

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES PUBLIC GARDENS AND ARBORETA
Creating a New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day

For more information:

Emily Everson

Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman

Phone: 609-847-3600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2017

(PRINCETON, NJ) — On May 11, 2017, a New Jersey State Senate and Assembly Resolution proclaiming the first Friday in June each year as “New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day” will be celebrated at Morven Museum and Garden in Princeton, N.J.

The joint legislative resolution was written by Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman (R-Somerset Mercer, Hunterdon, Middlesex) and Assemblymen Jack Ciattarelli and Andrew Zwicker. Senator Bateman has taken a leadership role on important environmental concerns including water conservation, open space and energy issues.

“As a longtime advocate of environmental protection and historical preservation, I have dedicated much of my time in public service to ensuring our children and grandchildren can continue to call New Jersey the ‘Garden State,’” Senator Bateman said. “This would not be possible without the dedicated conservationists, researchers and educators at public gardens like Morven Museum and Garden. It is our hope that recognizing New Jersey Public Gardens and Arboretum Day will encourage our residents to visit these treasured institutions, and experience firsthand the lasting positive impact they have had on our state. I and my colleagues Assemblymen Ciattarelli and Zwicker are pleased to have sponsored this resolution. Our many and diverse public gardens and arboreta are repositories of plant-based science, cultural resources and public spaces for education and entertainment as well as the therapeutic benefits found in the embrace of nature. June is the perfect time to start discovering them.”

New Jersey’s nickname of, “The Garden State” is overshadowed by images of our turnpikes and factories. In fact, the moniker “Garden State” recognized New Jersey’s agricultural production and was given to it at the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876*. In 1954, the State Legislature passed a bill to have "The Garden State" added to license plates. Agriculture and ornamental horticulture are still important economic sectors, but now, more than a half-century later, the term “Garden State” will also recognize New Jersey’s many beautiful public gardens and arboreta enjoyed by over a million visitors annually.

Morven Museum and Garden is a National Historic Landmark and the home to five past New Jersey Governors from 1945-1981. It was also home to Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Its beautiful gardens and grounds feature restored gardens from the 19th and early 20th centuries, including a Colonial Revival Garden and a new Kitchen

Garden.

Morven Museum and Garden is one of the many New Jersey public gardens and arboreta which have joined together to form the Garden State Gardens Consortium, a non-profit organization incorporated in 2008. Garden State Gardens works to increase the public's awareness of and appreciation for the beauty and horticultural, educational, artistic and historic value of New Jersey's public gardens and arboreta.

“Public gardens and arboreta are central to the future of our state, directly influencing the next generations,” said Samantha Richardson, president of the Garden State Gardens Consortium. “Many of our state's public gardens and arboreta will celebrate the proclamation of New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day with special tours, programs or discounts on Friday, June 2. Recognition from the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly encourages the state's public gardens to continue providing engaging outdoor, educational experiences, and environmental stewardship models for both New Jersey residents and those who are visitors to our state.”

New Jersey Public Gardens and Arboretum Day will take place annually on the first Friday in June, as a special day designed to promote awareness of the Garden State's public gardens and arboreta.

THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, MAY 11 AT 10 A.M. AT MORVEN MUSEUM AND GARDEN, 55 STOCKTON STREET, PRINCETON, NJ

###