

THE JOHN FAIREY GARDEN

Garden History

- 1971 Professor John Fairey acquired seven acres near Hempstead and founded Peckerwood Garden. He developed plans and constructed the garden after careful consideration of erosion control around the stream, soil conditions, seasonal sun and wind changes.
- 1971-1983 Fairey was a silent partner in Waller Nursery, whose manager was George Clary. Fairey used this connection to help begin the planting of trees and shrubs at Peckerwood Garden.
- 1983 Severe tornado ravaged garden, tearing off canopies of mature trees and changing the light conditions.
- 1983-1988 Fairey repaired damage from tornado and rearranged understory plants and introduced new plants that thrive in Texas sun.
- 1986 Fairey began partnership with Carl Schoenfeld to replace trees and introduce rare and unusual plants at Peckerwood. Established YuccaDo Nursery to sell plants and seeds from Texas; the Southeast, Asia, and Mexico to share with other gardeners. Profits used to support Peckerwood Garden.
- 1988 onward Plant expeditions with Carl Schoenfeld and Lynn Lowrey (recognized as the champion of native Texas plants) to the mountains of Mexico's Sierra Madre Oriental to collect seeds and plant cuttings. Since then, Fairey has made more than 90 expeditions to Mexico for plant cuttings and seeds. The garden now has an estimated 3,000 species of rare plants and cultivars.
- 1988 onward Seed exchanges between Peckerwood Garden and University of California at Berkeley, Harvard University, North Carolina State University, University of California at Santa Cruz, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and Cholipo Arboretum Foundation in Chungchong Namdo, Korea.
- 1971-1999 Gradual acquisition of land for a total of 19 acres.
- 1997 Fairey and Schoenfeld awarded American Horticultural Society Commercial Award for their commitment to excellence in commercial horticulture.
- 1998 Established the Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation to identify and conserve as much as possible of the threatened and disappearing native Mexican flora. It marked the expansion of a national organization, the Garden Conservancy, into Texas to establish the trust.
- 2002-2003 Architect Gerald Maffei designed residence and office buildings.
- 2007 Maffei addition to original residence converted to an art gallery. Grace Riggan headed the design and construction of the project.
- 2008 Acquisition of adjoining twenty acres and structure, increasing the size of the garden to 39 acres. The new property includes a residence, an office, a shipping building, six greenhouses, a large storage building, restroom facilities, a parking lot for visitor use, and a water reservoir.
- 2020 The board of the Peckerwood Gardens Conservation Foundation unanimously votes to change the name to The John Fairey Garden Conservation Foundation.
- 2020 John Fairey dies after a short illness.