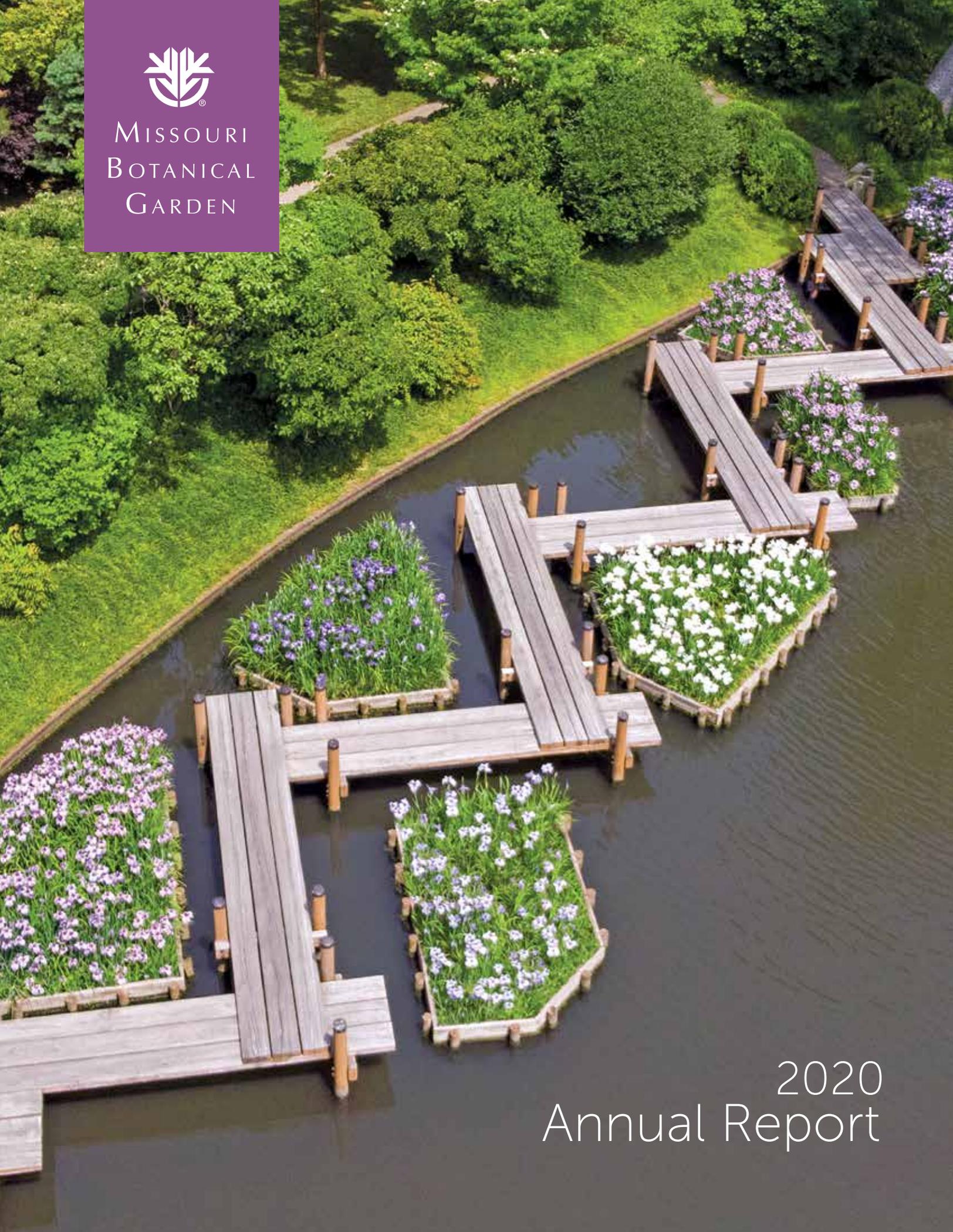




MISSOURI  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN



2020  
Annual Report

On the cover: Aerial view of the Zigzag Bridge, *Yatsushashi*, surrounded by Japanese water iris, *Iris ensata*, in *Seiwa-en*, the Japanese Garden.  
photo by Cassidy Moody

Page 1 (left to right): Golden chamomile, *Cota tinctoria*; Bakewell Ottoman Garden. Cactus, *Turbinicarpus* sp.; Garden greenhouses. Crabapple tree, genus *Malus* 'Cardinal'; blooms in the Maritz Apple Allée in the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening.  
photos by Cassidy Moody and Heather Marie Osborn

Back cover: Mosaic plant, *Fittonia albivenis*, on display in the Climatron.  
photo by Claire Cohen

Writer/Editor: Kristine Gruver

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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

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# From the President



This was a challenging year for the Missouri Botanical Garden, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, and Shaw Nature Reserve—as it was for all of you.

Through it all, the Garden has persevered. We pulled together without hesitation and navigated the year with determination and resilience—and with your support. We are so grateful for the generosity and concern of all of our donors, members, and friends. You are a part of the Garden family, and you have been here offering your support and encouragement to us through it all.

You are an integral part of our efforts, in 2020 more than ever before. Your support ensured that the Garden is undiminished as we climb out of this pandemic. You helped to guarantee that our mission would not falter.

As you will see in the pages to come, we made many advancements together in 2020. Our digital assets have grown, allowing our friends to be a part of the Garden from their homes, wherever they are in the world. We were pleased to see great increases in virtual visitors, whether it was to chat with entomologists, take virtual tours of spring blooms, engage in online classes and lectures, consult our science databases, or access home gardening resources.

Important science and conservation work continued too. While fieldwork was not possible, our researchers used the opportunity to complete important scientific publications. They added new resources to digital databases and described and published the names of more than 160 species new to science.

Horticulture focused on providing access to gardening resources and caring for our living collections with a reduced onsite team. The Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery expanded our greenhouse capabilities to enhance our diverse landscapes.

We continued to develop our visitor experience, confident that we would soon be welcoming guests in person once again. Construction began on important new projects: the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center at the Garden, the Ozark Ethnobotany Garden at the Nature Reserve, and the Entomology Lab at the Butterfly House.

