



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2011

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Autumn Events Bring In More Than \$340,000 for Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Birmingham Botanical Gardens wrapped up its fall lineup of events with the Fall Plant Sale on October 16-17. More than 2,700 shoppers came out to the two-day fundraiser, raising over \$36,000 for educational programs at The Gardens. Guests received plant advice free of charge from dozens of volunteers as well as live music from a jam band on Sunday afternoon. This year's sale was the largest in the 18 year history of the annual autumn event.

Two days prior, on October 14, the season finale of Cocktails in The Gardens drew more than 500 guests, who were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres from Occasions by Wynfrey, signature cocktails and music from Bonus Round. Ford Fiesta Little Big Tour, the presenting sponsor of the "Autumn Harvest Festival," also had interactive games and displays, including a chance to win a 2010 Ford Fiesta. Décor by Kirsti provided an elegant look to the evening, with brown linens, vases filled with tree branches, red, orange and yellow flowers, green accents and chocolate-colored trimmings. In addition to the beautiful backdrop, music, drinks and food, guests also had a chance to add their strokes to an interactive artwork with artist Laurie Kramer. The pieces from each of the three events will be on display in the gallery at The Gardens in November and are available for purchase.

Combined with Antiques at The Gardens, which took place October 1-3, fall events raised more than \$340,000. Proceeds from these events benefit The Gardens' mission to promote public knowledge and appreciation of plants, gardens and the environment. This educational vision takes the form of programs such as Discovery Field Trips, Horticultural Therapy, and Adult and Family Classes, to name a few. Last year, nearly 10,000 school children took advantage of Discovery Field Trips – award-winning, science curriculum-based garden adventures – and 97% of them did so absolutely free, including transportation expenses (thanks to help from the Junior League of Birmingham and Vulcan Materials Foundation).

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.