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LOCKERLY ARBORETUM UPGRADED TO LEVEL III BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA (June 16, 2021) – Lockerly Arboretum in Milledgeville, GA has been upgraded to a Level III Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum, for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. In addition to the recent upgrade, Lockerly Arboretum is also recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.

The mission of Lockerly Arboretum is to inspire an understanding and appreciation of horticulture, nature and heritage. Level II accreditation was achieved by Lockerly in 2017. The recognition and trust that comes with Level II accreditation allowed Lockerly to pursue an active agenda related to tree science, strategic planting, and conservation. This agenda included a partnership with North Dakota State University on their poplar hybrid research project as well as a partnership with professors from Georgia College and State University, researching biodiversity, soil chemistry, plant anatomy and morphology.

About Lockerly Arboretum

Lockerly Arboretum Foundation is the fulfillment of Mr. E.J. Grassmann's vision for an arboretum that would contribute to the natural beauty, cultural atmosphere and environmental education of his community. Mr. E.J. Grassmann was the owner of American Industrial Clay Company and he founded Lockerly as a 501c3 organization in 1965. We have been serving the Milledgeville and Middle Georgia community as a 50 acre public garden and educational resource ever since. Over the past 50 years, with the help of supporters and countless volunteers, Lockerly has accomplished the following:

- Become one of 19 American Conifer Society Reference Gardens in the Southeast;
- Established the Woods Museum, which displays a 300 year old section of a bald cypress as well as a native reptile display;
- Created a collection of plants from around the world including Blue China Fir, Variegated Canadian Hemlock, Tall Stewartia (Japan), Chinese Pistache, Loquat (China, Japan & Korean) and Lacebark Elm;
- Offered educational field trips and events for 5,000 children and adults each year.
- Preserved Rose Hill, a National Register, 1852 Greek Revival home.

About ArbNet

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by [The Morton Arboretum](#) in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with [American Public Gardens Association](#) and [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#), is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

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