

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GARDENS' DIRECTOR CHOSEN FOR
2008 APGA CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP FORUM**

BIRMINGHAM, AL– Fred Spicer, Executive Director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens will participate in a "Leadership Luncheon" to be held at the 2008 American Public Gardens Association Conference, *The Big Picture*, in Pasadena, CA, on June 23. The small task force, which consists of approximately 16 public gardens CEOs from across the nation, will address a variety of issues confronting botanical gardens and their leaders today.

Attendees of this year's APGA conference will be able to meet the leaders selected to this task force to take part in discussions about management, governance and planning; to identify future potentials leaders in their field of public garden management; and to create and grow talented successors by exposing them to the leaders of today. These leaders-in-training will learn more about the various skill sets that botanical gardens are in need of by engaging with Fred Spicer and the other renowned public gardens executives.

"I am honored to have been selected to participate in this program; it's a plus for Birmingham Botanical Gardens to share the platform with so many nationally prominent gardens," said Spicer. "My path to upper-level public garden management was atypical so I feel I have a unique perspective to share with the potential leaders of tomorrow who might not be aware that their skill set could be the perfect fit for a rewarding career."

The leaders selected to the task force represent the best botanical gardens from all over the nation, including Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Longwood Gardens (PA), Morton Arboretum, Chanticleer (PA), Chicago Botanic Garden, Mt. Cuba Center (DE), Lotusland (CA), United States Botanic Garden (DC), and Cornell Plantations (NY).

About Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with over 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains over 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 a Japanese garden with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and over 11,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to over 325,000 yearly visitors.