



Date: July 9, 2009

**‘GARDENLAND EXPRESS’ CELEBRATES 150 YEARS
OF THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN**
2009 Holiday Flower and Train Show Showcases Colorful Spectrum of Plants

- WHAT:** “Gardenland Express” holiday flower and train show
WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009 through Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Closes early at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve; closed Christmas Day.
WHERE: Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis, Mo.
COST: \$5 ages three and up, in addition to regular Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents; free children ages 12 and under). Garden members are free.
SPONSORS: CBIZ & Mayer Hoffman McCann, P.C.; Central States Coca-Cola Bottling Company; Miss Marian L. Herr; Hobby Station; and Mr. and Mrs. William R. Orthwein, Jr.
INFO: www.mobot.org; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): For 150 years, the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis has been a top destination for visitors seeking a scenic respite among bountiful blooms. Winter is no exception: since 1915, the Garden has blended plants with seasonal décor in an indoor holiday spectacle enjoyed by all ages. In 2009, the **“Gardenland Express”** holiday flower and train show celebrates **150 Years of the Garden** through a vibrant spectrum of bold botanicals. See the festive showcase on display Wednesday, Nov. 25 through Sunday, Jan. 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (closes at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve; closed Christmas Day.)

“This year’s show is a departure from the traditional notion of our holiday flower show,” said Pat Scace, floral display designer. “For our sesquicentennial, we really wanted to ‘wow’ visitors with something they’ve never seen. This year’s display is truly a celebration of the botanical diversity of the Garden.”

(over)

ADD ONE: Gardenland Express

Eight G-scale model garden trains will travel along 800 feet of railway track in the Orthwein Floral Display Hall, through a colorful palette of oranges, purples, reds, lime greens and more. A few of the holiday show's traditional inclusions will be given a trendy twist, from the poinsettia ORANGE SPICE™ to the hot hue of POLLY'S PINK™. Others will highlight the opposite spectrum of time, such as the amaryllis *Hippeastrum x johnsonii*, which dates back to the Victorian era. Unexpected tropics and large palms will deck the hall in a botanical bonanza. See blue-grey triangle palms, *Oxalis* CHARMED WINE™ and deep CHARMED VELVET™, *Chrysanthemum* 'Green Valley' and 'Ivory Eugene,' *Begonia* 'Black Coffee,' *Hibiscus acetosella* 'Maple Sugar,' *Syngonium* 'Golden Illusion,' lime green coleus and more!

A diamond-shaped criss-cross floor plan outlines four perimeter display areas, each showcasing Missouri Botanical Garden landmarks in miniature. Look for the historic Linnean House conservatory, Museum Building, Chinese Garden pagoda, Piper Observatory, Tower Grove House (founder Henry Shaw's original country estate) and more, replicated through models with some botanical surface treatments. Archival images highlighting the institution's 150 year history will line the walls in a tribute timeline.

At the show's center, a water feature is accented by regal stone columns in a style similar to the Garden's entrance. Urns and wrought iron garden décor add to the Victorian scene. Winding in and out of the landscape, finely-detailed foot-long locomotives chug along railway tracks, tooting their horns and delivering faux freight and passengers to their holiday destinations. Trains have been a nostalgic addition to the Garden's holiday flower show since 2003, harkening back to the seasonal storefront window displays of yester-year.

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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.

(more)

ADD TWO: Gardenland Express

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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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