

Pilot Point

Guide

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SPRING 2024

**FAMILY BONDS GROW
DWAYNE O'DELLS
LANDSCAPE AND NURSERY
— YOU'RE INVITED TO
CELEBRATE THEIR SIXTH
ANNIVERSARY**

**LITHUANIA - THE JEWEL
OF THE BALTICS**

**SCARBOROUGH
RENAISSANCE
FESTIVAL**

**ST. JOHN CEMETARY
ACCESS AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER
GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
SPRING PLANT SALE**

April - May 2024

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On the Cover:
 Spring brings life to Pilot Point and its surroundings, with flowers blooming and trees budding.
 Send a beautiful bouquet of wildflowers to brighten someone's day

COURTESY PHOTO: Dreamstime

Ty Belger

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHERS



Spring fever is in full force, and it seems contagious! Surprisingly, spring fever is very real and affects most of us both psychologically and physiologically. Symptoms associated with the arrival of spring include restlessness, daydreaming, and an increased appetite for physical activity! While it is unclear what causes this phenomenon, it might be that watching everything around us come to life inspires us to join in. It is truly a beautiful time of the year.



We are fortunate to have an abundance of reasonably priced springtime events, activities, and places to visit in and around Pilot Point. Dining and shopping are plentiful in the area now, with new restaurants opening regularly. Enjoying a nice spring afternoon of window shopping in the historic Main Street areas of all of our surrounding cities is a delightful activity.

How lucky we are to have the immaculate Lake Ray Roberts right outside of our door, providing the ideal weekend getaway. Enjoy a leisurely kayak ride, a day on the water in a boat, or just floating and tanning in the gorgeous, refreshing water.

Make sure to follow us on Facebook, where we frequently share exciting activities, to get the most recent information about new businesses, events, and activities in our community.

We hope that all of our readers enjoy the lifestyle that the Pilot Point has to offer as much as we do.

Since locally owned businesses are the ones who first support the organizations in your community, please don't forget to support them. We appreciate our advertisers, as always. We couldn't provide our readers with information about all the local happenings and events without them.

We hope that you have joy in your heart and a spring in your step this fabulous season!

