



Date: March 10, 2009

150 REASONS TO VISIT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden in south St. Louis celebrates its sesquicentennial in 2009. Become a part of this historic year with a visit to enjoy the Garden's 79 acres of landscaped outdoor display gardens, indoor conservatories, and historic buildings. Whether you are a frequent visitor, haven't been since a childhood field trip, or have never been at all, the Garden offers countless opportunities for a memorable experience.

In honor of the Garden's 150th anniversary, consider any one of these 150 things to do throughout the year:

- 1.) Walk through a tropical rain forest inside the Climatron[®] geodesic dome.
- 2.) Feed the large koi fish in the Japanese Garden lake.
- 3.) Count the hundreds of early spring crocus blooms on the Lehmann Building lawn.
- 4.) Dodge water squirts from the jumping fountains in the Blanke Boxwood Garden.
- 5.) Take a free, docent-led guided walking tour.
- 6.) Attend a session of the Global Garden Speaker Series to learn from an expert.
- 7.) Read a quote by Dr. George Washington Carver in the garden named in honor of him.
- 8.) Find the queen bee in the Kemper Center for Home Gardening bee hive.
- 9.) Listen to the clanging of the Bell Tree sculpture in the Zimmerman Sensory Garden.
- 10.) Cross the lawn to look for rare and endangered plant species in the Knolls area.
- 11.) Wish Garden founder Henry Shaw a happy birthday on July 24.
- 12.) Discover different smells in the St. Louis Herb Society Herb Garden.
- 13.) Accompany your child or grandchild on a field trip for a different perspective.
- 14.) Pick out an eco-friendly gift at the Garden Gate Shop.
- 15.) Visit in all four seasons to track the growth of your favorite tree.
- 16.) Look for two hand-carved stone sculptures from Zimbabwe.
- 17.) Care for the planet by participating in the Garden's Plastic Pot Recycling program.
- 18.) Climb Piper Observatory to watch a friend navigate the Kaeser Memorial Maze.
- 19.) Have your ailing houseplant diagnosed at the Plant Doctor Desk in the Kemper Center.

(over)

ADD ONE: 150 Things to Do

- 20.) Cross the Japanese Garden *Yatsubashi* (zig zag) bridge, letting evil spirits fall into the lake.
- 21.) Smell the fragrant olive inside the historic Linnean House conservatory.
- 22.) Time a summer visit to see the lotus flowers rising from the mud in peak bloom.
- 23.) Listen for bullfrogs in the Grigg Nanjing Friendship Garden (the Chinese Garden).
- 24.) Enjoy an evening picnic under the stars at the summer Whitaker Music Festival.
- 25.) Seek some shade from the trees in the Cherbonnier English Woodland Garden.
- 26.) Find the carnivorous Venus fly trap plants inside the Shoenberg Temperate House.
- 27.) Stop and smell the over 3,800 roses in the Lehmann and Gladney Rose Gardens.
- 28.) Enjoy 150,000 bulbs in bloom throughout the spring.
- 29.) Recycle your used Map & Visitor Guide at the Ridgway Visitor Center.
- 30.) Get ideas for your own edible garden from the Kemper Center family vegetable garden.
- 31.) Find the three stone lanterns from the 1904 World's Fair in the Japanese Garden.
- 32.) Visit in spring, summer and fall to see the changes in the sesquicentennial Floral Clock.
- 33.) Take a self-guided tour of the medicinal plants in the Climatron.
- 34.) Purchase the commemorative book, "Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years."
- 35.) Explore every Missouri ecosystem inside the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden.
- 36.) Visit between 7 to 9 a.m. on a Wednesday or Saturday for an early morning walk.
- 37.) Dine in Missouri's first certified green restaurant, the Sassafras café.
- 38.) Join the *bon odori* dancing at the Japanese Festival on Labor Day weekend.
- 39.) Find as many Missouri native trees as you can.
- 40.) Learn more about gardening, art, photography, food or more through an adult class.
- 41.) Stop to chat with a horticulturist working outdoors.
- 42.) Use the sun to tell the time at a sundial in front of the Linnean House.
- 43.) Find the four Missouri state champion trees growing on the Garden grounds.
- 44.) Watch for feathered friends in the Kemper Center bird garden.
- 45.) Experience a dragon parade during the Chinese Culture Days weekend.
- 46.) Spot dragonflies soaring over the tropical water lily ponds in summer.
- 47.) Count all the bronze garden sculptures you can find.
- 48.) Try to identify three food chains, such as a bird eating a bug eating a plant.
- 49.) Bring your camera and snap a personal shot to remember your visit.
- 50.) Pledge to "Grow Green with the Garden in 2009," making sustainable lifestyle choices.
- 51.) Find the poison dart frogs (hint: they are in an aquarium).
- 52.) Visit the day after a snowfall to experience the Japanese Garden at its finest.
- 53.) Meditate in the pagoda of the Chinese Garden.
- 54.) Plan your child's birthday party at the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden.
- 55.) Find the Amur cork tree with branches that bend all the way to the ground.
- 56.) Look for Henry Shaw's original limestone mausoleum (located near his granite one).
- 57.) Purchase an engraved tribute brick to commemorate a special occasion.
- 58.) Try to use all five senses in the Zimmerman Sensory Garden.
- 59.) Stroll through the Kiefer Magnolia Walk.
- 60.) Enjoy the colors of the rainbow when the Goodman Iris Garden is in spring bloom.
- 61.) Register your child for summer camp at the Garden's family of attractions.
- 62.) Purchase locally produced crafts, art, food and more at the Best of Missouri Market.
- 63.) Take a tour of Tower Grove House, founder Henry Shaw's country home.
- 64.) Find Henry Shaw's original Osage orange trees in the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden.
- 65.) Sit on the throne in the Bakewell Ottoman Garden.
- 66.) Find the garden with a Moon Gate entrance.

