



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

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An Evening of Tribute at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BIRMINGHAM, AL – More than 135 guests filled the Auditorium at Birmingham Botanical Gardens on January 21 for the 45th Annual Member Dinner, catered by Occasions by Wynfrey. Members, donors and staff celebrated the previous year and looked ahead to 2010. Leaf & Petal at The Gardens held a reception prior to the dinner, giving guests a chance to mingle while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Fred Spicer, executive director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, gave a presentation highlighting the successes of 2009. Among the achievements were the John Walker Community Service Award won by the Horticultural Therapy program, the marketing department's four Hermes Awards from Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP), and the 36% increase in volunteer hours. Mr. Spicer also announced the date of the final Master Plan presentation, essentially a blue print for future expansion and renovation to The Gardens. The event is slated for March 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Linn-Henley Lecture Hall at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

John Floyd, Ph.D., a past president of the Birmingham Botanical Society and former editor-in-chief for *Southern Living*, gave a presentation he titled "An Inside Look at The Gardens." He gave insight into The Gardens through the lens of a volunteer, complete with a slideshow of some of his undertakings in the Hulsey Woods, Abroms Rhododendron Garden, McReynolds Garden and Hess Camellia Garden. Dr. Floyd also pointed out several of those in the audience who have made projects in The Gardens possible, such as Frances Blount and Fay B. Ireland.

Guests included Yates and Tommy Amason (President), Carolyn and Henry Ray (President-elect), Frances Blount, Chris Boles, Mena and John Brock, Carissa Harms (Co-chair, Antiques at The Gardens 2010), Fay Ireland, June Mays, Jim Muir, Randi and Troy Rhone, Diana Slaughter, Hanson Slaughter, Virginia and Bill Spencer, Janet and Jarry Taylor, Louise Walton and Bitsy Williams.

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, miles of serene paths and a public horticulture library. The Gardens is open daily and offers free admission.