



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

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What's growing on
at the Garden!

**EMERSON CONTRIBUTES THREE MILLION DOLLARS TO RENOVATION OF THE
RIDGWAY VISITOR CENTER AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN**
First Phase of Renovations to Begin January 17 on Barrel Vault Roof

(ST. LOUIS): St. Louis-based Emerson has made a generous gift of \$3 million toward the renovation of the 28-year-old Ridgway Visitor Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The renovations, taking place in several phases beginning in January 2011, will create a world-class gateway that reflects the Garden's brand and mission and meets the needs of visitors in the 21st century. The transformed Ridgway Visitor Center will allow the Garden to better welcome, orient and inform its hundreds of thousands of annual visitors, accommodate their physical needs and enhance their experience of the Garden.

"Connecting people with plants and promoting the importance of preserving plant diversity through horticulture, education, interpretation and visitor experiences is a core purpose of the Missouri Botanical Garden," said Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden. "Through this generous gift, Emerson is helping the Garden promote our mission and offer a truly outstanding experience for visitors, befitting a premier cultural attraction."

Emerson is a global leader in bringing technology and engineering together to provide innovative solutions for customers in industrial, commercial, and consumer markets through its network power, process management, industrial automation, climate technologies, and tools and storage businesses.

"The Missouri Botanical Garden is a treasure and a unique community experience showing visitors the special cultural entertainment St. Louis has to offer," said Emerson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer David N. Farr. "Emerson has been a steady supporter of the growth and

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ADD ONE: Ridgway Visitor Center

development of this cultural asset, and we believe the improvements to be made to the Ridgway Visitor Center will make a visit to the Garden even more unforgettable and worth doing.”

The first phase of the renovations will begin on January 17 and includes the replacement of the Ridgway Visitor Center’s barrel vault roof which has experienced “fiber blooms” over many panels, clouding its appearance. The roof also has multiple leaks, no thermal break and no insulation. The new roof will feature next-generation, three-inch-thick Kalwall panels which resist fiber blooms and will include thermal breaks and insulation. The new barrel vault roof will restore the beauty and drama of the Ridgway Visitor Center for years to come and reap energy savings. Roof renovations are scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

The next phase of Ridgway Visitor Center renovations will include new and expanded restrooms, the installation of a second elevator, reconfiguration and improvement of the Grigg Lobby, work on the Jordan Education Wing, key infrastructure improvements and visitor experience enhancements. Future renovations will improve the Garden Gate Shop, Orthwein Floral Display Hall, Sassafras café and Shoenberg Theater.

Beginning January 17, the Ridgway Visitor Center will close early at 3 p.m. on weekdays for necessary repairs to the barrel vault roof panels. The Garden grounds will remain open until 5 p.m. daily throughout construction. Monday through Friday after 3 p.m., visitors can access the Garden grounds and the Garden Gate Shop through alternate entrances on the east side of the Ridgway Visitor Center. The Sassafras café will close early at 3 p.m. on weekdays, with lunch served until 2 p.m. The Ridgway Visitor Center will remain open as usual until 5 p.m. on weekends.

Admission to the Missouri Botanical Garden 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.

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 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

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ADD TWO: Ridgway Visitor Center

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.

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NOTE: 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, 152 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.