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For further information contact:

Sally Bonneau, BPS Marketing, Inc., Indianapolis, 317.846.8965 (office), 317.965.5566 (cell)

Garden of Excellence, Mayor's Choice. Belgard Awards presented to landscapers at Indiana Flower & Patio Show

INDIANAPOLIS – A veteran participant and two first-time contributors are celebrating individual honors captured during the **52nd annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show**.

Vincennes-based **Landscapes by Dallas Foster, Inc.**, in collaboration with **JP Parker Flowers** of Indianapolis and Franklin, was named recipient of the Indianapolis Landscape Association's annual **Garden of Excellence Award**. The winning garden, inspired by *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, depicted the Village of Nottingham as lush woodlands graced with an abundance of natural stone features, a plethora of fragrant flowers and herbs, and lovely cascading waterfalls. ILA members and showgoers alike marveled at the one-of-a-kind stone chaise lounge, antique stone table and log stools that enhanced the display. Beautifully incorporated within the garden was a European-style flower market from which dozens of different types of colorful, fresh cut flowers were sold by Pam Parker of JP Parker Flowers.

As is tradition, winning landscape designer Dallas Foster will create the lead Showcase Garden at the 53rd annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show next March at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Show veterans Blake Herbst and Jeff Behlmer of **Aspen Outdoor Designs** in Noblesville were honored with the third annual **Mayor's Choice Award** presented by Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and First Lady Winnie Ballard. The winning garden, themed to *The Secret Garden*, featured brick columns, man-made concrete pavers that emulated 150-year old bricks, a pergola, and modern outdoor kitchen. A water feature, layers of colorful plantings, and a bench positioned for quietude and reflection completed the tranquil outdoor retreat.

The popular **Belgard Challenge** – a "People's Choice" competition which pits three first-time show designers head-to-head with a \$25,000 per garden cost cap - was won by **Nature's Choice Landscaping** of Brownsburg. The winning garden featured a 10-foot tall fireplace, captivating 1000-pound limestone rock water feature, cozy built-in seating area, and a wide variety of decorative

Belgard hardscapes. The garden was enhanced further by a host of plants: crabapple trees, spruce, rhododendrons, boxwoods, begonias, hostas, and hydrangeas.

“I’m really looking forward to next year’s show,” Chris Johnson, owner of Nature’s Choice Landscaping, said. “We had a phenomenal time this year as a Belgard Challenge competitor. The crowds were great, the people we worked with were great, in fact, there was not one downside to it.

“We heard numerous guests comment that this was the best Indiana Flower & Patio Show in years,” he continued. “Several compared it to the annual Chicago show, and concluded that this one came out on top!

“I’d like to thank both Belgard and the Indiana Flower & Patio Show management team for inviting us to participate,” he said. “I can’t wait for next year!”

The 53rd annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show returns to the Indiana State Fairgrounds’ West Pavilion March 12-20, 2011. For information, log on at www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com.