



January 29, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**

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## **Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Winter 2009–2010 Program Schedule**

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, a Harris County Precinct 4 facility under the leadership of Commissioner Jerry Eversole, is located at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, one mile north of FM 1960. Harris County Precinct 4 programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, sex, religion, national origin, or physical ability. Anyone requiring special assistance to participate in any program, or to obtain additional information, should contact Mercer at (281) 443-8731, or on the Web at [www.hcp4.net/mercer/index.htm](http://www.hcp4.net/mercer/index.htm).

### **December**

**Lunch Bunch: Planting Bulbs.** Wed., Dec. 9 from noon to 1 p.m. December is a great month to plant bulbs to create a colorful spring garden. Attend this program that offers information on planting bulbs that will add color and interest to any garden. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call ahead for reservations.

**Gardening CEU: Ornamental Grasses.** Tues., Dec., 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. Ornamental grasses are often overlooked in landscape designs, so plan now to attend this program that covers all the benefits of these water-smart, decorative, and easy to grow grasses. Please call ahead for reservations.

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## **January**

**Lunch Bunch: Beginning Taxonomy.** Wed., Jan. 13 from noon a.m. to 2 p.m. What's in a name? Beginner gardeners are invited to attend this program to learn about plant families and they are grouped. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call ahead for reservations.

**Gardening CEU: Wildflowers for the Garden.** Tue., Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Do you love wildflowers, but are not sure how to properly grow and care for them? If so, attend this program that offers all the information needed to grow local wildflowers that adapt well to all types of garden conditions. Please call ahead for reservations.

## **February**

**Lunch Bunch: Gardening 101.** Wed., Feb. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. This program offers beginner gardeners all the details they need to becoming a gardening guru. From preparing beds to selecting plants this class teaches all beginner gardeners what they need to know to get their garden started. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call ahead for reservations.

**Japanese Maples.** Sat., Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon. Need a small tree with a nice shape and great fall color? A Japanese maple may be the perfect plant for a small garden. To learn more about these versatile plants, make plans to attend this program. Call for reservations.

**Continuing Education: Vegetable Gardening.** Tue., Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. This program explores the best vegetables and methods for growing a vegetable garden. Information on composting and soil fertility will also be presented. Please call ahead for reservations.

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## **Ongoing**

**Piney Woods Wildlife Society:** Third Tuesday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to the study of birds and other wildlife, and protecting the environment.

**Chrysanthemum Society:** Fourth Friday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. These monthly meetings include discussions about growing chrysanthemums and floral arranging. The society also provides plants for Mercer's collection. Call (281) 443-8731 for more information.

**Bird Walk:** Second Saturday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Take a guided walk through Mercer to discover the abundant bird life in the park. Bring binoculars, water, and comfortable walking shoes.

**Mercer Bamboo Meetings:** Fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon; **no meetings in November and December.** Monthly meetings feature hands-on training in Mercer's bamboo garden. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy. Call to confirm meeting times for the month.