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Pittsburgh Botanic Garden Receives Significant Gifts

Pittsburgh, PA., January 29, 2015—The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden received two gifts of note recently that will help further develop the Garden. Both gifts result in naming of new areas of the Garden.

The first, for naming of the Ada and George Davidson Event and Culinary Center, acknowledges the generous gift of Ada and George Davidson, long supporters of the Garden. The hospitality of the couple is apparent with the naming of the Center, which includes the large indoor event center on the second floor of the Bayer Welcome Center, its plaza and catering kitchen. Some of the funds will be used to finish outfitting the catering kitchen and establish a fund for its future maintenance. The significance of this gift is underscored by the fact that the Davidson's were the first family to open their beautiful garden for the first outdoor gala held by the Garden many years ago.

According to George, "We have been involved and supportive of the Garden since the concept stage. On our last visit, we were impressed with the tremendous progress that had been made to bring the concept to a first-class reality. It seemed appropriate to recognize this effort and to encourage others to do so at this critical stage of physical development." Ada adds, "This is something the Pittsburgh area has needed to put us further up the scale of most major cities, including nearby Cleveland. At 460 acres, this will be among the largest botanic gardens in the country, a scale that will complement our other significant area attractions."

The second generous gift was received from Joan and Bob Peirce for naming of the new garden that is adjacent to the outdoor plaza at the Bayer Welcome Center. Celebrations of all kinds will be hosted in the newly named Peirce Celebration Garden, beginning with a wedding this spring and followed by others through the year.

According to Joan, "Many years ago, when Bob was a county commissioner, we met with the late Jud Brooks who had a vision for a botanic garden. At that time, we thought Hartwood Acres might be the best location. We have contributed to the Garden on a yearly basis probably from the beginning when it was just a good idea." She continues, "We think the Garden is a great asset for Western Pennsylvania. We are proud Pittsburghers and proud to support projects that make Pittsburgh so special."

The generosity of the Peirce Family Foundation will be remembered through the seasons through the beauty of this garden.

About Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is transforming 460 acres of abandoned mining land just 10 miles west of Pittsburgh, PA into a world-class botanic garden, including 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences, a visitor's center, an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and performances, a celebration center to accommodate weddings and corporate events and a center for botanic research. For more information please visit pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.

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