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CONTACT:

Allison Dyer Inman, Marketing & PR Coordinator

adinman@ncarboretum.org

(828) 665-2492 x204

The North Carolina Arboretum Kicks Off 25th Anniversary Year with Free Event

ASHEVILLE, NC – The North Carolina Arboretum will kick off its 25th anniversary year with a special day-long event on Friday, July 1. Activities and entertainment for all ages are scheduled throughout the day, including a free evening concert. In addition, parking fees will be waived the day of the event.

Activities include:

Commemoration Ceremony and Music in the Gardens

A brief ceremony at 6:00 p.m. will commemorate the past and commence the future. An evening concert by local bluegrass band, Sons of Ralph, will immediately follow.

Geocaching

Visitors can participate in a high tech treasure hunt. New anniversary caches will be activated for this event. Arboretum staff will offer a demonstration at 2:00 p.m. for those who are new to geocaching.

Heritage Hike

This moderate hike was designed especially for the 25th anniversary. Participants will learn more about the history of the organization while being offered a glimpse of how the Arboretum has changed over the past quarter century. Hikes will last approximately 1.5 hours and will depart at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Meet the Gardeners

Chat with the talented staff behind the Arboretum's amazing gardens. Learn about plans for the season, favorite plants, and find out how garden magic really happens—through creativity and lots of hard work!

Garden Crafts for Kids and Birds and Bubbles in the Gardens

Families will enjoy a fun afternoon garden activity presented by Arboretum Community Partner, B.B. Barns. Children can paint flower pots and plant seedlings, then take their special creations home. Chris Jacquette, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited of Asheville, will be on hand to teach children and adults alike about birds at the Arboretum and in their backyards. Little ones can also enjoy the fun and wonder of filling the gardens with bubbles small and large.

5K Time Trials

Runners will enjoy a scenic route through Arboretum property. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. A \$10 donation is suggested to participate, with proceeds going to the Arboretum's annual fund.

The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.

Woodturning Demonstrations

Members of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners, the local chapter of The American Association of Woodturners, will host demonstrations to illustrate the basics of woodturning. Chapter members will also have work for sale, and will be available to answer questions about woodturning.

Activities for Dogs and their Owners

Bring your four-legged friend from 9:00 a.m. until noon for a piece of peanut butter anniversary cake and “growl-nola” bars provided by Three Dog Bakery. Paws with a Purpose will share their innovative therapy program. R.E.A.C.H. (Regional Emergency Animal Care Hospital) will also be on hand to share summertime pet safety information. Please remember that dogs must be on leashes while on Arboretum property.

American Chestnut Lecture by Dr. Charlotte Ross

Folklorist Dr. Charlotte Ross shares how the American Chestnut blight during the 1940s and 1950s served as a catalyst to restructure the Appalachian mountain society forever. This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Light fare and beverages will be available for purchase during the day from Savory Thyme Café and Blue Ridge Food Ventures – Village Market. The 25th anniversary season is supported by Asheville Regional Airport and Progress Energy, Community Partners of The North Carolina Arboretum.

Established in 1986 by the General Assembly as an affiliate of the University of North Carolina, the Arboretum was founded nearly a century after Frederick Law Olmsted, the ‘Father of American Landscape Architecture,’ first envisioned such an institution near Asheville as part of his legacy to the Biltmore Estate. Starting humbly with a borrowed trailer and free, but raw forest land, the Arboretum has, during its short ascent, become the most significant state-supported attraction in western North Carolina. Its visitation of 376,000 visitors per year attests to that fact.

For more information, please call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org for a complete event schedule. 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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