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Record Year for Cape Fear Botanical Garden

FAYETTEVILLE— Fiscal year 2007 was a record year for Cape Fear Botanical Garden. Attendance was up 18.5%, with more than 24,000 visitors to the Garden. Visitors came from all fifty states and thirteen countries including Australia, the Philippines and Japan.

Other highlights of the year included a thorough redesign of the Heritage Garden. Staff and volunteers worked diligently to update and bring new life to the herb beds located there. The PWC Water Wise Garden also underwent a renovation. Additional enhancements to the grounds included labeling plant collections in the Great Lawn, Daylily garden and Herb garden, placing new benches and post-and-rail fences (with the help of local Scouts) along paths, and along with students at Fayetteville Technical Community College, successfully expanding irrigation systems in two beds around the gazebo. Volunteers logged 3,200 hours this fiscal year.

Garden education programs also met and exceeded projections. Over 2,000 children had the chance to learn about nature and environmental stewardship through one of the various education programs such as a field trip with their class, outreach programs, Nature Tales or summer camp. Also, 1,000 adults were able to take advantage of adult educational opportunities such as classes and group tours.

“It is great to see kids who normally wouldn’t have any opportunity to explore the outdoors mesmerized by the site of a lizard sunning on a fence rail or getting down in the dirt to inspect a worm,” said Cathy Linskens, Education Coordinator, Cape Fear Botanical Garden. “And to see children grinning and wearing big paper-maché bug hats, you just know they had a fantastic time at the Garden.”

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In the development realm the Garden again exceeded expectations. The fiscal year 2007 goal was to increase annual giving by 10%. Thanks to the support of many generous donors, annual giving topped its goal by 16.84%. Additionally, for the first time in its history, the Garden was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Tourism and Development Authority for billboards on I-95 and advertising space in the travel section of Southern Living magazine.

Cape Fear Botanical Garden is growing and expanding at a phenomenal rate. It serves as a living laboratory for scientific research and natural science education, a haven for those wishing to commune with nature, and a safe place for a Saturday afternoon family picnic and day in the sun. In less than twenty years it has grown from an idea discussed around a kitchen table, to a flourishing botanical garden impacting those both far and near, young and old.

“We are so thankful for all of the support we have received from the community and our supporters this year,” said Dr. Finley Bryan, Executive Director, Cape Fear Botanical Garden. “And we look forward to continuing to serve and work with everyone in the new fiscal year.”

Cape Fear Botanical Garden is located on seventy-nine acres nestled between the Cape Fear River and Cross Creek just two miles from downtown Fayetteville. Founded in 1989, the Garden now boasts more than 2,000 varieties of ornamental plants and has several specialty gardens, including Camellia, Daylily and Hosta gardens. For more information visit www.capefearbg.org.

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