



What's growing on  
at the Garden!

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MONSANTO FUND

## MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN 2010-2011 POWER OF PLANTS STUDENT CONTEST

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden has announced the winners of its third annual “**Power of Plants**” student contest, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The contest challenged groups of two to five students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to pick an extraordinary or seemingly ordinary plant and tell its tale through a physical or digital creation. Given the important need to increase public awareness of and appreciation for plants, this year’s entries were judged on how creatively, effectively and broadly they were shared with wider audiences, in addition to their botanical accuracy and quality. Eight winning and eight honorable mention entries were awarded in a private ceremony at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Thursday, May 5.

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden, presented the awards to the students. Janet M. Holloway, Monsanto senior vice president, chief of staff and community relations, and a member of the Monsanto Fund board, also made remarks and helped congratulate the award winners.

“We continue to be amazed at the creativity and complexity of the entries in our Power of Plants contest,” said Sharon Anibal, supervisor, school programs at the Missouri Botanical Garden. “We expanded the criteria this year to include both physical and digital formats, and encouraged cooperation and collaboration by accepting entries only from groups. We’re delighted with the final products and the knowledge of plants demonstrated by these students who have worked together so successfully.”

In the early elementary age bracket (kindergarten through second grade), homeschoolers Aria

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### **ADD ONE: Power of Plants**

and Jozlin Schmidt of **south St. Louis** won the physical category for their hand-drawn and handwritten scrapbook exploring whether the invasive field pennycress is friend or foe. Jacob Feldker, James Ramette, Reagan Herrmann, Katie Grawitch and Rose Sippel from Immaculate Conception School in **Columbia, Ill.** took home the honorable mention for their *Aloe vera* entry.

Adam Koetting, Henry McIntyre and Grace Embry of Our Lady of Providence School in **Sappington** won the digital category for their PowerPoint presentation on sassafras featuring hand-drawn artwork of trees and leaves. Emma Hartigan, Alicia Yancey and Abraham Aguayo of St. Francis Cabrini Academy in **south St. Louis** received honorable mention for their sunflower project.

In the upper elementary age bracket (third through fifth grades), Ross Stauder and Evan Coleman of Tillman Elementary in **Kirkwood** won the physical category for their eye-catching algae entry featuring a Plexiglass cube aquarium covered with facts and illustrations. Alesha Meadows, Emily Leon and Amelia Goretti of Twin Oaks Christian School in **Ballwin** received honorable mention for their *Aloe vera* entry.

Mitchell Skaggs and Zachary Clark of Drummond PE65 North in **St. Ann** won the digital category for their *Theobroma cacao* entry which included a video depicting an imagined character named “Captain Cacao” who battles vegetable forces. Jamie Schwartz and Leslie Witherspoon of St. Elizabeth/St. Robert Regional School in **St. Charles** received honorable mention for their jasmine flower entry.

In the middle school bracket (sixth through eighth grades), homeschoolers Gianna Sparks, Lauren Ashley Sparks, Regina Doty and Reuben Doty of **Creve Coeur** won the physical category for their *Coffea arabica* entry. Their coffee bag burlap-bound scrapbook featured a removable coffee cup containing “coffee bags” of facts about the plant and details of its medicinal value and beneficial environmental impact. Honorable mention went to Annie Muehlfarth and Abby Froidl of St. Francis of Assisi School in **Oakville** and St. Dominic Savio in **Affton** for their poison ivy entry.

Laura Maniet, Isabel Mosley, Klarissa Sheffield, Greg Cordover and Cole Edelstein of Parkway Central Middle School in **Chesterfield** won the digital category for their interactive website exploring the dogwood tree through graphics, slide shows, online polls and a blog. Sharanya Kumar, Michelle Augustine and Vincent A. Cristiana III, also from Parkway Central Middle School in **Chesterfield**, received honorable mention for their *Aloe vera* project.

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## **ADD TWO: Power of Plants**

In the high school bracket (ninth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades), Leah Faith McGee and Chris Bolton of Hancock Place High School in **Lemay** won the physical category for their *Mimosa hostilis* entry, a hand-illustrated poster exploring the ethnobotanically significant Jurema plant, its historical significance as a basis for religions traditions on Central and South America and its many medicinal uses. McKenzie Bradshaw and Logan Wessell of Jackson High School in **Jackson, Mo.** received honorable mention for their camellia entry.

Caitlin Quirin, Abby Reding, Becca Wilkes and Anna Reichert of St. Joseph Academy in **Frontenac** won the digital category for their *Eucalyptus globulus* PowerPoint presentation describing the tree's uses, needs and how to protect it. Grace Hyde, Emmie Haring, Natalie Saracino and Ashleigh Johnson, also of St. Joseph Academy in **Frontenac**, received honorable mention for their strawberry plant project.

The Power of Plants program is sponsored by a generous grant from the Monsanto Fund, which supports the Garden's mission "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life."

For more information about the 2010-2011 Power of Plants contest, visit [www.mobot.org/power](http://www.mobot.org/power). For general information about the Missouri Botanical Garden, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call (314) 577-5100 (toll-free, 1-800-642-8842).

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**NOTE: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

### **About the Missouri Botanical Garden:**

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.

### **About the Monsanto Fund:**

The Monsanto Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company. Incorporated in 1964, the Fund's primary objective is to improve the lives of people by bridging the gap between their needs and their resources. The Monsanto Fund is focused on grant-making in three main areas: nutritional well-being through agriculture; science education, primarily on professional development for teachers; and improving the quality of life in communities where Monsanto employees live and work. For more information about the Monsanto Fund, visit <http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome.asp>.