How Did it All Begin?

On September 15, 2008, Hurricane Ike covered most of Galveston Island in a tidal surge. The damaging combination of powerful winds and waves immediately uprooted many of the city’s trees and ultimately led to the demise of thousands. The force of Galveston to say a sad goodbye to so many of its beautiful tree canopies, but where many saw dead trees and waste after the storm, a group of homeowners saw a chance to morph symbols of destruction into signs of rejuvenation.

What Are the Galveston Tree Sculptures?

Today, artists have breathed second life into something Mother Nature attempted to destroy. Whimsical tree sculptures have replaced the majestic Oaks that once lined many neighborhood streets and shaded homes. The sculptures—which can be found at homes throughout the island with a large portion concentrated in our East End Historic Districts—were paid for by private residents. The sculptures can be seen tucked in gardens and nestled in side yards for you to enjoy!

How Does the Tour Work?

The Galveston Tree Sculptures Tour is a self-guided tour open to the public! You can enjoy the tour by walking, biking, riding or any other method you choose. Please be respectful of the yards and do not enter through gates without permission. Climbing on, sitting or hanging on the sculptures is not permitted.

Who Are the Artists?

The Galveston Tree Sculptures were carved by various local artists, including Galveston’s own Earl Jones, Dale Lewis of Richmond, Indiana and Jim Phillips of Houston. If you’re lucky, you might find one of them in the process of their next masterpiece along the tour!

How Can I Get Involved?

The Galveston Island Tree Conservancy has also been instrumental in efforts to “Be Green” Galveston with the planting of more than 8,000 new trees since Hurricane Ike. To read more about the organization’s efforts, visit www.galvestonislandtreeconservancy.org. You can view past projects, see future plans to replant our beautiful green canopy or to make a donation to be used for the future carving of more trunks or the replanting of trees.

Donations can be mailed to:

GITC
PO Box 2123
Galveston, Texas 77553

Please specify if your donation is to be used for sculpture or for replanting trees.

What about Guide Tours?

If you prefer a tour guide, Galveston Island Tours, an affiliate of the Galveston Historical Foundation, offers East End Historic District tours of the tree sculptures every Saturday morning on its solar-powered shuttle bus. Tickets cost $15 per adult or $10 for children 12 and under. Tours depart from Ashton Villa, located at 2328 Broadway. Private tours are available upon request for groups of 5 or more. For information, please visit www.galvestonislandtours.com or call 409.765.8687.

Where Can I Find The Other Sculptures?

Although the bulk of the tree sculptures are located within the East End Historic District (map inside), the trend has become so popular that you can now find them throughout the island. The following sculptures are located off the beaten path of the traditional tour:

- 25th & Santa Fe Place (Parking Lot) - Engineer at Galveston Railroad Museum by Jim Phillips
- 1823 Ave. L - Venus on a Half Shell by Jim Phillips
- 823 25th Street - Dalmation by Jim Phillips
- 823 25th Street - Fireplug by Jim Phillips
- 35th Street (Schreiber Park) - Wildlife Tree by Dale Lewis

Need Galveston Island Information?

Visit the Galveston Island Information Center located at 2328 Broadway, behind Ashton Villa. Inside, you will find maps, brochures, discount coupons and more.

Join our Social Center to share your island experiences at www.visitingalvestonisland.org
East End Historical District Tree Sculpture Tour

Start at Sealy & 20th. Go East on Sealy.

1. 1923 Sealy - Island Totem Pole (DL)
   In honor of her late husband Roger Cune, The Case family retired here from Michigan, and the totem pole represents everything her husband loved about Galveston.

2. 1920 Sealy - Birds of Galveston (DL)
   This large Live Oak contains 17 birds on the branches and root supports of several small plants and animals around the trunk.

3. 1409 Sealy - Tall Ship ELISSA Figurehead (EJ)

4. 1228 Sealy (facing 13th St.)
   Great Dane (DL)
   The homeowners own a beautiful, gentle, grey Great Dane named Hunter. The tree had actually grown around the fence at the spot where the paws grip the fence.

Go to 8th street and turn left. Then left onto Ball.

5. 828 Ball (facing 9th St.) - Small Dolphin (EJ)
   This sculpture is located in the fence line of the east side of 9th St. While the pod of Dolphins was being carved across the street, the young man who lived here was sad because he was not getting one. Sculptor Earl Jones surprised him by carving a small Dolphin.

6. 902 Ball -
   Pod of Dolphins & Mermaids (EJ)

7. 1902 Ball (backyard) - Squirrel with Acorn, Dolphin, Eel & Dragon, Owl, Wildlife, Totem Pole (DL)
   The homeowners chose Coyote to mimic their tall narrow house. They are seasonally dressed for many occasions.

8. 1316 Ball - Two Crested Horns (DL)
   The homeowners chose Coyote to mimic their tall narrow house. They are seasonally dressed for many occasions.

9. 1415 Ball - Guitar (Houseman)

10. 1615 Ball - Tow (DL)

11. 1717 Ball - Geisha and Sister Angels
   The Geisha (JP) represents the homeowners love of the Orient and is a reminder of many trips to Japan. She is facing west to represent the direction you need to travel to get to Japan.

   The Angels (DL) represent the homeowners two granddaughters. The Angels were the sum of the tree that the Geisha is carved from. That tree was as high as the fence above and reached the house. It is one of the only sculptures that is not still rooted in the ground.

   Go to 19th St. and turn right one block. Then turn right onto Winnie.

12. 1820 Winnie - Yellow Lab (DL)
   The Lab is sculpted but the concrete basket of puppies was an amusing "Birch".

13. 1702 Winnie - Tin Man & Toto (JP)
   King Varile, one of the directors of "The Wizard of Oz", was born in the front downstairs bedroom of this property.

   Continue on Winnie to 14th St.

14. 1628 14th (Mosquito Cafe) - Three Pelicans and Fish (DL)

15. 1123 Winnie (Adams Park) - Grandmother Reading to Her Grandchildren (EJ)
   The Adams family donated the money to the playground park in her honor.

16. 1528 Winnie - Monument to Galveston’s Trees (JP)
   Turn left on 10th St. Continue one block and turn left onto Church.

17. 1016 Church - Where Have all the Flowers Gone? (JP)
   The Japanese You tree was only partially dead, so the homeowner decided to have half of the tree sculpted into hibiscus flowers, sea shell and sand dollars.

18. 1428 Church - Mermaid Holding Clam Shell (DL)
   The Mermaid is named "Tina" and is "dressed" for many occasions.

19. 1618 Church - Pelican Sitting on Piling (DL)
   Turn right onto 13th St. then right onto Postoffice St.

20. 1701 Postoffice (backyard of 1517th St.)
   Angel Cuddling Bunny (JP)
   Red brick corner house. This sculpture watches over the yard which is a bird, butterfly and bunny sanctuary.

21. 1609 Postoffice - Large Pelican Holding Fish (JP)