Jodie & David Prickett
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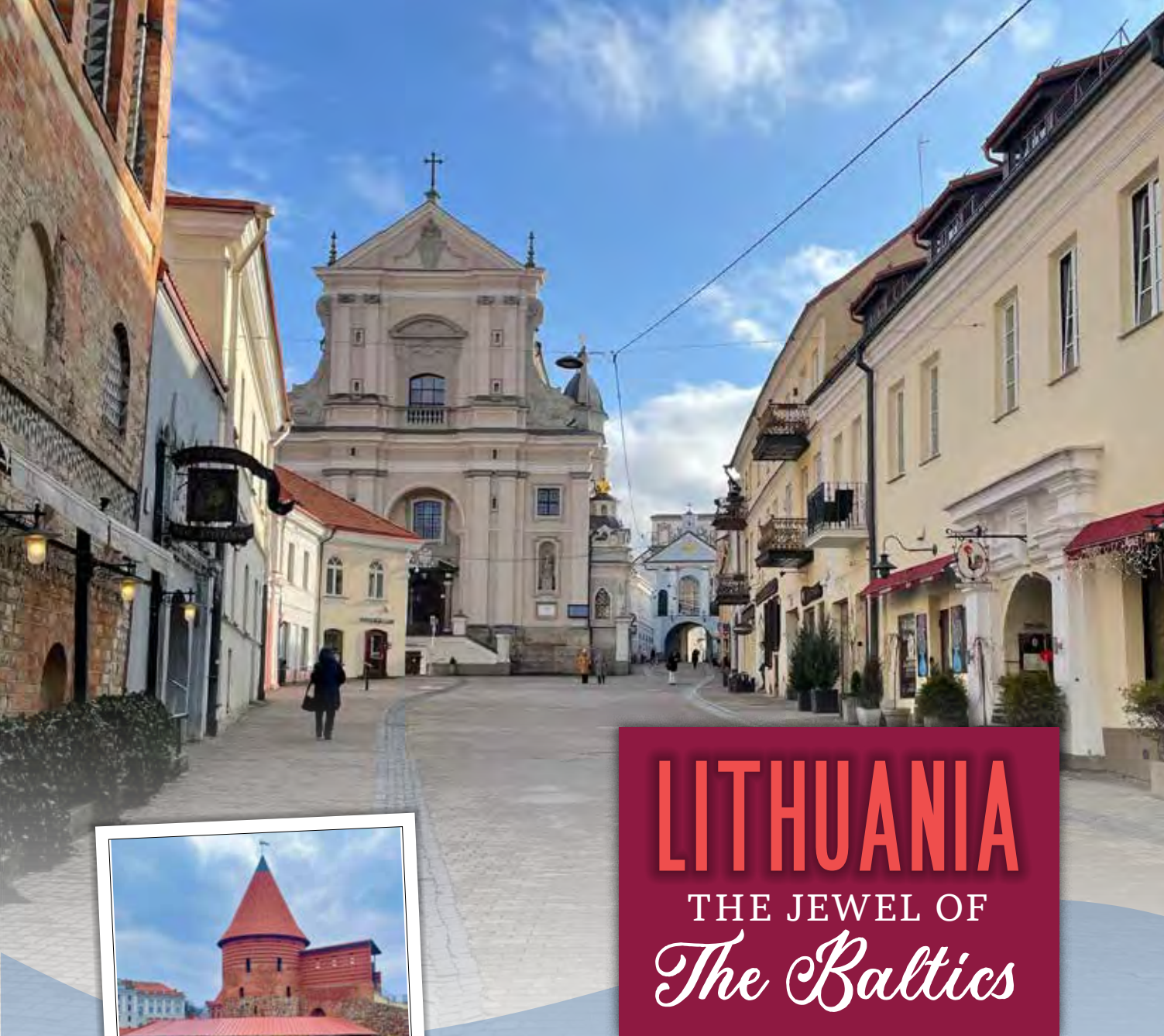
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LITHUANIA

THE JEWEL OF
The Baltics

Jodie Linton-Prickett

Many people choose to visit France or Italy over this tiny yet attractive country. My recommendation is to go there before the tourists start flocking there.

We used to travel to Prague in the Czech Republic years ago, and there were moments when it seemed like we had the whole city to ourselves. Then, word spread that this was a magical place to visit, and almost immediately, it became a popular tourist destination. So, take advantage of Lithuania's understated charm while it's still somewhat of a secret!

Lithuania is the southernmost and largest of the Baltics. It is nestled in the heart of Europe, heart of Europe, on the Baltic Sea, and has borders with Belarus, Latvia, Poland, and Russia.



DESTINATION

LITHUANIA

continued



While sometimes overlooked, Lithuania is known for its ancient history, old and unique language, colorful architecture, cobbled streets, rich past, and vast forests, among other beautiful characteristics. When you combine exquisite architecture, natural beauty, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, it's difficult to understand why this stunning country is not on more people's radar.

The capital of Lithuania, Vilnius, has a lively nightlife, a thriving art scene, and a beautiful sprawling old town. A day can be spent strolling around the winding maze of medieval cobblestone streets in Old Town, which are lined with charming, vibrant buildings. You can pop into cafes, restaurants, bars, galleries, and specialty shops until your heart is content.

Old Town also offers a concoction of Gothic, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. Some highlights also include the Neoclassical Vilnius Cathedral and the Gothic-style St. Anne's Church. There are also large squares with benches and an abundance of green space to unwind. Vilnius, which has one of the largest UNESCO-listed old towns in Northern Europe.

Once you are in Old Town Vilnius, it is easy to walk everywhere. While there are bicycles available to rent and Bolt cars that are affordable and widely available, walking is the most enjoyable way to see the area. Accommodations are plentiful and priced from modest to luxury. We really enjoyed the St. Palace Hotel, which had an affordable and amazing panoramic penthouse room with beautiful views overlooking the city. The other accommodation we absolutely love is the spectacular Hotel Pacai, a member of Design Hotels by Marriott. This hotel is steeped in history and oozes luxury. Treat yourself!

