



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 16, 2009

Contact:

Michael Hansen

205.414.3960

mhansen@bbgardens.org

Andrew Krebbs

205.414.3959

akrebb@bbgardens.org

Antiques at The Gardens Raises More Than \$300,000

Event provides support for The Gardens educational programs

BIRMINGHAM, AL – More than 1,000 came out to Birmingham Botanical Gardens for the fourth annual Antiques at The Gardens: Heirlooms in Bloom presented by Regions Financial Corporation Thursday, October 1 through Sunday, October 4. Dozens of dealers from across the nation set up shop at the weekend-long event, with everything from medieval silver items to Revolutionary War heirlooms. The show and sale benefit The Gardens' mission to promote public knowledge and appreciation of plants, gardens and the environment.

“Due to the generosity of our supporters, whether in the form of purchasing a general admission or lecture ticket or a donation to underwrite the show, schoolchildren in Alabama are the beneficiaries of the proceeds of this event,” co-chair Mitzi Davis said. “The Gardens will be able to continue to offer educational field trips to enhance the math and science curriculum of these children.”

More than 300 guests kicked off the weekend-long fundraiser with the First Look Party presented by Sterne Agee on Thursday, October 1. The glamorous black-tie affair included drinks and hors d'oeuvres as guests mixed-and-mingled while perusing the array of furniture, art, rugs, jewelry and various other accessories. Friday morning included Renny Reynolds' fascinating speech incorporating his experience in landscape design with his bestselling book, “The Art of the Party.” Later that afternoon Richard Keith Langham, a native of Brewton, Alabama, gave a crowd-pleasing lecture, titled “Decorating: Fact and Fiction,” to a sold out lecture hall.

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.