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**Landscape Architect H. Roland Jackson Creates
Dallas Arboretum's Newest Attraction
The Nancy Rutchik Red Maple Rill**

DALLAS, TX - Only a master landscape architect could turn a poison ivy-and-bamboo-infested ravine into a showplace attraction but that's what H. Rowland Jackson, FASLA, did in creating the Nancy Rutchik Red Maple Rill for the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Formal opening ceremonies for the Arboretum's newest garden were held October 6, 2011.

Thanks to the design of a gurgling Texas stream, complete with multiple cascades, runnels and reflecting pools plus more than 200 Japanese maples, the two-acre site between the Women's Garden and Martin Rutchik Concert Stage and Lawn has become a peaceful refuge for visitors with tantalizing views of White Rock Lake. A winding walkway along the stream, shaded by huge native trees, offers easy access between gardens

"I've loved working with the Arboretum for many years," Mr. Jackson, a design principal and president of Newman, Jackson Bierbestein, Inc., said, "both as a volunteer serving on the board and committees, as well as doing design commission work. This exciting project was envisioned by the Arboretum's 2001 master plan and has finally come to fruition, thanks to the generosity of Nancy Rutchik."

Mr. Jackson participated in writing the Program Document for the Arboretum's Perimeter Enhancement Project and also worked with the Arboretum's Selection Committee Team for the creation of the new Rory Meyers Children's Garden, now under construction.

"This early work at the Arboretum provided a lot of insight into how this important Red Maple Rill fits comfortably into the overall Master Plan," Mr. Jackson concluded.

"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."

Jackson's firm, along with the architectural firm, Milton Powell and Partners, designed the Martin Rutchik Concert Lawn and Stage four years ago. The Arboretum did not want a band shell structure for the stage, Mr. Jackson recalled, but preferred a soft, planted backdrop for venues, something that would blend into the pastoral setting along the shores of White Rock Lake. Magnolias, Loropetalum and a boxwood hedge provide an excellent backdrop for the slightly raised stage at the foot of the grassy, shaded hillside.

Concert patrons have the options of sitting close to the stage on low, stone seat walls or on picnic blankets on the lawn to enjoy beautiful sunsets and excellent music. Adjoining the Rill is a slightly raised area that offers reserved seating for Arboretum patrons, with views of both the lake and the Rill.

"The Red Maple Rill gives visitors better access to the concert lawn and ties the Arboretum's main walkway, the Paseo de Flores, A Woman's Garden and the Camp House into a seamless whole," explained Dave Forehand, Arboretum Vice President of Gardens. "And, there's nothing more soothing than the sounds of falling water, gushing from two oversized bowls at the top of the hill and tumbling over the giant boulders into the lily pond at the bottom."

Arboretum staffers hand-selected more than 80 varieties of Japanese maple trees in Oregon last fall and acclimated them to Texas during the ensuing months. The maples range in size from two-foot tall to a large "Texas Bonsai" Tree that is more than 100 years old. This special Maple has a wonderful, sculptural, branch structure that makes a wonderful display in the fall. Encore azaleas and other woodland plants line the stream and walkways, offering colorful, dynamic views throughout the year. Distinctive tree lighting will create a magical setting during evening concerts and garden parties.

"There's a 28-foot elevation change from the Paseo walkway to the foot of the concert lawn along Lawther Drive," explained Dave Forehand, vice president of gardens. "Rowland's through planning has given us better access from Lawther Drive for bands to load in and out plus the Water-Lily Pond is a new garden feature for visitors to enjoy.

"Our firm has a very diverse landscape architecture and urban design practice," Mr. Jackson said. "Our varied client base includes healthcare, college and university, institutional and park and recreation work. The scale of our work varies from small gardens to the large Cowboy Stadium project but seeing the Arboretum continue to add new garden features for visitors to enjoy is one of the most satisfying projects I've touched."

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX, 75218. Group discounts are available with advance registration. For more information including ticket prices, admission and upcoming events, call (214) 515-6500 or visit the Arboretum's website at www.dallasarboretum.org.

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