



**ESCADA in Highland Park Village hosts Announcement Party Celebrating
Mad Hatter's Tea 2012 *The Art of Nature***

Carmaleta Whiteley and Barbara Daseke, Co-Chairs, Mad Hatter's Tea 2012
Sharon Ballew, President, Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

(Dallas, TX - October 25, 2011) A dramatic hint about the soon-to-be-announced theme of Mad Hatter's Tea 2012 greeted guests as they entered ESCADA in Highland Park Village for the Announcement Party celebrating Honorary Chair, **Nancy C. Rogers**. Avant Garden's **Mindy Geron** had designed the front windows in artful nature sculptures: Tall driftwood dressed with cacti and succulents placed throughout the driftwood's natural crevices.

Carmaleta Whiteley and **Barbara Daseke**, Co-Chairs, Mad Hatter's Tea 2012 *The Art of Nature*, announced the event will be on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and recognized **Sharon Ballew**, President, Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, the Tea's beneficiary.

Whiteley introduced graphic artist extraordinaire **Lynn Townsend Dealey** who unveiled a poster revealing the imaginative logo she created for the theme *The Art of Nature*, a huge paint brush with flowers on the handle and a brush tip of palm fronds.

Barbara thanked **Melinda Rathke**, General Manager, ESCADA, who arranged for the exclusive presentation of the Fall/Winter 2011 Collection and donated 10% of purchases this evening to Mad Hatter's Tea. Ladies continued to purchase the hot fashion finds long into the evening.

When Daseke brought Nancy C. Rogers to the forefront and announced her as Honorary Chair, everyone cheered so loud, people at Marqueé Grill next door were peeking in to see what was going on. As a delicious surprise to all, Nancy had arranged for Cristal

champagne to be served all evening and said, "Mad Hatter's Tea is the most fun luncheon in Dallas!" encouraging everyone to attend.

Matching to perfection with the Cristal champagne were the gourmet bites provided by Marqueé Grill Executive Chef, **Tre Wilcox**, who made a personal appearance and always the gentleman, posed for personal photos with the ladies. Marqueé Grill sponsored the bites of tuna tar tar with lemongrass ginger vinaigrette served on crostini/cracker, mini crab cakes with grilled tomato sauce, roasted mushroom crostini and grape tomato, fresh mozzarella, basil bruschetta.

And topped it all off with another special treat, the artisan specialty cocktails created by mixologist **Jason Kosmos**.

Even more scoop on Mad Hatter's 2012 followed when Carmaleta announced two of the hat judges. Concurrent with the theme *The Art of Nature*, the judges will be from the art world. Confirmed are **Bonnie Pitman**, Eugene McDermott Director of the Dallas Museum of Art and **Kenneth Craighead**, co-owner of the Craighead Green Art Gallery.

Stay tuned for more news about Mad Hatter's Tea 2012 and join us! Sponsors and underwriters, contact Carmaleta Whiteley for details at 214.215.8558 or visit the web site for more information: <http://www.womenscouncildallasarbortum.org> Tickets start at \$150 each.

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Media Contact:

Sharon Adams

ACPR

Office: 972.773.9289

AdamsComm1@aol.com