Kaunas, the second-largest city in Lithuania, is worth a visit too. It is the cultural capital. The city has a youthful, vibrant air due to its large student population. It also offers a medical destination for orthopedic surgeries, bariatric surgery, plastic surgery, and dentistry. Their services there raise the bar and should be considered if you are in the market for medical care.

While in Kaunas, take a stroll down Freedom Avenue, billed as the longest pedestrian street in Europe. It is also the main commercial district and a great place to people-watch. This lively area offers several hotels in various price ranges, including the Kaunas Hotel, the Moxy by Marriott, and the Radisson. Any of these locations are tight in the thick of things, allowing you to walk right out the door onto the avenue. The entire avenue is filled with culinary delights, theaters, shopping centers, and boutiques galore.

Some of the outstanding examples of Art Deco architecture in Europe may be seen in Kaunas, which is also well known for its interwar architecture, which has been recognized as a European Heritage site. There is also a sprawling old town, vibrant street art, impressive museums, and an enchanting castle next to the Nemunas River.

What's to eat? While most foods are available, like in any major city, in Lithuania, you will find traditional rural eating has a strong influence on their cuisine. Common mainstays include smoked sausages, herring, beetroot soup, and mushroom dishes, along with other foraged items. Potatoes and pickled dishes are also extremely popular. Try the national meal, cepelinai or didžkukuliai, which are potato dumplings stuffed with ground meat, dry curd cheese, or mushrooms, sometimes topped with sour cream and bacon sauce. Potato pancakes and fried cheese curd are other popular dishes.

Consider visiting Lithuania for your next holiday; it's a terrific destination for romance or the entire family. It checks all of the boxes for city lovers and outdoor adventurers.





While sometimes overlooked, Lithuania is known for its ancient history, old and unique language, colorful architecture, cobbled streets, rich past, and vast forests, among other beautiful characteristics

What's that smell? An unusual thing that Lithuania is famous for is being the only country on earth with an official scent, which is fabulous. The Scent of Lithuania was created as a positive national brand. The lovely fragrance is made up of wildflowers, raspberry, ginger, sandalwood, and musk aromas. Yes, I brought a bottle of it home with me, and it is delightful!

For nature lovers, Lithuanians are famous for their fondness of the outdoors. After all, forests cover over 40% of Lithuania. There are five incredibly well-protected national parks in Lithuania. Each park provides homes for a range of wildlife, including roe deer, wild boar, and hedgehogs. If you enjoy hiking, water activities, or just soaking up the fresh air, you will not be disappointed.

What should you bring back? Lithuania is one of the most amber-rich nations in the world, and you can easily find it in local shops. The country is known for having some of the best-quality amber in existence. It is rendered into small trinkets, luxurious jewelry, and functional items. Amber is a source of national pride and is known for its beauty and therapeutic properties. You can find the ideal amber present for any person on your list.

Consider visiting Lithuania for your next holiday; it's a terrific destination for romance or the entire family. It checks all of the boxes for city lovers and outdoor adventurers. The other perk is that the proximity to the other Baltic countries makes it easy to combine Latvia and Estonia on one long holiday.

What's my advice? Before the secret is out and everyone else decides to visit, go. Explore the charm now!



Interactive Fun for Everyone

~ Scarborough Renaissance Festival



Helaine Thompson

Scarborough Renaissance Festival® returns April 6th for its 43rd season and will run eight consecutive weeks every Saturday and Sunday through Memorial Day Monday, May 27th. Set in the days of King Henry VIII, the Scarborough Renaissance Festival® is one of the most unique, one-of-a-kind festival experiences in North Texas, offering interactive fun for everyone. You will step back in time to a 35-acre recreation of a 16th-century English village filled with more than 20 stages of non-stop entertainment, an amazing Artisan Marketplace with 200 shoppes filled with exquisite treasures, and authentic artisan demonstrations. Plus, there are games of skill, Renaissance rides, food and drink fit for royalty, and much, much more!

