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What's growing on
at the Garden!

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN AWARDS HIGHEST HONOR TO RETIRING UNITED STATES SENATOR KIT BOND

(ST. LOUIS): Christopher S. 'Kit' Bond, U.S. Senator for Missouri has received the Henry Shaw Medal from the Missouri Botanical Garden. The award was presented by Dr. Peter H. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden, and by Arnold Donald, chair of the Garden's Board of Trustees during the annual Henry Shaw dinner on Aug. 20. Awarded since 1893, and named for the Garden's founder, the medal honors those who have made a significant contribution to the objectives of the Missouri Botanical Garden, including sustainability, botanical research, horticulture, or education.

Bond is recognized as a national leader in the promotion of plant research and biotechnology, playing a key role in issues of great interest to the St. Louis region and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Through his efforts, the Garden received federal funding for some of its science and conservation initiatives, including construction of the Monsanto Center, which houses its world-class herbarium, botanical library, and research space for scientists. He was also instrumental in securing federal funding for the renewal of a number of distressed St. Louis neighborhoods, including the former McRee Town, now known as Botanical Heights. The Garden has been the sponsor of the redevelopment of the McRee Town area, working closely with the neighborhood to develop the plan and raise the needed funding.

Bond was the first U.S. Senator to support investment in plant biotechnology research at the National Science Foundation. Since then he has worked to develop a Biotech Corridor from St. Louis through mid-Missouri to Kansas City by securing federal funding for biotech laboratories and

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ADD ONE: Henry Shaw Medal

companies across the state. His work on agricultural issues has been with conservation and protecting the environment topmost in mind. Through his work on the Appropriations Committee and on the Water Resources Development Act, Bond has sponsored projects improving habitat conservation on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. He has also provided funding for the Agroforestry Floodplain Initiative and the Missouri Watershed Initiative.

“Senator Kit Bond has had an invaluable influence on the science and conservation efforts of the Garden and the nation’s progress in plant science and agriculture,” said Peter Raven. “It is an honor to present this award to him as a symbol of our appreciation for understanding these important needs.”

In 1960, Bond received his law degree from the University of Virginia, having graduated first in his class. At age 33, he became the 47th Governor of the State of Missouri in 1973, the youngest Governor the state has ever had. Bond was re-elected to a second term in 1980.

“One of my guiding principles of my career has been that the best ideas do not originate in Washington; they come from the people back home – from scientists, from entrepreneurs, from academics, from farmers,” said Bond.

Bond and his wife Linda live in Mexico, Mo., where he grew up, and where he continues to tend to several groves of trees he planted by himself.

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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.