



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** May 1, 2009

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**Birmingham Botanical Gardens' 2009 Spring Plant Sale Most Successful Ever**  
**Event raised more than \$265,000 for education programs at The Gardens**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL**– Despite a lingering financial crisis, last weekend's Spring Plant Sale was the most successful of all time. The four-day event kicked off on Thursday evening with the annual Preview Party. In its 40th year, Birmingham Botanical Gardens' annual sale brought in over \$265,000 with nearly 7,400 visitors coming through the doors. There were more than 85,000 plants available with the Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' being the signature plant (which was clearly a hit, as it sold out on Saturday).

This massive undertaking was made possible by the hundreds of loyal and knowledgeable volunteers at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Like any other volunteer-based organization can attest, these tireless workers are the heart and soul of Birmingham Botanical Gardens; from working events to sitting on committees to being field trip docents, our volunteers do it all.

Money earned at the Spring Plant Sale goes to Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens' education programs and activities. Friends' mission is to promote public knowledge and appreciation of plants, gardens, and the environment and to receive, raise and administer resources for these purposes. Some of these programs include Discovery Field Trips, Children's Summer Workshops, Adult & Family Classes and Horticultural Therapy. Last year more than 10,000 school children were able to take advantage of the free Discovery Field Trips to learn about science and nature.

**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 11,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to more than 325,000 yearly visitors.