A big part of what sets Scarborough Renaissance Festival® apart from other festivals is the extraordinary entertainment. Cheer on knights jousting for honor and learn about birds of prey and their amazing prowess. Be amazed by sword swallowers, acrobats, jugglers, a 30-plus-time world-record-holding whip artist, belly dancers, and so many more. There's rocking Scottish bagpipes and Renaissance-style music on age-old instruments such as mandolins, harps, and hammered dulcimers. Where else can you see fairies, meet King Henry VIII and Queen Katherine Parr (number six for those who are counting), watch a Cat & Rat Circus, or meet live mermaids? Plus, it's all interactive—you never know when you might have a one-on-one conversation with a performer or even become a part of a show! For more mature visitors, there are also several stages dedicated to PG-16 entertainment.

In 2024, the festival welcomes half a dozen new shows,

including a one-weekend-only performance by YouTube and Instagram sensation Jacques Ze Whipper on April 20–21. There will also be a new fast-paced juggling show, a singing executioner, a musical carnival of sound, a bubble fairy, and comedy abound!

The 100+ members of Scarborough's performing company will be found throughout the festival, bringing the "Village of Scarborough" to life with cannon drill and ancient weapons demonstrations, lessons in history, customs, and manners, a living chess match, or teaching you how to dance in the Renaissance style!

You can enjoy the human-powered Renaissance rides, games of skill, the all-new Royal Menagerie Petting Zoo, pony rides, and the Grande Parade.

Entertainment is not the only thing to enjoy at the Scarborough Renaissance Festival®. The festival's Artisan Marketplace is one of the largest outdoor juried craft shows in the country, with over 200 shops filled with exquisite, one-of-a-kind handmade treasures. These are not your ordinary "crafts." These are unique treasures that you simply cannot find at any other art show or event, such as glass sculptures, pottery, life castings, masks, stone carvings, metal works, apparel, handmade soaps, blown glass, tapestries, and handwoven hammocks, just to name a few. There are also demonstrations by many of the artisans showcasing age-old crafts such as glass sculpting, candle making, glass blowing, stone carving, weaving, pottery, and metal works throughout each day of the festival. The festival will be introducing fifteen new artisans for the 2024 season, featuring children's

one ~ 16th Century Style at Renaissance Festival®



Photos by: Scott Fisher, Pongo, Paul Millsaps and Scarborough Renaissance Festival

costume clothing, honey-based products, leather clothing and accessories, sculptured fairy wings, 3-D art, handmade costumed creatures, macramé accessories, crocheted animal sculptures, gourd sculptures, pottery, woodworks, and custom Viking-themed armor and chainmail.

When you are ready to take a break, enjoy food fit for royalty! The food at Scarborough Renaissance Festival® is a step above traditional “fair” food in both quality and variety. Feast on our signature giant smoked turkey legs (the best you will ever eat) and Scottish eggs. Don’t miss out on the handmade pastas at the Pasta Palace, the tasty treats made from scratch at the Scarborough Bakery each day, and the largest selection of food-on-a-stick in Texas! Indulge in crab cakes, fresh fruit, salads, Italian nachos, stir-fry, gyros, giant fajitas, stuffed spuds, tempura delights, fresh hummus, crepes, quiches, and fish & chips. You can also try some of the featured items and weekly specials at our full-service restaurant, the Rose & Crown Inn, like Shepard’s Pie, Muffulettas, and seasoned meat pies.

Adults can enjoy Scarborough’s mead selection from North Texas’ own Breaking Brew Meadery along with craft beers and other libations at the fourteen pubs and taverns. Those with more discerning palates can partake in the daily wine or beer tasting events. Each week of the festival, the tastings have a different theme and variety of wine or beer, so each week is a different experience. The tastings are separate ticketed events (\$40 per person in addition to festival admission), and space is limited, so you will want to get your discounted tickets at www.SRFestival.com ahead of time. Of

course, you must be at least 21 to enjoy the adult beverages or participate in the tasting events.

