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Media Contact: Leigh Albright  
Lents & Associates  
314.968.3060  
lalbright@lentsandassoc.com



**TEN THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT BEST OF MISSOURI MARKET**

*The Missouri Botanical Garden's Biggest Event of the Year Turns Eighteen*

Who would have thought you could buy custom jewelry, eat fresh gourmet potato chips, listen to live music and milk a cow all in one place? The Missouri Botanical Garden's Best of Missouri Market (BOMM) is in its eighteenth year. In honor of that, the Garden presents a list of the top ten things you probably did not know about this hugely successful event:

**Not your Grandma's craft fair**

No popsicle-stick creations here. The Missouri Botanical Garden selects the absolute best artisans and food vendors from across Missouri for this two-day event.

**A one-of-a-kind find**

Whether you are looking for handcrafted furniture, blown glass, natural skincare products or gooey butter cake, you will find items at BOMM you can't find anywhere else.

**Better than sample day at Sam's**

The food court at BOMM is a veritable smorgasbord of delicious treats. With more than 50 food vendors offering samples of their finest, everyone will find something to whet their appetite.

**Groovin' in the Garden**

If the shopping and food tasting isn't enough entertainment for you, BOMM features live music.

**Trendsetting shoppers**

The founders of BOMM were thinking local eighteen years ago, long before buying local, handcrafted items became part of the national trend of sustainability and green living.

**Gives new meaning to "Under the Big Top"**

With four tents covering over 120 vendors, BOMM is an incredible experience for visitors rain or shine.

**And the little ones too**

BOMM is a great place to bring the kids. With everything from pumpkin decorating to cow milking, the Kids' Corner is chock full of fun activities for your little tots.

**It's kind of a big deal**

BOMM is the Missouri Botanical Garden's biggest event of the year. Over 27,000 people pass through the Garden's gates during the two-day market.

**Talk about one-stop shopping**

From Kansas City to Vichy, Missouri, you would have to travel hundreds of miles to shop with all the artisans and producers attending BOMM.

**The venue isn't too shabby either**

On top of all the exciting vendors and delicious fare, the visitors at BOMM get to enjoy the majestic beauty of the internationally renowned Missouri Botanical Garden, celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

The Missouri Botanical Garden, located at 4344 Shaw Blvd., will present the Market under tents outdoors October 3 and 4, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. Admission to the Best of Missouri Market is \$10 for adults, \$7 for visitors 65 and older, and \$3 for Garden members and children 3-12 years. Garden members' children and children under 3 are free. For directions or more details about this event, call (314) 577-9400 or 1-800-642-8842 toll free or visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org).