



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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**Date:** June 9, 2010

What's growing on  
at the Garden!

## **HAPPY 210<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, HENRY SHAW! FREE GARDEN ADMISSION IS GIFT TO ALL**

**WHAT:** Garden founder Henry Shaw's 210<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration  
**WHEN:** Saturday, July 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; activities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis  
**COST:** **FREE** Garden and Children's Garden admission from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org); (314) 577-5100, 1-800-642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): In celebration of Garden founder Henry Shaw's 210<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, July 24, admission to the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Doris I. Schnuck's Children's Garden will be **FREE** to all from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In honor of the occasion, **old-fashioned entertainment** is planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Henry Shaw" himself will greet visitors at his birthday bash. Look for him strolling the grounds, along with several other actors dressed in vintage Victorian garb. Enjoy a special puppetry performance by Bob Kramer's Marionettes at 11 a.m., 12:30 and 2 p.m. on Spoehrer Plaza. Listen to the whimsical tunes of an organ grinder and pose for a silhouette portrait. Experience the entertainment of yester-year, from juggling to unicycling to stilt walking. Pick up a word search and play children's games.

Take "A Missouri Adventure" through a 19<sup>th</sup> century prairie town inside the Children's Garden and seek out the frog mascot Finn. Walk to the Lichtenstein Victorian District for a tour through Tower Grove House, Shaw's original Victorian country home. Stop by the large, granite Mausoleum, Shaw's final resting place, to say "thanks" to Mr. Shaw for creating the Garden as a gift to his beloved City of St. Louis.

Henry Shaw, a native of Sheffield, England, came to St. Louis in 1819 to open a business selling hardware and cutlery. As St. Louis flourished in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Shaw's

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### **ADD ONE: Henry Shaw's Birthday**

business expanded. By 1840, at the age of 39, Shaw had amassed a substantial fortune which allowed him retire. During the next 10 years, Shaw continued to buy property and traveled extensively in the United States and Europe. By the 1850's, Shaw resolved to spend the remainder of his life in acts of philanthropy and began to provide a great deal of support to develop many St. Louis cultural and social institutions. He had a strong interest in botany and gardening. During one of his trips to England, Shaw became inspired to give the people of St. Louis a garden like the great gardens and estates of Europe. Shortly after 1851, Shaw began development of a 10-acre site near his country home.

The Missouri Botanical Garden opened to the public in 1859 and began to grow in the European tradition of horticultural display combined with education and the search for new knowledge. Today, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark; and a center for science and conservation, education and horticultural display.

The 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](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).**

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.

**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](http://www.metrostlouis.org)). For general information, log on to [www.mobot.org](http://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](http://www.mobot.org/membership) call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, visit [www.mobot.org/volunteer](http://www.mobot.org/volunteer) or call (314) 577-5187. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.**