Each weekend also has a different theme and a variety of special events such as Kid’s Free (up to 3 kids 5–12 free with each paid adult) and the \$10 off discount for seniors on the opening weekend (April 6th and 7th), the Artisans Showcase, and Celtic Weekend, just to name a few. If you are into cosplay and/or costumes, you don’t want to miss the Viking & Barbarian Weekend (April 27th and 28th), Live the Fantasy Weekend (May 4th and 5th), and Legends of the Seas Weekend (May 18th and 19th), where you can compete in costume contests and other fun events! Keep in mind that while costumes are welcome every day of the festival, they are definitely not required.

Festival tickets are \$38 for adults and \$18 for children. Kids 4 and under are always free. Discount tickets can be found at Tom Thumb and Albertsons starting April 1st and discount coupons can be found at Legacy Chevrolet-GMC in Waxahachie beginning April 1st as well. Get all the details at www.SRFestival.com. You can also find Scarborough Renaissance Festival® at SRFestival on Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, X (Twitter), and TheSRFestival on Instagram.

So come enjoy interactive fun in 16th-century style as you step back in time for the time of your life at the most unique festival in North Texas—the 43rd Annual Scarborough Renaissance Festival®! For eight weeks only—Saturdays and Sundays and Memorial Day Monday—April 6th –May 27th. Just 30 minutes south of downtown Dallas off I-35E in Waxahachie.

PLEDGE



Water Less, Y'all

Water no more than twice a week.
P.S. It's now mandatory.



Spring is here and so are new mandatory watering schedules that limit outdoor watering to 2 days a week. But don't fret. Yards are tougher in Texas. Twice a week watering is plenty to keep them looking their best.

Pledge 2 water no more than 2 days a week and receive free swag (while supplies last), plus entry in weekly drawings for a free sprinkler system evaluation valued at \$125. Three Grand Prize winners will enjoy free landscape design services, and up to \$500 in plants and soil products from Rooted In, a North Texas nursery and garden center.

Join the **Pledge 2** team today. Scan the QR code or visit waterlessyall.com.



Take the Pledge **2** Water Less, Y'all

Pledge 2 Water No More Than Twice a Week

Water Less Y'all! Upper Trinity has enacted permanent, mandatory restrictions of no more than 2 days of watering a yard per week. Pledge 2 do your part to make sure there's always enough water.



When you Pledge 2 water no more than twice a week, you will receive free swag (while supplies last) and be entered into a weekly drawing for a free sprinkler system evaluation valued at \$125 (March – Sept). Three grand prize winners will receive free landscape design services and up to \$500 in plants and soil products from **Rooted In**, a nursery and garden center in Pilot Point that specializes in regionally native and adapted plant materials. Make the pledge here: <https://www.utrwd.com/saving-water/save-outdoors/water-less-yall>



Just 2 Will Do

Yards are tougher in Texas. Two days a week is enough to keep them healthy and pretty. Responsible hand watering of flowerpots and beds is allowed.

Water Saving Tips:



Avoid daytime watering. Only water before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.



Sign up for weekly watering tips. Water My Yard emails you how much and when to water your yard.



Check and update your sprinklers. Check for leaks, broken heads or heads spraying patios, the street or driveways. More irrigation tips here.



Turn off sprinklers when its rainy or windy. Look at the forecast and turn off the irrigation system.



Cycle and soak. Instead of one long water session, water in a couple short cycles (5–6 minutes each) with an hour in between.



Add a smart controller. It automatically adjusts your sprinkler system based on weather and watering restrictions. See EPA's WaterSense.



Install multi-stream and drip. Update to more efficient multi-stream heads, and use drip irrigation for flower beds, young trees and your home's foundation.



Right place, right plant. Plant Texas natives to save water. Group plants with similar water needs. Compost and mulch to retain moisture.



