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For Immediate Release

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN OPENS 'MADAGASCAR' EXHIBIT OF
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FAMED NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER FRANS LANTING**
Garden Has Conducted Research on the Island for More Than 30 Years

- WHAT:** 'Madagascar' - An exhibition by renowned National Geographic nature photographer Frans Lanting
- WHEN:** July 10 through Sept. 30; Frans Lanting free **lecture** and **book signing** on Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.
- WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis
- COST:** Included with Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents) or membership. Free children ages 12 and under.
- INFO:** www.mobot.org; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): "Madagascar," an exhibition by renowned **National Geographic nature photographer Frans Lanting** will be on display at the Missouri Botanical Garden from **July 10 through Sept. 30**. The full color images depict the rich biological diversity of the island nation that separated from the African continent 160 million years ago. The exhibit will be displayed on the upper level of the Ridgway Visitor Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and is included with Garden admission. Join Frans Lanting for a **free lecture** on **Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.** in the Shoenberg Theater. A book signing will immediately follow. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Frans Lanting has been hailed as one of the great nature photographers of our time. His influential work appears in books, magazines, and exhibitions around the world. For more than 20 years, Lanting has documented wildlife and our relationship with nature in environments from the Amazon to Zambia. His work has been commissioned frequently by National Geographic, where he served as a photographer-in-residence.

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ADD ONE: “Madagascar”

The Missouri Botanical Garden is an ideal venue to display Lanting’s exhibit as Garden scientists have been working in Madagascar for more than three decades, documenting and conserving one of the world’s most diverse and unique floras. Of the estimated 14,000 species of native plants, approximately 90 percent occur only in Madagascar, and several thousand have yet to be named. Furthermore, the Garden is committed to collaborating with the Malagasy people to provide the basic information upon which the sustainable use of natural resources depends.

“Frans Lanting’s striking images capture the link between Madagascar’s unique biota and the Malagasy people whose livelihoods depend on its long-term conservation,” said Dr. George E. Schatz, curator in the Africa/Madagascar research division at the Missouri Botanical Garden. “The Garden is actively working with local communities to learn how to manage the use of natural resources sustainably.”

The Missouri Botanical Garden is currently working with local communities and the Malagasy government to establish 11 new protected areas to ensure the survival of Madagascar’s precious biota.

“Madagascar,” is included with Garden admission of \$8; St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free admission on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon. Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, easily accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit. Free parking is available on-site and at two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit www.mobot.org or call the recorded event line at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free 1 (800) 642-8842.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. Emerson is the presenting sponsor of the year-long sesquicentennial celebration, *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. **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.)