



Date: October 29, 2009

**ENJOY THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON WITH
CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE GARDEN, DEC. 12 AND 13**

WHAT: Christmas Carols in the Garden
WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. both days
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): 'Tis the season for carolers, chestnuts, cider and Santa! Bundle up your brood for a visit to the Missouri Botanical Garden on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. for **Christmas Carols in the Garden**. You'll get toasty-warm indoors as you listen to traditional tunes, both secular and sacred, performed by area caroling parties and musicians. The event is included with Garden admission.

This year's lineup includes five choirs, a brass ensemble, a jazz combo and a harpist, performing inside the Ridgway Visitor Center and at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening. On Saturday, enjoy the musical styling of The Caroling Party, Gateway Brass Quintet, The Gateway Singers, Terri Langerak and The Statesmen Singers. Sunday's performers include the St. Louis Harmony Chorus, Terri Langerak, St. Margaret's Youth Choir, Rosati-Kain Voices, SIU-Edwardsville Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Mardra and Reggie Thomas.

Santa Claus will make his annual stop at the Garden to listen to the Christmas wishes of youngsters. Look for his sleigh in the middle level of the Kemper Center, where you can also treat yourself to mulled cider, hot chocolate and cookies available for purchase.

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ADD ONE: Christmas Carols

Back in the Ridgway Visitor Center, a gingerbread house display by the St. Louis Metropolitan Sugar Art Guild will showcase sweet creations. The aroma of chestnuts roasting on an open fire may tempt you to head outside to Spoehrer Plaza for a sample. Listen for the cheerful tunes of a hurdy-gurdy man strolling the grounds with his stringed instrument. Keep your eyes peeled for a special red-nosed reindeer, also roaming the grounds!

Christmas Carols in the Garden is included with Garden admission of \$8 adults and \$4 St. Louis City and County residents. Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free.

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 at the west lot and at two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For more on the Garden's entire line up of holiday activities, including the annual Gardenland Express holiday flower and train show, visit www.mobot.org/events/holidayevents. For general Garden 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. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free Wednesdays and Saturdays 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.)