



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

What's growing on
at the Garden!

Date: April 8, 2011



EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS DURING THE GREAT ST. LOUIS TREE HUNT OF 2011

WHAT: TREEmendous Great St. Louis Tree Hunt

WHEN: April through September

WHERE: Throughout the metro St. Louis region (Missouri and Illinois)

COST: Free to participate

SPONSORS: Presented by Gamma Tree Experts

INFO: www.mobot.org/treemendous; (314) 577-5100, 1-800-642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden invites the St. Louis community to join its year-long celebration of trees by exploring the great outdoors in the **Great St. Louis Tree Hunt**, now through September 30. Participants are encouraged to find at least 15 of 30 marked TREEmendous trees throughout the metro region (including Missouri and Illinois). Visit www.mobot.org/treemendous to download the Tree Hunt Guide and Journal, and then start exploring! The Great St. Louis Tree Hunt is presented by Gamma Tree Experts and is part of the Garden's TREEmendous year of activities in recognition of the United Nations (U.N.) International Year of Forests. For more information, visit www.mobot.org/treemendous.

“We really want to shine a spotlight on our region’s trees and urban forests, given the critical roles they play in our everyday lives,” said Sheila Voss, Missouri Botanical Garden vice president of education. “The 30 trees highlighted just scratch the surface of spectacular trees throughout the bi-state region. We hope the Tree Hunt will inspire families, friends and people of all ages to get outdoors, explore new and familiar places, become more aware of the trees among us and take meaningful action – like participating in community tree plantings.”

The Great St. Louis Tree Hunt is designed for people of all ages. Interested participants can

(over)

ADD ONE: Tree Hunt

download a Tree Hunt Guide and Journal, including tree information, locations, GPS coordinates, clues and tips, at www.mobot.org/TREEmendous. Participants finding at least 15 of the 30 trees by September 30 can submit their Tree Hunt Journal pages (either via hard copy or by presenting their findings on their hand-held digital device) at the Missouri Botanical Garden to receive a TREEmendous Prize Pack, including a pair of kid-friendly binoculars, journal, limited edition signed art print, discount book from local gardening retailers and nurseries, one adult admission to the Garden and one child's admission to the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden (prizes limited to the first 1,000 recipients).

Each participant who presents a completed Tree Hunt Journal will also be entered into a drawing to win a fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), a Plant of Merit® species and Missouri native with creamy white blooms. Horticulturists from the Missouri Botanical Garden will deliver and plant the young tree for the winner in the fall (site must be within a 45-mile radius of the Garden).

The 30 TREEmendous trees were selected based on a variety of considerations, including species diversity, geographic location, size and form, historic significance and sheer beauty. Four Missouri State Champion trees are highlighted in the Tree Hunt, including one National Champion Tree. All are located in publicly-accessible areas throughout the bi-state region, including the Missouri Botanical Garden, Tower Grove Park, Forest Park, Lafayette Park, Bellerive Park, Bellefontaine Cemetery and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis City; Powder Valley Nature Center, Unger Park, Larson Park, Deer Creek Park, Faust Park and Tilles Park in St. Louis County; Blanchette Park, St. Charles Community College, Lindenwood University, St. Peters City Centre and Jaycee Park in St. Charles County; the Shaw Nature Reserve in Franklin County; The Gardens at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE) in Madison County, Ill.; and at Pere Marquette State Park and Lewis and Clark Community College in Jersey County, Ill.

At each tree location, a sign with a scannable code will enable smartphone users to access a webpage with more information about that specific tree and its surroundings. Participants can also visit www.mobot.org/treemendous to view each tree's page. For every Tree Hunt webpage visited, 10 pounds of carbon dioxide will be offset courtesy of 3Degrees (American Missouri Pure Power's partner for renewable energy and carbon balancing services), up to a maximum of 390,000 pounds – the environmental equivalent to taking 35 cars off the road for an entire year, or the amount of carbon absorbed annually by 38 acres of pine forest.

(more)

ADD TWO: Tree Hunt

Many of the trees are located in popular destinations accessible via walking and biking trails and Metro stations. Participants are encouraged to consider tree-friendly transportation on their hunt by carpooling with friends and family, planning a group bike ride or using public transportation. Whichever mode you choose, get out and enjoy the great outdoors!

The Great St. Louis Tree Hunt is presented by Gamma Tree Experts. The 2011 TREEmendous year of activities is sponsored by Ameren Missouri, Macy's and Novus International.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Garden admission is \$8; St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free admission on most Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon (exceptions: third weekend of May; Labor Day weekend; first weekend of October). Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit and from Interstate 64 at the Kingshighway North & South exit.

The Shaw Nature Reserve is open from 7 a.m. to sunset. Reserve admission is \$3 for adults and free for children ages 12 and under. Missouri Botanical Garden members and Shaw Nature Reserve passholders are free.

The Shaw Nature Reserve is located on the south side of Interstate 44 at exit #253 in Gray Summit, Mo. (less than 10 miles past the Six Flags exit).

View complete contest details for the TREEmendous Great St. Louis Tree Hunt at www.mobot.org/treemendous. For general Missouri Botanical Garden information, visit www.mobot.org or call (314) 577-5100 (toll-free, 1-800-642-8842).

###

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, 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.