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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Root Ball 2019: Derby Evening Under the Oaks

www.therootball.com

Jacksonville, FL – March 25, 2019 – For the first time in **12 years**, [Greenscape of Jacksonville](#) has changed the time of year for its annual **Root Ball** to springtime and will be hosting a **Kentucky Derby themed party** at [Bowling Oaks Plantation](#) for its largest fundraiser of the year.

Held on **Saturday, May 4th, 2019**, the [Root Ball](#), produced by **the Late Bloomers Garden Club**, has as its theme “**Derby Evening Under the Oaks**.”

According to **Anna Dooley**, executive director of **Greenscape**, the organization made the change in venue for several reasons. “The Bowling Oaks Plantation may be the most perfect backdrop for promoting our mission of planting, protecting and promoting trees. It is a fantastic venue nestled in a breathtaking tree canopy.”

Tying the event in with the **Kentucky Derby** has presented many opportunities for a different, fun filled evening. The ladies will vie for who wins the **Bodacious Hat Contest (Judges: The Honorable Lori Boyer and WJCT First Coast Connect host, Melissa Ross)** and in addition to the traditional mint juleps, **Bourbon Tasting** will be an activity sure to please the gents. **The Firewater Tent Revival** will be providing the live music aimed to get everyone in the party mood.

The festivities begin at **5:30 p.m.** with cocktails, festive food, music, dancing and a silent auction featuring a variety of original artwork, fine wines, gift-baskets, and a catered yacht cruise on [Innisfail](#), an impeccably restored 1930 Mathis-Trumpy motor yacht that hosted several U.S. presidents. The event is starting a little earlier this year so everyone will be gathered for the ***Run for the Roses***.

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About Greenscape and Late Bloomers Garden Club:

In 1975, joined by their desire to improve the Jacksonville landscape, a small group of citizens began the not-for-profit organization [Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc.](#) Currently it is credited with adding over 350,000 trees to our local canopy.

[Late Bloomers Garden Club](#), founded in 1990, is a member of [The Garden Club of America](#), and [the Garden Club of Jacksonville](#) and contributes to the community through its civic projects and grants.

Since 2007, the Late Bloomers Garden Club has partnered with [Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc.](#) to produce the **Root Ball**, a fundraiser to help raise awareness of the importance of trees in Jacksonville and to assist in the support of Jacksonville’s only tree planting organization.