(more)

ADD TWO: 150 Things to Do

- 67.) Hop aboard a narrated tram tour from April through October.
- 68.) See a pincushion garden in the Lichtenstein Victorian District.
- 69.) Look for orchids in the Climatron, Ridgway Visitor Center, or at the annual Orchid Show.
- 70.) Enjoy a Garden Party Night on Thursdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- 71.) Enhance your home garden with purchases from a plant society sale.
- 72.) Get in shape with a Strollerobics fitness class.
- 73.) Have your soil's nutrient levels tested at the Kemper Center.
- 74.) Explore sustainable lifestyle choices with the EarthWays: Living the Green Life Exhibit.
- 75.) Study the world map in the Ridgway Visitor Center to see the extent of our research.
- 76.) Identify as many types of wildlife as you can.
- 77.) Find all four examples of the glass artwork of Dale Chihuly.
- 78.) Play the "eye spy" game at the Gardenland Express holiday flower and train show.
- 79.) Stroll along the Shield Hosta Walk to see more than 40 cultivars of hostas.
- 80.) Visit the Plants of the Bible area to match biblical quotes with the plants they refer to.
- 81.) Find the sculpture that represents Pegasus.
- 82.) See the Reynolds Award for architectural excellence displayed inside the Climatron.
- 83.) Take a behind-the-scenes greenhouse tour at the annual Earth Day event.
- 84.) Enjoy the colorful azaleas and rhododendrons in springtime bloom.
- 85.) Collect as many different fallen leaves as you can in autumn.
- 86.) Enroll in an Oaks and Acorns intergenerational program with your grandchild.
- 87.) Schedule a stop at the Stupp Teacher Resource Center to browse educational materials.
- 88.) Plan your home garden using the PlantFinder database from the Kemper Center.
- 89.) Make a donation to the Henry Shaw Fund to support the Garden's ongoing work.
- 90.) Enjoy the first American Daffodil Society Display Garden in the country.
- 91.) Sign up to become a volunteer in any one of the Garden's divisions.
- 92.) Visit close to Father's Day to experience the Jenkins Daylily Garden at its peak.
- 93.) Pick up a self-guided Stroller Strut, Fitness Foray or Wheelchair Friendly map.
- 94.) Spot founder Henry Shaw's original top hat in his room at Tower Grove House.
- 95.) Seek a respite from winter inside the Linnean House when the camellias are in bloom.
- 96.) Sit with your sweetie the hidden gazebo in the Cherbonnier English Woodland Garden.
- 97.) Look for waterless waves in the Japanese Garden *Seima-en*.
- 98.) Measure the tallest and the shortest trees in Kassabaum Dwarf Conifer Collection.
- 99.) Pick up a brochure to plan your visit to the Garden's Shaw Nature Reserve.
- 100.) Purchase a Kleen Kanteen in the Garden Gate Shop and refill it at the water fountain.
- 101.) Wear a pedometer to count the number of steps to the farthest point of the Garden.
- 102.) Pick your favorite area of the Garden and photograph its changes each season.
- 103.) Find the second children's garden on the grounds.
- 104.) Visit the international gardens - Chinese, Japanese, English, German, Turkish (Ottoman).
- 105.) Wind through the formal hedges of the Blanke Boxwood Garden, then rest under the pavilion.
- 106.) View changing art exhibits in the upper level of the Ridgway Visitor Center.
- 107.) Lessen your carbon footprint by walking, biking, or taking the bus to the Garden.
- 108.) Explore the Garden through the years using the Tower Grove House timeline.
- 109.) Find the historic Juno sculpture.
- 110.) Be amazed at the size of the giant Victoria tropical water lilies in the reflecting pools.
- 112.) Watch the robotic lawn mower at work on the Kemper Center lawn.
- 113.) Celebrate the holiday season with Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa events.
- 114.) Reserve a spot at special Mother's Day and Easter brunches.
- 115.) Visit in autumn to see the unique cascading mums in the Japanese Garden.