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You Can Take It With You



Looks like David had quite the encounter in Frankfurt, Germany! He bumped into none other than the Michelin Man himself! Wonder if he got any tire recommendations?

#TravelGoals #TireLover #TravelAdventures



Widely-known as the “Michelin Man,” who has been the beloved face of the MICHELIN brand since 1898, the tubby white mascot’s name is actually Bibendum (or Bib for short). He even has a category for value-for-money restaurants in MICHELIN’s guidebooks—the Bib Gourmand—named after him.

He owns an equally puffy white dog. His name is Bubbles and, like all pesky puppies, he ran away one stormy evening leaving Bib to search the forest for him.

Would you like to be in the next issue of Pilot Point Guide? If so, send us your photo with your Pilot Point Guide to YouCanTakeItWithYou@PilotPointGuide.com



Avast, me hearties! Jessica's got her 380Guide in tow for a swashbuckling adventure in the Bahamas. With all the latest news from the 380 corridor and fun things to do, she was able to enjoy her downtime with a good read. Talk about smooth sailing!

#BahamaBliss
#380Guide
#SmoothSailing

FUN FACT

The Bahamas is home to a spectacular national park: Lucayan National Park on Grand Bahama Island, which contains the world’s longest network of underwater caves. Visitors can take tours or snorkeling and diving excursions through this beautiful underwater world, meeting tropical fish and reefs along the way.





Why Should I Participate in a Local Plant Sale?

By Denton County Master Gardeners
Barbara Brown and Susan Cosio

Spring is an exciting time for gardeners. After the brown, sad look of our landscapes during the winter, green is coming up everywhere as perennial plants begin their growing season. Big box stores and nursery shelves are filled with plants to entice shoppers. But wait! There is another option for finding the best plants— Spring Plant Sales, held by local gardening organizations. Many master gardener associations hold local plant sales. They often have hard-to-find plants, native plants, and seedlings started by association members from their own gardens.

Most organizations or association plant sales provide knowledgeable volunteers to answer questions including design, planting, and long-term care of your purchases. Master Gardeners are available to assist you. Prices may be a bit lower than for-profit nurseries and best of all your purchases help fund programs ranging from public gardens to gardening education and research.

Our very own Plant Sale is coming
May 4th, 2024

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Spring Plant Sale, Saturday May 4th

DCMGA will hold their Spring Plant Sale at Trinity United Methodist Church, 633 Hobson Lane, in Denton. This crowd-pleasing spring event offers a wide selection of native, well-adapted perennials, annuals, grasses, herbs, bulbs, and more that do well in our challenging North Texas climate. Exciting new varieties will be available, as well as old favorites that require a little extra care in a pot or planter. Check out the **Make-an-Offer** section.

Master Gardeners will be at every table to help fellow gardeners find just the right plants. Beginning gardeners or gardeners new to North Texas can get landscape ideas, suggestions, and solutions from the Master Gardeners at the **Gardenscapers** table and have their specific gardening

questions answered at the **Ask a Master Gardener table**. Come early for best plant selection. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or until sellout, rain or shine. Wagons/carts will be available to shop with, but customers may bring their own.

Here is the web link: <https://www.dcmga.com/connect/spring-plant-sale/>

Save the Date: Don't forget about our wonderful Garden Tour event that happens on May 11th. Check out our website and purchase tickets for a great Saturday Event on Mother's Day week-end!

<https://www.dcmga.com/connect/annual-garden-tour/>

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT PLANT SALES

DATE	ORGANIZATION	WEBSITE
April 13 & 14, 2024	Heard Museum Plant Sale Fundraiser	https://www.heardmuseum.org/plant-sale/
April 27, 2024	Trinity Forks Native Plant Society of Texas	https://www.npsot.org/event/trinity-forks-spring-2024-plant-sale/
April 27, 2024	Collin County Master Gardener Association	https://ccmgatx.org/events/spring-plant-sale/
May 4, 2024	Denton County Master Gardener Association	https://www.dcmga.com/connect/spring-plant-sale/

