



A Natural Beauty.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Norfolk, VA

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Memorial Service for Bob Stiffler

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

7:00 pm

Rose Garden Hall at Norfolk Botanical Garden

The community is invited to attend a memorial service for Bob Stiffler, who passed away on January 20, 2010. Bob was a household name in Hampton Roads, not only for his gardening column in the *Virginian Pilot* for 28 years, but also for his go-to book, "Gardening in Southeastern Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina."

Everyone turned to Bob for their gardening questions. He was sought after as a speaker and led many garden tours across the United States and even in Europe.

Stiffler was born and raised in Iowa. He was a retired officer in the U.S. Navy, and also retired from a position as the advertising manager for agricultural products with Barker, Campbell & Farley Advertising Agency. Bob then retired from his third career; at the *Virginian Pilot* in 2003 and moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania with his wife Dorothy May 'Dottie' Stiffler, where he continued writing a gardening column for the *Lancaster New Era*.

A longtime friend of Norfolk Botanical Garden's (NBG), Stiffler worked with the horticulture department and shared his expertise by presenting many programs at the Garden. Bob worked hard to establish a link between the garden and botanists at ODU.

An anonymous \$1 million donation in 2003, established the J. Robert Stiffler Chair of Horticulture and Botany, a partnership between Old Dominion University and Norfolk Botanical Garden. The endowment provides funding for research by ODU students that not only benefits NBG, but home gardeners, too.

The Stiffler professorship is held by Timothy Motley, who also serves as NBG's Director of Science.

A Twilight Botanical Seminar Series, conducted through the partnership between ODU and NBG, offers free lectures throughout the year on a wide variety of horticultural topics. The seminar rotates between the two locations.

Bob Stiffler's horticultural influence reached far and wide and will continue to influence gardeners, students and plant lovers for a very long time.

Please join Norfolk Botanical Garden and Old Dominion University at the Memorial Service for Bob Stiffler on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 pm in Rose Garden Hall at Norfolk Botanical Garden. There is no admission fee for the Memorial Service.

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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](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org).