



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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What's growing on  
at the Garden!

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## **(MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN ANNOUNCES 'TREEMENDOUS' PLANS FOR 2011 Activities and Events during U.N. International Year of Forests Celebrate the Importance of Trees**

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden is celebrating the United Nations (U.N.) International Year of Forests in 2011 with a **TREEmendous** year of activities highlighting the real value of trees and the critical role they play in our lives. Experience an exhibition of non-traditional tree houses, take part in a community-wide tree hunt, celebrate National Arbor Day with a weekend tree-themed festival and more. Visit [www.mobot.org/treemendous](http://www.mobot.org/treemendous) for more information.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's 79 acres are home to more than 4,800 trees, representing over 620 tree species. Some are noteworthy for their size – the Missouri-native western soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*), possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*) and white basswood (*Tilia heterophylla*) trees at the Garden all hold records as Missouri State Champion Trees, and the white basswood is listed on the American Forests® National Register of Big Trees. Some are noteworthy for their history – a handful of bald cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) and Osage orange trees (*Maclura pomifera*) date back to the lifetime of Garden founder Henry Shaw, and an unusual golden larch (*Pseudolarix amabilis*) traces its roots back to the 1904 World's Fair. Still others are noteworthy for their characteristics, such as the huge Scotch elm (*Ulmus glabra*) near Tower Grove House, with its gnarled trunk and branches so large and heavy that they need support wires, or the towering “living fossil” dawn redwood trees (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). Regardless of their individual distinctions, all trees have one core commonality: they are vital to human life on Earth.

“Trees play an incredibly valuable role in our lives,” said Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden. “Not only do they provide the basis for some of the most important

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## **ADD ONE: TREEmendous**

ecosystems on Earth, but they also provide so many of the resources we need for life. They transform the sun's energy into carbohydrates; they absorb and store carbon dioxide, helping to combat climate change and give us the oxygen we need to breathe. They provide us with timber, food, fibers, medicines, shelter and a multitude of other goods essential for life. During a year when the U.N. is raising awareness about the critical importance of conservation and sustainable development of forests, it is appropriate that the Missouri Botanical Garden also highlights the importance of trees and forests and the threats they face, as well as pays homage to the many wonderful trees conserved in our own backyard.”

Explore the significance of trees and their part in a healthy planet while enjoying the creativity and talent of the local community. From Saturday, Apr. 30 through Sunday, Aug. 21, the **TREEmendous Extreme Tree Houses** exhibition branches out from the ordinary notion of tree houses with non-traditional, ground-level structures that ponder the concepts of sustainability, exploration and play in the outdoors, reconnecting children and nature, accessibility, color, nature-inspired design, fantasy and habitats as homes. Look for each tree house displayed near or beneath the canopy of some of the Missouri Botanical Garden's significant trees, including oak, tulip, elm, sweet gum, ginkgo, sycamore, Osage orange and walnut trees. Each structure on public display is the winner of a juried design competition open to local designers, architects, schools, studios and individuals.

The Extreme Tree Houses exhibition kicks off with the **TREEmendous Forest Festival**, Saturday and Sunday, Apr. 30 and May 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 pm. both days. Celebrate National Arbor Day by experiencing and learning about the Missouri Botanical Garden's historic, state champion and other significant trees. The weekend is full of expert-led tree tours, tree care demonstration clinics, hands-on workshops and other festivities.

Three more TREEmendous activities kick off with the state of Missouri's celebration of Arbor Day on Friday, Apr. 1. Starting at 9 a.m. while supplies last, the Kemper Center for Home Gardening will be giving away 600 free tree saplings, one per person, as part of their annual **Arbor Day tree giveaway**.

Opening on Friday, Apr. 1, visit the **TREEmendous Interactive Discovery Center** to enjoy tree-themed, hands-on learning for all ages. Create artwork out of tree parts, share your favorite tree

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## **ADD TWO: TREEmendous**

stories, test your tree IQ, dress up as a tree and experience what life is like in a forest canopy. Families are encouraged to drop in anytime from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Jan. 1, 2012.

Explore the terrific trees of the St. Louis community with the **TREEmendous Great St. Louis Tree Hunt**, Friday, Apr. 1 through Friday, Sept. 30. Search the great outdoors for 15 of 30 marked TREEmendous Trees throughout the Missouri and Illinois metro St. Louis region. Download an area guide, clue map and photo journal at [www.mobot.org/treemendous](http://www.mobot.org/treemendous). Explore the region with family and friends in search of each tree, document your findings and bring the completed guide to the Missouri Botanical Garden's TREEmendous Interactive Discovery Center to receive a special tree-themed reward.

Looking to plant a tree in your own backyard? The Missouri Botanical Garden, in partnership with Powell Gardens, Mizzou Botanic Garden, the University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Landscape & Nursery Association and the Illinois Green Industry Association, produces a yearly list of recommended trees and other plants of outstanding quality and dependable performance in the lower Midwest. Learn more about these **Plants of Merit**<sup>®</sup>, including the new 2011 addition Raven Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Raven') available for sale, by visiting [www.plantsofmerit.org](http://www.plantsofmerit.org).

All TREEmendous activities are included with Missouri Botanical Garden admission of \$8 for adults and are free for children ages 12 and under. St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free general admission on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon (exceptions: the third weekend of May, Labor Day weekend and the first weekend of October).

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 more information on the lineup of TREEmendous activities in 2011, visit [www.mobot.org/treemendous](http://www.mobot.org/treemendous). For general Garden 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

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### **ADD THREE: TREEmendous**

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/treemendous/press](http://www.mobot.org/treemendous/press) and [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.**