



CHERRY BLOSSOM SPECTACULAR
One Week Only at the Dallas Arboretum
Don't Miss It!

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Terry Lendecker
Public Relations Manager
214.515.6521
tlendecker@dallasarboretum.org

DALLAS, TX - One of nature's most beautiful presentations of color is happening during the next few days at the Dallas Arboretum. The recent snow and cold weather has not taken the spring out of our step or damaged any of the spring blooming bulbs. Garden guests can anticipate a full array of the most beautiful vistas and floral displays that Dallas Blooms can boast. MSN has just listed the Dallas Arboretum as one of the 'Top Places in The World To See Spring Flowers'. A wave of delicate pink and white cherry blossoms on the Arboretum's 90 cherry blossom trees are bursting open, announcing their annual arrival and celebration of spring. Many of the cherry trees were given as gifts to the Dallas Arboretum, including trees from Peggy B. Braecklein in honor of her parents, John R. and Thelma N. Black. The blossoming occurs during Dallas Blooms, 'Fiesta de las Flores', a festival of flowers.

This year, Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth offers garden guests the chance to experience the traditional Japanese custom of *hanami*, Sunday, March 28th from 11:30 a.m. until

1:30 p.m. in the Pecan Grove. Guests are invited to bring picnic lunches and eat under the flowering cherry trees. Traditional *koto* (floor harp) and *shakuhachi* (flute) music, and a family activity will be presented. The Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. "We are happy to bring the centuries-old custom of *hanami*, cherry blossom viewing, to North Texas", says David Schnetzer, President of the Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth". *Hanami* dates back to the Heian Period (794-1185) when the Imperial Court in Kyoto held flower-viewing parties beneath the blossoming cherry trees. The flowers were praised by poets as a metaphor for life, beautiful yet fleeting,"

"The cherry blossom trees are one of the most beautiful flowering trees you will ever see, but guests will have to come soon, because the cherry blossoms only last for a few days to a week," says Mary Brinegar, President of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Today, branches on many cherry trees at the Arboretum are over-flowing with thousands of lacy blooms, and each tree only blooms once a year. Throughout the world cherry blossom time runs from late March to early May, depending on the climate and local weather conditions. In the Dallas-Fort Worth area this is cherry blossom week of 2010.

The first cherry trees brought to the United States were a gift from the people of Japan in 1912, to mark the friendship between the two countries. In Japan, cherry blossom time is known as *hanami*, with parties held both night and day under the sakura (cherry blossom trees) to celebrate this yearly occurrence and the delicate beauty of life.

For more information on the cherry blossoms check the Arboretum website at www.dallasarboretum.org or contact Terry Lendecker at (214) 515-6521 or at tlendecker@dallasarboretum.org.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, Inc. is located on the Southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218. The Arboretum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors 65 and older, \$7 for children 3 -12, and is free for Arboretum members and children two and under. On-site parking is \$7. The Arboretum is wheelchair accessible and tram service is available for the mobility impaired. Group discounts of twenty or more are available with advance registration. For more information and other events, call (214) 515-6500, or visit the Arboretum's website at www.dallasarboretum.org.

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