

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**October plant sale provides
Houston-area gardeners over
500K notable bulbs and plants**

HOUSTON, TX: **The Garden Club of Houston** is pleased to announce its 76th annual Bulb and Plant Mart, October 12-13, 2018 at **Church of St. John the Divine**, 2450 River Oaks Blvd., Houston, Texas. Mart hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Featured speakers include: **Heidi Sheesley of Treearch Farms** (Friday, 9:00 a.m.), **Susie Marten of Katy Prairie Conservancy** (Nine Natives presentation, Friday, 12:00 p.m.), and beekeeper **Shelley Rice** (Saturday, 10:00 a.m.). All sales are tax-exempt. Admission and parking are free.

The Mart was founded 76 years ago on the steps of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston by seven determined plant lovers. Today, their small plant sale has grown to offer more than 500,000 top-quality bulbs from domestic and international suppliers. Ranging from Amaryllis to Zephyranthes, offerings include over 200 varieties of Tulips, Iris, Daffodils and Hyacinths, as well as small bulb favorites: Anemones, Crocus, Freesias, Ranunculi, and Watsonias. Gardeners of every experience level will discover hard-to-find and unusual Crinum, Daylilies, Gingers, perennials, trees, shrubs, vines, herbs and citrus plants, including exclusive offerings from the gardens of GCH members. Additionally, the Mart features the Nine Natives collection, a group of native flowers and grasses, grown from seed, that offer seasonal interest, provide a complete habitat for native pollinators, and are appropriate for an urban setting. We owe special thanks to **Katy Prairie Conservancy** for supplying many of the seeds and to **Memorial Park Conservancy** for sharing greenhouse space and helping with propagation and care.

The Plants That Merit Attention Booth, hosted by **Nancy Thomas**, horticultural award-winning GCH member and Garden Club of America Past President, and **Kingslea Von Helms**, GCA Zone IX Horticulture Award-winner, will be featured on Saturday morning and will offer noteworthy selections collected specifically for the Mart. Additional special exhibits will include the live butterfly tent from **The Houston Museum of Natural Science Cockrell Butterfly Center** and the **Conservation Booth**, which will feature a variety of native and drought tolerant plants curated by experts in ecological conservation and education.

Shop now for dazzling spring blooms. Over 100 different bulb varieties can be pre-ordered, with images and planting information, at gchouston.org. Pre-orders receive a **10% discount** and are tax exempt. **Pre-orders must be received by Sunday, October 7th.**

About The Garden Club of Houston

Established in 1924, The Garden Club of Houston was founded by a group of civic-minded women interested in sharing their love and knowledge of gardening with the community and to promote and protect the quality of the environment through education, conservation and civic improvement. Recent recipients of proceeds from the Bulb & Plant Mart include Houston Botanic Garden, Asia Society Texas Center, Bayou Greenways 2020, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Memorial Park Conservancy, Mercer Arboretum Society, Houston Audubon, Houston Hospice, Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston/Rienzi and Urban Harvest. For additional information about the Bulb & Plant Mart and GCH, please visit gchouston.org.