



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

Date: April 28, 2010

What's growing on
at the Garden!

JOIN THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN TO CELEBRATE PICTURE-PERFECT POLLINATORS

Enjoy "National Pollinator Week" Activities During the Entire Month of June

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden wouldn't exist if it wasn't for pollinators. To pay much-deserved tribute to the birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators of the planet, the Garden is encouraging individuals to celebrate, connect with, care about and conserve these special creatures. In honor of the fourth annual National Pollinator Week, June 21 through 27, the Garden, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, Shaw Nature Reserve and EarthWays Center are dedicating the **entire month of June** to celebrating **Picture-Perfect Pollinators**. Submit your pollinator photos in a community photo montage, take a beekeeping class, join drop-in programs or visit any of the Garden's attractions to learn about and celebrate pollinators in action.

"Picture-Perfect Pollinators" Campaign

Help the Garden achieve its goal of **collecting 1,000 photos** of "picture-perfect pollinators" on its Flickr site throughout June. Capture snapshots of butterflies, birds, bees and other pollinators in your own backyard, neighborhood or favorite locale. Visit the Garden's Flickr page online at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1381284@N20/> to upload and share your photos in the "Picture-Perfect Pollinators" group. (Please note: You must have or create a free Yahoo! log in to submit photos via the Flickr.) "Cross-pollinate" by encouraging your family, friends and neighbors to do the same! A selection of the submissions will be used to create a "Picture-Perfect Pollinators" tribute video, narrated by Garden President Dr. Peter Raven and available to enjoy and share starting in July on the Garden's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/mobotvideo.

(over)

ADD ONE: Picture-Perfect Pollinators

Individuals can also celebrate pollinators throughout the month of June at the Garden's area attractions:

Missouri Botanical Garden

On Saturday, June 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the **Jefferson County Beekeepers' Association** will be available at the Garden's Kemper Center for Home Gardening. Visitors can ask the experts about bees and beekeeping, get an up-close look at beekeeping equipment and gear, and learn more about this increasingly popular hobby.

Families can stop by the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden anytime in June to explore the power of pollination at three drop-in **Germination Stations**. "Pollination Pals" invites children to dress up like their favorite pollinator and visit large flowers in the Pollination Garden. Discuss which flowers you like best and learn which flowers are favored by certain pollinators. "Pollination Picnic" takes a closer look at foods that we owe to pollinators, and what would happen if these pollinators disappeared. "Traveling Pollen" features hand puppets that kids can use to "feed" on nectar in flowers. Learn how bees carry pollen on their legs and discover the other ways pollinators help pollen travel. Germination Stations are included with Children's Garden admission of \$5 for ages 3 to 12; adults are included with general Garden admission.

Join **Great Green Adventures** on Saturday, June 19 at 10:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. for "What's All the Buzz About?" Explore the benefits of insects, search for them in the Garden and learn ways to help them at home. Great Green Adventures are \$3 per child, in addition to general Garden admission.

Adults can join their favorite youngster age 4 to 6 for **Pitzman Nature Study: "Busy Birds"** on Saturday, June 26 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Discover why birds find the Garden such a wonderful place to live and decorate a birdhouse to take home. Class cost is \$18 and includes one child and one adult; register online at www.mobot.org/classes.

The Missouri Botanical Garden open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis. General admission is \$8; St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free admission on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon. Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free. For more information, visit www.mobot.org or call (314) 577-5100.

(more)

ADD TWO: Picture-Perfect Pollinators

Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House

Pollinators are the star attraction at the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House everyday! Witness more than **1,000 tropical butterflies** in free-flight inside the 8,000-square-foot tropical conservatory. Step outside to the backyard **Butterfly Garden** to learn about nectar sources that attract butterflies and get planting inspiration for your own backyard.

Children ages 2 to 4 with an adult can enjoy a special **Bugaloo** class on “Celebrating Seasons: Spring.” Explore the new blossoms and babies that the spring season brings through age-appropriate games and activities on Friday, June 11 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. or Sunday, June 13 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Cost is \$18 per class and includes one child and one adult; register at www.mobot.org/classes.

The Butterfly House is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, located at 15193 Olive Blvd. at Faust Park in Chesterfield, Mo. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 3 to 12. For more information, visit www.butterflyhouse.org or call (636) 530-0076.

Shaw Nature Reserve

The Shaw Nature Reserve encompasses 2,400 acres of natural Ozark Border landscape, home to countless pollinators residing in its diverse plant communities. All during June, children can stop by the Visitors’ Center to pick up a **pollinator activity sheet** to help guide their own outdoor exploration.

Friday, June 11, bring your 4 to 6-year-old for **Pitzman Nature Study: “Over in the Garden”** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Youngsters will explore the new blossoms and babies of the spring season through games and activities designed with their age in mind. Cost is \$18 and includes one child plus accompanying adult; register in advance at www.mobot.org/classes.

Saturday, June 19 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, join a class for adults on **Wildflower ID and Ecology**. Take an in-depth look at pollination adaptations in plants and the insects they are associated with. Both beginners and serious students of wildflowers can increase their knowledge and appreciation of the Reserve’s woods, prairie and wetland by exploring the identification, relationships and habitats of wildflowers. Wear comfortable hiking clothes and shoes, and bring a field notebook to journal your discoveries. Class cost is \$21 and advance registration is required; visit www.mobot.org/classes to enroll.

The Shaw Nature Reserve is open from 7 a.m. to sunset daily; the Visitors’ Center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The Reserve is located on

(over)

ADD THREE: Picture-Perfect Pollinators

Interstate 44 in Gray Summit, Mo. at exit #253 (two exits west of Allenton/Eureka). Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children ages 12 and under. For more information, visit www.shawnature.org or call (636) 451-3512.

EarthWays Center

The Garden's EarthWays Center wants to help people catch the beekeeping buzz with a **Field Trip: Backyard Beekeeping** on Thursday, June 3 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy a summer evening visit to local artist Joy Stinger's suburban home beeyard as you learn the what, why and how of this increasingly popular eco-hobby during the bees' most productive time of year. Class cost is \$25; register in advance at www.mobot.org/classes. Directions will be sent prior to the field trip.

The EarthWays Center promotes sustainability through environmental education and is open for public tours on the third weekend of every month at 11 a.m., noon, 1 and 2 p.m. at 3617 Grandel Square in Grand Center. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children ages 12 and under. For more information, visit www.earthwayscenter.org or call (314) 577-0220.

###

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) 577-5100 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.