



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Media contacts:

Terry Lendecker | VP of Advertising & Promotions | 214.515.6523 | tlendecker@dallasarboretum.org

Juliette Coulter | The Coulter Group | 214.394.5532 | juliette@coultergroup.com

**Dallas Arboretum Celebrates Columbus Day Weekend with Special Festivities
Including a Concert, Book Reading and More**

DALLAS, Texas (September 29, 2015) – The Dallas Arboretum celebrates Columbus Day weekend with a plethora of activities in the garden for guests to enjoy including the annual children’s concert with family favorite Eddie Coker on the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage and Lawn, children’s activities in the Pumpkin Village and a book reading by Patricia Vermillion.

The annual Columbus Day Concert featuring Eddie Coker, sponsored by *DallasChild*, will be held on the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage and Lawn on Monday, October 12 with performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Guests are invited to listen to live music overlooking the picturesque White Rock Lake while enjoying a picnic on the lawn.

A native of Highland Park and a Southern Methodist University graduate, Coker has been writing, composing and performing children’s music since 1989. He has composed for television shows such as "Barney & Friends." He will perform children's songs, including well-known favorites "The Happy One" and "The Woo Woo Song."

“We invite you to bring a picnic, blanket and make a full day for you and your families to enjoy the garden and this concert,” said Mary Brinegar, president and CEO of the Dallas Arboretum. “The nationally acclaimed Pumpkin Village featuring this year’s Old Texas Town, hay bale maze, a Texas mosaic and many photo opportunities is also an absolute must-see.”

Guests are also able to take advantage of live musical performances over the holiday weekend. On Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., families can relax on the Martin Rutchik Concert Lawn while enjoying festive melodies to celebrate the Columbus Day weekend.

Other activities over Columbus Day weekend include the following:

Columbus Day Weekend Festivities

Saturday & Sunday, October 10 & 11

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Children's activities include special crafts, face painting and more in the Pecan Grove amongst the nationally acclaimed Pumpkin Village and this year's Old Texas Town made up of thousands of pumpkins, gourds and squash.

Monday, October 12

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Children's activities continue on Columbus Day in the Pecan Grove including a petting zoo, face painting and Kindermusik amongst the Pumpkin Village, where photo opportunities abound.

Book Reading by Patricia Vermillion

Saturday, October 10

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Patricia Vermillion, local author of *Texas Chili? Oh My!*, will read her festive children's book, *The Three Little Pigs – Texas style!* Meet Bluebonnet, Mockingbird and Sweet-Olive, three little armadillos, as they leave Mamadillo's home and build their own dens out of native Texan materials.

Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden

Saturday & Sunday, October 10 & 11

The Children's Adventure Garden will feature Monarch butterfly migration activities, a puppet show, butterfly tagging and multiple labs.

Monday, October 12

Guests can experience multiple Columbus Day themed activities including Columbus's Cartographer presentation in the OmniGlobe Theater, The Great Exchange in the Incredible Edible Garden, La Nina, La Pinta and Santa Maria activity on the Pure Energy Island and several other labs.

For a complete list of Children's Adventure Garden activities and times, visit

<http://www.dallasarboretum.org/named-gardens-features/the-rory-meyers-childrens-adventure-garden>.

About the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden:

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218. The Dallas Arboretum is also the home of the internationally acclaimed Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. The Arboretum is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *The Dallas Morning News* is the principal partner of the Dallas Arboretum. The Arboretum is supported, in part, by funds from the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. WFAA is an official media sponsor for the Dallas Arboretum. For more information, call 214.515.6500 or visit www.dallasarboretum.org.

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