



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

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Garden to celebrate 50 years with gala

Chapel Hill – The joint celebration of the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Botanical Garden Foundation’s fiftieth anniversaries will climax on **Saturday, October 22, 6 p.m.** with a formal, black tie gala. The event will begin with cocktails on the grounds of the Historic DuBose House in Chapel Hill, followed by a presentation and dinner at the neighboring Rizzo Conference Center.

During the event, the Garden will present Tom Earnhardt with the Flora Caroliniana Award, given for “enthusiasm and service to the preservation, restoration, and appreciation of the natural world around us.” This award has not been given for 16 years, and this will only be the fifth time a recipient has been named. Other recipients include Lady Bird Johnson, John K. Terres, William Lanier Hunt and C. Ritchie Bell. The Garden will also honor the following dedicated friends: Thomas Kenan III, Florence Peacock, Harriet Martin and Joan Gillings.

Tom Earnhardt has tirelessly advocated for the natural landscape of North Carolina as the host and producer of Exploring North Carolina on UNC-TV, as the author of several books, and as a board member for many conservation organizations. Tom is the most recent past president of the Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc., the membership organization that supports the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

To purchase tickets (\$250/person), contact Victoria Castor at 919-962-2231.

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The North Carolina Botanical Garden, part of the University of North Carolina, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016, the Garden is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation and conservation of plants. Through its educational, recreational, therapeutic horticulture and research programs, it extends opportunities for connection with nature to people of all abilities and backgrounds. The Garden is open seven days a week and admission is free. Information at <http://ncbg.unc.edu>.

Established in 1966, the Botanical Garden Foundation’s mission is to champion, promote, sustain, and advise the North Carolina Botanical Garden so that its endeavors to protect lands, support research, and educate the public about plants and natural ecosystems will flourish on behalf of North Carolina and the



Southeast.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, is a global higher education leader known for innovative teaching, research and public service. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Carolina regularly ranks as the best value for academic quality in U.S. public higher education. Now in its third century, the University offers 77 bachelor's, 113 master's, 68 doctorate and seven professional degree programs through 14 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. Every day, faculty – including two Nobel laureates – staff and students shape their teaching, research and public service to meet North Carolina's most pressing needs in every region and all 100 counties. Carolina's more than 308,000 alumni live in all 50 states and 150 countries. More than 167,000 live in North Carolina.