



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** July 11, 2011

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## **Cocktails in The Gardens Celebrates Five Seasons in Birmingham**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – Cocktails in The Gardens toasts its fifth anniversary on August 11, September 8 and October 13 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Hill Garden at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The annual event invites The Magic City’s young professionals and music fans to mingle amid Alabama’s largest living museum while enjoying the sounds of homegrown artists extending their footprint beyond. Admission is free for members and \$15 for non-members. Imperial Catering will offer a cash bar, proud to serve the evening’s signature drink, along with wine and domestic beer, to patrons of consent and complimentary hors d’oeuvres are available to all who attend.

This season, we are proud to introduce the V.I.P. area. At \$25 for both members and non-members, the event’s V.I.P. area offers Cocktails in The Gardens’ most scenic views, an expanded menu, a more fully-stocked cash bar and exclusivity limited to 100 patrons.

“Surf on the Turf” will kick-off the season on August 11, with entertainment provided by Jon Black. A Birmingham native, Black’s music has provided the soundtrack for popular television series’ “90210,” “Private Practice” and “The United States of Tara.” Fresh from an appearance at the Hangout Festival in Gulf Shores, the singer/songwriter has recently been featured in *Paste Magazine* and *American Songwriter*. The evening’s signature drink is Sea Breeze.

The season’s second event, “Green and Serene,” will be held on September 8. Downright co-founder Matthew DeVine will perform a solo set featuring many of the funk and rock selections from his band, along with his own unique material. While full-band shows have become less frequent, Downright has toured the southeast for more than a decade, releasing four full-length albums and a DVD. The evening’s signature drink is Midori Melon Punch.



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The final event of 2011, “A Haunted Affair,” will be held on October 13. One of Birmingham’s veteran acts, Rollin’ in the Hay, offers their eclectic blend of bluegrass and Southern rock to fill the autumn air. Rollin’ in the Hay’s accomplished resume includes opening slots for diverse acts including Gregg Allman, The Doobie Brothers, Alabama and Widespread Panic, as well the commercially successful “Pickin’ On” series – 15 instrumental tribute albums featuring interpretations of popular rock catalogs. The evening’s signature drink is the Caramel Apple Martini.

Proceeds from Cocktails in the Gardens will help support The Friends’ mission to educate the public about plants, gardens and the environment. 2011 sponsors include: Imperial Catering, 103.7 – The Q, James Avery, Fox 6, Southeastern Attractions, *Birmingham Magazine*, *Over the Mountain Journal*, *280 Living* and *Décor* by Kirsti. For more information, visit [www.bbgardens.org/cocktails](http://www.bbgardens.org/cocktails) or contact Shelly McCarty at 205.414.3965 or [smccarty@bbgardens.org](mailto:smccarty@bbgardens.org).

#### **About Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with more than 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains more than 25 unique gardens, 30+ works of original outdoor sculpture and miles of serene paths. The Gardens features the largest public horticulture library in the U.S., conservatories, a wildflower garden, two rose gardens, the Southern Living garden, and Japanese Gardens with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and more than 10,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to more than 350,000 yearly visitors.