



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Date: December 20, 2010

What's growing on
at the Garden!

FARR, TOOMBS, PURKERSON JOIN MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN BOARD

(ST. LOUIS): Lelia J. Farr, Eugene M. Toombs and Mabel L. Purkerson, M.D. have been elected to the Missouri Botanical Garden Board of Trustees. Farr and Toombs will both serve as Term Trustees; Purkerson will serve as an Emeritus Trustee.

Lelia J. Farr is a graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N. C., where she majored in economics. She and her husband, David N. Farr, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Emerson Electric, serve in leadership capacities with a number of nonprofit organizations in St. Louis. Farr also serves on the friends board for the Saint Louis Art Museum, the board of directors for Dance St. Louis and the board of the Gateway "I Have a Dream" Foundation.

Emerson has a long history of supporting the Garden, which includes presenting sponsorship of the Chihuly exhibition in 2006 and presenting sponsorship of the Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2009.

Eugene "Gene" M. Toombs is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of MiTek Inc., the world's leading supplier of engineered products and services for the building components industry. Toombs joined the company in 1989 and has held the position of Chief Executive Officer since January 1993 and Chairman since 2002. MiTek Inc. is based in Chesterfield and became a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway in 2001. MiTek Inc. has annual sales of over \$800 million and employs 2,000 people worldwide, including 500 in the St. Louis area at its Chesterfield headquarters and St. Charles plant.

Toombs serves on the boards of Junior Achievement, the YMCA of Greater St. Louis and

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ADD ONE: Garden Trustees

Talx Corporation. He and his wife joined the Garden's Peter H. Raven Society in 2007, and MiTek has provided corporate sponsorship for a number of Garden events and exhibits.

Toombs is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Harvard Business School.

Dr. Mabel L. Purkerson, M.D. earned her bachelor's degree from Erskine College and her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She completed a pediatric residency and a fellowship in pediatric metabolism at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Purkerson was appointed to the Washington University faculty in 1961, appointed instructor of medicine in 1966 and advanced to assistant professor of medicine in 1967. She served as associate professor and professor of medicine before becoming professor emerita in 1998. Her administrative appointments at the Washington University School of Medicine included associate dean for curriculum and associate dean for academic projects.

Through membership support, tributes, event sponsorship and grants from the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation, Purkerson has generously supported the Garden and its partnership in the Deer Creek Watershed Initiative.

For general Missouri Botanical Garden information, visit www.mobot.org.

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NOTE: Digital images available upon 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.