$8 for children 3-12 and admission is free for Arboretum members and children 2 and under. On-site parking is \$7. The Arboretum is wheelchair accessible and the tram service sponsored by Stryker Orthopedics is available for the mobility impaired. For more information, visit the Arboretum's website at www.dallasarboretum.org or call 214-515-6500.

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