



February 23, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT:** Greg Harmison, (281) 443-8731

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Spring 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/mercerv/index.htm.

March

Lunch Bunch: March Mart Preview and Volunteer Training Session. Wed., March 10. Preview: noon to 1 p.m. Training Session: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Learn what new and exciting plants will be featured at March Mart during this slide show preview, and pick up a 2010 Plant Guide for a \$5 donation. (Plants will not be available for purchase at this preview.) Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Volunteer training follows the preview. Please call ahead for reservations.

—MORE—

March Mart Preview. Sat., March 13. Preview: 10 a.m. to noon. Training Session: noon to 2 p.m. What new and exciting plants will be available at March Mart this year? Attend this slide show preview to find out. 2010 Plant Guides will be available for a \$5 donation. (Plants will not be available for purchase at this time.) Volunteer training follows the preview. Please call ahead for reservations.

Gardening CEU: Fruit Trees. Tue., March 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. Learn how to reap the benefits of productive citrus and fruit trees added to the landscape. Please call ahead for reservations.

March Mart “Members Only” Sale. Thur., March 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members of The Mercer Society are treated to an early shopping day. For more information on becoming a member, visit www.hcp4.net/mercero/society or call (281) 443-8731.

March Mart Plant Sale. Fri. and Sat., March 26 and 27 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seasoned and novice gardeners won't want to miss Mercer's annual plant sale. For the expert, the extraordinary selection features not only essentials, but also rare, exotic, and new varieties. For the novice, there's plenty of help on hand—and if it's sold at March Mart, it grows in Texas! Those in the know take off work and arrive early to check out the vast assortment.

April

NEW: Kids March Across Texas. Sat., April 10 from noon to 2 p.m. Children, along with their parents and teachers, are invited to join the Wildflower Club sponsored by Dan Shields, owner of Dan's Hardware. This program not only teaches kids and adults how to safely use organic products, but serves as a beautification project by planting wildflowers in vacant lots along Aldine Westfield. For more information, call (281) 415-8588. To register, call Mercer at (281) 443-8731.

—MORE—

Lunch Bunch: Gardening for the Birds and the Bees—Saving the World One Garden at a Time. Wed., April 14 from noon to 2 p.m. Pollinators play a critical role in the natural and domestic world, in the garden and at the dinner table. Learn how to attract them to any garden and why their presence is so beneficial. Please call ahead for reservations.

Bonsai Introductory Course. Saturdays, April 17 and 24, and May 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn the basics of bonsai in this three-day course that covers the art, history, and technique behind this historic living art form. Participants receive a tree to enjoy and work on at home. Class size is limited. Contact Mercer at (281) 443-8731 for details.

Gardening CEU: Creating a Garden Sanctuary. Tue., April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. Need a place with some peace and quiet? Learn how to transform a backyard into a garden sanctuary. Space is limited. Please call ahead for reservations.

May

Annual Garden Party and Auction. Sat., May 1 at 5 p.m. Dine under the stars in the garden while bidding on unique and extraordinary treasures during The Mercer Society's annual fund-raising event. Proceeds supplement a generous donation from Mercer's newest community partner, HEB Spring Market, for a new children's nature program. A silent auction kicks off the evening at 5 p.m. and is followed by dinner and a live auction. Tickets are required and can be purchased at Mercer; \$45 for individuals/\$70 per couple. Please call (281) 443-8731.

Lunch Bunch: Bromeliads. Wed., May 12 from noon to 2 p.m. Members of the Houston Bromeliad Society present information on these wonderful plants. Learn how to grow bromeliads prior to the sale and show the next weekend. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call ahead for reservations.

—MORE—

Bromeliad Society Show and Sale. Fri., May 14 from noon to 5 p.m. (sale only), Sat., May 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (sale) and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (show), and Sun., May 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (sale and show). See award-winning bromeliads, enjoy educational workshops (Saturday), and purchase plants at this annual event. Call Mercer for details.

Continuing Education: Bamboo. Tue., May 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. Learn that bamboo is actually grass during this course that highlights other bamboo facts, which species are the best, and how to grow and care for them. Please call ahead for reservations.

Mercer Bamboo Festival. Sat. and Sun., May 22 and 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join local experts to learn about all things bamboo during this two-day festival celebrating this amazing plant. Each day features a talk, a workshop, and plant sale.

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. There are no meetings in June, July, or August.

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. Monthly meetings feature hands-on training in Mercer's bamboo garden. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy. Please call to confirm meeting times for the month.