



Date: September 1, 2009

For Immediate Release

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN PRESENTS 'LOSING PARADISE?
ENDANGERED PLANTS HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD'
EXHIBIT OF BOTANICAL ARTWORKS**

- WHAT:** 'Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World' – An exhibition of botanical artworks
- WHEN:** Oct.1 through Nov. 15; **opening program and artists' reception** Oct. 7 at 5:45 p.m.
- WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis.
- COST:** Exhibit is included with Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents) or membership; opening program and artists' reception are **free**
- INFO:** www.mobot.org; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free, RSVP for opening program (314) 577-0221

(ST. LOUIS): **"Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World,"** an exhibition of botanical artworks, will be on display at the Missouri Botanical Garden from Oct. 1 through Nov. 15. 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.

The **free opening program**, sponsored by the Garden in conjunction with the Center for Plant Conservation takes place on Oct. 7 at 5:45 p.m. in Shoenberg Theater and includes remarks by Dr. Peter H. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden; Carol Woodin, exhibitions coordinator for the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA); Dr. Kathryn Kennedy, executive director of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC); and Dr. Matthew Albrecht, conservation biologist at the Missouri Botanical Garden. A reception will be held on the upper level of the Ridgway Visitor Center immediately following the program with hors d'oeuvres, wine and

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conversation. The opening event is free and open to the public.

Featuring 44 botanical artworks of endangered plants, the traveling exhibition is celebrating its national opening at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The juried exhibition was curated by the ASBA in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Works by some of the world's most well-known botanical artists are included, as are pieces by some relative newcomers to the field. Technical assistance was provided by the Center for Plant Conservation, which is based in St. Louis, and many artworks portray subjects in its National Collection of Endangered Plants.

In order to highlight the beauty and the stories of the world's at-risk plants, artists sought out these endangered plants in botanical gardens, in the field and in horticultural collections. About half of the plants represented are from around the world and half are North American, including such fascinating plant stories as that of Utah's dwarf bear-claw poppy (*Arctomecon humilis*), one of the rarest poppies in the world and one of the first species in the United States to be listed as endangered in 1979, and the Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*), thought to be extinct for 2 million years but found in a remote Australian canyon. Other American rarities include the lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*), the Midwestern lakeside daisy (*Tetranneuris herbacea*) and California's coastal Santa Cruz cypress (*Cupressus abramsiana*), all listed as endangered or threatened and all part of CPC's National Collection of Endangered Plants.

The exhibition and accompanying book (\$29.95) are the result of a three-year project undertaken by ASBA members from the United States, Australia, Israel, Brazil, South Korea, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Many of these artists will attend the opening event. Dr. Peter Raven wrote the book's introduction, and Dr. Kathryn Kennedy contributed an essay.

In addition to the opening program and reception, the Garden hosts a **Beginning Botanical Painting -- Autumn Gourds** class on Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During this course, visiting artist Marilyn Garber, president of the ASBA and founder of the Minnesota School of Botanical Art, teaches the basic techniques used in traditional botanical watercolor painting. Some materials will be provided; students should bring a pencil, eraser, notebook, two small containers to hold water and a sack lunch to the class. Registration is \$75 for Garden members and \$85 for non-members. The class will be held in the first-floor conference room of the Monsanto Center, located at 4500 Shaw Boulevard at the intersection of Shaw and Vandeventer. Pre-registration is required at www.mobot.org/classes.

The Center for Plant Conservation, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2009, is the only

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national organization dedicated solely to saving America's most at-risk plants. It is a nonprofit conservation organization with a network of 36 selected botanical institutions coordinated by the national office in St. Louis. By developing standards and protocols and conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research and restoration and raising awareness, CPC's network is striving to save America's rarest plants from being lost forever. For additional information on the Center for Plant Conservation, visit the CPC website at www.centerforplantconservation.org.

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. *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.)