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Media Contact:

Leigh Albright
Lents & Associates
314.968.3060
lalbright@lentsandassoc.com



THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL BEST OF MISSOURI MARKET

Missouri Botanical Garden Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Sustainable, Local Shopping Event

The Missouri Botanical Garden announces the 20th anniversary of the Best of Missouri Market. The Twentieth Annual **BEST OF MISSOURI MARKET** will take place at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Saturday and Sunday, **October 1 and 2, 2011** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary, guests can also enjoy “First Look Friday,” an early chance to shop the Market on Friday, September 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The event will feature over 30 new vendors, more than 120 outstanding Missouri food producers and artisans, and entertainment for the entire family.

Every year, visitors enjoy browsing under large tents and discovering the best of Missouri’s hidden treasures, including country stands filled with fresh produce, flowers, plants, herbs, nuts, candies, meats, mushrooms, seasonings, salsas, and baked goods from Missouri’s finest farmers and producers. Artisans offer handcrafted items such as willow furniture, carved wooden birds, dried flowers and wreaths, decorative ironwork, soaps, handmade pottery, baskets, decorated gourds, custom jewelry, wooden toys and garden ornaments. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Best of Missouri Market, many vendors will offer a special anniversary item for \$20.

Entertainment will include live music, a food court and a special Kids Corner with popular activities for children, including pumpkin decorating, cow milking and craft projects.

The Kodner Gallery will present a special exhibit of Missouri artists in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Best of Missouri Market. The exhibit will begin in September and last through November. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the artists during the Best of Missouri Market’s “First Look Friday.”

Admission to the Best of Missouri Market is \$12 for adults, \$10 for visitors 65 and older, and \$5 for Garden members and children 3-12 years. Children under 3 are free. Admission prices cover both general Garden and Market admission and a copy of the Best of Missouri Souvenir Directory.

The Missouri Botanical Garden, located at 4344 Shaw Blvd., will present the Market under tents outdoors October 1 and 2, 2011, rain or shine. Abundant free parking is available on Garden grounds or on the lots one block east of the Garden at Vandeventer and Shaw, with continuous free shuttles to the Garden. For more convenient parking, arrange a carpool or use MetroLink and Metro Bus transportation. For directions or more details about this event, call (314) 577-9400 or 1-800-642-8842 toll free or visit www.mobot.org.

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