



For Immediate Release
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Images attached

Robert Meinders to be honored at 15th Annual Orchids in October Set for Thursday, October 20, 11:30am in the Myriad Botanical Gardens

Oklahoma City, OK – The Board of Directors of the Myriad Botanical Gardens is pleased to announce Robert (Bob) Meinders as the 2016 recipient of the James R. Tolbert III Crystal Orchid Award. This annual award is in its fifteenth year and is a tribute to those individuals who significantly impact the beauty and success of the Myriad Botanical Gardens and Oklahoma City. This celebration will be held on Thursday, October 20, with registration beginning at 11:30am and the program starting at noon on the Water Stage, followed by a luncheon catered by Kamala Gamble in the Park House Events Center.

Bob moved from Minnesota to Oklahoma City in 1972, to join his brother Herman, at American Floral Services, an international flower-by-wire service that merged with Teleflora in 2000. He joined Guaranty Bank (later known as Coppermark) in 1986 and served as a director until it was sold in 2014. He currently serves on the board of The Meinders Foundation.

A board member of the Myriad Gardens Foundation since 2007, Bob's generous support over the years has helped the Gardens maintain its beautiful grounds and offer quality year-round events and education. Any time the Gardens needed extra support for a project or other need, he made sure the funds were available. Bob says he has been blessed with a good life and is dedicated to giving back to this community and those who helped him.

Underwriter sponsors include Anonymous in honor of Beth and Jim Tolbert, LaDonna and Herman Meinders, Nancy and George Records, Southwestern Stationery and Bank Supply and Teleflora. Platinum sponsors are Devon Energy Corporation, Downtown OKC, Jax Investments, Mattison Law Group PC, Jean & David McLaughlin, Bob Meinders, R.Z. Naifeh and Beth and Jim Tolbert.

Ticket prices are \$85; sponsorship levels begin at \$250. For more information, or to receive an invitation please call (405) 445-7084. There Annual Orchid Sale will take place on the same day, 9am-5pm, in the South Lobby of the Crystal Bridge. Nate Tschaenn, Director of Horticulture, will be available 11:30am to answer any questions.

Proceeds for the event go toward the support of the Myriad Botanical Gardens.

The Myriad Botanical Gardens is one of Oklahoma City's most beloved public spaces, offering its visitors a 15 acre natural escape in the very heart of downtown. A half-acre children's garden, an off-leash dog park, restaurant space, splash fountains, and paths for walking and jogging provide guests young and old with a place to seek solitude with nature, or seek community and the company of others. Additionally, the Myriad Gardens offers a variety of horticultural education programs for adults and children.

The Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory's unique design has earned attention and praise in the architectural community. It is 224 feet long, 70 feet in diameter, and is covered by 3,028 sections of translucent, double-layered acrylic panels. The Conservatory includes 13,000 square feet of plant display area in two distinct climates: the Tropical Wet Zone, which is at the south end and is watered daily; and the Tropical Dry Zone at the north end which receives water from April through September, followed by drought from November through March. Some 2,000 varieties of plants and a 35-foot waterfall round out the spectacular features of the Conservatory.

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