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CONTACT:

Allison Dyer Inman, Marketing & PR Coordinator

adinman@ncarboretum.org

(828) 665-2492 x204

The North Carolina Arboretum Hosts an Array of Fall Events

ASHEVILLE, NC – The North Carolina Arboretum invites visitors to discover the beauty of the season at an array of fall events. Offering inspiration for garden and craft enthusiasts, the events will educate and entertain.

Events for fall 2011 include:

Heritage Crafts Day—Saturday, September 24 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Now in its sixth year, Heritage Crafts Day features artists and crafters whose work reflects the heritage of Western North Carolina. Vital to the region's craft heritage is the close relationship between the crafts and plants used in their production. Much of the artistic expression of mountain crafts originates from the character and nature of plants.

Fine crafts made from local and natural materials will be highlighted, as will art created from recycled and sustainable sources. Visitors to Heritage Crafts Day are encouraged to explore the Arboretum's Heritage Garden. The garden showcases plants used in the multi-million-dollar craft industry of Western North Carolina, including those used for handmade paper and brooms, baskets and dyes. Visitors can discover the many plants that support crafts and understand how they are grown, prepared, and used in the industry.

Carolina Bonsai Expo—Saturday and Sunday, October 8-9

Now in its 16th year, the Carolina Bonsai Expo is the premier event hosted by the Arboretum. Featuring juried exhibits by bonsai enthusiasts from throughout the southeast, a renowned bonsai marketplace, workshops, free demonstrations, and an Ikebana exhibit, the Expo is a two-day horticultural extravaganza.

Each year, a special guest bonsai artist provides educational programs for the public and a critique of the show for the benefit of participating clubs. This year's guest is Mr. Walter Pall of Austria, who is widely recognized as one of the leading western bonsai artists in the world today.

The Expo is a perfect occasion to explore the Arboretum's Bonsai Exhibition Garden, which offers a world-class display that innovatively establishes bonsai in the context of the Southern Appalachians.

The North Carolina Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show—Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16

Hundreds of chrysanthemum blooms will fill the Arboretum Education Center in a kaleidoscope of vivid colors. This annual show is judged by expert Accredited National Chrysanthemum judges from across the country according to strict National Chrysanthemum Society standards. Hours for Saturday are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and hours on Sunday are 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The theme of this year's event, "Shades of Fall," highlights the bold and beautiful colors of the season in Western North Carolina. Visitors will learn more about growing show-quality chrysanthemums, and

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flowers will be available for purchase. The weekend also provides the opportunity to explore the Arboretum's hiking and biking trails to view the fall foliage.

Each year more than 376,000 visitors experience the Arboretum's gardens, trails, exhibits, shows and expos, educational programs, demonstrations and lectures. The Arboretum's ability to meet its mission and enrich the visitor experience is made possible by a community of supporters—from members, volunteers and staff to state and local funds, tribute gifts, grants, and community partners.

Shows and events are free for Arboretum Society members or with the standard parking fee (\$8 per personal vehicle). For information, call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org. The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

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