



GARDENING

Tour season **BLOOMS** with events



Kathryn Wells

Visitors to the Denton County Master Gardener Association Plant Sale will find Gregg's Mistflower, a native perennial especially attractive to butterflies in the fall.

Visit backyard gardens and hit up plant sales for hard-to-find native, pollinator and drought-friendly plants

By **NANCY BALDWIN**
Special Contributor

For Dallas garden lovers, spring is the best time of the year. It's fun to peek inside the gardens of others and pack a landscape file with new items from a wish list.

This year's tour season is full of events, ranging from the exploration of private gardens to the hunt through specialty plant sales. Amateur and master growers can enjoy the beauty and diversity of pollinator, native and drought-resistant plants.

We've rounded up the best garden tours and events in North Texas. Be sure to check websites for more information and updates before you go. Tours and events are rain or shine, and many sell out.

Garden tours

Denton County Master Gardener Association Garden Tour: The DCMGA annual tour features five distinctive, private home gardens in southern Denton County. All are owned by master gardeners who will be on site to answer questions. Proceeds from the tour fund public education projects and

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Ray Kingsbury/North Texas Water Garden Society

The North Texas Water Garden Society Pond Tour offers both night and daytime excursions to member ponds in Fort Worth.

THEATER REVIEW

'Waitress' serves up heart

Tasty musical sees life and pie from a woman's perspective

By **NANCY CHURNIN**
Theater Critic
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Rose Baca/Staff Photographer

Desi Oakley plays Jenna in the national tour of *Waitress*, presented by Dallas Summer Musicals at Fair Park Music Hall.

Pie, it turns out, is a good metaphor for life. If you want to bring something new and wonderful into the world, you've got to take chances with odd ingredients that might not seem to go together and be willing to make a mess and let the flour fly.

Jenna, the waitress at the heart of *Waitress*, the national tour of the 2016 Broadway charmer presented by Dallas Summer Musicals, spends

most of the musical dreaming up life-changing pies like the "Love, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness Pie" rather than

changing her life. With the support of her

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CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEW

Much to admire at Meadows Symphony benefit

Appealing program helped elevate imprecise student ensemble

By **SCOTT CANTRELL**
Special Contributor

The Meadows Symphony Orchestra's annual fundraising concerts at the Meyerson Symphony Center have yielded some wonderfully memorable performances. A Mahler Ninth Symphony, a Schubert *Unfinished* and a Bartók *Concerto for Orchestra* immediately come to mind.

Even normally superb university and conservatory orchestras have their ups and downs, though, depending on the ever-changing pool of student musicians. Southern Methodist University's student ensemble wasn't up to best past standards

in Wednesday night's "Meadows at the Meyerson" concert, but there were certainly thrills and stretches of great beauty.

Music director Paul Phillips gives his charges fresh and challenging repertory, and Wednesday's program was certainly an appealing one: Samuel Barber's *First Essay for Orchestra* and *Toccata Festiva* for organ and orchestra in the first half, Mahler's First Symphony in the second.

If there was a recurrent reservation in the program, it was a certain lack of rhythmic precision. For all the acoustical glories of the Meyerson that benefit the audience, it's notoriously difficult for musicians to hear one another onstage. This is doubly a challenge for an orchestra that plays there only once a year.

Violins weren't always as polished as in

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