GREAT RESOURCES

Top 100 Native and Adapted Plants for North Texas	https://twri.tamu.edu/media/5425/native-adapted-plants-updated-january-14-2020_reorg2.pdf
Earth-Kind Plant Selector	https://ekps.tamu.edu
Trinity Forks Native Plant Society (Denton) – <i>Lots of information about selection native plants</i>	https://www.npsot.org/chapters/trinity-forks/trinity-forks-resources/

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St. John Cemetery Access and Historic Preservation

Denton County Offers Solutions to Assist

Article Provided by Dawn Cobb

On Tuesday, Precinct 1 Commissioner Ryan Williams offered solutions to ongoing concerns about the historic St. John Cemetery off Hub Clark Road.

"I believe it's our duty to go ahead and help with this situation," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Ryan Williams."

Several residents, including Willie Hudspeth of Denton, have approached Commissioners Court about a lack of access to the property and a lack of attention to upkeep of the historic Black cemetery.

As part of an item placed on the Commissioners Court agenda, Commissioner Williams explained the Court approved maintenance of the St. John's Cemetery on June 14, 2016, allowing the Denton County Historical Commission and the Office of History & Culture to organize volunteers and serve as a liaison between property owners surrounding the cemetery. The first clean-up was on July 15, 2016.

From July 2016 through March of this year, Denton County has spent an estimated \$107,925 to pay for outside labor to clear and maintain the cemetery. The maintenance schedule is one Saturday per month in February through December and twice per month from June through August. In addition, county staff keep dead trees cleared and tree limbs trimmed, having hauled an estimated 36 yards of cut limbs and dead trees from the property. County employee time – estimated at 52 hours since January 2023 alone – is not part of the estimated amount spent to date.

On Jan. 9, 2024, the Texas Historical Commission approved the designation of St. John Cemetery as an Historic Texas Cemetery.

Leaves from the significant tree canopy are left on the property to prevent erosion as well as help feed the trees and allow water to be absorbed and filtered through layers of soil to feed the tree roots. Slow biodegradation is a common practice

to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Removing leaves could lead to erosion and eventual damage to the tree canopy.

Property owners told Commissioner Williams when he visited the property recently that they would prefer the county to continue to be a liaison and would allow regular access to the property if sufficient notice was given.

Under the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 711.041, ingress and egress to a cemetery surrounded by private property is determined by the property owners. The right of access, including the hours, and where access can occur is determined by the landowner, who can ask for a 14-day written notice prior to anyone accessing their property to visit the cemetery.

Commissioner Williams also announced plans to install an entry to the cemetery in several months. The iron gate entry would be supported by stone columns on which the historical marker could be placed as well as information about the history of St. John Cemetery.

"This is on my to-do list and to do something to make the entrance to the cemetery a little more appealing," Commissioner Williams said.



COURTESY PHOTO: depicts the St. John Cemetery near Pilot Point, which has been maintained by Denton County since 2016.

County records show the cemetery was sold to the St. John Church in 1891 and has not changed ownership since that time.

Historic records show the cemetery has a history dating back to the late 1800s where it served as a final resting place for the African American community until the late 1930s. The cemetery grounds were officially acquired by founders of a church in 1891 though the earliest burial was recorded in 1882. The community established the St. John Church, a Baptist parish for the freedom enclave, as well as a school and the St. John Cemetery. Over the years, the church vanished, and the cemetery faded into obscurity.

"We are dealing with the situation where we are trying to be respectful of the individuals buried there," Commissioner Williams said.

St. John Cemetery is located at Hub Clark Rd, Pilot Point, TX 76258.



COURTESY PHOTO: Denton County has spent an estimated \$107,925 on maintenance on the historic Black cemetery and more than 52 hours of employee time since January 2023..

Family Bonds Grow Dwayne O'Dells Landscape and Nursery

You're Invited to Celebrate Their Sixth Anniversary!



