



For Immediate Release

Liz Oliphant

Interim PR Manager

(214) 515-6521

loliphant@dallasarboretum.org

Autumn at the Arboretum Features Cinderella's Pumpkin Village

Supported by Texas Instruments

September 17 – November 23

DALLAS – As the hot summer cools, the Dallas Arboretum transforms into a beautiful fall wonderland during Autumn at the Arboretum. This seasonal celebration runs from September 17 - November 23 and features fall flora as well as Cinderella's Pumpkin Village – complete with her pumpkin-styled carriage awaiting fairytale photo ops. Fall is the perfect time for a picnic in the gardens with the family, a fun family photo or a leisurely stroll through the 150,000 blooming fall flowers and foliage plants.

"Fall is really one of our most colorful times of the year," explained Dave Forehand, Vice-President of Gardens. "Many of the summer flowers like zinnias, marigolds and salvia get a new lease on life, responding to the cooler nights with blazing bursts of color. The color and texture of the fall plantings, contrasted with our thousands of pumpkins, creates breath-taking vistas."

Explore Cinderella's Pumpkin Village, Buy Pumpkins and More

Fall also stands for more than foliage and flowers at the Arboretum. The grounds will be filled with more than 50,000 pumpkins, squash and gourds. Guests will find displays featuring 45 varieties at unexpected locations – stacked near the entrance, lining the Paseo de Flores and marking the steps to the Women's Garden.

In keeping with this year's "It's a Fairy Tale World" theme, Cinderella's Pumpkin Village comes to life with four houses based on the classic fairytale. Constructed of 1,200 pumpkins and gourds, the houses depict Cinderella's ballroom, the rooms of Cinderella and her ugly stepsisters, and the Fairy Godmother's home. Children will be enchanted to explore the houses, and adults will be amazed at the construction details.

Cinderella's Carriage also awaits visitors this fall. This beautiful life-sized carriage is white with gold detailing and measures more than six feet tall and six feet wide. Two full-size topiary horses "pull" the carriage. For a once-in-a-lifetime Christmas card photo, dress children like Cinderella and Prince Charming for a memory everyone will cherish long after the clock strikes 12!

Don't miss the Tom Thumb Pumpkin Patch where you can purchase pumpkins to take home to carve or cook! Or choose from an assortment of sizes to design your holiday display.

The many festival activities will deliver sure-fire family fun. Ongoing activities include The Great Pumpkin Search, Cinderella's Fairy Tale Scavenger Hunt and the Hay Bale Maze. The festival also includes a variety of special events for children and adults. For a detailed listing of activities and events, visit www.dallasarboretum.org/activities. Highlights appear below.

Just for the Younger Set

For families with children under 5, Kimberly-Clark's Mommy and Me Mondays and Dallas Child Magazine's Tiny Tot Tuesdays are held in the Pecan Grove. They feature music, crafts, face painting, professional photos (\$15 each) and more.

Columbus Day, October 10, arrives with two concerts by children's favorite Eddie Coker, sponsored by Children's Medical Center, at 11 and 2 p.m. Family Fun Weekend follows October 29-30 with a Halloween celebration, costumes, trick-or-treating and MUCH more.

Enjoy the Music

There's also music in the gardens throughout the fall festival. Keyboardist Keith Schmorrr performs on the Loggia from 11 am – 2 pm daily. On weekends, the Rhett Butler classical duet serenades guests from the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage from 12-4 pm Saturdays and 1-4 pm Sundays.

The fun doesn't have to end when the sun goes down. Pack a picnic supper and drinks for a concert in the garden Thursdays at 7 pm. Music of every genre and style will appeal to all ages on the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage. Visit www.dallasarboretum.org/concerts for bands and ticket prices. Concert dining options include a special menu that can be pre-ordered at www.highlandparkcafeteria.com for pick up at the concert. Or stop by their tent near the stage.

Join a Traditional Japanese Moon Viewing Celebration

Evening events also include Otsukimi, a Japanese moon viewing celebration, presented by the Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth with the Dallas Arboretum and the Crow Collection of Asian Art. The viewing provides a taste of Japanese culture and will be held on Wednesday, October 12.

Highlights include flute music, haiku poetry, calligraphy, and ikebana (Japanese flower arranging). Picnic and cultural demonstrations begin at 6 pm with the stage program at 7:30 pm. Member tickets are \$10 for adults, \$3 for children (3-12 years). General public tickets are \$18 for adults, \$5 for children (3-12 years). Bring your picnic supper or order an obento (box supper) from Mr. Sushi Japanese Restaurant for \$18 in advance at www.jasdfw.org. Tickets are also available at the gate – cash only.

Fuel Your Visit

Getting hungry after all this activity? Dining options are available from 9 am – 5 pm daily during the festival as well as after the garden closes during concerts. Stop by the Café on the Green, near the Pecan Grove, for Hans Mueller Oktoberfest-themed food and beverages. In the same area, the Tent on the Paseo offers sandwiches and salads to go. Enjoy your meal or snacks at picnic tables or café-styled tables and chairs that are close by. Nearer the entrance, the Lula Mae Slaughter Dining Terrace offers a wide variety of lighter meals – sandwiches, salads, wraps, beverages, snacks and desserts.

Restaurant DeGolyer by Gil's Elegant Catering provides a more formal setting for meals with seated service. For special occasions, enjoy an elegant Harvest Tea at Restaurant DeGolyer, served at 10 am or 2:30 pm each day. Advanced reservations are required for tea by calling 214-766-5433.

###

NOTE: Photos of the Dallas Arboretum are available for media use in our online press room at <http://www.dallasarboretum.org/Media/PhotoSheet/Photo-sheet.htm>. Additional photos available upon request. Photos are representative of the seasonal views at the Arboretum.

The Dallas Arboretum is open daily from 9 am - 5pm. Regular admission is \$12 for adults (13-64), \$10 for seniors (65+) and \$8 for children (3- 12), and children under 3 are free. Parking is \$7. Save money on special discounted days. AT&T Senior Citizen Thursdays (\$7.50 admission, 65+) and Doctors Hospital "Two for One" Wednesdays (with website coupon) allow for frugal fun. Discount tickets are available at all local Tom Thumb stores. Fall Garden Getaway passes are also available and include access to the Texas State Fair, valid September 30 – October 23, and to the Dallas Arboretum through November 23. Passes may be purchased online at www.bigtex.com or at the Dallas Arboretum Ticket Booth.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX, 75218. Group discounts are available with advance registration. The Dallas Arboretum is wheelchair accessible, and Tram Service, sponsored by Stryker Orthopaedics, is available for the mobility-impaired. For more information including ticket prices, admission and upcoming events, call (214) 515-6500 or visit the Arboretum's website at www.dallasarboretum.org.

The Dallas Morning News is the principal partner of the Dallas Arboretum. The Arboretum is supported, in part, by funds from the City of Dallas Park & Recreation Department. WFAA is the official media sponsor of the Dallas Arboretum.