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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Root Ball 2020: Derby in the Garden**

[www.therootball.com](http://www.therootball.com)

**Jacksonville, FL – March 3, 2020 –** On **May 2nd** the horses will line up in Louisville for the *Run of the Roses* and party goers will be enjoying the excitement at Jacksonville's premier **Kentucky Derby Party**. The **2020 Root Ball** will carry on this winning theme at the [Garden Club of Jacksonville](#) as "**Derby in the Garden**" offers the Bodacious Hat and Derby Dandy Contest (**WJCT First Coast Connect host, Melissa Ross, judging**), Bourbon Tasting, Race Events, a Silent Auction and so much more. This year, from Charleston, the [Gritty Flyright Band](#) will have the Garden jumpin'.

The Root Ball is the annual fundraiser for [Greenscape of Jacksonville](#), the local organization that plants, protects and promotes trees. Anna Dooley, Executive Director said "2020 is the 45th anniversary of Greenscape and we will celebrate crossing the finish line with our record of 350,000 trees planted in Jacksonville." Funds raised assist in the ongoing operation of one of the nation's longest running tree groups that has provided education, advocacy and trees in the ground right here in our city.

As always, production of this event is led by the [Late Bloomers Garden Club](#). The Chairs of this event are Kim Bongiovanni, Ann Carey and Diane Garcia and serving as the Honorary Chairs are Missy Boney, Sally Lee, Margaret Wetherbee and Tom Baker.

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, festive food, music, dancing and a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased by visiting [therootball.com](http://therootball.com).

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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.