



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

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Cocktails in The Gardens Ends on High Note with “Autumn Harvest Festival”

BIRMINGHAM, AL – The season finale of Cocktails in The Gardens attracted 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. 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 all three Cocktails in The Gardens will be on display in the gallery at The Gardens in November and are available for purchase.

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. Kirsti Berry started her event design business three years ago, and even had her own wedding at The Gardens in May of 2009. She worked with Occasions by Wynfrey on each of the three events to create the perfect balance of color, texture and style to complement the mouthwatering menus. Kirsti plans to work with The Gardens in the future, with sights set on the 2011 Cocktails in The Gardens series.

Overall, more than 1,300 young professionals, local music fans and garden-lovers attended the 2010 season of Cocktails in The Gardens, which raised nearly \$18,000 for educational programs at The Gardens. The events are designed to raise awareness of membership, volunteer and educational opportunities among a young, diverse set of Birminghamians who may otherwise never be exposed to such programs at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Proceeds support Birmingham Botanical Gardens’ mission to promote public knowledge and appreciation of plants, gardens and the environment. Sponsors of the Cocktails in The Gardens include Ford Fiesta, Occasions by Wynfrey, 103.7-The Q, James Avery, Fox 6, RealtySouth Young Realtor's Council, Southeastern Attractions, Blonde Salon and Spa, Décor by Kirsti, *Birmingham* magazine, *Over the Mountain Journal*, *280 Living* and Mia Moda. For more information contact Shelly McCarty at 205.414.3965 or smccarty@bbgardens.org or visit www.bbgardens.org/cocktails.

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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.

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