



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 3, 2009**

**Contact:**

Wendy Scott, Communications Manager  
(302) 658-6262, ext. 104  
[wscott@dehort.org](mailto:wscott@dehort.org)

# **Award-winning private gardens to be open for a public tour**

WILMINGTON – The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) is pleased to announce the Third Annual Wilmington City Gardens Tour on Saturday, June 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The City Gardens Contest has been recognizing outstanding gardens and the Wilmington gardeners who create them for 27 years. Last year more than 200 people attended the tour. This year's City Gardens Tour showcases 12 diverse gardens from previous City Gardens Contests. From a woodland haven, to a sunny oasis, and even an officially certified monarch butterfly way station, many of these gardens have never been seen by the general public.

Enjoy a variety of water features, vegetables, flowers and creative container plantings. Visit these gardens at the peak of the season and talk to the proud people who add such beauty to our city. Some gardeners will be giving away free plants and free cookies from Moveable Feast will be available at several stops.

Tickets cost \$15 for DCH members and \$20 for non-members. (*Save \$5 by registering for both the City Gardens Tour and the Water Garden Tour to be held on Saturday, July 25.*) The tour is self-guided. A map, guide book with directions, and garden descriptions are included in the ticket price.

Pre-register by June 12 to receive the guidebook by mail. After June 10, tickets can be purchased at DCH on North Dupont Street in Trolley Square. The Center for Horticulture offices will be open for ticket sales on the day of the tour from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Box lunches for the day of the tour can be pre-ordered from Toscana's To Go and eaten in the DCH garden. Call 302-655-8600 to place your order.

The 2009 City Garden Tour sponsors include: Borsello Landscaping, Costello's Custom Landscapes, General Lawn & Landscape, Irwin Landscaping, Johnston & Associates Land and Water Creations, Rickerman Tree Service, Toscana's Catering and Movable Feast.

**Free tickets are available to reporters who are interested in writing an advance story about the event.** Professional-quality photographs of the tour and the gardens contest are available upon request.

***City Gardens Contest Judges***

Volunteer judges are also being sought to judge the entries for the 2009 City Gardens Contest. No previous experience is necessary. The deadline to apply to be a judge is Monday, June 26. The judging will take place on Saturday, July 11. Breakfast and lunch will be served for volunteers. More than 140 gardeners and judges participated in the 2008 City Gardens Contest.

To purchase tickets or for more information about the City Gardens Tour, the Water Garden Tour or the City Gardens Contest, please call Marcia Stephenson at 302-658-6262, ext. 105 or email her at [mstephenson@dehort.org](mailto:mstephenson@dehort.org).

###

The **Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH)** cultivates greener communities by inspiring appreciation and improvement of the environment through horticulture, education and conservation. Founded in 1977, the Center's site in Wilmington, Delaware includes a 1.5 acre educational demonstration garden, a 3,000 volume lending library, an art gallery, a lecture hall and a greenhouse. DCH supports 16 active community gardens throughout the city of Wilmington; organizes park improvement projects, beautifies Delaware's roadsides with native vegetation; maintains the landscaping of many urban gateways, corridors, and streetscapes; leads regional conservation projects to enhance Delaware's urban forest; and provides educational programs for children, teens, and adults. For more information, visit [www.dehort.org](http://www.dehort.org)