



**Date:** August 21, 2009

## **GARDEN HOSTS PLANTS OF MERIT™ BENEFIT AT BOWOOD FARMS NURSERY**

**WHAT:** Cocktail reception to benefit the Plants of Merit™ program  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Sept. 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bowood Farms Nursery, 4605 Olive St.  
**COST:** \$100 Friend ticket; \$500 Patron ticket  
**SPONSORS:** Missouri Botanical Garden  
**INFO:** Advance reservations required; (314) 577-0879

(ST. LOUIS): Sample locally-grown specialties and enjoy cocktails for a cause on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., as the Missouri Botanical Garden hosts a reception at Bowood Farms Nursery to benefit the Plants of Merit™ program. Tickets are \$100 for the Friend level and \$500 for the Patron level. Advance reservations are required; call (314) 577-0879.

Stroll through the Plants of Merit demonstration area inside Bowood Farms Nursery to see some of this year's top selections. Climb to the rooftop herb garden, open to reception guests for a special viewing between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Nibble on an array of fresh, local and seasonal specialties created by chefs from Café Osage.

The Garden's Plants of Merit program serves to promote plants that are proven to be well-adapted to the lower Midwest for the purpose of increasing plant diversity in the home landscape. Each year, an updated list is released containing choice annuals, perennials, shrubs and vines, trees, and edible ornamentals. To be awarded the Plants of Merit distinction, selections must grow consistently well in Missouri, central and southern Illinois, and the Kansas City Metro area; be easy to grow and maintain; not known to be invasive in the area; be resistant to tolerant to diseases and insects; have outstanding ornamental value; and be reasonably available to purchase. Program

(over)

### **ADD ONE: Plants of Merit Benefit**

partners include the Missouri Botanical Garden, Powell Gardens, University of Missouri Extension, Mizzou Botanic Garden, Missouri Landscape and Nursery Association, and the Illinois Green Industry Association.

Bowood Farms Nursery is located at 4605 Olive St. in St. Louis's Central West End.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the Plants of Merit cocktail reception, call the Missouri Botanical Garden at (314) 577-0879. To learn more about the Plants of Merit program, visit [www.plantsofmerit.org](http://www.plantsofmerit.org).

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](http://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](http://www.metrostlouis.org)). For general information, log on to [www.mobot.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.thenewi64.org) for updates or visit [www.GetAroundStL.com](http://www.GetAroundStL.com) for other helpful information.)