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**For Immediate Release**

**GARDEN INITIATIVE WINS RAIN BIRD AWARD  
FOR INTELLIGENT USE OF WATER**

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden, along with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, has been presented the 2009 Intelligent Use of Water State of the Union Award from Rain Bird, the leading manufacturer of irrigation products and services. The Garden is being recognized for the citizen-driven Deer Creek Watershed Initiative, which seeks to assess and improve the Deer Creek Watershed. The award recognizes city and state municipalities and water agencies that excel in implementing effective landscape water-efficiency programs and initiatives.

Deer Creek originates near Creve Coeur and flows southwest nearly 11 miles before it enters the River des Peres at Maplewood. It encompasses multiple municipalities including Creve Coeur, Frontenac, Warson Woods, Glendale, Rock Hill, Brentwood, Webster Groves, Maplewood and Richmond Heights. The watershed includes Deer Creek, Two-Mile Creek, Sebago Creek, Shady Grove Creek and Black Creek.

Water quality in the Deer Creek watershed is threatened by storm water runoff from impervious surfaces, debris and trash, sediments from the stream bed and bank erosion, and pollutants associated with combined sewer overflows, and storm sewer discharges. As documented by the U.S. Geological Survey stream gauging stations, the streams within the Deer Creek watershed tend to be flashy due to the amount of urbanization and high percentage of impervious surface in the area.

The Deer Creek Watershed Initiative includes both demonstration project implementations

**(over)**

### **ADD ONE: Rain Bird Award**

and citizen-led activities. The first activity was a creek clean-up in April 2009. The clean-up drew 571 volunteers, who removed 4.87 tons (9,740 pounds) of debris from Deer Creek and its tributaries. Critical to the success of the project was a well-coordinated partnership with the local municipality, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Missouri Department of Conservation, garden clubs, and private citizens.

As a result of the experience, the volunteer citizen organizers have assembled a 16 week organizational plan for a suburban watershed creek clean-up. In addition, the clean-up has stimulated tremendous citizen interest and political support for addressing watershed health issues.

“The Garden is pleased to play an important role in advancing sustainability within the region,” said Deborah Frank, vice president of sustainability at the Missouri Botanical Garden. “The Deer Creek Watershed Initiative is a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of natural ecosystems, and specifically native plants, in responding to our community storm water challenges.”

As a 2009 State of the Union Award winner, the Missouri Botanical Garden will have a spot on the panel of Rain Bird’s Intelligent Use of Water Summit XI, to be held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. in April 2010. As panel members, they will have the opportunity to showcase their award-winning case study to an audience of U.S. and international water management leaders.

Rain Bird Corporation is the leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services. Since its beginnings in 1993, Rain Bird has offered the industry’s broadest range of irrigation products for farms, golf courses, sports arenas, commercial developments and homes in more than 130 countries around the world. Rain Bird and The Intelligent Use of Water™ is about using water wisely.

The Deer Creek Watershed Initiative is partially funded by US EPA Region 7 through the Department of Natural Resources. To learn more about the initiative and to sign-up for quarterly newsletters, visit [www.deercreekfriends.net](http://www.deercreekfriends.net).

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](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*.

