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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERBIE IS RACING TO THE HOME AND FLOWER SHOW

'Spokescar' for Norfolk Botanical Garden Promotes Herbs



Norfolk, VA (February 5, 2009) - Everyone is eager to follow President Obama's request to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again. Even Herbie, the ex-racing love bug is ready to begin again with the help of Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG).

Herbie has shed the race track dust and begun his "green makeover" with a coat of green paint courtesy of Melissa Butler, Curator of Herbaceous Plants at NBG. Herbie and Melissa want to show others how to green-up their gardens and meals with great smelling and flavorful herbs.

Herbie will act as the "*spokescar*" for NBG's annual whimsical landscape display at the Home and Flower Show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center from Feb. 13-15, 2009. He wants to help folks incorporate herbs into their yards to add beauty, fragrance and a way to have an unending supply of fresh herbs to enhance the aroma and flavor of food.

“Home-grown herbs can be plucked straight from the garden and go directly into the cooking pan or sprinkled on top of food, and there is nothing better than adding fresh mint to iced tea on a hot day,” says Butler.

Planting herbs is an economical alternative to buying pricey packaged herbs at the market. Grown in the yard or in the kitchen, herbs make great flavored oils, can be dried or frozen and when home-grown, are plentiful enough to be shared with others to enjoy year-round. Herb sprigs are also used to create decorative flower arrangements, wreaths, sachets and many other crafty items to give as inexpensive gifts.

Herbie would like everyone to pick themselves up and race to the Mid-Atlantic Home and Flower Show to see, smell and feel the textures of herbs in Norfolk Botanical Garden’s display. See how planting herbs in a garden for all seasons turns into a garden for all *seasonings*.

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About Norfolk Botanical Garden

Norfolk Botanical Garden represents an oasis of over 30 theme gardens encompassing 155 beautiful acres. From signature plant collections to *WOW- World of Wonders: A Children’s Adventure Garden*, this diverse natural beauty can be explored by tram, boat or walking tours.

Norfolk Botanical Garden is accredited by the American Association of Museums, is recognized as a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org

About the Mid-Atlantic Home and Flower Show

Visit http://www.tbaonline.org/homeshows/2009/Home_and_Flower/ for more information.

Herbie and the Herbs Display by Norfolk Botanical Garden

Home and Flower Show

Virginia Beach Convention Center

Friday, February 13 – Sunday, February 15