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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Hoboken Historical Museum's 11th Annual Secret Garden Tour Covers the Town from Northeast to Southwest

Hoboken, N.J. – May 20, 2008 – Tucked away behind Hoboken's late-19th and early-20th century brownstones and converted factory buildings are backyard spaces that reveal gardeners' creativity and determination to stay in touch with nature in an urban setting. On Sunday, June 1, nearly a dozen homeowners will share their "secret gardens" and gardening tips as part of the 11th Annual Secret Garden Tour, presented by the Hoboken Historical Museum, with support from the Hoboken Garden Club and sponsorship from Hufnagel Landscaping. Tour groups depart on the half-hour, and last about two and a half hours.

This year's "Secret Garden" tour stretches from the Northeast corner of the Mile Square City to the Southwest and includes a wide range of garden designs by both dedicated amateur gardeners and professional designers. Highlights include clever solutions to challenging issues such as shallow soil and deep shade, as well as designs that accommodate kids and pets among the greenery and flowers. One garden features a patio with a combination koi pond/water garden, with planted borders and traditional English cottage plantings in containers. Another is a triumph gardening skill over shade: a deeply shaded garden that wends between a house and an artist's studio, featuring holly and climbing hydrangea, with plenty of ferns, hostas and bleeding hearts at the lower level. The tour also will feature an architect's back yard, with an experimental "green roof" on a backyard shed.

TOUR TIMES & TICKET INFORMATION

- Date of tour: Sunday, June 1 (rain date: June 8)

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- Guided tours begin at 9 a.m., and take about two hours, departing every half hour from the Museum, 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, N.J.; the last tour departs at 4 p.m.
- Tickets are \$20 in advance and for Museum and Hoboken Garden Club members; \$25 day of event. Children under age 13 admitted free. Advance purchase is recommended, as space is limited. For advance tickets by credit card, call 201-656-2240, ext. 6.
- Tickets are available at five locations: Hoboken Historical Museum, 1301 Hudson St.; Baskets of Distinction, 1102 Washington St.; Beethoven's Veranda, 108 10th St.; Amanda's restaurant, 908 Washington St.; and Sparrow Wine & Liquor, 126 Washington St.
- Visit the web site www.hobokensecretgardens.com for more information.
- Volunteers are also needed; call the Museum at 201-656-2240 for more information

Proceeds help support the Hoboken Historical Museum.

Gardening in Hoboken has a rich tradition, as Colonel John Stevens (1749 – 1838), who founded Hoboken, was a garden enthusiast, importing and cultivating new plants from all around the world. He's credited with introducing to America the Chrysanthemum and the Camellia. His gardens were highly regarded as some of the most elaborate and scientifically cultivated of the day.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum's mission is to educate the public about Hoboken's history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 9 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: Photos of select gardens are available; please call 201-683-6935.