



Date: February 29, 2008

What's growing on
at the Garden!

PETER RAVEN ELECTED TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WASHINGTON (Feb. 29, 2008): Botanist and conservationist Dr. Peter H. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been appointed to the National Geographic Society board of trustees, along with investment banker Tracy Wolstencroft of Greenwich, Conn., a partner at Goldman Sachs. They join 19 other trustees who are leaders in science, education, law, business, finance, government and public service.

The 120-year-old Society, whose mission is to inspire people to care about the planet, is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. It reaches more than 300 million people each month through six magazines, National Geographic Channel, television documentaries, radio, music, films, books, DVDs, maps, school publishing programs, interactive media and expeditions. It has funded nearly 9,000 scientific research projects and supports an education program combating geographic illiteracy.

“National Geographic is fortunate to have the additional counsel and experience of Peter Raven and Tracy Wolstencroft, who have impressive records of leadership and service in the conservation and finance fields and to National Geographic,” said John Fahey, Society president and CEO.

Raven is one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity. Under his 36-year leadership, the Missouri Botanical Garden has become a world-class center for botanical research, education and horticultural display. Raven is also chairman of the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration, which awards grants for field-based scientific research around the world.

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ADD ONE: Raven NGS

Described by *Time* magazine as a “Hero for the Planet,” Raven champions research around the globe to preserve endangered plants and animals and is an advocate for building a sustainable environment. He has received numerous prizes and awards in recognition of his work in science and conservation, including the National Medal of Science, the highest award for scientific accomplishment in the United States; the International Prize for Biology from the government of Japan; Environmental Prize of the Institute de la Vie; Volvo Environment Prize; the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement; the Sasakawa Prize; and the International Cosmos Prize, Osaka.

He served for 12 years as home secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, to which he was elected in 1977. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society.

Raven is co-editor of *Flora of China*, a joint Chinese-American international project that is producing a 50-volume account of the roughly 31,000 species of plants in China. He has written numerous books and publications and is senior author of *Biology of Plants*, the internationally best-selling textbook in botany, now in its seventh edition, and *Environment*, a leading textbook on the environment, now in its sixth edition.

Raven received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1960, after completing undergraduate work at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds honorary degrees from a number of universities around the world.

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NOTE: Downloadable images of Peter Raven are available online in the Media Room at www.mobot.org/press.

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 149 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.