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The Art of Wine & Vines to Benefit The North Carolina Arboretum and CarePartners Hospice

ASHEVILLE, NC – The Art of Wine & Vines will take place on Thursday, June 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted by The North Carolina Arboretum at the Baker Exhibit Center and Gardens, the event is a benefit for The North Carolina Arboretum Society and CarePartners Foundation.

Guests will have the opportunity to raise a glass while raising funds to support two local organizations. The evening will feature wines hand selected by the staff of Asheville Wine Market and provided by Empire Distributors of North Carolina, Inc. Attendees will also enjoy hors d'oeuvres highlighting local flavors by Céline and Company as they experience the gardens in their summer splendor.

“As an organization that includes health and wellness in its mission scope, The North Carolina Arboretum is pleased to work collaboratively with CarePartners,” said George Briggs, Executive Director of The North Carolina Arboretum. “This innovative partnership provides a way for attendees to invest in the welfare of our community. Funds from the event will provide important investment for the Arboretum's creative and growing palette of exhibits, both on site and traveling, that provides enjoyment and knowledge for students and visitors of all ages.”

The Arboretum's new summer exhibits will be open and a variety of live music will add to the ambiance, making it an evening to remember. *Botanical Chords* by Terry Ashley and *The Fine Art of Wood: An International Invitational Exhibition of Woodturning* give unique and awe-inspiring perspectives on how artists utilize plants in their work. A live demonstration by a member of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners will show how a rugged piece of wood is transformed into a breathtaking work of art.

As a special part of the evening, artist William Mangum will be on hand to celebrate the release of his new book, “North Carolina Beautiful.” Mangum is collaborating with The North Carolina Arboretum, as well as five other conservation and preservation nonprofits across the state, for the launch of his book. This tribute to North Carolina's beauty and splendor includes more than 140 original pieces of art by Mangum, which are accompanied by educational vignettes that reveal how readers can explore, celebrate, and protect the Old North State.

Tickets to The Art of Wine & Vines are \$100 per person, and garden party attire is suggested. Reservations may be made online at www.ncarboretum.org/support. For more information, please call (828) 665-2492. 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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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.