



MERCER

Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

Connecting people with plants

January 4, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

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Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Spring 2012 Program Schedule

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, a Harris County Precinct 4 facility under the leadership of Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, 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.

January

Lunch Bunch: East Texas Native Trees and More. *Wed., Jan. 11, noon-2 p.m.* Bruce Cunningham, forester and botanical illustrator of the well-known *Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines of East Texas* authored by Elray S. Nixon, discusses this and his other collaborative works *Winter Key to Deciduous Woody Plants of East Texas*, and *Gymnosperms of the United States & Canada*. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

Growing Up Wild. *Tues., Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-noon.* Carol Knepp will present this continuing education class geared towards docents and teachers to show how early childhood learning objectives can be reached through the use of the outdoors and nature-themed activities. Class size limited to 15 and reservations required. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

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22306 Aldine Westfield Road • Humble, Texas 77338-1071 • (281) 443-8731 • (281) 209-9767 fax • www.hcp4.net/mercer



R. Jack Cagle, Commissioner

Creating a Personal Garden Sanctuary. *Wed., Jan. 25, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.* Darnell Schreiber will inspire and guide you in designing the perfect space in your garden. This is a hands-on class that includes a tour of the gardens. Bring photos of your garden to work from. Other supplies will be provided but please bring a pair of scissors. Free, but limited to 18 students. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

Beginning Bird Identification. *Thurs., Jan. 19 & Feb. 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.* Glenn Olsen will conduct this 2-part course designed to entice you to discover the joy and challenge of birding. This fast growing hobby even in urban settings provides an opportunity to get outdoors and reconnect with the beauty and wonder of nature. Classroom and field study comprise the course. Glenn is a local naturalist who also instructs through the Audubon Society and Rice University. Fee for this 2-part class is \$65 for TMS members and \$74 for non-members. Class size limited to 12, so sign up today by calling (281)-443-8731.

February

Lunch Bunch: The Importance of Pruning, especially Fruit Trees. *Wed., Feb. 8, noon-2 p.m.* Darnell Schreiber will focus on preparing your plants for the best production of fruit. Learn about the best tools for the job, and how to sharpen and use them. Includes pruning of select herbaceous and woody plants. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

Spring Migration. *Thurs., Feb. 23 & Mar. 1, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.* Glenn Olsen will conduct this 2-part course. Houston is on the major flyway for amazing bird species as they head north in the spring in their colorful breeding plumage. Bird watching is fast and furious during the spring time and provides an opportunity to get outdoors and reconnect with the beauty and wonder of nature. Classroom and field study comprise the course. Glenn is a local naturalist who also instructs through the Audubon Society and Rice University. Fee for this 2-part class is \$65 for TMS members and \$74 for non-members. Class size limited to 12, so sign up today by calling (281)-443-8731.

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March

March Mart Volunteer Training. *Wed., March 14, 10:30 a.m.-noon.* Experienced and new volunteers should attend this program that highlights the volunteer jobs that make the largest fund-raising plant sale in the Gulf Coast area such a success. Review the details of ticket writing, cashiering and other jobs at March Mart. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

Lunch Bunch: March Mart Preview. *Wed., March 14, noon-2 p.m.* Get ready and make your wish list as you view a PowerPoint presentation of some of the choice plants that will be offered later in the month at March Mart. Also learn about joining The Mercer Society (TMS) to enjoy the privileges of membership. Plants will not be for sale at this presentation. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

March Mart Volunteer Training. *Sat., March 17, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.* Experienced and new volunteers review the details of ticket writing, cashiering and other jobs at March Mart. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

March Mart Preview. *Sat., March 17, 10 a.m.-noon.* Get ready and make your wish list as you view a PowerPoint presentation of some of the choice plants that will be offered later in the month at March Mart. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

March Mart - The Mercer Society (TMS) Members Only Sale. *Thur., March 22:* Join The Mercer Society (TMS) today to enjoy this premiere event early. VIP shoppers may participate from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; other levels of TMS membership may shop from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call (281) 443-8731 for details.

March Mart. *Fri., March 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat., March 24, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.* One of the Texas Gulf Coast area's largest and most anticipated horticultural events, the sale attracts amateurs and experts alike. March Mart features a huge selection, more than 2,000 varieties, of quality plants rarely found at local retail nurseries. Plan to attend this sale that offers a diverse array of hard-to-find and hard-to-resist plants. Many of these plants are grown by Mercer's volunteers, who will be on-hand to help with selection and offer advice on the cultivation and care of plants offered at the event. Proceeds from the sale benefit the gardens and programs at Mercer.

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April

Lunch Bunch: Finials & Follies: Architectural Garden Features around the World. *Wed., April 11, noon-2 p.m.* Mercer Director Darrin Duling who has been involved with gardens from Kew in England to the wilds of Borneo will take you on a whirlwind world tour of gardens and the structures that make them unique. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program. Please call (281) 443-8731 for reservations.

Ongoing

Children's Story Time in the Garden. *Third Monday of the month, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.* Baldwin Boettcher Branch Library's Manager Bonnie Langan shares some of her favorite nature books with children and their parents in the garden. A craft project is included. Check in at the visitor's center for the specific location. Free.

Jan 16: *Winter Woes* by Marty Kelley

Feb 20: *Groundhog Day* by Margaret McNamara

Mar 19: *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

April 16: *Mushroom in the Rain* by Mirra Ginsburg

Chrysanthemum Society. *Fourth Friday of most months from 11 a.m.-1 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.

Cypress Creek Daylily Society. *Fourth Sunday of most months from 2 p.m.-4 p.m.* This group meets in the Mercer visitor center and presents various programs on gardening with daylilies. The public is welcome.