



**Date:** February 10, 2010

What's growing on  
at the Garden!

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTS DR. PETER WYSE JACKSON AS SUCCESSOR TO GARDEN PRESIDENT DR. PETER H. RAVEN**  
*Wyse Jackson is the Director of the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, Ireland*

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden's Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland in Dublin, as successor to internationally-renowned Garden President Dr. Peter H. Raven.

With the Garden's Board of Trustees, Peter Raven played an integral part in the selection process and will play a key role in the future, especially during the 2010-2011 transition period.

Recognized as one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity, Raven transformed the Garden into a world-class center for botanical research, education and horticultural display. He is known globally as an advocate for preserving plant diversity in the face of deforestation, degradation and global warming. In addition, Raven is credited for putting a spotlight on the growing problem of nature-deficit disorder, speaking about the need to instill in children a love of nature that will translate into concerned adults. The recipient of hundreds of awards and accolades over his 40 year tenure, Raven holds the country's highest award for scientific accomplishment, the U.S. Medal of Science.

"I am extremely pleased with the selection of Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson as the next president of the Missouri Botanical Garden," said Raven. "He brings not only a wealth of horticulture and botanical experience, but also a deep understanding of the importance of sustainability and conservation."

Born in Kilkenny, Ireland, and educated at the University of Dublin, Trinity College, Peter Wyse Jackson has served as the director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland since March 2005. During his tenure, Wyse Jackson placed a new emphasis on organic horticulture and home

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### **ADD ONE: Peter Wyse Jackson**

gardening. He made environmental sustainability a priority of the institution, reducing waste and energy consumption, promoting new programs and research on biodiversity, conservation and sustainable development. In addition, Wyse Jackson introduced a wide range of new cultural programs to the Garden, and secured for Ireland the fourth Global Botanic Gardens Congress, which will be hosted by the National Botanic Gardens in June 2010. In Ireland, he has also been a leader at national levels in environmental policy development, providing advice to government in fields including biodiversity, conservation and climate change.

Prior to his position with the National Botanic Gardens, Wyse Jackson served as secretary general for the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), a chief executive position charged with leadership of the organization. BGCI is a worldwide organization promoting plant conservation, environmental education and sustainable development through botanic gardens.

Wyse Jackson is the author of scores of scientific books and papers on plant conservation, gardening and horticulture, Irish floristics and plant systematics, and the management and conservation of endangered island floras. He brings to the Missouri Botanical Garden an extensive knowledge of botanical institutions, having worked closely with botanic gardens in more than 50 countries. He is globally renowned, and has served as Chair of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation since 2005, supporting the implementation of the U.N.'s Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

“The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the top botanical institutions in the world, internationally known for its global scientific endeavors and as a cultural institution,” said Wyse Jackson. “It is an honor to have been selected for the presidency at this prestigious institution. The great challenges that we face worldwide in securing a sustainable environment for the future place great responsibilities to provide continued leadership through such great institutions as the Missouri Botanical Garden. I look forward to working with the wonderful staff and leading this already superb center of science and horticultural display to even greater heights.”

“The Garden has been fortunate to benefit from the long and rich tenure of Peter Raven. He has put Missouri on the global map,” noted Arnold Donald, Chair of the Garden’s Board of Trustees.

**(more)**

**ADD TWO: Peter Wyse Jackson**

“Going forward, we are in excellent hands with Peter Wyse Jackson, who will continue Peter Raven’s outstanding legacy in both horticultural displays and science and conservation.”

Peter Wyse Jackson and his wife, Diane, have three children.

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**NOTE: Digital images 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, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.