



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN AWARDED \$65K CONSERVATION GRANT**

ATLANTA (April 26, 2007) — Atlanta Botanical Garden Executive Director Mary Pat Matheson Atlanta Botanical Garden announced that a prestigious grant by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Doris Duke Foundation has been awarded to the Garden's Conservation Program. The \$65,000 grant will fund Georgia Blueridge Mountain Bog restoration. This grant will be administered by the Atlanta Botanical Garden but will be used to fund a collaborative Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA) project. The grant was one of only 16 grants awarded nationwide this year, and fits the criteria for the Wildlife Action Plan established for Georgia.

The Garden's Conservation Coordinator Carol Denhof wrote the grant and will carry out the projects and conservation work under the leadership of Director of Conservatory and Conservation Ron Determann. Staff will work in coordination with other GPCA partners to increase our restoration efforts (i.e., woody vegetation/invasive species removal and reintroduction of rare and important native bog species) at six selected North Georgia bogs and obtain hydrologic/topographic engineering studies necessary for hydrologic restoration of these wetland areas.

“Southern Appalachian mountain bogs support a wealth of rare, endemic life forms,” said Carol Denhof, conservation coordinator for Atlanta Botanical Garden. “Bogs can be disturbed due to grazing or hydrologic manipulation in the form of draining and flooding. Due to the extreme rarity of species that grow in mountain bogs, this grant allows for an especially significant restoration opportunity.”



The mission of the Atlanta Botanical Garden is to develop and maintain plant collections for display, education, research, conservation and display. The Garden is the national collection holder for the genus *Sarracenia* (Pitcher Plants) and has the largest public display of all types of carnivorous plants in the world. For more information please visit the Garden in Midtown, or go to [atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://atlantabotanicalgarden.org).

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