



For Immediate Release  
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**THE STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA AND ATLANTA  
BOTANICAL GARDEN ACTIVELY WORKING ON 39 NATIVE SPECIES  
INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION  
(CPC)**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (April 27, 2007) – The State Botanical Garden of Georgia and the Atlanta Botanical Garden have been invited to become full *Participating Institutions* in the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), a national organization dedicated solely to preventing extinction of America’s imperiled, native flora. Made up of a network of 36 of America’s leading botanical institutions located throughout the country, CPC is headquartered in St. Louis and maintains the National Collection of Endangered Plants to further their mission of conserving and restoring the rare native plants of the United States.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with both of these gardens as a part of the CPC network,” said Kathryn Kennedy, President and Executive Director of CPC.

“These are both challenging and exciting times in plant conservation. Both of these institutions represent valuable partners in the CPC’s efforts to increase capacity and coordination for plant conservation needs nationwide.”

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Both The State Botanical Garden of Georgia and the Atlanta Botanical Garden have deep commitments and long histories of support for conservation and a solid record of accomplishment for the plant biodiversity of the states and the region. The Gardens worked in a collaborative effort establishing the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA), a network of public gardens, government agencies, and environmental organizations committed to preserving Georgia's endangered flora formed in 1995. GPCA initiates and coordinates efforts to protect natural habitats and endangered species through biodiversity management and public education. From rigorous scientific research to hands-on stewardship projects with elementary schools, the combined resources, expertise and outreach strategies of GPCA members provide powerful tools for plant conservation in Georgia.

“Plant conservation is the cornerstone of our research program and forms an important component of our teaching and public service programs as well. We’re delighted to join CPC in what we believe will be a mutually beneficial relationship to protect and conserve our native flora,” said Dr. Jeff Lewis, Director of The State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia is located on more than 300 acres near the University of Georgia in Athens, encompassing both natural lands and cultivated gardens. The State Botanical Garden of Georgia is currently actively working on the conservation and restoration of 14 native plant species. It is a public, non-profit educational organization under the auspices of The University of Georgia. Its mission is

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to foster appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of plants and nature through research, collections and displays, horticultural gardens, educational programs, and special events.

Atlanta Botanical Garden Executive Director Mary Pat Matheson explained, “We are pleased to be formally included in the CPC and recognized for our work in the Southeast as a leader in plant conservation. The importance of this national collaboration for native plant conservation cannot be overstated.” The Atlanta Botanical Garden is currently actively working on the conservation and restoration of 25 federally endangered native species in five states across the southeast. The Atlanta Botanical Garden is an urban, non-profit garden located just three miles from the city center in midtown Atlanta. The Garden encompasses 15 acres of second- growth woods and 15 acres of well-respected cultivated gardens, and includes an international conservation program inside the Fuqua Conservatory and Fuqua Orchid Center. The mission of the Atlanta Botanical Garden is to develop and maintain plant collections for display, education, research, conservation and enjoyment.

The Center for Plant Conservation is coordinated by a national office and guided by a volunteer board of trustees and the experts of the CPC Science Advisory Council. By developing standards and protocols and conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research, restoration, and raising awareness, CPC’s network is striving to

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save America's rarest plants from being lost forever. For additional information on the Center for Plant Conservation visit the CPC website at

[www.centerforplantconservation.com](http://www.centerforplantconservation.com)

For more information about the native plant Conservation program at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, visit [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/site/conservation/native\\_plants](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/site/conservation/native_plants), or contact Geri Laufer, Public Relations Manager at 404-591-1550. The general garden phone number is 404-876-5859.

For additional information about The State Botanical Garden of Georgia visit [www.uga.edu/botgarden](http://www.uga.edu/botgarden), or contact Lisa Kennedy, Public Relations/Publications Coordinator at 706-542-6152. The general garden phone number is 706-542-1244.