



Date: September 14, 2009

For Immediate Release

**FINAL DAYS FOR FLORAL CLOCK, GREEN LIFE EXHIBIT
AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN**

WHAT: FINAL DAYS - Floral Clock and “EarthWays: Living the Green Life” exhibit
WHEN: Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Saturday, Oct. 31
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): Time is ticking away for the sesquicentennial Floral Clock at the Missouri Botanical Garden, on display daily through the end of October. Don’t miss your chance to view this fleeting floral phenomenon before it’s gone forever! October is also the final month to experience the interactive “Earthways: Living the Green Life” exhibit. Both features were created in celebration of the Missouri Botanical Garden’s historic 150th anniversary in 2009.

Englishman Henry Shaw gave the gift of the Garden to St. Louis in 1859. The 20-foot-diameter **Floral Clock** was devised as a fitting tribute to both the Garden’s Victorian and St. Louis roots. Floral clocks originated in the early 1900s in England, planted in a gardening style known as “carpet bedding” and modeled after the design patterns of Victorian carpeting. Their popularity quickly spread, and St. Louis welcomed one of the most well-known floral clocks in history at its 1904 World’s Fair.

The Garden’s Floral Clock, on display since May 2009, includes anywhere from 5,000 to 8,000 individual plants, rotated out seasonally. In its final weeks, visitors will see the clock face decorated with autumn Chrysanthemums, Salvia (or sage) and the herbaceous perennial Ajuga.

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ADD ONE: Final Days

“We’ll only use the best of the best mums for this final display,” said horticulturist Jon Sweeney, supervisor of the north gardens. “It’s been a delight these past months to watch our visitors marvel at seeing a fully-operational floral clock in person, and to notice how the clock’s face and hand plantings have transformed it with each season. In its location, near the Climatron and surrounded by our tropical water lily pools and seasonal bedding displays, it’s been easy for guests to let the time ‘tick tock’ away enjoying the beauty.”

The Garden’s temporary **“EarthWays: Living the Green Life”** exhibit, created and sponsored by Maritz, offers ideas for how people of all ages can care for the natural world. The “Tree of Life” and her friends Sun, Water, Air and Dirt serve as cheerful, animated character guides to the exhibit, explaining their importance to the planet and sharing the power of plants.

Inside the Brookings Interpretive Center, a large interactive backdrop showcases a working 100-gallon rainwater harvest system nestled in between two green screen stations. Hop on a stationary bicycle to pedal through a virtual Garden tour, or picture yourself in a variety of eco-settings. Watch the video monitor for simple green living tips, test your “pedal power” strength to illuminate standard and energy-efficient light bulbs, and explore displays showcasing environmentally-friendly systems and practices for home use.

The Floral Clock and “EarthWays: Living the Green Life” are on display from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Saturday, Oct. 31. Both are included with Garden admission of \$8 adults or \$4 St. Louis City and County residents; children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free (exception: during the Best of Missouri Market, Oct. 3 and 4, admission is \$12 adults and \$5 children and Garden members).

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: Digital color images 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.)