4344 Shaw Boulevard • St. Louis, MO • 63110 • (314) 577-9400 • www.mobot.org

Date: March 31, 2010



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN INVITES CITIZENS TO HELP NAME MORE THAN 30 TRIBUTARIES IN THE DEER CREEK WATERSHED Names Will Be Officially Recognized by the Missouri and U.S. Boards of Geographic Names

(ST. LOUIS): As part of the Missouri Botanical Garden's ongoing interest in improving water quality in the Deer Creek watershed, the St. Louis community is invited to help name over 30 unnamed tributaries in Deer Creek. All naming recommendations from the "Deer Creek Tributaries Naming Project" approved by local municipalities and endorsed by St. Louis County and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District will be submitted to the Missouri Board of Geographic Names. Project results will be showcased at an international geographic naming conference in the fall. The deadline for submissions is Jun. 30.

To participate, visit www.deercreekfriends.net and view a map with currently named and unnamed tributaries in the watershed. Once you have identified the tributary you would like to name, follow the directions to fill out an online submission form. All names receiving final approval by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names will be listed in the Geographic Names Information System and may be included on future publications of U.S. Geographical Survey topographical maps.

Deer Creek originates in Creve Coeur and flows southeast nearly 11 miles before it enters the River des Peres in Maplewood. It encompasses multiple municipalities including Creve Coeur, Des Peres, Frontenac, Ladue, Clayton, Warson Woods, Glendale, Rock Hill, Brentwood, Webster Groves, Maplewood and Richmond Heights. The watershed includes Deer Creek, as well as its tributaries Two-Mile Creek, Black Creek, Sebago Creek, Shady Grove Creek, Rock Hill Creek, and Hampton Creek.

(over)

ADD ONE: Deer Creek Naming

Water quality in the Deer Creek watershed is threatened by many factors. Some of these may include run-off during storm events from impervious surface areas, yard waste in streams, pet manure, invasive species, trash, and/or road salt. These factors can lead to increased water pollution, sedimentation, infrastructure damage, erosion and creek widening resulting in property loss, flooding and property damage. The Missouri Botanical Garden seeks to improve water quality through the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance. Partial funding is provided by the U.S. EPA through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and matching contributions will allow the Garden and partners to reduce organic waste pollution in the watershed through public outreach and the implementation of bioretention and other green infrastructure methods.

To learn more about the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance, participate in the "Deer Creek Tributaries Naming Project," or sign up for monthly newsletters, visit www.deercreekfriends.net.

###

<u>NOTE</u>: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at <u>www.mobot.org/press</u>.

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.