Jodie Linton-Prickett

Everyone is welcome to join the O'Dell family in celebrating their sixth anniversary on April 20, 2024. Visit the nursery located at 4765 Highway 377, Aubrey, TX. We have nearly 6 acres for you to explore and enjoy all the beautiful plants, trees, and flowers. The nursery is located on the west side of the road between Krugerville and Crossroads. The nursery will be offering a number of deals and discounts from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy some delicious barbecue brisket and pulled pork sandwiches cooked by Lisa with ExHillbilly Catering. Lunch will be available from 11:00 a.m. until it runs out.

The love of landscaping and playing in dirt runs deep in O'Dell's blood. From Dwayne's dad, Pat O'Dell, on down to the youngest grandchild, they all love the landscape and nursery business. Dwayne and his siblings learned so much from working side by side with their dad, "Daddy Pat," as he was called. Dwayne and his baby sister Margie are the only ones of the siblings still in the landscape nursery industry. Margie works at the nursery daily, helping keep things in order, keeping us organized, and keeping us on our toes. It has always been more than a business; it's about spending time with those you love and doing what you love doing. As Dwayne's dad started slowing down, Dwayne was ramping up and adding more services to meet customers' needs, and he went out on his own.

Dwayne exchanged vows with Elizabeth O'Dell, his soulmate, in 1993. Prioritizing their family values was their decision when they founded Dwayne O'Dell Landscaping. They had to support the family without sacrificing any family time. The way they started their family was by raising their kids right, participating in school activities, going to church, making and keeping doctor's appointments, offering homework assistance, having dinner at the table, and spending holidays together. The strategy was successful! Their guiding principles remained intact, and to this day, all of their grown-up children have played a major part in shaping who they are today.

"We firmly believed and still do that it's God, family, and then work," said Liz O'Dell. "Dwayne and I have four beautiful children. Both of our girls, Courtney and Kimberlyn, who are the oldest and youngest of our children, had no desire to work in the family business once they got old enough to go off to college and find their own way. Although they still played a huge part in the growth of the family business, they had no desire, like the boys, to play in the dirt. The summer after the

kids turned thirteen, Dwayne put them to work," said Liz. "We wanted to teach them a strong work ethic, but we also wanted to teach them that landscaping is hard work and maybe get them more interested in college than playing in the mud. This mindset worked on our girls, but not on our boys. Devin started with us in the summer of 2008, with Kyler following in the summer of 2010. The boys loved every part of it." The boys had the same desire as their dad when he was younger to grow and add more services to meet the needs of our customers.

After realizing that this was the career path the boys wanted to follow, Dwayne and Liz opened the nursery. "We anticipated that one boy would succeed in the nursery and the other in the landscaping," Dwayne remarked. The idea behind starting the two separate businesses was to give the boys each their own venture to continue once Dwayne and Liz retired.

Devin and Kyler have continued to add more services, including landscape lighting, water features, pumps, and, of course, growing the nursery to what it is today. To say that Dwayne and I are proud of these boys would be a huge understatement. They are the driving force behind this business, always striving to do better. Dwayne and I are not ready to retire anytime soon, but with these boy's work ethic, we know all the customers we have and have bonded with over the years will be in good hands if we ever do.

"Every day is fun, and we just enjoy it to the fullest. Dwayne is a big kid, keeping us all laughing and lighthearted". Liz said, "We collaborate and have fun together. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to be together every day as a strong family. We are not only blessed with working together as a family, but also with the families we have working with us."

I wouldn't be shocked if there were more generations of landscape and plant lovers in the future with all the grand babies. Devin's three girls, Adeline, Gracelynn, Emberlee, and son Levi, come in regularly for multiple nursery "inspection" visits to make sure we are keeping the nursery up to their standards. Kyler's two children, Liam and Kinsley, have the same eagerness to play in the dirt and dig holes like their daddy. With eight grandchildren already, the O'Dell family appears to have a genetic affinity for the land, dirt, plants, and flowers.

For more information, call Dwayne O'Dell Landscape and Nursery, Inc. at 940-686-5853 /940-365-5994.

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