



Date: November 12, 2009

For Immediate Release

**GARDEN PRESIDENT PETER RAVEN RECEIVES
HIGH HONOR FROM KEW GARDENS**

(ST. LOUIS): Dr. Peter H. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden has received the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew International Medal 2009 for distinguished, internationally-recognized work aligned with the mission of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The award was presented to Raven in conjunction with a symposium held at Kew in honor of their 250th anniversary. This is the first time the medal has been presented and will not be given every year, but based on merit. The award is signed by Lord Selbourne KBE FRS, the chairman of RBG Kew Board of Trustees; and Professor Stephen D. Hopper FLS, director of Kew Gardens.

Peter Raven is one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation, biodiversity, and a sustainable environment. For over three decades, he has headed the Missouri Botanical Garden, an institution he nurtured into a world-class center for botanical research and education, and horticultural display. Described by Time magazine as a "Hero for the Planet," Raven champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants.

Raven is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including the prestigious International Prize for Biology from the government of Japan and the U.S. National Medal of Science. He has held Guggenheim and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellowships. Raven was a member of President Bill Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. He also served for 12 years as the home secretary of the National Academy of Science and is a member of the academies of science in Argentina, Brazil, China, Denmark, India, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Sweden,

(over)

ADD ONE: Kew Medal

the U.K., and several other countries.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is a world-famous scientific organization, internationally respected for its outstanding living collection of plants and world-class herbarium, as well as its scientific expertise in plant diversity, conservation and sustainable development in the U.K. and around the world. In 1759, Princess Augusta, mother of King George III, started as an ambitious nine-acre garden around Kew Palace. Every generation has added to the charms and curiosities of Kew, now a major international visitor attraction with its 132 hectares (326 acres) of landscaped gardens attracting over one million visitors per year. Kew is a UNESCO-inscribed (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site.

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: 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*.