I want to mention and acknowledge the incredible staff at the Garden. I am very proud of the way our team moved to advance the Garden's mission with creative solutions. Everyone pulled together to encourage and support one another, to care for and share the Garden.

Our staff worked without one of their primary supports—our volunteers. We are very sad that we could not have our volunteers onsite at the Garden's locations this year. For our volunteers' health and safety, it was decided not to have them onsite, but we keenly felt their loss and could not fill the hole left by their absence. We are eager to welcome them all back very soon!

Thank you again for all you do to support our mission and work here in St. Louis and across the globe. We truly could not do it without you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Wyse Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson  
President

# From the Chair



In my service as Chair of the Board of Trustees over the past few years, I have appreciated watching what the caring, professional team at the Missouri Botanical Garden can accomplish. I am particularly humbled by the way our staff, leadership, donors, volunteers, and members all worked together in 2020.

The successes of this past year reaffirm my trust in, and appreciation for, the Garden. As soon as COVID-19 was upon us, Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson and his team stepped up to lead through challenges previously unknown to us all. We focused on the two most valuable assets of the Garden: our living collections, and our people. At all times, Garden leadership focused on protecting the health and safety of our community and our staff.

We knew we needed one another more than ever to get through this pandemic. From the beginning, Dr. Wyse Jackson was adamant: develop a plan with no furloughs, no layoffs, no paycuts. And so we did. We sought and received a PPP loan. We cut expenses and looked for opportunities to save funds. We rearranged staff assignments.

Most importantly, you were there for us. Donors stepped up in dozens of ways to increase their support of the Garden at this critical time. With your support, our mission to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment continued to advance. The Garden staff were able to focus on caring for the plants and animals at the Garden, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, Shaw Nature Reserve, and Litzinger Road Ecology Center. Science and research work continued with adjustments. Education moved programs quickly into the virtual realm.

The past year has made abundantly clear how much your support means to the success of the Garden's mission. With you, we have been able to open the Garden once again for our donors, our members, and our visitors. You know the restorative power of nature and the peace that can be found on the Garden's familiar paths.

Your support makes these moments of joy and beauty possible. You are the lifeblood of the Garden, and we appreciate you. Thank you again.

David M. Hollo  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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Kristina DeYong interviews Derek Lyle for a Facebook Live virtual tour of the greenhouse.  
Deborah Lalumondier hosts a virtual tour of the Climatron for its 60th anniversary.

## Adapting our Work, Continuing our Mission

**T**he Missouri Botanical Garden, Shaw Nature Reserve, and Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House typically welcome more than one million visitors a year, attracted by the tranquility of nature, our horticultural displays, and our educational and recreational offerings. In 2020, the global pandemic made many of these visits impossible. Garden staff adapted their work to continue to discover information about plants, share our resources, and enrich lives.

These innovative solutions built on the Garden's existing digital platforms and global reach to bring the Garden's beauty and education to the St. Louis community and beyond. From social media platforms to scientific databases to horticultural resources, the Garden already had a robust digital presence serving millions of scientists, students, gardeners, and others. Garden staff expanded upon the success of these tools, creating more virtual assets for the public to learn and enjoy.

Beginning in March, the Garden's digital media specialists brought the Garden into homes through more than 60 Facebook Live video tours and "moments of zen" footage. These videos connected Garden members, friends, volunteers, and staff in real time and continued to educate and inspire the Garden's

social media following. Since March 2020, the number of Garden Facebook followers increased by 8.5 percent, and YouTube subscribers have nearly doubled.

The Garden's blog, Discover + Share, explored how critical conservation work adapted. Garden scientists connected with colleagues for research across the globe, but travel restrictions cancelled planned trips to Colombia, Madagascar, Guinea, Tanzania, and other biodiversity hotspots. The "stay at home" order also prevented researchers from accessing the Garden's Herbarium and labs.

Some researchers used this time to focus on data analysis, accessing and expanding existing Garden online plant resources including Tropicos® and our contributions to the World Flora Online. Others completed manuscripts to communicate the findings of their work. Sharing this science with our community brought new followers to the Discover + Share blog; more than 122,000 views represented a 60 percent increase from 2019, with more than 15,000 of those coming from outside the United States.

Some of the Garden's most beloved events had to be postponed in 2020. Traditions like Japanese Festival and the Whitaker Music Festival could not be held. Event partners



Visitors enjoyed the peacefulness of the Garden during the pandemic while following safety guidelines for everyone's health.

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"The Garden was one of many organizations that quickly understood the need to connect with people during an unprecedented global event," says Garden Trustee John Saunders, Chief Executive Officer of FleishmanHillard. "Transitioning to live videos and using existing social media channels allowed the Garden's audience to connect with the beauty and relaxation of nature, which we all realized we desperately need for our own well-being. The Garden was able to provide respite, recreation, and education for our St. Louis community and for viewers across the country and throughout the world."

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continued to support the Garden and its mission; the Whitaker Foundation demonstrated its commitment to enriching lives through the arts and provided funds to pay the musicians who would have performed during the summer shows.

Garden events also pivoted to function in a virtual world. In June, the EarthWays Center offered the annual Green Living Festival as the first virtual festival in Garden history. The event provided a series of online workshops, children's activities,

panel discussions, and exhibitor consultations. More than 1,200 viewers tuned in virtually to explore topics on green living, energy efficiency, and naturescaping.

The Garden's annual John Dwyer Public Lecture in Biology was live streamed for public viewing on the Garden's YouTube page. The monthly Member Speaker Series went virtual, welcoming hundreds of guests for each lunchtime presentation. An entirely new virtual Spotlight Series was created for the Garden Giving Societies to go behind the scenes for unique looks at the Garden's mission.

Whenever possible, in-person events were hosted and adapted to ensure the safety of visitors and staff. Summer Strolls and Member Preview Week brought members and guests back for peak water lily season. Booterfly House and Ghouls in the Garden offered socially distant, spooky fall fun. Garden Glow, presented by Wells Fargo, represented our greatest success. The holiday light exhibit was expanded for two additional weeks and brought more than 107,000 guests to the Garden for socially distanced winter fun.

"We were so pleased to support the incredible holiday tradition of Garden Glow for the first time in 2020," says Julie Bahr, Managing Director of Clayton Financial, one of the sponsors of the event. "In a season where many other traditions had to be modified or postponed, it was more important than ever for the Garden to offer this celebration to our community."



(clockwise from top) Rendering of the entrance to the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center due to open 2022; aerial view of the Temporary Visitor Center now open; Jack C. Taylor family and dignitaries at the February 27, 2020 groundbreaking.

## Gateway to the Garden

The entire entry experience of the Missouri Botanical Garden is undergoing a transformation. For more than five years, the Garden’s Board of Trustees worked to understand the needs of Garden visitors, critically reviewing the Garden entry experience, available amenities, and connection to the living collections. Studies confirmed that the Ridgway Visitor Center was no longer able to meet the needs of the Garden and its guests.

Garden Trustees then galvanized a plan to rethink the entry experience. Placing the Garden’s mission to discover and share information about the wondrous diversity of the botanical world as the focus of their plans, a new “Gateway to the Garden” took shape as the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center.

While many aspects of the Garden’s work had to be adjusted, adapted, or postponed throughout 2020, the Taylor Visitor Center project was able to move forward without interruption. Construction began on the first phase of the project in 2020, and the Garden formally broke ground with a ceremony on February 27.

Phase One of the Taylor Visitor Center included the creation of a new structure adjacent to the footprint of the existing Ridgway Visitor Center. This new structure will eventually serve as the Event Center of the Taylor Visitor Center. During construction, however, it will serve as the Temporary Visitor Center. The space includes scaled-down versions of the amenities Garden visitors expect: a ticket counter for admissions and membership services, barrier-free restrooms, a gift shop, and access to quick-service dining.

The new Event Center entry aligns with the historic Linnean House. During Phase One, the Linnean House conservatory was renovated and returned to its origins as an orangery and overwintering house. The entry experience now brings visitors through the Temporary Visitor Center to the historic conservatory's redesigned interior. A new doorway has been added on the north side of the building, aligning with the Temporary Visitor Center and the historic south doorway. Visitors to the renovated Linnean House will also find it more accessible. All four sides now have entrances, including two doorways at ground level, with no lip or sill to impede movement into the broader Garden beyond.

Creating the Temporary Visitor Center during Phase One means Garden guests will always have a permanent structure to welcome them when they visit. Phase One of the project was completed on time and on budget, opening for visitor use during Garden Glow.

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The Garden's living plant collections are among the most beautiful and diverse on the planet, and now visitors can more closely connect with them," says Ward Klein. "My wife Carol and I are proud to support this transformational project as the Garden engages visitors as never before.

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The central concept of the Taylor Visitor Center is to connect people with plants. It is designed to provide state-of-the-art amenities and equitable access for all visitors to the Garden's resources, programs, and displays. The bright and welcoming Temporary Visitor Center is a fine example of the way the full Taylor Visitor Center will be filled with natural light; the large, south-facing windows will be carried throughout the full Taylor Visitor Center footprint.

New entry gardens will also engage visitors with the beauty of plants before they even enter the building. When completed, the new entrance landscapes will include more than 30,000 individual plant specimens, representing 350 different species. Many of these specimens are currently being propagated at the Garden's Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery, and nearly half of the species represented will be new to the Garden's collections.

"The Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery is a key component of the Taylor Visitor Center project, and for the long-term success of the Garden's horticulture program," says Mark Kalk, Master Gardener and greenhouse volunteer. He and his partner Mark Lammert also have an interest in global plant conservation. "I was inspired to support this project after understanding the role the Oertli Nursery plays in the future of plant conservation and displays at the Garden."



LED lighting and misting equipment used for growing plants in the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery.

# Growth in Horticulture

Each year, the Missouri Botanical Garden Horticulture staff work to outdo themselves, building on the successes of prior years to grow bigger water lilies, improve on best practices for plant care, create diverse annual and perennial displays, help more home gardeners, and highlight and conserve rare plants.

In 2020, these goals did not change, even if the methods used to achieve them had to adapt to the realities of a global pandemic. The final Orchid Show in the Orthwein Floral Display Hall, for example, was enjoying record attendance until it was forced to close early due to the spring “stay at home” order in St. Louis.



The Garden was proud to honor the Orthwein Foundation with the prestigious Greensfelder Award in recognition of the Orthwein family's decades of support.

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“The floral shows in the Orthwein Floral Display Hall are always stunning,” says Nettie Orthwein Dodge, Director and President of the William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation. “The magical displays thrill visitors young and old. The beauty and diversity of the shows, and all the landscapes of the Garden, have been enjoyed by several generations of my own family, from my parents to their great-great grandchildren.”

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When the doors of the Garden closed in March, a skeleton crew of seven horticulturists stayed behind to care for the living collections—a task normally undertaken by 65 staff and 600 volunteers. The collection is one of the largest living collections in the world, containing 17,500 different taxa and more than 1,400 rare plant species. In addition to protecting these valuable plants, the Horticulture team also produced and planted the seasonal displays visitors are accustomed to enjoy at the Garden—quite the accomplishment.

Horticultural trips outside of St. Louis were, of course, cancelled. Most horticulturists who could not visit the Garden's sites in person turned their attention to database construction, particularly collecting data for the Garden's new targeting database. This tool helps prioritize species of interest across the United States, Caucasus region, Eastern Europe, Japan, and China. It uses information on threat status, climate suitability, presence in other garden collections, and more to aid in plant protection and increase the relevance of the Garden's living collections.

As construction moved forward for the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center, construction was also progressing for Phase Two of the Oertli Nursery. The headhouse, hoop houses, field production space, and irrigation system of Phase Two are critical for the Garden's future and the Taylor Visitor Center project. The Oertli Nursery is already home to more than 8,000 plants representing 300 species. When this phase of construction is complete, outdoor production areas will be able to support production of the 350 species and more than 30,000 individual plants needed for the Taylor Visitor Center landscape.



Phase Two construction of the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery.

Additional horticulture priorities advanced in 2020 include the native plant garden restoration in the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening. The project will update the 6,700-square-foot area to showcase the best ornamental natives for a home gardening landscape. The Garden is currently in the second phase of this three-year project, on time and under budget.

In addition to the native plant garden redevelopment, the Kemper Center for Home Gardening team focused on meeting the needs of home gardeners through virtual resources. Staff answered more than 9,000 questions from home gardeners, including a record number of email requests. The team also updated dozens of digital brochures to help gardeners grow everything from orchids to turf grasses to vegetables.

The horticulture team also continued to update and expand Plant Finder and the Living Collections Management System, tracking data for the thousands of individual plants across the Garden and sharing it with home gardeners, students, and colleagues.

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“Native plants are increasingly sought by home gardeners to create beautiful, sustainable gardens that increase the biodiversity of their own landscapes,” says Jennifer Smock, Manager of the Kemper Center for Home Gardening. “We are grateful to have the support of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for a demonstration garden that educates the St. Louis community on the possibilities of native plant gardening.”

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Renovation of the Lucy and Stanley Lopata Prairie Garden in the Kemper Center for Home Gardening in progress.

# World-Leading Plant Science

The Missouri Botanical Garden Science and Conservation team developed a new focus in 2020: remote collaboration. The coronavirus pandemic kept most of the team at home—without access to global field sites, the Herbarium, Peter H. Raven Library, laboratories, and living collections. So staff shifted focus.



Rita Chiodini mounts a new specimen.

Research staff worked on analyzing previously collected data and preparing results for publication. Plant mounters set up workstations and began mounting specimens at home. Herbarium assistants entered data from home offices. The result was a productive year, particularly in the realm of taxonomy.

*Taxonomy*, or describing and naming species that are new to science, is imperative to sharing knowledge and protecting plants. The majority of plant species being described today are in serious danger of extinction. Many unknown species face

anonymous extinction, disappearing before they even have a name.

These plants disappear before they can become resources for food, medicine, or other purposes. Garden staff are diligently working to find and name these plants. The Garden leads the world with an average of nearly 200 new plant species described per year, or about 10% of the species described worldwide on average.



*Diospyros hongwae*

In 2020, the Garden named more than 160 new plants, maintaining this leadership role. These include 10 new species of ebony from Madagascar. Garden botanists George Schatz and Pete Lowry's

decade-long study has nearly tripled the number of recorded species of ebony from about 85 to 250 species now recognized. In Madagascar, precious woods including ebony and rosewood are threatened by deforestation and illegal harvesting. The Garden is working to save these species.



*Heliophila goldblattii*

The mustard family includes more than 4,000 plant species, and Garden researcher Ihsan Al-Shehbaz has spent 53 years studying them. In 2020, he discovered 10 new species of the South African genus *Heliophila*. All 105 known

species of the genus are native to South Africa. No member of this genus is consumed by people, but several of the beautiful species are grown as ornamental plants.



*Blephilia woffordii*

Some new species are found closer to home. Garden researcher Aaron Floden discovered and named *Blephilia woffordii*, an odd-looking wood mint from Tennessee. It has only been found in four locations along the steep bluffs of a

six-mile stretch of the Caney Fork River. The plant will soon receive protected status in Tennessee. The species is now in cultivation in the Garden's Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery.



Once plants are discovered and named, they must also be shared. Major publications moved forward in 2020, including volumes of the *Flora of North America* and the *Flora Mesoamericana*. The final volumes of the *Flora of Costa Rica* were also published, completing a project begun in 1986 and providing information on 9,360 species. Costa Rica is less than a third the size of Missouri, so this is a staggering number of species when compared to about 2,000 species found in Missouri.

Global plant conservation reached a major milestone beyond these critical floras in 2020 as well. The United Nations Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) was launched in 2001 as a comprehensive global plan to safeguard the world's plants. A revised version for the period of 2011 to 2020 was adopted by almost all of the world's governments. The first GSPC target was to prepare an online "flora of the world" by 2020. The World Flora Online (WFO) project was launched in 2012. Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson serves as chair of the WFO with Dr. Pierre Andre Loizeau, Director of the Geneva Botanical Garden in Switzerland.



worldfloraonline.org

The WFO is now a consortium of more than 40 member institutions. The web database contains a comprehensive list of 1.3 million plant names, 500,000 descriptions of more than 133,000 plant species, with supporting images and other materials. This synthesis of regional floristic studies conducted over the last century provides the first comprehensive digital overview of the plant kingdom.

The Garden also played a leading role in the objectives, targets, and proposals for a post-2020 updated GSPC, including new plant conservation targets for 2030. The plan has been submitted to the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Furthering these global efforts, the Garden qualified as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List partner organization in 2020. The IUCN Red List is the most widely used system for assessing a species' risk of extinction.

Qualifying as a IUCN Red List partner provided training opportunities. Garden scientists have been preparing conservation assessments for more than 20 years. Several Garden scientists are now qualified as Red List Assessors, meaning that their contributions are accepted without external review and they have access to resources that assist with the process. Once a species is identified as threatened by these assessments, they become the focus of planned efforts to identify the measures to reduce threat and ensure these species survive.

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"The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation is committed to supporting internships for fieldwork at US-based research institutions in order to provide early scientists with the experiences that can really make a difference in their careers," says Rachel Strader, Executive Director of the Foundation. "We are pleased to partner with the Missouri Botanical Garden, providing funds to enable students in the Graduate Studies Program to complete field research crucial to their studies, career, and professional development."

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# Education and Sustainability

Education through the Missouri Botanical Garden is a rich and diverse tapestry of hands-on experiences, formal and informal programs, and engagement with the wonders of the natural world. In 2020, this entire approach had to be reconfigured. Fortunately, the Garden's talented and enthusiastic educators were up to the challenge.

When visitors could not come to the Garden's locations and enjoy programs in person, Garden educators took as many experiences as possible out into the community, often through virtual means.



*Nymphs of the Garden* exhibit in the Sachs Museum.

The iconic Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum is a spectacular setting for special exhibitions that explore the intersections of history, botany, art, horticulture, science, food, and the myriad other ways plants shape our lives. The intimate galleries were closed to meet public safety guidelines, so the Garden made the 2020 exhibition *Nymphs of the Garden: The Water Lilies by Arslan* available virtually.

A virtual tour of the Sachs Museum exhibition was created, with an accompanying exhibition publication for download. An exhibition video provided a closer look at the Garden's living water lily collection in conjunction with the Sachs Museum displays. Guided meditations and blog posts about Claude Monet's relationship to water lilies allowed virtual visitors to immerse themselves in the exhibition.

Other indoor Garden spaces had to pivot as well. On an average year, the historic Tower Grove House welcomes more than 80,000 visitors. In 2020, it welcomed fewer than 6,000 guests. Engaging, hands-on education spaces including the PlantLab, Brookings Exploration



Virtual tour of the historic Tower Grove House.

Center, and Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden had much the same challenge.

The Garden's Interpretation team moved to a variety of virtual platforms to connect with the public. They created a variety of interactive mobile experiences such as a Tower Grove House virtual tour, detecting "ABC" plants, and a nature scavenger hunt.

Through YouTube, they hosted the Dig In video series to explore topics typically shared onsite: soil science, wetland ecology, herbarium specimens, seed dispersal, and others. Tails and Trails, the Garden's summer reading program, encouraged kids to enjoy nature-themed books

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"This innovative approach to the Green Living Festival made valuable resources accessible for families across our community," says Rich Wright, Manager of Energy Efficiency and Demand Response for Ameren Missouri, presenting sponsor of the event. "The pandemic has prompted all of us to think more about our energy use, and this series of engaging and educational programs came at the perfect time to help families embrace energy efficiency and conservation."

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and Story Time videos featuring narration and animation of some local favorites.

Garden educators also offer hundreds of classes in a typical year. While many classes had to be cancelled, dozens moved successfully into the virtual classroom. Some programs included lists of materials, but others featured a prepared kit that could be picked up at the Garden and used safely at home during the program.

Over three days in June, educators in the EarthWays Center also hosted the first fully virtual Garden festival. The Green Living Festival provided a series of virtual workshops, children's activities, panel discussions, and exhibitor consultations. The festival was able to present fun and engaging programs that explored the links between sustainability, conservation at home, and a healthy environment.



(left) Doug Tallamy, entomologist and native plant promoter.



(right) Jean Ponzi, Program Manager of the EarthWays Center.

Community sustainability programs such as the Grow Solar St. Louis and Rainscaping efforts shifted to virtual orientations and systems as well. This adjustment allowed the benefits of those programs to continue for the community without interruption.

Educators keenly understood the importance of time in nature to reduce stress and improve overall well-being. In 2020, the therapeutic properties of engaging with nature were needed more than ever. In addition to the mindfulness videos prepared in collaboration with the Sachs Museum, the Therapeutic Horticulture team continued to provide programs for children in hospitals, cancer patients, and seniors in assisted living.



"BJC has had a productive long-term relationship with the Garden, particularly through Therapeutic Horticulture," says Catherine Powers, Clinical Nurse Specialist at BJC. "We wanted to provide our caregivers a moment of respite, and the Garden not only answered the call, they exceeded our expectations. They brought the peace and beauty of the Garden directly to those that work on the front line in a beautiful video."

A special video was created from the Journey to Well-Being program at the request of BJC. The video recreated the Wood Walk through *Seiwa-en*, the Japanese Garden, to provide a small respite for our essential healthcare workers. The program has been distributed to nearly 40,000 healthcare professionals and first responders across our community.

"The Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation is proud to be one of the funders of the Therapeutic Horticulture efforts at the Garden," say the Trustees of the Foundation. "We value this innovative and impactful program that offers creative and stimulating nature-based activities to provide healing connections with nature for children, adults, and seniors enduring serious illness, trauma and disabilities, and medical staff."



Summer sunset view of the Whitmire Wildflower Garden.

## Shaw Nature Reserve

The pandemic had one bright spot for Shaw Nature Reserve: an increase in visitors. As social-distancing guidelines kept venues closed across the region, the Nature Reserve provided a space for respite. A rising number of visitors, including many first-time member visitors, sought out the Nature Reserve as a place to refresh and escape safely into nature.

The Nature Reserve also worked hard to bring the diverse natural beauty of the landscapes to visitors in the St. Louis region and beyond with a collection of digital media outreach tools. In lieu of guided hikes, staff member Andy Klingensmith started the “Sights and Sounds Trail Series” Facebook group, which has more than 500 members and thousands of casual viewers. Each week, Andy posted virtual hikes through the Nature Reserve, and the group shares humor, hiking tips, and natural resource information.

Native plant sales are an important social event and revenue stream for the Nature Reserve. They also disperse native plants into our community. In May, the Nature Reserve held the first “plant pickup,” replacing the in-person event with an advance online sale. Plant buyers drove through the pick-up area at their scheduled time, and their purchases were loaded straight into their vehicles.

Ecological restoration and conservation did not pause at the Nature Reserve during the pandemic. Following all social distancing guidelines, particularly in offices and workspaces, the Nature Reserve team continued to manage the 2,400 acres of prairie, glade, wetland, and woodland under their care. Long-term funders continued to support ecological restoration work at the Nature Reserve, providing the foundation for this critical work.

A multiyear grant from The Bellwether Foundation allowed the Nature Reserve, in collaboration with the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development (CCSD), to continue to build capacity for ecological restoration. Building capacity for the next generation of land stewards is critically important to sustain biodiversity and reestablish healthy ecosystems where long-term degradation and rapid spread of invasive species has occurred.

Funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Fund focused on enhancing habitat for rare bat species. The Nature Reserve is home to at least nine species of bats, including



(clockwise from left) Whitmire Wonderlights offered visitors a beautiful evening stroll. A live-stream of a prescribed burn taught viewers how this process helps manage natural communities. Construction has begun on the Ozark Ethnobotany Garden.

the endangered gray bat and the endangered Indiana bat. The Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation provided the largest grant in their relationship with the Nature Reserve to support ecological restoration programs. The three-year grant includes funding for staff, equipment, and a new sustainable electric-powered utility vehicle.

The Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation has been the longest-standing supporter of ecological restoration at the Nature Reserve, dating back to the first prairie planting in 1979 and continuing through numerous additional projects. Most recently, the Foundation has made generous contributions to the Ecological Restoration Endowment at the Nature Reserve.

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“Shaw Nature Reserve is a great partner for advancing the preservation and restoration of native biodiversity,” says Andrew S. Love, Jr., president of the Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation. “We are proud to support these efforts and to help develop the Nature Reserve endowment. It is key to building the capacity to protect and conserve these natural communities for future generations.”

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In December, the Nature Reserve live-streamed a prescribed burn, providing a fascinating look into how this ecological management tool is used to enhance habitat and help control invasive species. The video had more than 10,000 views on Facebook and YouTube.

The Nature Reserve also began construction on an addition to the iconic Whitmire Wildflower Garden. The new Ozark Ethnobotany Garden will showcase useful native and heirloom plants that provide food, medicine, fiber, and dye. Visitors will learn about historical and contemporary uses of these plants by diverse cultures of our region.

Traditional formal gardens with paved walkways, arbors, and an outdoor harvest table will surround a small, historic log cabin within a stone wall. The reconstructed cabin will host classes and events.

The Whitmire Wildflower Garden also hosted the first Whitmire Wonderlights event this winter. Visitors enjoyed a mile-long evening stroll through the garden, lit by luminaries, and learned to make a botanical-inspired luminary at home. The new holiday event sold out in a matter of days.

“People saw the value of time in nature more than ever this year,” says Teresa Schulz, who serves on the Garden’s Members’ Board and attended the Nature Reserve event with her husband Dave, a former Members’ Board member. “Activities like the Wonderlights event provided a safe and beautiful way to experience the Nature Reserve.”



Blue clipper butterfly, *Parthenos sylvia*, rests on a flower in the Tropical Conservatory.

## Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House

At the smallest, most hands-on, and most indoor of the Garden's public venues, the staff of the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House had to become very creative throughout 2020. The first "stay at home" orders came during the popular Morpho Mardi Gras event. The Butterfly House quickly pivoted to offer virtual programs and other ways to keep the community connected.

The annual Pollinator Plant Sale became an online event, with two rounds of plant sales in April and May. The sale was presented and supported by Nestlé Purina, who also provided complimentary "Project Blossom" shirts for home gardeners working to provide habitat for pollinators in our community.

"Nestlé Purina recognizes the steps the Butterfly House team takes each year to provide healthy habitat for pollinators in our community," says Joseph Hitzler, Brand Manager at Purina. "We know 30 percent of food crops, such as pumpkin and cranberries, rely on pollinators. That's why we were excited to partner with the Butterfly House on the plant sale, which provided much-needed support to sustain our natural food supply."



Pollinator Plant Sale

The Butterfly House also started offering weekly "Snack Chats" in April, taking guests into the amazing world of insects. The 30-minute programs led by entomologists featured topics including what a butterfly eats, the lives of millipedes, how butterflies travel to St. Louis from Ecuador, scorpions and other predators, and identifying butterflies. The program also included a live Q&A session with the digital audience.

The reduced staff at the Butterfly House meant one entomologist was in the lab at a time, caring for and feeding thousands of butterflies, beetles, ants, cockroaches, tarantulas, scorpions, and

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"The new Entomology Lab will serve as a functional space for staff and volunteers to properly care for their invertebrate animal collection while providing guests an interactive experience. In addition, the project will promote learning experiences focused on the butterfly life cycle, invertebrate animal conservation, and the field of entomology," notes the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which provided a grant to help fund the project through the Museums for America "Life Long Learning" program. An anonymous donor and funds generated by the 2018 Metamorphosis Gala are also funding the project.

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(clockwise from top): Visitors experience the Under the Big Top exhibit. Chris Hartley releases butterflies into the Tropical Conservatory. Tad Yankowski receives the government-intercepted rare mantis eggs.

millipedes. Ordered shipments of butterflies and moths were still arriving, meaning nearly 100 butterflies needed to be released into the Tropical Conservatory each day as well.

Just before the pandemic closed Garden locations, the Butterfly House also received a shipment of more than 500 mantis egg cases. The rare species had been illegally shipped to the United States and were intercepted by the government. Since the Butterfly House is certified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and has a permit to house mantids, they were selected to care for these insects.

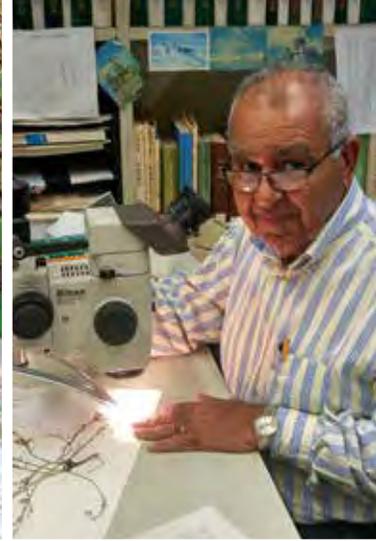
Additional digital programs included "Books and Butterflies" story time and personalized butterfly releases, as well as a variety of digital classes. When guests could return to the Butterfly House in limited numbers over the summer, they were offered private tours for small groups. These activities provided incredibly meaningful interactions for the families who participated.

The Butterfly House also hosted some events with enhanced health-and-safety guidelines. The

summer months took guests "Under the Big Top" with arthropod acrobats, circus-inspired botanicals, and insect sideshow spectacles. In the fall, guests enjoyed a full month of "Butterfly House" spooky fun, featuring owl butterflies and spiders.

While the Butterfly House worked to engage their audiences across in-person and digital platforms, a major project was underway behind the scenes. In December, the Butterfly House began construction of the new Entomology Lab. The new lab will more than double the current 180-square-foot lab space, which is inadequate for the thousands of invertebrates currently being studied and cared for onsite.

The new Entomology Lab will also engage visitors with the work of the entomologists, allowing guests close views of the animals and their care. The "Miracle of Metamorphosis" exhibit will explore the four stages of the butterfly's life cycle, the differences between butterflies and moths, and the international journey chrysalises take to the Butterfly House. Technology will allow virtual keeper chats and field trips to accommodate guests from all over the country.



Gerrit Davidse collecting *Strychnos* in Venezuela (1979); Anna Spencer mounting the 6.5 millionth specimen for the Herbarium (2014); Greg Cadice raking a dry garden in the Japanese Garden (2014); Dr. Ihsan Al-Shehbaz studying a member of the mustard family, Brassicaceae (2016).

## Exemplary Service

The Missouri Botanical Garden would not be the world-leading organization it is without the dedication and talent of world-class staff. Members of the Garden team across all locations, divisions, and departments went the extra mile to advance the Garden’s global mission in 2020.

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson celebrated his tenth year as the President of the Missouri Botanical Garden in 2020. His tenure has been a decade of sustainability, discovery, and conservation. Under his leadership, the Garden has made significant progress across several important pillars of our ongoing—and continually evolving—mission.

Several Garden staff retired in 2020 after exemplary terms of service. The Garden is grateful for their years of support.

- Ihsan Al-Shehbaz, 30 years in botanical research with Science and Conservation
- Gregory Cadice, 34 years on the Horticulture team
- Gerrit Davidse, 48 years in botanical research with Science and Conservation
- Kevin Mattingly, 44 years with the Garden’s General Services team
- George Schatz, 34 years in botanical research with Science and Conservation
- Anna Spencer, 29 years in the Herbarium with Science and Conservation
- Gerald “Chip” Tynan, 35 years on the Horticulture team

“The Missouri Botanical Garden presidency is an incredibly difficult position to fill,” says Scott Schnuck, Garden Trustee. “Leading one of the top gardens in the world—both a display garden and a research garden—takes a preeminent botanist. Welcoming more than one million visitors a year requires a leader that engages with the community. Managing an organization with an annual budget of \$40 million calls for outstanding financial acuity. The search committee made a brilliant choice in Peter Wyse Jackson.”



Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson in South Island New Zealand.

photos by Dan Brown, Dennis Green, and Garden staff



Cassidy Moody and Kristina DeYong hang out in the tree canopy with David Gunn for a virtual tour; Jeannie Raharimampionona collecting specimens in Madagascar; Carmen Ulloa collecting with students at Chimborazo, an inactive stratovolcano in Ecuador.

In a year where visitor service and guest accommodation had additional challenges, the Garden team went above and beyond to meet the needs of our visitors. We are proud that six members of the team were recognized as “Hospitality Heroes” by Explore St. Louis, the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. The Hospitality Heroes Awards Program recognizes frontline employees across the region who help position St. Louis as a guest-friendly destination.

- Paula Betz, Senior Visitor Services Attendant, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House
- Eleni Chirco, Visitor Services, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Kristina DeYong, Digital Media Specialist, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Cassidy Moody, Senior Digital Media Specialist, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Seth Weissman, Fundraising Operations Assistant, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Ayanna Woods, Visitor Services Manager, Missouri Botanical Garden

The work of Garden scientists and researchers also received acclaim in 2020.

The National Geographic Society (NGS) recognized Jeannie Raharimampionona for her conservation work in Madagascar by honoring her with the 2020 Buffett Award for Leadership in Conservation. Raharimampionona was also honored with the 2020 Botanic Gardens Conservation International Marsh Award for International Plant Conservation.

The Marsh Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant achievement in the conservation of rare and endangered plant species.

The prestigious NGS Buffett Award celebrates conservation heroes working in the field. Only two awards are given each year: one for achievement in Latin America and one for achievement in Africa.

Raharimampionona joined the Garden’s Madagascar program in 1999. Her team uses a community-based conservation approach to provide training on basic financial systems, management, communication, and other key topics to staff from local communities. She sees working with the next generation as essential to Madagascar’s future.

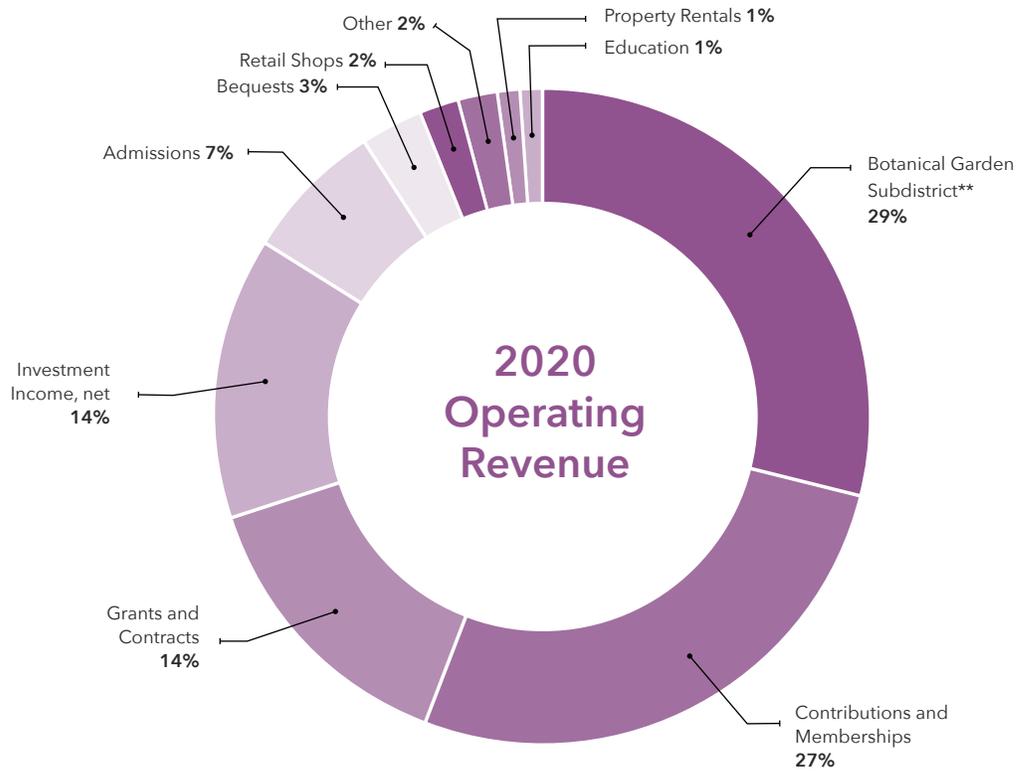
Dr. Carmen Ulloa received the “Condecoración Eugenio Espejo 2020” from the Concejo Metropolitano de Quito, the mayor’s office of the City of Quito, Ecuador’s capital. This award is given to those individuals who make significant contributions in the sciences.

