

**Media Contact:**

Jeanne Albrecht, PR Coordinator, Sellmark

210-392-9047; jca@jeannebiz.com

(Please email or call for photos, videos, advance interviews, etc.)

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**La Bahia Pecan Tree seedling project**

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site

Tree is two centuries old

The third harvest of seedlings from La Bahia Pecan Tree—a Famous Tree of Texas—will be for sale this summer.

The pecan tree seedlings, which come in three-gallon pots with a letter of authenticity and metal plaque, are taken from a pecan tree located on the banks of the Brazos River on the [Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/) that is two centuries old. More significantly: In Sept 2010, L.J. Grauke, Ph.D., USDA ARS Pecan Breeding & Genetics, verified “There is no question that the tree stands at the historically significant point where La Bahia Road crossed the Brazos-Navasota Rivers, and that its age qualifies it as a witness of the historic events on March 2, 1836, the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence at the nearby Independence Hall.”

La Bahia Pecan Tree seedling project for the [Washington on the Brazos Park Association](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/park-association/) was Jim Ellison’s idea and started as a moneymaker for 175th anniversary of signing of TX Declaration of Independence in 2011. At the time, Jim Ellison was on the board of Washington on the Brazos State Park Association—where he served for eight years and still serves on its Advisory Board. He and his wife founded Ellison Greenhouses in Brenham, TX in 1969. As he states: “All worked perfectly. We found a 100’ tall ‘La Bahia pecan tree’ on the grounds of Washington on the Brazos state park, close to the historic ferry crossing, on the banks of Brazos River. It is at least 202 years old now.” The tree was proclaimed a [Famous Tree of Texas](http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/websites/FamousTreesOfTexas/TreeLayout.aspx?pageid=16066) by Texas A&M Forest Services.

The third batch of the seedlings will be on sale for $100 (two for $150); orders can be placed by calling Jim Ellison at 979-451-9187 or at <http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/gift-shop/product/historic-pecan-seedlings/>. Seedlings cannot be shipped; they must be picked up at the Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, or Texas A&M University.

Partners in this seedling project are Jim Ellison, Ellison’s Greenhouses, Texas A&M Horticulture Dept., USDA, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and many volunteers.

Seedling Harvests:

* First Harvest: Harvested pecans in Nov 2010 using bucket truck services donated by Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative.
  + Harvested nuts from top half of tree to get those in the best shape
  + Jim owned a greenhouse business so he housed the seedlings
  + First batch of seedlings were ready for sale for 2011 Texas Independence Day Celebration at Washington on the Brazos—two day annual event to honor Texas independence and 175th Anniversary
* Second Harvest: Harvested more nuts in Nov 2015, once again using bucket truck thanks to Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative.
  + Jim and his wife Ellen still own the greenhouses but are leasing them out, so the seedlings are now housed in greenhouses at Texas A&M Horticulture Dept.
  + This batch of trees is all gone; the last of the seedlings were given to the Bluebonnet Electric Coop volunteers who helped with the second harvest.
* Third Harvest: harvested more nuts on Nov 22, 2017; seedlings will be propagated at Texas A&M Horticulture Dept. Half will stay to grow at A&M; Jim will house the others in his facilities in Brenham. Seedlings will be available for sale by TX Independence Day (March 2, 2918), and at the Texas Independence Day Celebration (TIDC) event March 3 and 4 at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site.

Seedlings “Fun Fact:” Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharpe gave all TX legislators a La Bahia pecan seedling in 2015 (200 + trees). He did it again in January 2017---and has already put in his order for January 2019.

[Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/) is indeed “Where Texas Became Texas.” On March 2, 1836 when 59 delegates bravely met at Washington, Texas to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico. On the grounds of this 293-acre, TPWD-run state park is its four amenities, [Independence Hall](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/independence-hall/) (the site in 1836 where the representatives met to write the declaration of independence); the [Star of the Republic Museum](http://www.starmuseum.org/) (collections honoring the history, cultures, diversity and values of early Texans; administered by Blinn College); and [Barrington Living History Farm](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/barrington-living-history-farm/) (where interpreters dress, talk, work and farm as the earliest residents of the original farmstead did). The park is open daily and has a continuous schedule of events throughout the year.

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site is found on the Brazos River at the original townsite of Washington, Texas, a major political and commercial center in early Texas. It is located at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880—approximately halfway between Brenham and Navasota, off of State Hwy. 105. From Hwy. 105, follow either FM 912 or FM 1155 to Park Road 12. For additional information, call (936) 878-2214 or visit the site’s website at [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).