

# **MERCER ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDENS**

OCTOBER 2025

### MONTHLY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

#### **BLOSSOM BRIGADE**

#### Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15, and 29

8 - 10 a.m. | Ages 16+

Volunteer with staff in the garden to collect seeds, plant in the pollinator tiers, and more. Texas Master Naturalists and Texas Master Gardeners may earn volunteer credits. Meet in front of the Mercer Visitor Center.

### MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Monday, October 13

10:30 a.m. | Ages 1 - 5

An exciting music, rhythm, and dance class for young children featuring Kindermusik music, curriculum, and instruments. Meet inside the Mercer Visitor Center. Please register ONLY the child participant.

#### TAI CHI - OUTDOOR

Wednesday, October 1 and 15 | 9 a.m. | Ages 12+

Saturday, October 11 | 9 a.m. | Ages 12+

Join us for an energizing one-hour beginner Tai Chi class with instructor Stevens Moore. Learn techniques to improve balance, build strength, and boost flexibility. Meet under the Treehouse Staff Building. Registration not required.

#### WOMEN'S RESTORATIVE HIKE

Tuesday, October 14

8 and 9:15 a.m. | Ages 18+

A beginner friendly, volunteer-led, one-hour hike through Mercer's gardens and forest. Wear closed toed shoes, sun visor and bring a refillable water bottle. Meet in front of the Mercer Visitor Center.

#### **GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4** Fridays, October 3, 10, and 31

8 and 9:15 a.m. | All Ages

Board the Mercer cart for a one-hour leisurely tour through the gardens and arboretum. Participants should dress for the weather and must sign a waiver. Meet under the Treehouse Staff Building.

### HALLOWEEN & POLLINATOR GARDEN SCAVENGER HUNT Wednesday, October 15 - Monday, November 3

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | All Ages

Pick up a Scavenger Hunt in the Visitor Center and explore the gardens. Children who complete the Hunt win a Halloween or Pollinator themed prize. Meet inside the Mercer Visitor Center. Registration not required.

#### ANNUAL HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW Saturday, October 4

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | All Ages

Houston Bonsai Society presents their annual competition featuring exquisite Bonsai and educational demonstrations on how to create and care for Bonsai. For more information, go to www.houstonbonsaisociety.org. Meet under the Treehouse Staff Building.

#### MERCER RECORRIDO POR EL JARDIN Wednesday, October 15

9 a.m. | All Ages

(Garden Tour in Spanish) Unase al personal de Mercer, Jackie Ibarra, en un recorrido a pie de aproximadamente una milla por los jardines para ver los cambios estacionales y aprender consejos de jardineria de los profesionales. Reunase frente al Centro de Visitantes de Mercer.

#### **LUNCH & LEARN**

#### Wednesday, October 8

12 noon | Ages 16+

Expand your horizons by learning something new. October's topic is "Taste of Latin Heritage" with Te'Anna Donaldson of Prairie View AgriLife Extension, who will prepare a delicious meal using fresh vegetables and herbs. Afterward, take a guided tour of the herb and vegetable tiers. Meet inside the Mercer Visitor Center.

### **NATURE STATION - POLLINATORS AND THE PLANTS THEY LOVE** Thursday, October 16

9 - 11 a.m. | All Ages

Come-and-go nature station with engaging educational exhibits hosted by a staff naturalist. October's theme is all about insect and mammal pollinators and the plants they need to not only survive, but thrive. Meet outside the Mercer Visitor Center.

#### **MERCER GARDEN TOUR**

Friday, October 10 9 a.m. | Ages 5+

Saturday, October 11 10 a.m. | Ages 5+

Come along with staff for a one-hour walking tour while learning about unique landscaping inspirations. Mercer Curator, Kari Hernandez, leads this month's Friday, Oct. 10th tour with a focus on Texas native plants. Meet in front of the Mercer Visitor Center.

### TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS SOCIETIES **FALL SEMINAR**

Saturday, October 18

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | All Ages

TACSS presents their annual meeting, show, sale, and symposium featuring educational programs and vendors. Meet inside the Mercer Visitor Center & under the Treehouse Staff Building. For more information, or to register, go to www.tacss.org

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

Follow us on Facebook @MercerBotanicGardens and on Instagram @Mercer\_Botanic\_Gardens

October Garden & Arboretum Hours: 8 a.m. – dusk

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise stated. To register online, go to pct3.com/MBG. Need to cancel? Email us at mercerbotanicgardens@pct3.hctx.net.

# MERCER ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDENS

22306 Aldine Westfield Road | Humble, Texas 77338 (713) 274-4160 | pct3.com/MBG mercerbotanicgardens@pct3.hctx.net



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### BIRD SURVEY Thursday, October 23

8 a.m. | Ages 12+

Led by longtime birder, Paul Gregg, this 2 mile survey in partnership with Houston Audubon is suited for birders of all levels. *Meet in front of the Mercer Visitor Center.* 

# MERCER DOCENT TRAINING Available by appointment

Ages 18+

Become a trained volunteer to give garden tours and present outreaches on behalf of Mercer to various organizations in the community. Email our Volunteer Coordinator at

Colleen.Powell@pct3.hctx.net or call 713-274-4160.

# POLLINATOR PLANT SALE Saturday, October 25

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. | All Ages

Autumn is the best time of the year to plant as the weather is moderate and gives plants the opportunity to adjust and become established before the next summer's heat. Shop pollinator plants, fruit trees, perennials, tomatoes, and more! For additional information, please go to www.friendsofmercer.com or call 713-274-4166.

# MERCER BOTANICAL CENTER TOURS By appointment

Ages 12+

Dive into the research and conservation side of Mercer. Tour the Mercer Herbarium by emailing us at

mercerbotanicgardens@pct3.hctx.net or call 713-274-4160 to schedule a tour for a group of up to 12 people.

#### **VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE** Tuesday, October 28

9 - 11 a.m. | Ages 16+

Learn about new opportunities and volunteer with horticulture staff in a variety of projects at the Mercer Greenhouses. *Meet at the Greenhouses, located at 21922 Finch Landing Lane, Humble, TX 77338.* 

#### **ASK A MASTER GARDENER**

The 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Harris County Master Gardeners answer questions and deliver helpful resources to the public every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Look out for them on the front porch of the Mercer Visitor Center. This outreach is proudly sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

# GARDENING CONNECTIONS - TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION Tuesday, October 28

10:30 a.m. | Ages 10+

Experts from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Master Gardeners teach a new gardening class each month. October's topic is "Container Gardening" to learn the remarkable joy and simplicity of growing plants in smaller spaces. *Meet inside the Mercer Visitor Center*.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise stated. To register online, go to pct3.com/MBG or scan the QR code.



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