



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 29, 2010

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Birmingham Botanical Gardens Lands Renowned Horticulture Conference

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG) is hosting Garden Club of America's (GCA) prestigious Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference October 24-26., Named after the celebrated California gardener and past chairman of GCA's Horticulture Committee, this conference was established in 2001 by that committee to give members an opportunity to study horticultural subjects in a sharply-focused way. Keynote speeches and breakout sessions will be led by local experts and nationally-known authorities. The Red Mountain and Little Garden Clubs are the Birmingham-area GCA coordinating clubs for the event.

Fred Spicer, The Gardens' executive director, will welcome attendees on Sunday, October 24, giving a talk titled "Why I Live in Alabama." Other speakers known in Alabama include Bill Finch, long-time environmental writer for *The Mobile Register*; Mary Zahl, free-lance garden designer; Paul Capiello, executive director of Yew Dell Gardens in Crestwood, KY; Henry Hughes, Director of Education at Birmingham Botanical Gardens; and Darrel Morrison, FASLA, Professor and Dean Emeritus of the School of Environment and Design at University of Georgia.

A limited number of free tickets will be available for the keynote sessions: Sunday, October 24 (Spicer and Finch), Monday, October 25 (Zahl and Capiello), and Tuesday, October 26 (Hughes and Morrison); all times 8:30-11 a.m. Get them at the Scribbler, 42 Church Street, Mountain Brook starting on October 1 at 10:00am.

Hosting this event is a special honor for Birmingham. Previous conferences have been hosted by Missouri Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens, Atlanta Botanical Garden, New York Botanical Garden and Chicago Botanic Garden. For more information contact Mary Evelyn McKee, chairman of the 2010 Shirley Meneice Conference, at 205.879.7544 or maryevelyn@maryevelyn.com.

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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.

About Garden Club of America (GCA)

The GCA, established in 1913 with 13 clubs, is now an association of 199 clubs throughout the country whose purpose is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement. There are over 17,000 members of GCA clubs.