



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dr. Allan Armitage Tapped for 2011 Spencer Lecture**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Spencer Lecture Series will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Linn-Henley Lecture Hall at The Gardens. Acclaimed botanist, writer and educator Dr. Allan Armitage will be speaking on "Legends in the Garden," a lecture about the people for whom many plants are named. He will also give the inside scoop on horticultural trends and tips in 2011. The Gardens is hosting a special reception and book signing at 5:30 p.m. in the Hodges Room before the lecture. RSVP for the free event at [www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org).

Dr. Allan Armitage runs the Trial Gardens at the University of Georgia, where new plant material is evaluated from flower breeders across the globe. The Trial Gardens at UGA are among the finest in the nation. He has received many prestigious awards throughout his distinguished career, including the National Educator Award from the American Horticultural Society and the Medal of Honor from The Garden Club of America. His long-standing interest in new crops for the garden has resulted in numerous introductions to the ornamental plant industry. A few plants that he has introduced to the industry are: *Impomeca* 'Margarita', *Cleome* 'Linde Armstrong', *Ruellia* 'Ragin' Cajun', and *Dicentra* 'Athens Yellow,' among others.

The Spencer Lecture Series is made possible by the Virginia Beeland Spencer Lecture Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. The fund, started by the late William Spencer in honor of his wife, Virginia Spencer, brings prominent speakers to Birmingham each year, giving the public a chance to learn more about gardening, flower arranging, horticulture and conservation for free. For more information contact Shelly McCarty at [smccarty@bbgardens.org](mailto:smccarty@bbgardens.org) or 205.414.3965.

**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.