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\$1 Million Gift Jump-Starts Botanical Garden Expansion Plans

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cape Fear Botanical Garden is delighted to announce a \$1 million gift from Mrs. John W. (Dot) Wyatt, Jr. Mrs. Wyatt's generous contribution will support an expansion project that's destined to make our local Botanical Garden a truly world class destination. At the heart of this project is the construction of a Visitors Pavilion Complex.

"I am pleased to be able to play a part in making this project a reality and to continue the giving spirit of my husband John," says Mrs. Wyatt. "It is the culmination of great vision by the Garden's founders and long-time supporters. The Visitors Pavilion Complex will expand the Garden's capacity to serve people of all ages. It will also serve as a stunning gateway welcoming visitors into our elegant garden and our exceptional community."

Dot Wyatt made the gift in memory of her late husband, John W. Wyatt, Jr., founder of Valley Auto World. The Wyatt's have always been known for their exceptional generosity and strong community support. Mrs. Wyatt is a charter member and former President of Cape Fear Botanical Garden, Vice President of Valley Auto World, and currently serves on the Garden's Board of Directors.

To fund its expansion project, the Botanical Garden plans to launch a major campaign next year. Fayetteville residents and community leaders Harvey T. Wright, II

and Joan E. Allen will act as co-chairs, leading the Garden's campaign efforts. Mrs. Wyatt will be honorary chair.

"The new Visitors Pavilion Complex will serve virtually every segment of our community and beyond, from school children to business and industry," says Harvey Wright. He notes that the new facilities will provide a distinctive site for local business meetings, as well as symposia, conventions and other events. Wright is First Vice President – Investments Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch.

Campaign co-chair Joan Allen adds, "This vital project will create a wonderful addition to the Garden, providing new space for top-notch exhibits, educational programs and much more." Mrs. Allen is an active community volunteer and currently serves as Vice President of the Garden's Board of Directors.

"This is a milestone for Cape Fear Botanical Garden and for our community," says the Garden's Executive Director Finley Bryan, PhD, referring to the expansion plans. "We are deeply grateful to Dot Wyatt for her extraordinary gift, which will propel this project forward. And we're hoping we can count on the support of our caring community when we launch our campaign next year," says Bryan.

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