



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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**Date:** November 10, 2010 A

What's growing on  
at the Garden!

**2011 ORCHID SHOW AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN  
INFUSED WITH COLORFUL, ECLECTIC MIX OF MAYA-THEMED ACCENTS**  
*Only Time of Year to See Vast Selection of Garden's Historic Orchid Collection*

- WHAT:** Orchid Show 2011  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 29 through Sunday, Mar. 27, 2011  
Open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (last weekday entry at 2 p.m.),  
Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis  
**COST:** \$5 plus Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents; free  
children ages 12 and under). Free Garden members.  
**SPONSORS:** Northern Trust Bank  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org/events/orchidshow](http://www.mobot.org/events/orchidshow); (314) 577-5100, 1-800-642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Step into a lush, tropical world of colorful orchids, verdant foliage and eclectic art when the **2011 Orchid Show** debuts at the Missouri Botanical Garden this winter. The annual indoor display is the only time of year when a vast, rotating selection of orchids from the Garden's historic collection is made available for public viewing. See up to 800 blooming orchids in a tropical display infused with a mix of Maya-themed accents, Saturday, Jan. 29 through Sunday, Mar. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays (last weekday entry at 2 p.m.) and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Orchid Show admission is \$5 per person (ages 3 and up), in addition to regular Garden admission.

The Missouri Botanical Garden maintains one of the largest orchid collections in the nation, with over 7,500 individual orchid plants representing approximately 280 genera and including over 2,500 unique orchid taxa. The Garden's orchid history dates back to 1876, when the first specimens were gifted to Garden founder Henry Shaw. The collection was significantly expanded in the 1920s

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## **ADD ONE: Orchid Show**

when Garden horticulturist George H. Pring added some 5,000 *Cattleyas* from a collection trip to Panama and Columbia. Through subsequent gifts and collecting, the collection grew in size and prominence. Today, the Garden's orchid collection emphasizes the most extensive genera, *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Epidendrum*, *Oncidium* and *Paphiopedilum*, because they can survive the blistering St. Louis summers and offer a diversity of color and form.

The 2011 Orchid Show theme is a nod to the much-discussed Maya "Long Count" calendar, which reaches its end the following year.

"The closer we get to 2012, the hotter the topic seems to become," said Pat Scace, floral display designer. "We were inspired by and took our cues for this year's display from ancient Maya and Aztec culture, combining our colorful orchids with an eclectic mix of themed pieces. Our goal is to create a visually-stunning tropical display, perfect for a winter retreat."

Prints of ancient Yucatan ruins sketched by famed writer John L. Stevens and artist Frederick Catherwood, photographs and cases of botanically-derived textile, agricultural, medicinal and ceremonial products, such as decorative, plant-based ear spoons, offer an orienting insight into Maya culture in the show's entry vestibule. As visitors step into the 5,000-square-foot Orthwein Floral Display Hall, they are transported into a jungle-like environment filled with verdant foliage. A light fog meanders through the pathways, adding to the ambiance. Life-sized, moss-covered mannequins donning colorful, elaborate head pieces of dried botanicals pose throughout the display. A large, central serpent fountain gurgles water from its mouth. Replicas of a reclining Chac Mool stone statue, chiseled towers and other sculptures peek out from behind plant leaves. At every turn, hundreds of blooming orchids fill the scene.

Photographers are welcome to use hand-held cameras to capture the Orchid Show for personal enjoyment; tripod and monopod usage is not permitted indoors.

Sponsorship support for the 2011 Orchid Show is provided by Northern Trust Bank.

Throughout the show's duration, stop by the Garden Gate Shop to browse a large selection of orchid plants, books and gardening accessories for both beginners and experienced growers. Proceeds support the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Admission to the Orchid Show is \$5 per person (ages 3 and over), in addition to general Garden admission (\$8; St. Louis City and County residents, \$4 and free on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon; free children ages 12 and under). Garden members are admitted free to both the

**(more)**

## **ADD TWO: Orchid Show**

Garden and Orchid Show.

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 and two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call (314) 577-5100 (toll-free, 1-800-642-8842).

More than 37,000 households in the St. Louis region hold memberships to the Missouri Botanical Garden. Memberships begin at \$65 (\$60 for seniors) and offer 12 months of free admission for two adults and all children, plus exclusive invitations and discounts. Members help support the Garden's operations and world-changing work in plant science and conservation. Learn more at [www.mobot.org/membership](http://www.mobot.org/membership).

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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.

**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](http://www.metrostlouis.org)). For general information, log on to [www.mobot.org](http://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](http://www.mobot.org/membership) call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, visit [www.mobot.org/volunteer](http://www.mobot.org/volunteer) or call (314) 577-5187. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.**