

For Immediate Release
Contact: Coleman Wood
Communications Director
404-876-2900 x 104
cwood@gaconservancy.org



BLANKS HONORED AT 2011 ECOBENEFÊTE

The Georgia Conservancy will honor the Blank Family and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation with its Distinguished Conservationist award at annual gala.

ATLANTA (Sep. 30, 2011) – The Georgia Conservancy will honor the Blank Family and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation with its Distinguished Conservationist award at the 18th annual *ecoBenefête*, which will be held on Thursday, October 13, at The Foundry at Puritan Mill in Atlanta.

The Distinguished Conservationist award is the highest honor bestowed by the Georgia Conservancy and is awarded annually to great Georgians who improve our lives through conservation and protection of our environment.

“Through their foundation, Arthur and Stephanie have chosen to give back to our community, to our state and to our world,” said Georgia Conservancy President Pierre Howard. “They give not only of their treasure, but also of their time and commitment. They do not spend their time thinking of how to get more, but of how to give more.”

Through both the Foundation and personal giving, the Blanks have donated more than \$250 million to nonprofits and communities nationwide, including \$50 million specifically to environmental causes. The Blank Foundation was the first donor to the Atlanta Beltline and supported the feasibility study that served as the catalyst for this transformational urban project. The Foundation has also supported the Georgia Conservancy’s *Blueprints for Successful Communities* program, which works to make neighborhoods across Georgia more livable and sustainable.

Personally, Stephanie Blank was instrumental in founding Mothers & Others for Clean Air, a program that works to improve air quality for Georgians. Arthur has also done much through his businesses. The Home Depot’s Framing Hope program diverts excess store inventory away from landfills and into new homes for low-income families. The Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation and its signature program, *Falcons Fitness Zones*, has encouraged more than 10,000 children each year to become active and play outdoors.

“My family’s passion for the environment is best stated by a Kenyan proverb inscribed on the wall of our family office: ‘Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents; it is lent to you by your children,’” Arthur Blank said. “We are humbled by this honor from the Georgia Conservancy.”

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://www.georgiaconservancy.org/events/ecobenefete-2011.html>

About the Georgia Conservancy

The Georgia Conservancy was founded in 1967 to protect Georgia's natural resources for present and future generations by advocating sound environmental policies, advancing sustainable growth practices and facilitating common-ground solutions to environmental challenges. For more information, visit our website at www.georgiaconservancy.org.

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