



Date: November 3, 2009

**FLOAT AWAY TO FRANCE WITH A VISIT TO THE
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN'S 2010 ORCHID SHOW**
92nd Annual Orchid Show Debuts Jan. 30, Closes Mar. 28

WHAT: 92nd annual Orchid Show
WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 30 through Sunday, Mar. 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis
COST: \$5 plus Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents; free children ages 12 and under). Free Garden members
INFO: www.mobot.org; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Be whisked away on a sophisticated French escape this winter with a visit to the 92nd annual **Orchid Show** at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Visitors will experience a butterfly's view of paradise: a lush garden of curvilinear design, filled with hundreds of fresh-blooming orchids from the Garden's historic collection. The 2010 Orchid Show debuts Saturday, Jan. 30 and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, Mar. 28. Show admission is \$5, in addition to regular Garden admission (\$8 adults, \$4 St. Louis City and County residents, free children ages 12 and under). Garden members are free.

The Garden maintains one of the nation's largest orchid collections, with over 8,100 individual orchid plants in hundreds of varieties. The Orchid Show is the only time of year when a sizeable selection of plants from the collection is brought out *en masse* for public view. Shades of warm yellows, energetic oranges, pleasing plums and rosy reds mingle with passionate plums and winter whites reflected in the *Cattleyas*, *Cymbidiums*, *Oncidiums* and other orchids displayed from head to toe in a garden of greenery.

(over)

ADD ONE: Orchid Show

Enter the “Butterfly’s Garden” through the Piper Lobby, which morphs into the faux Monarch Café for the show. Stroll through this tiny French lobby to discover the 5,000-square-foot Orthwein Floral Display Hall, completely transformed into a French-inspired streetscape and temporary “garden within a garden.” Saunter beneath streetlamps along the curvy *rue du jardin*. Meander past the storefront of a quaint flower shop and alongside a rising image of Paris’s monumental Eiffel Tower. Aloft throughout the garden, find dozens of over-sized model butterflies covered with botanical surface treatments. Decorative *fleurs de lis* finials and ornamental obelisks accent the sophisticated scene, which showcases 700 to 800 individual blooming orchids at any one time.

“We took our inspirational cues for this year’s Orchid Show from nature,” said Floral Display designer Pat Scace. “This display swings away from the straight lines of last year’s more formal pattern, mimicking the curving lines of nature’s design in the scales and wings of a monarch butterfly.”

Each year, the Garden’s Orchid Show is carefully constructed from the ground up by a team of horticulturists led by Scace and long-time orchid grower Babs Wagner. Winter-blooming orchids comprise about 60- to 70-percent of the Garden’s prized collection, which concentrates on plants that can tolerate extremes in St. Louis temperatures. Throughout the duration of the eight-week show, orchids will be continually rotated out and replaced with fresh blooms as different cultivars come into flower, offering new sights and smells with each repeat visit.

“This year’s Orchid Show runs two weeks longer than in past years, so visitors will have the opportunity to see many of our orchids blooming that typically flower after the show ends,” said Wagner. “People should come during the beginning, middle, and final days of the show’s duration to take advantage of all the different orchids on display!”

Admission to the Orchid Show is \$5 per person (ages three and over), in addition to Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 residents of St. Louis City or County; free children ages 12 and under). Garden members are admitted free. Photographers are welcome to use hand-held cameras to capture the show for personal enjoyment, but tripod and monopod usage is not permitted indoors.

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.

(over)

ADD TWO: Orchid Show

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*.

#

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.