

PROCLAMATION

OF APPRECIATION FOR THE BOTANICAL GARDENS OF ASHEVILLE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Botanical Gardens at Asheville was created in 1960 by local citizens concerned about the loss of biodiversity and the dwindling number of native plant habitats in Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Botanical Gardens at Asheville is a nonprofit organization, located on UNC-A property but administered by an independent Board of Directors and receives no regular financial support from the University or the City, County, State or Federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Botanical Gardens at Asheville is the preservation and promotion of the native plant species and habitats of the Southern Appalachians by providing educational programs and research resources for the community; and

WHEREAS, the Botanical Gardens at Asheville features more than 600 native plant species, serves as an important urban habitat for wildlife, welcomes the community to enjoy its gardens and trails every day of the year without cost and receives thousands of visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the year 2010 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Botanical Gardens, which will be celebrated by a year-long series of events to thank the Gardens' loyal members and to introduce the Gardens' unique mission to new visitors; and

WHEREAS, this Board feels that it would be in the best interest of the citizens and residents of this County to proclaim the year of 2010 as "Botanical Gardens Year" in Buncombe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. In order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Botanical Gardens at Asheville, this Board does hereby proclaim the year of 2010 as:

BOTANICAL GARDENS YEAR

in Buncombe County.

2. That this Board does hereby congratulate and thank the numerous volunteers and Board members who have made the gardens a showplace in our County and have preserved our regional native plants for future generations.
3. That this proclamation be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of January, 2010.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN