

bulletin

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 MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



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For hours and admission prices at our three locations, visit www.mobot.org, www.butterflyhouse.org, and www.shawnature.org.

contact

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on the cover

Araceae is one of the most diverse plant families. The Garden's aroid collection is considered one of the best in the world. Photo by Jered Willis.

credits

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To discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life.

mission of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Thank you! Your membership provides critical support for our international and local plant science and conservation work, and Garden memberships contribute 21% of our annual operating funds.

To learn more about the benefits of your membership, visit www.mobot.org/membership, email membership@mobot.org, or call (314) 577-5118.

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from the president



Spring is a special time at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, and Shaw Nature Reserve. Birds chirping, flowers blooming, bees buzzing—experience nature's signs of spring in all their glory at our three beautiful sites.

If you're looking for a sampling of all the different outdoor experiences we offer, I invite you to the third annual Meet Me Outdoors In St. Louis event in April (see page 8). The two-day festival, held at our three sites, is an excellent way for visitors of all ages to reconnect with nature, learn about citizen stewardship opportunities, and celebrate the great outdoors. If you're coming to the Garden that weekend, don't miss the chance to sign up for a free behind-the-scenes tour of our greenhouses with two of our aroid experts. You'll learn all about this fascinating plant family and how the Garden built one of the largest aroid collections in the world (see page 14).

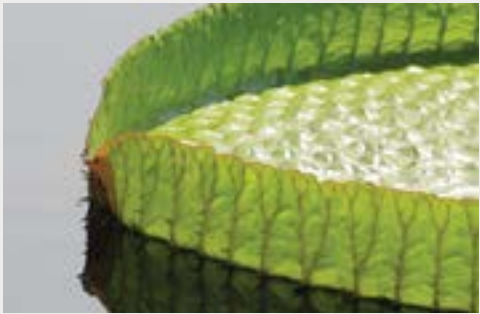
And speaking of collections, did you know that Garden founder Henry Shaw commissioned a museum to be built to house the Garden's original library, herbarium, and natural history specimens? The Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum, which had been closed for more than three decades, is reopening this spring after undergoing extensive restoration work and, most importantly, adding a separate entrance to make it accessible to everyone.

Institutions like the Garden have benefitted greatly over their history through a passion for collecting by many of its staff, leadership, and benefactors. Our thirst for knowledge has been fed and supported by these individual passions. As an avid collector myself, the Sachs Museum is near and dear to me because it represents the origin of the Missouri Botanical Garden as a scientific institution and because it will allow us to share some of the Garden's most precious collections with the world (see page 10).

Projects like the Sachs Museum would not be possible without your support. Our 47,000 member households—a new record—are what make our mission possible. Because of you, we're able to share our commitment to plant science and conservation with communities near and far (see page 16). Together, we are transforming landscapes and lives to build a better world.

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, *President*

what's new?



Victoria cruziana can reach up to 10 feet wide.

Extending Bloom Time With Heat

The Victoria pool in the Garden's Central Axis will now be heated, adding up to four months to the existing five months of growing time of *Victoria cruziana*. This giant plant is the largest member of the water lily family (Nymphaeaceae) and native to slow water areas of the Amazon River. Its pads can reach 10 feet wide and flowers can be as large as 2 feet. In order to reach their full potential size in the St. Louis climate, the Victoria water lilies require a growing season long enough to mimic conditions in the Amazon. The new heating pipes will provide supplemental heating when needed throughout the growing season, keeping the plants in continued active growth and allowing them to reach their maximum potential size.

Work made possible with a generous donation from Jeanie and Michael Gleason.

Board Elects New Officers

The new officers were elected at the meeting in December.



David M. Hollo
Chair



Catherine B. Berges
Vice Chair



Ward M. Klein
Vice Chair



The first plant display will be located just north of the Victorian Garden

Victorian District Work Starting This Spring

Work will begin this spring on the first of several new plant displays in the Lichtenstein Victorian District. The new displays will show the progression of landscape styles during the Victorian era, highlighting formal bedding, the wild garden, and the

cottage garden style. They will also illustrate the history of plant collecting and botanical gardens from the 1500s to the present.

Additional special funding opportunities for the Victorian District gardens are available. For more information, please contact Brenda Zanola, Major and Planned Giving Officer, at bzanolam@mobot.org or (314) 577-0879.

Horticulture staff are working on the grounds, behind the scenes, and across the globe to identify and care for plants. Support their work and the beauty of the Garden with a special gift today! www.mobot.org/donate.

Made possible with a generous donation from Dr. and Mrs. Carl E. Fichtel.

\$65,000

raised by the Young Friends of the Garden in 2017 for Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden

The Young Friends of the Garden raised more than \$65,000 in 2017 to support the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden through five events. This brings the Young Friends total support of the Children's Garden to more than \$200,000 in four years. The Young Friends Council has already planned four events for 2018 to continue the success of this five-year commitment to our youngest visitors. The Garden is proud to recognize the Young Friends for this support and grateful for their impact. For more details, please visit www.mobot.org/youngfriends.

Celebrating Earth's Pollinators

Project Pollinator, a community gardening initiative, is celebrating two years of promoting an appreciation of all pollinators through education and the creation of pollinator gardens in St. Louis County. The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House leads this project in partnership with St. Louis County Parks, St. Louis County Libraries, and Greenscape Gardens. Project Pollinator is holding a free event on March 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. More information at www.butterflyhouse.org/projectpollinator.



47,105

new record number of member households

Look at you grow! The Garden's membership program is now more than 47,000 households strong—the biggest we've ever been! Thank you for all you do to support the Garden and our global mission.

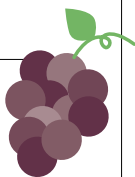


Garden Receives Partners Award

The Missouri Department of Conservation presented the Garden with its Private Land Services Division Partners Award, which recognizes the Garden's role in the partnership with the City of St. Louis, Green City Coalition, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, St. Louis Development Corporation, and Washington University (see page 16). The Garden helps to implement plant-based solutions benefitting urban parks, schools, and neighborhoods and to build capacity with residents toward citizen stewardship.

Garden's Grapes Display To Be Updated

The native grapevine display in the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening will be changing this spring. It is part of a multi-year project in partnership with Saint Louis University, Missouri State University, and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, among others. The goal is to understand how rootstock grafting affects responses to stressful environmental conditions. This research may help inform sustainable agriculture practices for the future. The new display will feature native and cultivated grapes as well as experimental grapevines grafted on a specially designed cross of Missouri native rootstock (*Vitis rupestris* × *Vitis riparia*). Missouri-native grapes have adapted to extremely hot and humid summers and cold winters and are tolerant of pests to which ungrafted cultivated grapevines are susceptible. To learn more, visit www.discoverandshare.org.



Garden for the World Update

The Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery (pictured above) continues to make progress, with Phase 1 projected to be completed in late April and Phase 2 starting soon after. Major projects in Phase 2 will include construction of the head house and the exterior shade structure.

The Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum is set to reopen this spring. Closed to the public since 1982, except for special events such as Henry Shaw's birthday, the Sachs Museum now has a new addition on the east side that makes this historical building accessible to everyone. The newly recreated ceiling mural is truer to the original than ever before, and architectural features were also restored to create new exhibit space for some of the Garden's most precious collections (see page 10).

To learn more about these projects, visit www.mobot.org/fortheworld.



Alanna Slack and Rebecca Sucher (right) lead seed collecting training in Mauritius.

Providing Training To Help Save Endangered Trees

In November, the members of the Garden's Horticulture team led a training session in Mauritius as part of the Global Seed Conservation Challenge by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). The course focused on critically endangered trees, and it covered seed collection techniques, equipment needed for seed collection, and learning how to make an herbarium specimen.

Mauritius is considered a hotspot for rare and endangered species found nowhere else in the world. The small island has 24 tree species, each with fewer than 50 individuals reportedly remaining in the wild, which is why conservation of threatened trees there and in neighboring Madagascar is a priority for both the Garden and BGCI.

Herbarium Undergoes Retrofitting To Improve Access

From October to December of last year, 10 compactors in the Garden's Herbarium in the Lehmann Building were retrofitted from electrical to manual drives. After more than 40 years of use, the operational reliability and costly repairs to the electrical/motor-drive compactors had limited the access to 2.5 million out of the nearly 7 million herbarium specimens housed here. The Garden's Herbarium, one of the largest in the world, contains specimens that document the variety of plant life on Earth. It is an invaluable scientific resource used by Garden staff, students, and researchers from around the world. This infrastructure improvement continues the Garden's long-term commitment to provide safe and reliable access to the specimens under its care.

Visit the Herbarium and learn about the Garden's research during the Science and Sustainability Open House ([see page 8](#)).

Made possible through a grant from National Science Foundation.



There were a number of individuals labeled as *D. umbraculifera* growing in botanical gardens, including in the Garden's Climatron.

Genetic Tests Lead to Rediscovery

After using DNA testing, Garden researchers have discovered a plant thought to be extinct in the wild, *Dracaena umbraculifera*. A number of plants were labeled as *D. umbraculifera* from Mauritius growing in botanical gardens around the world, but the tests indicated *D. umbraculifera* is more closely related to *Dracaena reflexa* from Madagascar than to Mauritian *Dracaena*. Armed with that information, researchers conducted field expeditions in Madagascar, ultimately discovering five wild populations. They concluded the species' status under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List should be "Critically Endangered" rather than "Extinct."

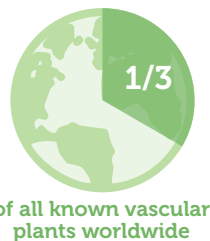
This study highlights the importance of living collections in botanical gardens. The genetic analysis of these plants can play an important role in making new discoveries, especially with poorly known species. "It is particularly exciting because it is rare to have the opportunity to rediscover a species that hasn't been seen in the wild for 200 years," says Dr. Christine Edwards, Conservation Geneticist and lead author of the paper published in the journal *Oryx* earlier this year.

Floras vs. Catalogs vs. Checklists

- ✓ **Flora:** comprehensive works that include descriptions, some synonymy and type information, references, specimen citations, maps, and illustrations.
- ✓ **Catalog:** lists of species names with condensed information that may include synonymy, references, habit, habitat, elevation, distribution, and conservation status.
- ✓ **Checklist:** simpler listings of species names and distributions. Due to their similarity and conciseness, catalogs and checklists are often used interchangeably in the botanical community.

All Plants of the Americas In One Place

For the first time, scientists have an overview of all the vascular plants in the Americas. This is thanks to the efforts of Curator Dr. Carmen Ulloa, the lead author of the paper published in the journal *Science* in December. Dr. Ulloa, along with 23 co-authors, compiled a comprehensive, searchable checklist of vascular plants in the western hemisphere. The Garden's plant database, Tropicos®, was used as the project's data repository. "It represents not only hundreds of years of plant collecting and botanical research, but also the 6,164 botanists who described species that appear on this list," Dr. Ulloa says. "It is vital we have this information so that we know what each species is for conservation purposes."



124,993
species

6,227
genera

355
families



World Flora Online Continues Progress

Garden representatives traveled to Paris in November for the latest meeting on the World Flora Online (WFO). There, it was determined that the WFO would populate the Catalogue of Life, a global database of the world's known species of animals, plants, fungi, and micro-organisms. With the public portal now live at www.worldfloraonline.org, the WFO project is on track to meet its goal of providing a uniform baseline for the estimated 400,000 accepted plant species worldwide by the year 2020. The next meeting in June will take place in Colombia.

Made possible with the support of the Monsanto Company.



Mega Collector

Dr. Thomas Croat
Senior Curator

In 2007, Dr. Tom Croat, P.A. Schulze Curator of Botany, became one of a handful of botanists ever to collect 100,000 specimens. The specimen from Ecuador was a new species of gigantic *Anthurium* with leaves 4 feet long. Over the course of his 50 years at the Garden, Dr. Croat has collected plants from more than 30 countries and described at least 3,000 new species, most of them in the aroid family (Araceae). He is considered the leading aroid expert and has helped build the Garden's aroid collection into one of the largest ones in the world.

Dr. Croat lived in Panama in the 1960s and 70s working on an inventory of its flora. "I didn't know it at that time that I was collecting nothing but new species," he says. Today, he and his team of more than 25 volunteers continue describing new species.

On April 27, the *Flora of Panama* comes full circle, so to speak, as Dr. Croat delivers the 30th annual **John Dwyer Lecture in Biology** in the Shoenberg Theater at 4 p.m. The lecture honors the memory of Dr. John Dwyer, a professor of biology at Saint Louis University and research associate of the Garden. Dr. Dwyer had an interest in tropical plants, especially those in Panama. He and Dr. Croat worked together on several expeditions, and both contributed to the *Flora of Panama*, published between 1943 and 1981.

To learn more about the Garden's historical aroid collection, [see page 14](#).

what can you do?



Come Grow with Us!

The Missouri Botanical Garden, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, and Shaw Nature Reserve are more than just beautiful destinations. They are living classrooms that connect people of all ages to the wonderful world of plants—from cooking, painting, and photography courses to green living, outdoor exploring, and gardening classes.

Registration for the spring/summer session is now open, and we have a class for everyone. Now is the perfect time to learn a new skill, discover a new passion, or connect with the nature in a whole new way.

Look for your course catalog in the mail or visit www.mobot.org/classes.



Learn about the Garden's sustainability efforts.

Attend the Science and Sustainability Open House

On March 3 and 4 from 1 to 4 p.m., two of the Garden's rarely seen behind-the-scenes areas will be open to the public.

Meet our scientists at the Monsanto Research

Center and learn how they collect, study, and conserve plants. Tour our herbarium, which contains almost 7 million specimens, and visit the Peter H. Raven Library, one of the most comprehensive libraries of botanical literature in the world, including more than 6,500 rare books.

You can also learn about the Garden's sustainability programs by joining EarthWays Center staff at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education. Meet the team that educates and connects people to 20+ programs in the community. Discover how the Garden is making St. Louis greener, with environmental classes and programs for schools, businesses, individuals, and families.

The two locations are across the street from each other, just a couple of blocks west of the main Garden entrance. You can park at the Garden or at either of the two sites and walk to both places. The event is free and open to the public. For more info, visit www.mobot.org/openhouse.



April 7–8 | 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Missouri Botanical Garden | Shaw Nature Reserve | Butterfly House

www.mobot.org/meetmeoutdoors

Get outside and play! Climb into the tree canopy, try stand-up paddleboarding, or take a nature scavenger hunt to kick off spring. Enjoy food, music, special exhibitors, and more at three of the St. Louis area's most beautiful destinations.

Sponsorship by Macy's.

Take The City Nature Challenge

The City of St. Louis and the Garden's BiodiverseCitySTL network will join 64 other cities around the world in the third annual City Nature Challenge happening April 27–30. The competition, organized by the citizen science team at iNaturalist, aims to see which city and/or region can document the most species over a four-day period. The two primary goals of the STL City Nature Challenge are to increase eco-literacy and collect urban biodiversity data. For more information on how you can participate, visit www.inaturalist.org.

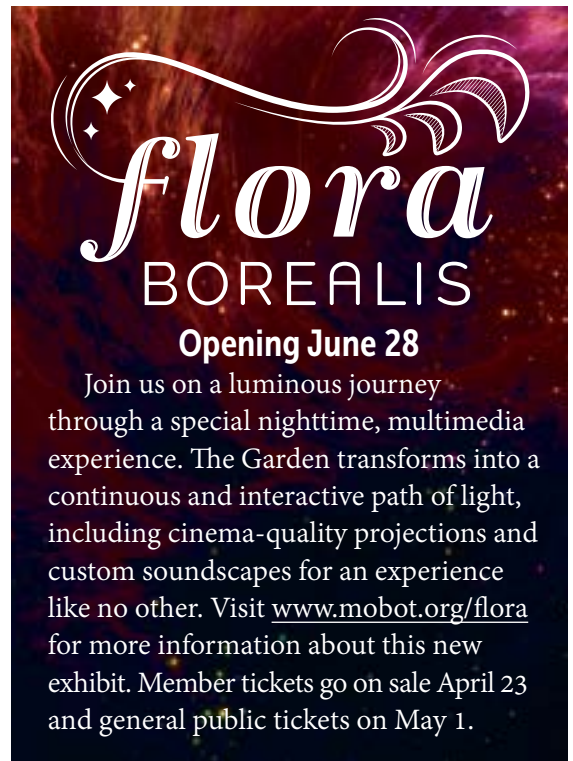
photo by Sheridan Henrichv, Tom Incrocci, and Christopher Gibbons

Sake and Sakura

Celebrate the beauty of spring and the season of *hanami* by sipping sake under the cherry blossoms (*sakura*) in the Japanese Garden on April 7 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Specialists will be on hand to guide your sake sampling adventure. Attendees will receive a keepsake tasting cup and will have the rare opportunity to explore Teahouse Island. Five sake samples are included with admission. Additional sake and traditional Japanese cuisine will be available for purchase. \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers. Tickets and information at www.mobot.org/events.

Have a scout in your family?

Would they like to work on scouting awards while having fun at Shaw Nature Reserve? Check out the all-new Scout Day on May 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is open to all St. Louis-area scouting organizations and families, and it includes scouting award work with Garden professionals, nature and STEM-based activities with partner organizations, tree climbing, and more. \$5 per person, ages 3 and up. Information and registration at www.mobot.org/scouts. Pre-registration required by May 11.



flora BOREALIS

Opening June 28

Join us on a luminous journey through a special nighttime, multimedia experience. The Garden transforms into a continuous and interactive path of light, including cinema-quality projections and custom soundscapes for an experience like no other. Visit www.mobot.org/flora for more information about this new exhibit. Member tickets go on sale April 23 and general public tickets on May 1.

METAMORPHOSIS

celebrating 20 years *Gala*

The Butterfly House is going through a metamorphosis! Join us for a celebration of the last 20 years and help us roar into the next 20! Save the date for June 23 and toast to us as we enter a new age of prosperity at the Butterfly House. Proceeds will support the building of a new, expanded entomology lab. More information at www.butterflyhouse.org/gala.



Give the Gift of the Garden

Consider a gift of Garden membership to honor a beloved educator, as a unique wedding present, or as a gift for Mom. Order by April 25 to ensure delivery by Mother's Day. Visit www.mobot.org/membership, call (314) 577-5118, or visit the Membership Services Desk to purchase a gift membership.



Grab Your Shoes and Run with the Garden

Don't miss these fun 5K runs surrounded by nature's stunning landscapes. For tickets and more information, visit www.mobot.org/run. Advance registration required.

Daffodil Dash
April 7 | 9–10 a.m. | Shaw Nature Reserve
\$20 members; \$24 nonmembers. All proceeds benefit Shaw Nature Reserve.

Tulip Trot
April 29 | 7–9 a.m. | Missouri Botanical Garden
Presented by Macy's.
\$30 members and virtual runners; \$40 nonmembers.

Run, Walk, Stretch!
August 19 | 7–9 a.m. | Missouri Botanical Garden
New! Join the Garden and YogaBuzz for a healthy morning of running, walking, and yoga. \$30 members and virtual runners; \$40 nonmembers.



EXTRA ORDINARY THINGS

*collections were the precursors of museums,
and the Garden, a museum of plants, exists today
thanks to its invaluable collections*

photos by marissa billmeyer and jered willis



(left) Collecting, curating, and organizing the range and diversity of the plant world is no small task, but it is at the core of the Garden's mission. The Garden's living collections encompass thousands of plant specimens maintained by the Garden's horticulturists, and they include common and familiar plants as well as rare and endangered species from across the world.

(above) Many, many thousands of plants are used by people. Food plants alone number well over 20,000 species. Additionally, plants are used for medicines, oils, latex, resins, perfumes, fibers, dyes, tannins, ornamentals, and many more products. These plant artifacts make up the Garden's biocultural collections, which are organized both by plant species and by artifact.

"In my opinion, the most ordinary things, the most common and familiar, if we could see them in their true light, would turn out to be the grandest miracles of nature and the most marvelous examples, especially as regards the subject of the action of men."

Michel de Montaigne (1533–1592)

Throughout history, people have been driven to collect objects, from sea shells and acorns to baseball cards and paintings. Objects are usually displayed in an organized way meant to make sense of the world or inspire wonder. You may have a collection of your own and not think of it as something of value beyond your personal enjoyment. But did you know that private collections were the precursors of museums?

Collections start with the drive to seek, sort, and preserve interesting things. No matter what the objects are, collecting is a natural part of the human experience. During the Renaissance, as Europeans discovered new people and places, they amassed large collections of objects, particularly those found in nature. Early "natural philosophers," the forerunners of today's scientists, often collected "curiosities" so they could study them.



There's more to the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House than butterflies. Its mission is "to foster a greater understanding of plant and animal relationships in the environment in order to promote the conservation and restoration of natural habitats." This is reflected in its collections—alive and dried—of insects of all kinds that play important roles in keeping ecosystems healthy.

By the 17th century, the word “museum” had come to describe these collections of curiosities. During the Victorian era—Henry Shaw’s time—entire rooms were dedicated to displaying these collections. Curiosity cabinets, as they were known, represented a miniature version of the world. In the case of natural objects, private collections first became natural history museums and research collections.

Past Meets Present

The Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum reopens to the public this spring after more than a year of construction and rehabilitation work. Closed to the public since 1982, the museum is one of the Garden’s most iconic buildings, with a strong connection to Garden founder Henry Shaw’s vision for the Missouri Botanical Garden.

When Shaw sought advice from Sir William Jackson Hooker, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to

create a world-class botanical institution, Hooker advised him to create a library and museum to support the Garden’s botanical scientific research. The museum, which opened in 1859, housed the Garden’s original library, herbarium, and natural history specimens.

When Shaw’s scientific advisor George Englemann traveled to Europe in 1857, he purchased approximately 40,000 herbarium specimens from the Jacob Bernhardt estate. This herbarium collection, along with other botanical books he brought back to the Garden, were the first collections housed in the museum. Through the years, other collections were added, including taxidermy from the Western United States, seeds, pinecones, fungi, items from around the world made of plant material, and economic botany items. Over time, the museum was used for meetings, office space, and even a restaurant until it closed to the public for safety reasons.



The Garden and St. Louis's rich histories are intrinsically connected. Henry Shaw's historic collection, on display at Tower Grove House, helps share the unique journey of a man building a cornerstone in the community. Items like the fine silverware represent the era in which the Garden began to grow, feeding some of St. Louis's most historically influential people.

When Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson became president of the Garden in 2010, he recognized the building's historical importance and called for its renovation and restoration. By returning to its roots of housing some of the Garden's most precious—and curious—collections, the renovated space will deepen understanding among visitors of the importance of plants and provoke critical thinking about sustainability, biodiversity, and other topics. Displays will include materials and artifacts in the Garden's collections not currently available to the public. The collections include exquisite botanical art as well as objects and new discoveries collected through the Garden's research and conservation programs around the world.

"The Garden's collections represent one of the finest botanical research centers and richest assemblages of plants in the world. Their diversity makes possible so much of the Garden's scientific research, plant conservation, and education."

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson

Museum Grand Reopening

Saturday, April 28 | 6:30–8 p.m.

Join Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson for the grand reopening and ribbon-cutting of the Sachs Museum. View the new amenities and the restoration of the historic structure. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

Collect and Share

Do you collect something? Share photos of your collections using the hashtag #collectandshare or visit www.mobot.org/collections.



An *Anthurium andraeanum*, commonly known as "flamingo flower," displaying its bright and colorful red spathe in the Garden's Climatron.

it's all in the
FAMILY

while they may seem
common, there is still much
to discover about aroids

If you have any houseplants, chances are at least one of them is an aroid. Anthuriums, peace lilies, pothos, and Chinese evergreens are some of the most common houseplants. They may appear to be different, but if you look closely, they have the defining characteristics of the plants in the aroid family, Araceae: an usually colorful spathe and a finger-like spadix, technically known as the inflorescence or commonly referred to as a "flower."

Aroids make excellent houseplants. They require minimal care and have very attractive foliage. This plant family is also one of the most diverse. It includes terrestrial and aquatic plants, climbers and epiphytic ones, ones with large leaves and ones with leaves smaller than the size of a quarter. They are found in many parts of the world, with the majority of them found in the New World tropics. They are, however, understudied. "The aroids still remain, after my 50 years studying them, the single most poorly known family that I know of—and I know a lot of families," says Dr. Tom Croat, P.A. Schulze Curator of Botany and one of the world's leading experts in Araceae ([see page 7](#)).



Collecting, growing, and studying hundreds of aroids at the Garden is truly a team effort. (from left) Dr. Monica M. Carlsen, Assistant Scientist and Education Coordinator; Steve Aylward, volunteer; Emily Colletti, Horticulturist; Dr. Tom Croat, Senior Curator; Carla Kostelac, Research Specialist; David Belt, volunteer.

The Garden and Aroids

The first photographic evidence of live aroids at the Garden is dated 1898. Over the years, the collection has grown to more than 3,000 plants representing almost 60 genera and more than 700 species living both on grounds and in the greenhouses. There are over 80,000 dried specimens in the Herbarium, with hundreds more waiting to be identified and cataloged for future research. Together, the two collections represent one of the most comprehensive tools in the world available to study Araceae.

Many plants in the living collection remain unidentified and are likely new to science. There have been times when new aroid species were first discovered in the greenhouse because many of the collections were brought back from the wild as sterile or young plants. “With most of the areas where I was collecting being destroyed,” says Dr. Croat, “it was useful to salvage the living material for study.” He visits the greenhouse frequently, focusing on the “unidentified” section, to pull specimens to bring back to his office. There, he and a team of volunteers will compare the living plant with the dried herbarium specimens and determine if it’s a new species.

Horticulturist Emily Colletti has worked alongside Dr. Croat for the past two decades caring for the living aroid collection. She has come to know each plant very well, understanding that while aroids are easy to grow (remember those popular houseplants?), they do require unique conditions to thrive. Some plants do well in the Climatron while others do better in the greenhouses, for example. More importantly, Colletti notes, maintaining and growing the living aroid collection is crucial because their seeds can’t be frozen or stored long-term for future research and conservation purposes. “These living specimens are all we have, and in some cases, they may be the last of their species,” she says.

STINKY AROIDS

While you may be familiar with the aroids in your house, this family has other notable species, including the corpse flower, or titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*). This infamous smelly bloom, considered a giant in the aroid family, blooms only rarely and under just the right conditions. The Garden has in cultivation three of blooming size and a dozen smaller, newly propagated specimens of this species, which is rare in the wild. Since 2012, the Garden has hosted an unprecedented eight flowerings, the latest in 2017.

The titan arum genus (*Amorphophallus*) also provides interesting research opportunities regarding odors. A study published in 2017 found a great variety of odors in the genus, including some that resemble those of rotting meat, fish, cheese, anise, or even fruits. A recent collaboration with Maryville University has also opened another area of research using the Garden’s collections to study the role of smell in plant reproduction.

To learn more about other stinky aroids in the Garden’s living collection, visit www.discoverandshare.org.



See Them

Go to the Climatron, William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening, English Woodland Garden, Linnean House, and Shoenberg Temperate House.



Learn More About Them

Take a tour of the Garden’s historical aroid collection during Meet Me Outdoors In St. Louis on April 7 and 8.



Grow Them

Gardening help is available at www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp and by calling (314) 577-5143 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Garden Gate Shop also has aroids for your house and books on houseplant care.

Support Horticulture and the Beauty of the Garden

Horticulturists work on the grounds, behind the scenes, and across the globe to care for plants. Support their work by making a special gift at www.mobot.org/donate.



PLANTS *connect us all*

seizing every opportunity to cultivate a love for nature

Our Lady of the Holy Cross was built in 1909 in the historical Baden neighborhood in North St. Louis City. More than a church, it is a community hub for its residents. Since 2015, the church has also been a key partner of the Garden, Missouri Department of Conservation, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Washington University, and other community organizations in the efforts to address flooding problems and revitalize neighborhoods by turning flooding-prone vacant lots into vibrant green spaces.

Over the years, community leaders witnessed how some of the Garden-led projects—a community garden and planting native trees at the local park—can bring people together, connect them to nature, and improve the community’s well-being. So this year, Revitalization of Baden is taking the lead in turning underutilized green space, including the church grounds, into biodiversity-rich landscapes. “The Garden staff’s enthusiasm, which is so often on display as they collaborate with area residents, is truly an inspiration to all of us,” says Father Vince Nyman, pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Cross church.

That enthusiasm shows because at the Missouri Botanical Garden, we love plants. Actually, we’re obsessed with them. This obsession crosses species (and genus and family), spans the globe, and is unparalleled in scope. In fact, the Garden is one of just a handful of entities on the planet working on the front lines to discover, document, restore, and conserve life on Earth, specifically plants, before it’s too late.

It is thanks to partnerships like this one in the Baden neighborhood that we are able to share our mission in the community. We share this love with you and millions more every year through experiences—both formal and informal—designed to engage, educate, and inspire. It is through its unique, intentional, and potent combination of plant science, horticulture, sustainability, education, and outreach that the Garden effects lasting change in communities in which it works.

But we can’t do it alone. We—us, you, our friends and family, our neighbors, even strangers we’ve never met—need to make a sharp turn toward a better, more sustainable world for all. The status quo just isn’t cutting it. Masses of us must start shifting our choices, decisions, lifestyles, habits, priorities, roles, and responsibilities as citizens of the world, and quickly. The Garden continues to build upon its core commitment to plant science and conservation to work with people and communities near and far. We see a more diverse, colorful, thriving, living world on the horizon—and we invite everyone everywhere to join in so we can get there together.

Together and today, we can transform landscapes and lives in ways that achieve greater quality of life for all. Every single one of us is—or can be—a citizen steward. Sometimes all it takes is to plant the seed. “We very much appreciate the effort made by those who have participated in the garden programs in this area,” Father Nyman says. “We cannot thank you enough.”

◀ A Garden-led program in 2016 where the Baden community came together to plant native trees in Dickman Park.

just for members



Member Speaker Series: Tower Grove Park Past, Present, and Future

March 13 | 11 a.m.–noon
Bill Reininger, Executive Director of Tower Grove Park, will discuss the Park's history, its connections to the Garden, and plans for the future. Reservations required; space is limited.

Eggstravaganza

March 24 | 9:30 a.m.–noon
Join us for a members-only egg hunt! Egg hunts are offered every 30 minutes and are divided by age group (2–3 years, 4–6 years, and 7–12 years). Includes refreshments and pictures with Hopsy, the Garden bunny. Don't forget your basket for the egg collecting! Reservations required.

Member Speaker Series: Seasonal Bulbs

April 10 | 11 a.m.–noon | Shoenberg Theater
Jason Delaney, owner of Professional Horticulture Services and former Garden horticulture supervisor, will offer tips for selecting, planting, and designing with a variety of his favorite perennial flowering bulbs. Reservations required; space is limited.

Herb Days

Member Night
April 26 | 5–8 p.m. | Ridgway Visitor Center
Shop more than 120 new and hard-to-find varieties of herbs. Live music, tastings, and other activities included. Free and for members only.



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Information and registration at (314) 577-5118 or www.mobot.org/memberevents unless otherwise noted.



Member Speaker Series: French Kitchen Gardens from Versailles to Villandry
May 8 | 11 a.m.–noon | Shoenberg Theater

Join Dr. Eric T. Haskell, Director of the Clark Humanities Museum, for a look at the history and aesthetics of historic French kitchen gardens, known as *potagers*. Reservations required; space is limited.

Little Shop Around the Corner Member Open House

May 10 | 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
 For members only!
 Stop by the Little Shop Around the Corner Open House for 40% off all high-quality antiques and collectibles. Light refreshments provided.

Shaw Wildflower Market Member Preview

May 11 | 2–7 p.m. | Shaw Nature Reserve
 Members enjoy first pick of hundreds of varieties of Missouri native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs. Enjoy local food and beverages, craft and garden tool vendors, as well as live music. Free and for members only.

Member Speaker Series: All About Annuals

May 24 | 11 a.m.–noon | Shoenberg Theater
 Join Garden horticulturist Josh Higgins for a look at some new and most reliable annuals, and learn how to select, grow, and integrate them into your home garden. Reservations required; space is limited.

photos by Tatyana Tsiubushok, Mitzi Streeper, Lisa DeLorenzo Hager, and Sundos Schneider

special events



Orchid Nights

March 8 and 22 | 6–8 p.m.

Ridgway Visitor Center

Exclusive lighted viewings of the Orchid Show, live music, wine tastings, and a cash bar. Ticket includes choice of one signature cocktail or one beer/wine. \$15 members; \$20 nonmembers. www.mobot.org/orchidshow.



Chinese Culture Days

April 21–22

This annual celebration features a Grand Parade with 70-foot dancing dragon, authentic regional cuisine, interactive dance and acrobatics, and special tours in the Grigg Nanjing Friendship Garden. \$7 members; free for Festival level and above; free for member children; \$15 nonmembers; \$7 nonmember children (ages 3–12).

www.mobot.org/chineseculturedays

Morpho Mardi Gras

Now–March 31 (closed Mondays)

10 a.m.–3 p.m. | Butterfly House

Bring your Krewe to the carnival!

Join the party, see bugs on parade, make a masquerade mask, and immerse yourself in a sea of blue as we fill the tropical conservatory with thousands of blue morpho butterflies.

Included with admission.



Herb Days

April 27–28 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Orthwein Floral Display Hall

Presented by the St. Louis Herb Society

Shop more than 100 varieties of herbs! Included with admission; free for members. Members also get first pick on April 26 (see page 19).



Pollinator Plant Sale–NEW!

April 7–8, 14–15, and 21–22

11 a.m.–3 p.m. | Butterfly House

Let our experts help you plan your garden with native plants that benefit butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. All plant sale proceeds benefit Project Pollinator (see page 9). Free for members; included with admission for nonmembers.

Tulip Trot

April 29 | 7–9 a.m.

Presented by Macy's.

Join the Young Friends for a spring morning fun run. Follow a 5K course through the Garden at your own pace; no clock, no winners. All participants receive an event run shirt. \$30 members and virtual runners; \$40 nonmembers. Advance registration required:

www.mobot.org/tuliptrot.



