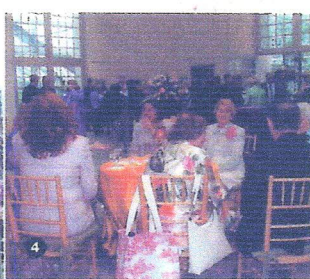


APPRECIATING BOTANICALS

Congressional Spouses And More Gather At The United States Botanic Garden

TEXT Janet Staihar, Bethesda, MD

PHOTOGRAPHY Barbara Curtis, Public Programs Assistant, U.S. Botanic Garden



The eye-popping newly renovated U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory at the foot of Capitol Hill welcomed Congressional spouses from the First Lady's Luncheon, their guests, and avid fans of the botanical world for a series of garden seminars and reception.

Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi and Congressman and Mrs. Wally Herger of California issued the invitation to come and tour the collection of some 4,000 plants, including rare and historical specimens from around the world.

Not only do landscapers, interior decorators and plant admirers spend time ambling through the conservatory, so do brown baggers from the nearby U.S. Capitol who just want to escape briefly from the piles of legislative paperwork and the never-ending cacophony of telephones. You can never tell who might

be sitting on one of the wooden benches just mentally taking in the grandeur of the gardens.

On May 9th, the ambling crowd included 350 people who had been beckoned to the gardens to hear authorities on the virtues of using American-grown botanicals. Donna Bayliss, an organic herb grower in Northern

1. Donna Bayliss addresses attendees at the U.S. Botanic Garden seminars.
2. Dr. James A. Duke highlighted popular herbs.
3. The exterior of the newly renovated U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory.
4. Attending the seminars and reception were guests from the First Lady's luncheon and avid fans of the botanical world.
5. The U.S. Botanic Garden houses some 4,000 plants, including rare and historical specimens.

Continued on page 331

