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DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN NAMES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PHOENIX, AZ (October 2007) – The Desert Botanical Garden is pleased to announce that Michael K. Smith has been named to the Garden's senior management team as Deputy Director. Mr. Smith most recently served as the Director of Marketing, Hospitality & Security Services at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Smith will be responsible for leading the Garden's internal operations including visitor services, retail, marketing, facilities and security.

Mr. Smith takes his new position with a wealth of managerial experience. Prior to his employment with The Walters Art Museum, he served as the Associate Director, Communications & Marketing at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia and as the Travel Marketing Manager at Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Smith graduated from the University of North Carolina - Asheville with a degree in Business Administration.

Originally from North Carolina, Mr. Smith is residing in Scottsdale.

About the Desert Botanical Garden

The Garden is home to the one of the finest and most diverse collections of succulent plants, including rare, threatened and endangered species from around the world. A "Phoenix Point of Pride", the Desert Botanical Garden is one of only a few botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is a privately funded, non-profit organization and depends on revenues from admissions and gift shop sales, as well as contributions from individuals.

The Desert Botanical Garden, located at 1201 North Galvin Parkway in Phoenix's Papago Park, is open daily (except July 4, Thanksgiving Day and Dec. 25) from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Admission rates: \$10.00 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors, \$5.00 for children (3-12 years-of-age); members and children 2 years and younger are admitted free. For more information call (480) 941-1225 or visit www.dbg.org.

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