



Under the Oaks

Newsletter of the Arboretum at Memphis Botanic Garden

Volume 4

Grand Opening of My Big Backyard at Memphis Botanic Garden

Saturday 11:00 am. August 1, 2009



Final preparations are being made for the August 1st grand opening of our new children's garden – My Big Backyard. The \$5.8 million project features different areas that offer children opportunities to explore and learn. This garden was designed by Cindy Tyler of Terra Designs, who has designed world-class children's gardens throughout the United States.

This addition to the Memphis Botanic Garden will be a major tourist attraction for our area. My Big Backyard will allow the garden and our staff to provide more educational opportunities for Memphis area children. Included in My Big Backyard is the Guest House which has a wraparound porch, restroom facilities and a large classroom

Some of the features of this unique garden include:

Treetop Adventure- wind through the Magnolia canopy to reach the treetop birdhouse

Wormville- discover life through the view of an earthworm

Critter Creek and Pond Out Back- wade, splash and explore. Features a bog full of beautiful carnivorous plants.

Welcome Wildlife- learn to attract wildlife to your own backyard

According to Jim Duncan, executive director of Memphis Botanic Garden, "This is truly a garden for the entire community in every way. It is our hope that every child in the area creates a memory that will last a lifetime in My Big Backyard."

*On Saturday, August 1st, admission will be free from 9:00 am. until noon. The official Grand Opening of My Big Backyard will be at 11:00. After August 1st, admission to My Big Backyard will be included in the Memphis Botanic Garden's regular admission price.

Which tree am I?

1. I am the oldest cultivated nut tree.
2. My cone is among the smallest of all cone-bearing trees.
3. I am often used to make pulp for paper.
4. I attract songbirds from miles around coming to dine on my juicy, purple fruit.

Answers: A. Loblolly pine B. Hemlock C. Ginkgo D. Red mulberry





For fresh produce and other unique items, plan to attend Farmer's Market at the Garden each Wednesday from 2:00 till 6:00 pm . Season ends October 28 , 2009

The Memphis Botanic Garden offers many educational opportunities for the children of our community. For grades 1—6, we have several 90 minute interactive experiences that combine exploration of the garden with take-home activities. One program, "Totally Trees" introduces students to some of our native trees with a walk through the Arboretum. Topics covered in this class include seed dispersal, tree structure and plant life cycles. For more information , or to schedule a group of 15 or more, please contact the Memphis Botanic Garden main switchboard at 901.636.4100 or e- mail at memphisbotanicgarden.com



Reading our labels...

Common name

Botanic name

(Genus species)

Cultivar name

Family

Origin

Eastern Redbud Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of Gold'

Height: 15—25 ft Width: 20—30 ft

Origin: Eastern North America

Zones: 5—9 Sun to part sun

'Hearts of Gold' is the first known redbud with golden yellow foliage. In early spring, before the leaves appear, the tree is covered with lavender purple sweet pea-like blooms. New leaves open red and turn golden. This tree is a vase shaped and is appealing in a naturalized situation. 'Hearts of Gold' is a new cultivar and can be seen in My Big Backyard— the new Children's garden.



Bog planting in My Big Backyard

One important feature of a tree that can provide clues to its identity is **leaf arrangement**. When leaves are borne two at a node on either side of the twig, the leaf arrangement is called **opposite**. Three or more leaves which are borne at a single node are said to be **whorled**.

Which tree am I? (answers)

1.C 2.B 3.A 4.D

Alternate leaves are borne one at a node on the twig.

