

Earth-Kind® News for May

Chamblee Rose Garden Dedicated

The Chamblee Rose Garden at Tyler's LeGrand Gardens was officially opened in March with a celebration that included speeches by Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass, Dr. Stephen George and Mark Chamblee, owner of Chamblee Roses. The garden features 120 Earth-Kind® roses donated by the Chamblee family in memory of Mark Chamblee's grandfather, Walter Kelley, a former groundskeeper of the Goodman Estate, which is now the Goodman Museum, site of the LeGrand Gardens.

The Chamblee family has lengthy ties with the Goodman family. Mr. Kelley was born on the Goodman farm and Mark Chamblee says that is where he learned to tend roses while working for his own father who grew roses on the Goodman grounds.

The rose garden is the first step in the development of the LeGrand Gardens at the Goodman Museum which will be the first entirely Earth-Kind® botanical garden in the world. Additional plans include butterfly, azalea and kitchen gardens all of which will utilize the Earth-Kind® approach to land management.



During the celebration this bronze sculpture was unveiled. "Fidelity" was created by artists Cherry and Jim Day of Whitehouse. A plaque on the base dedicates the sculpture to Dr. Stephen W. George, "The man who brought EarthKind to the world".

Texas Legislators Receive Earth-Kind® Roses

April 2, 2009 was designated as Texas Agriculture Day by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples. As part of the celebration individuals connected with all phases of agriculture descended on Austin for 3 days of exhibits and conversations with state lawmakers in Austin. Included in this effort was a group representing the Earth-Kind® initiative. Armed with 600 Belinda's Dream rose bushes to distribute at the capitol, this was among the most popular delegations. Along with Dr. Steve George, the group included Garey Wylie, and Mark Chamblee. Belinda's Dream was the first rose to be declared as Earth-Kind® so made an appropriate presentation gift. Two hundred of the plants were delivered directly to the offices of the legislators while 400 more were distributed from the Earth-Kind® booth that was set up in the capitol building. Look for a splendid display across Texas next spring as these 600 new Earth-Kind® roses begin their awesome display.