

## For Immediate Release

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## Yoshino Cherry Trees Are Blooming on Cherry Road

Memphis, TN – The Yoshino Cherry trees (scientific name *Prunus x yedoensis*) lining Cherry Road in front of the Memphis Botanic Garden, one of the most brilliant natural attractions in Memphis, are now in bloom! From Southern Avenue to Park Avenue, these delicate, slightly fragrant blossoms beautifully shroud the trees in a light pink veil.

The Yoshino Cherry is one of the most popular ornamental trees in the world. Famously known as the tree lining the Tidal Basin in Washington D.C., these trees were given as a gift of friendship from Japan to the United States. The trees along Cherry Road were generously donated to the Memphis Botanic Garden by the Little Garden Club of Memphis in the 1950s. Over the years, as a tree reaches the end of its life (typically 35 years in Memphis), it has been replaced. In the last 20 years, we have replaced approximately 30-40 Cherry trees, in part because of continued generosity from the Little Garden Club.

Every year Memphians gather under the Yoshino Cherry trees in early spring to picnic, paint, and take family photographs. The trees provide a spectacular backdrop for these activities, but they are only in bloom for a short time. No other tree is as renowned for its splendor and ephemeral magnificence as the flowering cherries.

In celebration of these beautiful blooms, the Garden will host its annual Cherry Blossom Picnic on March 23 from 10 am to 4 pm. Attendees can enjoy family-friendly activities including creating kimono dolls and koi windsocks and learning *shodo* name writing and origami. The event also features performances by 901 Taiko, tea ceremony demonstrations, and guided tours of the Japanese Garden from Horticulturist Robin Howell. Plus food trucks will be on-site for a picnic lunch and a signature cocktail and other spring spirits will be available from the cash bar.

Now is the perfect time to shake off the cold of winter, welcome spring, and bask in the warming sun and momentary brilliance of Yoshino Cherry trees in bloom at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

### About Memphis Botanic Garden

*The Memphis Botanic Garden is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.*

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