



Date: April 27, 2010

What's growing on
at the Garden!

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN AWARDS HIGHEST HONOR TO DISTINGUISHED HORTICULTURIST

(ST. LOUIS): Dr. Michael A. Dirr, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Georgia, has received the Henry Shaw Medal from the Missouri Botanical Garden. The award was presented by Garden President Dr. Peter H. Raven during the annual Henry Shaw dinner on Apr. 26. Awarded since 1893, and named for the Garden's founder, the medal honors those who have made a significant contribution to the Missouri Botanical Garden, botanical research, horticulture, conservation or the museum community.

Dirr's lifelong passion for horticulture has positively influenced a generation of students, gardeners, nursery-men, and professional horticulturists. His teaching, research, and writing have made an immeasurable impact on the Green Industry. Dirr is the author of 12 books, including Dirr's *Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. His *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* is the leading horticultural text and reference work, and, along with Dirr's *Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation*, has become the "Bible" for the landscape and nursery industry. The distinguished horticulturist has also published more than 300 scientific and popular papers and articles.

"Dr. Dirr is perhaps the most prolific and widely consulted author on gardening and horticulture in the United States," said Dr. Peter H. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden. "I've known him for nearly 40 years and it's an honor for the Garden to give the Henry Shaw Medal to such a distinguished horticulturist."

Recognized as the number one academic contributor to the landscape industry by *Landscape Management* magazine, Dirr has presented hundreds of lectures to colleges, industry groups, and

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ADD ONE: Henry Shaw Medal

garden organizations. He fostered the Georgia Plant Introduction Program, a program which has been widely emulated by other states. The Plant Introduction program has contributed over 50 new plant introductions to the Green Industry.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit and from Interstate 64 at the Kingshighway North & South exit. Free parking is available on-site at the west lot and two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit www.mobot.org or call the recorded event line at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free 1 (800) 642-8842.

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

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 (exception: special admission rate events). 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 - third weekend of May, Labor Day weekend, and first weekend of October). 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, visit www.mobot.org/membership call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, visit www.mobot.org/volunteer or call (314) 577-5187. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.