

For Immediate Release  
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**Fun and Fundraising-- At Berkshire Botanical Garden Holiday Fair  
Festive Food and Affordable Gifts for Everyone on Your List  
Dec. 4-6, 2009 at Berkshire Botanical Garden  
Early Buying Cocktail Party Friday, December 4**

Stockbridge, MA -- October 12, 2009 -- Kick off your holidays at the 19th Annual Holiday Fair and Gallery of Wreaths, December 4, 5, 6. Shop for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts in a festive setting to benefit the Berkshire Botanical Garden, Routes 102 & 183 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Open to the public Saturday, December 5, from 10am-5pm and again Sunday, December 6, from 10am - 3pm, all are invited to come sip some cider and select from wide variety of unique and hand-made holiday decorations, one-of-a-kind gifts, hundreds of ornaments, table top decorations, door-hangings, centerpieces, swags and a wide selection of hand crafted wreaths.

Decorations, gifts, greens and wreaths are made in advance by community volunteers at workshops which take place in November and December. "All the holiday decorations on sale are made by friends of the Garden and donated to help support the many events and educational classes offered at the Garden throughout the year," says Holiday Fair Chairperson and Garden Trustee, Janet Laudenslager.

The Garden Gift Shop offers bargains galore with lots of stocking stuffers and home-made herb mustards, sauces, marinades and vinegars, jellies and spreads made with herbs grown at the Garden and created by the Garden's Herb Associates volunteers. Local vendors will offer everything from authentic woven baskets and sterling silver jewelry, to individually crafted purses and hand-made wooden puzzles. The spectacular Gallery of Wreaths features so many beautiful original designs you'll want to take home more than one. Unique designer wreaths created by gardening professionals can be special ordered in advance.

The holidays are always enhanced by plants. The Holiday Fair will make available a colorful collection of traditional holiday fresh greens, amaryllis, cyclamen and paper whites in bloom, perfectly potted for the season. "This is an affordable, fun, cheerful event," says Laudenslager, "We even fuel the shoppers with home-made snacks." Admission and parking are free. Visit [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org) for more information.

**Early Buying and Cocktail Party  
Friday, December 4, 5 – 8pm**

Come for a sneak preview and early-buying privileges the night before the Fair opens to the general public. Snap up holiday decorations, crafts and one-of-a-kind gifts while mingling with friends over cocktails. In addition to an open bar and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chez Nous, local chefs Terry Moore of The Old Mill, Michael Ballon of Castle Street Café and Lester Blumenthal of Route 7 Grill in Great Barrington host three delicious carving stations. Tickets are \$50 per person. Reservations are preferred. Proceeds from the cocktail event benefit the Garden's educational programs.

Berkshire Botanical Garden Hosts  
Free Holiday Wreath Making / Craft Workshop  
Festive, Fun and Fundraising  
November 23-24 Boxwood Trees  
November 30, December 1 & 2 Fresh Greens, Wreaths, Kissing Balls & Swags

The Garden is hosting free holiday workshops teaching attendees to make festive home decorations and wreaths. Learn from Garden staff and local experts. Beginners are welcome and all supplies are provided. Finished work is donated to the Garden's upcoming special Holiday Fair Sale December 4-6.

Workshop takes place:

November 23-24 making Boxwood Trees, and November 30, December 1 & 2- Fresh Greens Workshops learning to make wreaths, swags, kissing balls. Workshops take place from 10 am- 3 pm at the Berkshire botanical Garden's Exhibition Hall. Refreshments will be available, and attendees are invited to bring a bag lunch if staying for the day. Please contact the Berkshire Botanical Garden 413-298-3926 or visit [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org) for details and directions.