(over)

ADD THREE: 150 Things to Do

- 116.) Wait for a butterfly to land on you at the Butterfly Pavilion in the Kemper Center.
- 117.) Commemorate Black History Month annually at the Celebrate the Gospel concert.
- 118.) Spend a contemplative afternoon sitting in the George Washington Carver Garden.
- 119.) Look for the bust of Dr. George Engelmann in the Strassenfest German Garden.
- 120.) See invasive plant species locked up in the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden jail.
- 121.) Check out the All-American Rose Selection trials in the Lehmann Rose Garden.
- 122.) Look for markers identifying Plants of Merit™ to incorporate into your home garden.
- 123.) Purchase a Missouri Botanical Garden wall calendar in the Garden Gate Shop.
- 124.) Take a brochure and plan your visit to the Garden's Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House.
- 125.) Play hooky one afternoon and enjoy a relaxing glass of wine on the Sassafras terrace.
- 126.) Pose for a photo on the steps of the Museum Building, the Garden's first herbarium.
- 127.) Count the number of hanging baskets in the Swift Family Garden.
- 128.) Walk down the street to shop for antiques at the Little Shop Around the Corner.
- 129.) Find the plaque commemorating Henry Shaw's star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame.
- 130.) Look for the panda logo identifying rare or endangered plant species.
- 131.) Admire the architecture of Henry Shaw's town home, relocated from downtown.
- 132.) Shop the annual Greenhouse Plant Sale to browse plants from the Garden's displays.
- 133.) Visit the Shoenberg Temperate House to find out where its portico originally came from.
- 134.) Sit by the fireplace in the Kemper Center nook and thumb through gardening books.
- 135.) Carefully time a visit to enjoy the white and pink flowering cherry trees in bloom.
- 136.) Climb to the treetops, aboard a steamboat, or inside a cave in the Children's Garden.
- 137.) Walk beneath the towering Metasequoia trees near the Lehmann Building.
- 138.) Sit beside Henry Shaw on the bench in front of Tower Grove House.
- 139.) Use your cell phone to take an historic audio tour of the grounds.
- 140.) Find the cycads from Mexico in the Climatron that are from the 1904 World's Fair.
- 141.) Walk down Tower Grove Ave. to see the stone inscription over the original entrance.
- 142.) Meet Finn, the friendly frog mascot of the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden.
- 143.) Make a wish and toss a penny into the Moorish Garden fountain.
- 144.) Take a Little Sprouts class with your toddler to experience nature together.
- 145.) Look for the Missouri Botanical Garden logo on the Chinese Garden pagoda roof.
- 146.) Listen to the softly babbling brook in the Cherbonnier English Woodland Garden.
- 147.) Pick up an informational brochure and plan a visit to the Garden's EarthWays Center.
- 148.) Choose the daylily or iris with your favorite varietal name.
- 149.) Visit founder Henry Shaw's final resting place and thank him for his Garden.
- 150.) Become a Garden member to enjoy unlimited free visits throughout the year!

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, easily accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; closed Dec. 25. On Wednesday and Saturday mornings, the grounds open early at 7 a.m. On Wednesday evenings from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the grounds remain open late until 9 p.m., with free admission after 5 p.m. Narrated tram tours and the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden operate seasonally from April through October; Tower Grove House is open April through December. Docent-led walking tours are offered at 10 a.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day, and at 1 p.m. the rest of the year.

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ADD FOUR: 150 Things to Do

Missouri Botanical Garden admission is \$8 and free for children ages 12 and under. St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 adults and free admission on Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon (exception: Chinese Culture Days, Japanese Festival and Best of Missouri Market). Children's Garden admission is \$3 per child (ages three to 12). Additional charges may apply for some attractions, exhibits, events and amenities.

For more information, visit www.mobot.org or call the recorded event hotline at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free at 1 (800) 642-8842. For information on booking a private group tour, visit www.mobot.org/groups or call 1 (800) 332-1286.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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NOTE: Download media materials 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, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, just south of I-44 at Vandeventer-Kingshighway (exit #287B). Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Dec. 25. Grounds open at 7 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday. Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free every Wednesday and Saturday until noon (exception: special admission rate events). Park for free on site and two blocks west at the Shaw-Vandeventer intersection. The Garden is easily accessible by taking the MetroLink commuter rail line to the Central West End station and picking up a Metro bus (www.metrostlouis.org). For general information, log on to www.mobot.org or call the 24-hour recording at (314) 577-9400 or 1-800-642-8842. For membership information, call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, call (314)-577-5187 or visit www.mobot.org/volunteer. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.

(Note: A section of the I-64/U.S. 40 highway is under construction through 2009. Before traveling, check www.thenewi64.org for updates or visit www.GetAroundStL.com for other helpful information.)