

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shake off the Winter Doldrums at Huntsville Botanical Garden



HUNTSVILLE, AL— Beaks & Barks returns this month to Huntsville Botanical Garden. From January 18 through February 29, visitors are welcome to bring their canine companions to the Garden during regular hours to enjoy strolls along our dedicated pet-friendly paths or playtime in the no-leash zone. As always, Garden Members are free and regular Garden admission is required for non-members. Dogs are \$1 each, but a \$10 paw pass (per pooch) is good for the entire season.

For birding enthusiasts, this is an excellent time of year to grab your binoculars and head outdoors. The Garden is considered a birding hotspot by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and its Lewis Birding Trail, dedicated in honor of long-time Garden volunteers Herb and Terry Lewis, is devoted to conservation, education, and the enjoyment of birdlife. The trail winds through the Garden's diverse ecosystem of meadows, upland and bottomland forest, wetland, and native wildflower and azalea gardens and highlights a large variety of local and migrating birds.

Bird lovers are invited to join us on January 16 at 6:30 p.m. for Birds & Brews, an entertaining evening of beer and wine, pizza, live music, door prizes, and trivia in celebration of our avian community. Guests this year will also have an opportunity to have their picture taken with Hope, the International Crane Foundation's 7-foot-tall whooping crane mascot. Tickets for adults (21 and older) are \$20 for Garden members and \$30 for non-members.

The Garden will also once again participate in the <u>Great Backyard Bird Count</u> (GBBC), February 14-17, and we encourage the community to join us. Each February, people of all ages from around the world join the four-day count to create an instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations. The GBBC observations provide valuable information for researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society who study how birds are doing and ways to protect the environment we share. For more information on how you can participate—even for as little as 15 minutes—visit https://dx.doi.org/gbbc or the National Audubon Society website.

About the Huntsville Botanical Garden



The 112-acre Huntsville Botanical Garden, located at 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue in Huntsville, AL, is open year-round and boasts the nation's largest open-air butterfly house, a picturesque aquatic garden, a wooded nature trail that includes the nation's largest accredited trillium collection, and a variety of specialty gardens and native plant selections. The Garden is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to be a source for plant science, conservation, and education. For more information, visit www.hsvbg.org.