



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mason County Chamber of Commerce Invites You to *Discover Mason*

March 31st through April 2nd

Mason, Texas- The Mason County Chamber of Commerce invites everyone in the Central Texas area and beyond to **Discover Mason** the first weekend in April. Mason, long known as the Gem of the Hill Country and the only County in Texas where naturally occurring Topaz is found, is located near Fredericksburg. A short two-hour drive through the beautiful Hill Country and wildflower environment from Austin, San Antonio and San Angelo will deliver you to a magical, historic town bursting with activities, events and historical landmarks. On the weekend of March 31st to April 2nd Mason is the place to be for art, music and one of the most pristine and pleasing settings for fun for all ages.

Many of the events that weekend will take place around the Historic Mason Square. *Mason Bloomin' Arts Fest* features more than 25 artists on the sidewalks of the Square showing and offering their work for sale to locals and tourists.

The *Second Annual Mason County Chamber Music Festival* will offer a performance on Friday featuring Austin's *Artisan String Quartet*. Saturday night will be the gala performance of the Festival at the Odeon Theater, the oldest continuously operating Theater in West Texas. A Sunday free performance will complete the Festival.

Tours of the *Seaquist Mansion* are available on Saturday, April 1st. The historic *Seaquist Mansion* is a 17th-century sandstone structure boasting twenty-two rooms, a ballroom and wrap around porches. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The *Seaquist Mansion*, built in 1887, had a value of \$4,000 in 1889, a fortune at that time in history.

Mason's impressive *M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library* is home to a commemorative bronze statue Ole Yeller, made famous in a book and movie and written by Mason native Fred Gipson. Their Annual *Book & Bake Sale* is

taking place Saturday, April 1st. Also, the Library will sponsor a screening of the documentary film *The Symphony of the Soil*, an artistic exploration of man's relationship to soil and maintaining a healthy planet.

Mason Garden Club will hold their Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, as well at the Library location. Mason has many historical landmarks such as Fort Mason, Robert E. Lee's last outpost before the Civil War; the Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve operated by The Nature Conservancy and, of course, the beautiful Llano River. Mason is one of the few cities in the Hill Country where the public has direct river access. Don't miss the Mason Square Museum where you will see the largest gem-quality topaz ever found in North America, learn about the Hoodoo War of 1875 between "Americans" and Germans in the area and the history of Fort Mason.

This time of the year Mason enjoys the blooming of Texas wildflowers. Texas is forecast to be on track for a spectacular wildflower season this year.

Mason has more than thirty Bed & Breakfast locations from which to choose to lodge. More information is available at mason texas@hctc.net. Please call the Mason County Chamber of Commerce at 325 347 5758 or the designated event contacts given below.

Come and **Discover Mason** March 31 to April 2nd, 2017!

Discover Mason the First Weekend in April

Mason will be brimming with activities and wildflowers for tourists to enjoy the first weekend in April 2017. **The Mason County Chamber of Commerce** invites you to enjoy Mason and these events and happenings:

Second Annual Mason County Chamber Music Festival -featuring **Mostly Mozart** performed by Austin's **Artisan String Quartet**, performances March 31 to April 2 Contact: Cathy Terrell, 325 218 2353 or more information www.theodeontheater.com/mccmf.html

Mason Bloomin' Arts Fest -Saturday, April 1st, 11 am to 4 pm Contact: Lisa Polk-lisapolk1160@gmail.com, 830 708 1160, information at www.masonartsfestival.com

The Arnold Art Gallery- Thursday , March 30 , 5pm to 7pm New exhibit opening reception for landscape in oil artist Jim Donaldson, Gallery open Saturday during Mason Bloomin' Arts Fest Contact: Joyce Arnold 325 347 6272, information at www.arnoldartgallery.com

The Seaquist Mansion Tours- Saturday, April 1st, 10 am to 4 pm Contact: Jan Appleby- janell@ctesc.net, 325 347 4058

M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library Book & Bake Sale-Saturday April 1st, 9 am to 4 pm. Contact: Patti Grote, mason texaslibrary@gmail.com, 325 347 5446

M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library -Screening of documentary film *Symphony of the Soil* at the Odeon Theater 1 pm Saturday Contact: Patti Grote, mason texaslibrary@gmail.com, 325 347 5446

Mason Garden Club Annual Plant Sale- Saturday, April 1st, 9 am to 12-noon Contact: Lynn Hedges 325 347 7407

Lodging, Dining, Event and Tourist Information

The Mason County Chamber of Commerce. Contact: Jennifer Munsell, mason texas@hctc.net, 325 347 5758