Grapes in the Garden

May 11 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Presented by Schnuck Markets, Inc.

Join us for a special evening at the Garden and sample fine wines and gourmet foods. Attendees must be at least 21. \$35 members; \$45 nonmembers; \$15 designated driver. Tickets required: www.mobot.org/grapes.



May 18 | 6–9 p.m.

Fest-of-Ale moves to the spring for the 11th annual celebration of local brews. Ticket price includes commemorative tasting glass, unlimited sampling, and live music. Food for purchase. Attendees must be at least 21. \$30 members; \$40 nonmembers; \$15 designated driver. Advance registration required: www.mobot.org/festofale.

From gardening tools and unique toys to vintage items and local products, the Garden shops have just what you're looking for.

Look for these icons to know where each event or sale is taking place.



Garden Gate Shop

4344 Shaw Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63110
Monday–Sunday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(314) 577-5137



Butterfly House Gift Shop



15193 Olive Blvd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Tuesday–Sunday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(314) 577-9477



Little Shop Around the Corner


4474 Castleman Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110
Tuesday–Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.
(314) 577-0891

Member Rewards Card at the Butterfly House

Did you know that, in addition to the Garden Gate Shop, you can use your Member Rewards Card at the Butterfly House Gift Shop? For every \$25 you spend at both shops, you earn a punch. A fully punched card is worth \$40 in either shop. Special events when members earn double punches are site-specific. Look for the symbols   in the calendar insert.

Did You Know

First Fridays

First Friday of the month | 

Discover something new—from book signings to food samplings to trunk shows. More at www.mobot.org/shop.

Around the World Wine Dinners

Third Thursday of the month | March–October | 6:30 p.m. | Spink Pavilion

Travel to wine-producing regions through a five-course dinner paired with a different wine from the same region. \$70 (plus 18% service charge and tax). Advance reservations required: (314) 577-0200.

Café Flora

March 25–October 28 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m. | Saturdays and Sundays | Spink Pavilion




Enjoy a delicious brunch at the iconic Spink Pavilion. Call (314) 961-7588 ext. 265 for more information.

Special Brunches at Sassafras

Easter | April 1 | 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Mother's Day | May 13 | 10 a.m.–3 p.m.


Celebrate these special days with brunch at Sassafras, the Garden's café. Price per event: \$34.95 adults, \$15.95 children (ages 5 to 12). Ticket includes same-day admission to the Garden. Advance reservations and payment required: (314) 961-7588 ext. 265.

Member Double Days

April 8–9 |   

All Garden members receive 20% off purchases or double card punches.

Little Shop Around the Corner After Tax Sale

April 17–22 | 

Members receive an additional 10% discount and nonmembers enjoy 10% off their purchases (no additional discounts apply). See shop for details.




Bookworm Brunch:

Featuring Rainbow Fish—New!

April 22 | 9–10:30 a.m. or noon–1:30 p.m.
Butterfly House



Rainbow Fish will be making a splash as we read a story, eat yummy food, and learn about awesome aquatic animals through crafts and activities. \$15 members; \$20 nonmembers; ages 12 months and under are free.

Staff and Volunteer Sale

June 6–8 |   


As a “thank you” for making the Garden a world-class institution, all Garden staff and volunteers receive an extra 10% off their purchases.

Trunk Shows

Green Earth Art | March 24–25 | 
Lisa Lohman | May 12–13 | 

Stop by from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and shop our popular trunk shows.

Little Shop Around the Corner Members Open House Sale

May 10 | 10 a.m.–6 p.m. | 

Members enjoy extended shopping hours and 40% off their purchases (no additional discounts apply). [See page 19](#) for more details.

» staff pick

Butterfly Ornament



Add a touch of blue to celebrate the beautiful Morpho butterfly with a glass ornament. This handmade glass piece

is a lovely seasonal accent for your home. Only \$15 with any purchase exclusively at the Butterfly House Gift Shop. While supplies last.

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October–December 2017.

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October–December 2017.

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In Memoriam: Emily "Nini" Keyes Barksdale

We honor the passing of Emily "Nini" Barksdale, wife of Emeritus Garden Trustee Clarence "Cedge" Barksdale. Nini and Cedge have been champions of the Garden for more than 50 years. Through that time, they have been generous members, campaign supporters, and welcome guests at special events. Cedge has been providing leadership through the Board of Trustees since 1964. Nini brought a special brightness to receptions and fundraising galas with her warm and gracious nature.

In addition to her enthusiastic support of the Garden, Nini served our community as a board member of the Junior League of St. Louis and the Woman's Exchange, where she also volunteered. The Garden is grateful for Nini's decades of friendship.



green today
greener tomorrow

The Missouri Botanical Garden strives to make the most sustainable choices possible to benefit people, plants, and the planet. That's why we offer an interactive online version of the *Bulletin* as well as a downloadable PDF. Sign up by sending an email to membership@mobot.org. Let us know if you'd like to forego your paper subscription.

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April 21-22

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