

## **PLANT SALE EVENT PRESS RELEASE**

**FROM:** Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

**CONTACT:** Kitty Vagley, Director of Development

412-444-4464 or [kvagley@pittsburghbotanicgarden.org](mailto:kvagley@pittsburghbotanicgarden.org)

**DATE:** Late April / Early May

Offering a fine gift selection for last-minute Mother's Day shoppers, as well as a quality assortment of greenery for gardening enthusiasts, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden's ***Plant Sale & Celebration*** will be held on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Green Tree Fire Hall and Community Center. A fabulous selection of big, colorful annuals - along with trees, shrubs and perennials - will be on sale that day. Knowledgeable horticulturalists will be on hand to assist each gardener in selecting the very best plant for any growing site or environmental condition.

Floral designers have put together many colorful pre-planted containers, ready to add a touch of beauty to any home. Additionally, organic herbs and vegetable plants from Cherry Valley Organics will be on sale. Garden art and accessories, including soil test kits, will also be sold at the venue, with Penn State Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions about soil testing.

Although this is the organization's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Plant Sale, a "Celebration" component is being added this year to expand the scope of the event with a variety of workshops, activities and shopping opportunities.

Penn State Master Gardeners and other horticulturalists will offer free 30-minute workshops on a variety of gardening topics. Pre-registration is not required. The planned schedule of workshops is as follows:

8:30 a.m. Testing Your Soil  
9:00 a.m. All About Rain Gardens  
9:30 a.m. Why Don't My Hydrangeas Bloom?  
10:00 a.m. Rain Barrels  
10:30 a.m. How to Divide Perennials  
11:00 a.m. Dealing With Deer  
11:30 a.m. Gardening with Native Plants  
12 noon Composting 101  
12:20 p.m. Pruning Roses, Clematis and Forsythia

"Each year our sale gets bigger and better," said Plant Sale chair, Martha Swiss, "We are thrilled to be offering for the first time this year free gardening classes that will be taught by some of the area's premier horticulturalists, landscape designers and Master Gardeners. We are especially happy to have John Totten on hand to talk about native plants."

Children's activities, including bird house building, will be available throughout the day, as will a variety of food choices, including gluten-free organic food from Naturally Soergel's and sweets from The Goodie Truck.

Vendors for the event include Iron Eden, which will have a selection of hand-forged ironwork for gardens and homes; Still Blooming, which features decorative outdoor glass ornaments; Zelda's Bead Kits; and Donna McKnight, who will sell bird, bat and butterfly houses.

Swiss thanked those who support the sale with their pre-orders of plants through the catalog. She advised that anyone who placed pre-sale plant orders must pick up their plants at the Green Tree event site on May 12th by 2:00 p.m. Signs will direct them to the pre-sale plant order pick-up location.

The ***Plant Sale & Celebration*** supports the mission of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to create a 460-acre botanic garden, featuring woodlands, water elements, display gardens, and education and recreational facilities, on a site next to Settlers Cabin Park, just seven miles west of downtown Pittsburgh. The first garden, The Woodlands of the World Garden, is comprised of five distinct woodland areas – the Appalachian Plateau Woodlands (to be known as Penn's Woods), English, Eastern European and Asian Woodlands and the Cove Forest - and will be open to the public this fall. Phase One of the development project, including the Bayer Welcome Center, with event and classroom areas, new administrative offices, a wedding garden and a tent lawn will open in 2013.

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden members receive a 10% discount on purchases made on selected items being sold on the day of the event. Additional information about the ***Plant Sale & Celebration*** is available online at [www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org](http://www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org), or by calling 412-444-4464.