



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

4344 Shaw Boulevard • St. Louis, MO • 63110 • (314) 577-9400 • [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org)

**Date:** July 12, 2010

What's growing on  
at the Garden!

**ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY TO SALUTE PETER H. RAVEN  
FOR 40 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**  
*Public Invited to Free Celebration at the Missouri Botanical Garden*

**WHAT:** Celebration honoring Peter H. Raven  
**WHEN:** Friday, Aug. 6; 5 to 8 p.m.; remarks at 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis  
**COST:** **FREE**; advanced registration required by July 30; **(314) 577-0868**  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org); (314) 577-5100, 1-800-642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Enjoy a celebratory evening at the Missouri Botanical Garden honoring Dr. Peter H. Raven, who has led the Garden through nearly four decades of unparalleled accomplishment. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden, will retire on Sept. 1 after leading the Garden since 1971. On Friday, Aug. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m., join the Garden in celebrating the highlights of his career and personally wish him well. Throughout the evening, visitors can write a personal memory of Dr. Raven in his "scrapbook."

Proclamations honoring Raven's commitment to the St. Louis community and the Garden's mission "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life," will be presented by Mayor Francis Slay and County Executive Charlie Dooley. Arnold Donald, chair of the Garden's Board of Trustees will also make remarks recognizing Raven's contributions and accomplishments. Remarks will begin at 6 p.m.

Raven is recognized as one of the world's leading botanists. Described by Time magazine as a "Hero for the Planet," Raven champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and is a leading advocate for conservation and a sustainable environment. In recognition of his work in

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### **ADD ONE: Raven celebration**

science and conservation, Raven is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including the prestigious U.S. National Medal of Science, the country's highest award for scientific accomplishment.

Under Dr. Raven's leadership, the Garden's membership base has grown from 3,200 households to more than 37,000. The science and conservation staff has grown from five scientists to more than 150 working in 38 countries. The Garden's 79-acre landscape has been transformed to include five internationally themed gardens and corner-to-corner, meticulously maintained horticultural displays.

Each year, nearly a million people visit the Garden and its family of attractions. Among them are nearly 100,000 children whose imaginations are sparked through organized educational experiences and more than 2,500 math and science educators.

To recognize Raven's service to the Garden, a limited number of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Raven' Shaw's Legacy® Dawn Redwoods will be available for purchase. The new eight-foot 2011 Plant of Merit® will be available in 10 gallon pots at a price of \$550 per tree. The price includes the tree, delivery and planting (within the metro St. Louis area), and will be available for purchase beginning at 5 p.m. on Aug. 6 in the Ridgway Visitor Center. All proceeds will benefit the Missouri Botanical Garden's Plants of Merit program.

A plant of distinction, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* seeds were collected from Modaoqi, China and made available to the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1947. They were planted on the grounds in 1952. Characterized by linear, feathery, fern-like foliage, the needles turn red-bronze in the fall. Its growth habit is pyramidal, with low, uniform branching. As the tree matures, the trunk broadens at the base and develops deeply burrowed, convoluted bark, giving it an 'ancient' appearance. With remarkable vigor, the 'Raven' Dawn Redwood grows at a rate of up to three-feet per year.

Visitors can honor Peter Raven by contributing to the "Plant the Garden for Peter" tribute fund. Gifts will help the Garden continue to create and maintain beautiful natural settings that inspire environmental stewardship. For more information on the "Plant the Garden for Peter" tribute fund visit [www.mobot.org/plantforpeter](http://www.mobot.org/plantforpeter) or call (314) 577-0805.

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## **ADD TWO: Raven celebration**

Raven will retire on Sept. 1 and will remain active at the Garden as a consultant through 2014. Peter Wyse Jackson, director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland in Dublin, has been appointed to succeed him.

The evening celebrating the extraordinary tenure of Garden President Peter Raven will be held Friday, Aug. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. on the upper level of the Ridgway Visitor Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The event is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served. Advanced reservations are required by July 30; call (314) 577-0868.

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.

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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.**



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