



BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release Media Contact: Allison Marchese 518-755-6061 allisonmarchese@aol.com

Prince Charles' Head Gardener to Speak at Berkshire Botanical Garden Winter Lecture Debs Goodenough Addresses "Three Decades in The Garden at Highgrove" Hunter Boot Joins as Event Sponsor

Stockbridge, Massachusetts -- February 1, 2010 -- Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, announced today that Debs Goodenough, Head Gardener to TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, will be the featured speaker at the Garden's Annual Winter Lecture. This will take place on Saturday, February 13, 2010, from 2-4pm at Monument Mountain Regional High School Auditorium in Great Barrington, Ma. Garden members may purchase tickets in advance to a special "Ploughman's Lunch" with Mrs. Goodenough starting at 12:00 noon at the high school. The lunch has been generously sponsored by The Red Lion Inn. Directly after the lecture, all attending guests can enjoy tea and biscuits and have books signed by Debs.

"We are delighted that Mrs. Goodenough has agreed to share with us the pioneering work in organic gardening that the Prince initiated at Highgrove," says Elisabeth Cary, Director of Education at the Garden. In her lecture, Mrs. Goodenough will explore how 30 years of organic gardening at Highgrove in Gloucestershire, driven by the vision of HRH The Prince of Wales and with his hands-on involvement, has not only produced a variety of beautiful and productive gardens, but also set an example for the world in responsible, environmentally sound gardening methods.

Highgrove underscores the notion that organic gardens can support sustainability, with everything being recycled, and still be beautiful. The Prince believes that the garden should be appealing to animals and a sanctuary for wildlife. With a concern for the local economy, the garden actively utilizes the talents of nearby artisans and suppliers. "When it came to gardening organically rather than conventionally at Highgrove, I think there were two crucial factors that persuaded me. When young, I had witnessed what seemed to me the wanton and unnecessary destruction of so much of this country's ancient, species-rich habitats. I felt 'in my bones' that if you abuse Nature unnecessarily and fail to maintain a balance, then She will probably abuse you in return. I began to realize that there was an alternative and, I felt, a more balanced way of tending the earth and re-applying the time-honoured methods of husbandry that would ensure the long-term health of the soil." (Excerpted from *The Elements of Organic Gardening*, HRH The Prince of Wales with Stephanie Donaldson.)

Mrs. Goodenough was raised on a small mixed farm in north-western Alberta, Canada, and is the youngest of four girls of east-European parents. Her gardening inspiration came from her mother, who – along with keeping the house, milking the cows and raising chickens and children – tended an acre of vegetable garden to keep the family through the year and another acre of ornamental garden for pleasure. Training initially in horticulture in Canada, Debs combined her desire to travel with training and interned at Denver Botanic Gardens, then in Britain at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Although planning to return to Canada, she met her future husband, Simon, who was a Supervisor at Kew, and stayed to work there in plant conservation. Moving from London, ten years were spent working with her husband at Ventnor Botanic Gardens on the Isle of Wight, where she ran the nurseries and show houses. She then became Head Gardener at Osborne House, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's country home, coordinating the restoration of this 300-acre estate and managing other historic landscapes over a twelve-year period. In 2008, she was appointed to her present position at Highgrove, with gardening responsibilities for all TRH's properties, all of which are run organically.

"Highgrove is a treasure in the world of gardening," says Cary. "This lecture will be informative for gardeners at all levels, and visually astounding as well." Berkshire Botanical Garden is presenting this lecture as part of its ongoing mission to educate people about environmentally sound gardening methods. The Garden is grateful to Hunter Boot for sponsoring the winter lecture. Hunter Boot is an iconic global brand with over 150 years of tradition and heritage. Hunter has received much recognition, but particular pride is taken in The Royal Warrants of Appointment as suppliers of waterproof footwear to HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

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