The award is named for Eugenio de Santa Cruz y Espejo, a physician, journalist, hygienist, and one of the most influential scientists in colonial Ecuador. He was inspired by Enlightenment philosophy and is considered among the most important historical figures in Ecuador.

Ulloa oversaw the editing and publication of another volume of *Flora Mesoamericana*, published in 2020 by MBG Press. This major publication includes 960 fully described species, including 120 newly discovered species. The volume is entirely devoted to one family, Piperaceae, the peppers. *Flora Mesoamericana* is the first major flora published in both English and Spanish and describes all the vascular plants growing in southeast Mexico and Central America.

# Financial Information

(fiscal year ended September 30, 2020\*)



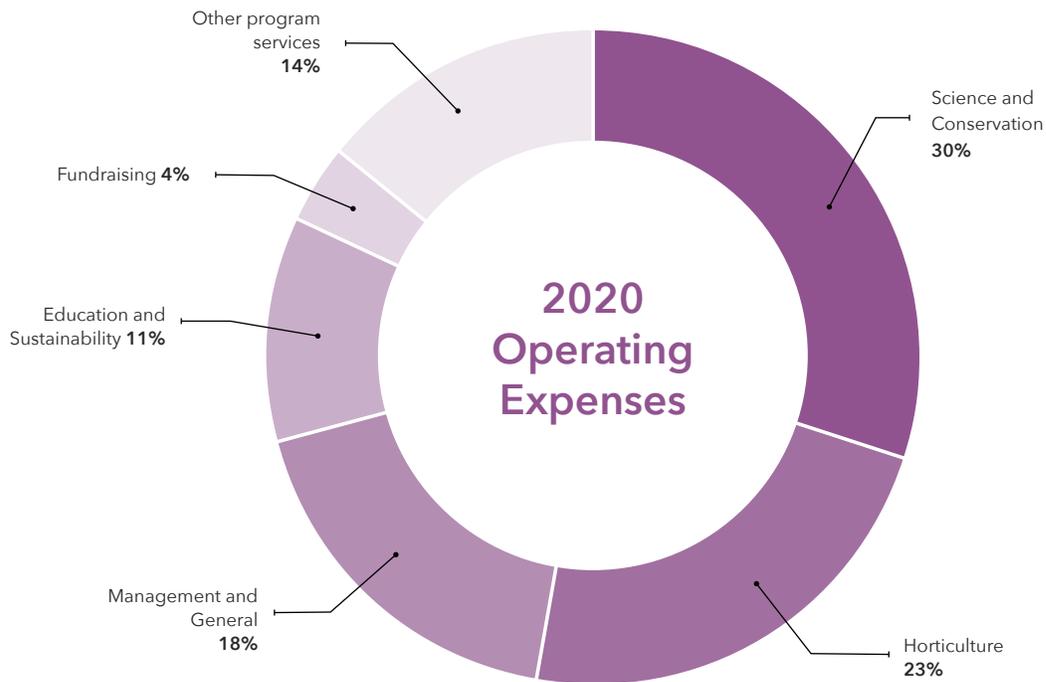
## 2020 Operating Revenue

Botanical Garden Subdistrict**	\$12,840,000
Contributions and Memberships	11,557,269
Bequests	1,454,670
Grants and Contracts	5,966,642
Investment Income, net	6,337,599
Admissions	3,005,230
Retail Shops	1,096,317
Other	761,641
Education	219,243
Property Rentals	249,981
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$43,488,592</b>

## 2020 Operating Expenses

<b>Program Services</b>	
Science and Conservation	\$11,589,059
Horticulture	8,796,627
Education and Sustainability	4,342,170
Other	5,474,402
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>30,202,258</b>
<b>Supporting Services</b>	
Management and General	7,088,691
Fundraising	1,404,434
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>8,493,125</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,695,383</b>

\* The Missouri Botanical Garden changed its fiscal year in 2019.



### 2020 Fund Balances

#### Operating Fund

Total operating support and revenue	\$43,488,592
Total operating expenses	(38,695,383)
Total operating transfers	(7,760,725)
2020 Operating fund excess/(deficit)	(2,967,516)
2020 Pension liability adjustment	(1,691,050)
10/1/19 Operating Fund Balance	9,805,174
<b>9/30/20 Operating Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,146,608</b>
Endowment Fund	159,563,729
Land, Building, and Equipment Fund	92,141,133
Capital Campaign Fund	54,467,600
Gift Annuity Fund	12,465
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$311,331,535</b>

#### \*\*Botanical Garden Subdistrict

Since 1972, residents of St. Louis City and County have generously supported the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD). The ZMD is a property tax-supported district that distributes funds through five cultural subdistricts, which include the Botanical Garden Subdistrict. The Botanical Garden Subdistrict has provided support for the Missouri Botanical Garden since 1983. The Garden is grateful for the continued support of the Botanical Garden Subdistrict and the residents of St. Louis City and County.

Commissioners for the ZMD and the Botanical Garden Subdistrict as of April 2020 are listed on page 23.

Financial information used in this report was obtained from the 2020 Missouri Botanical Garden audited consolidated financial statements. These financial statements may be obtained by visiting [mobot.org/reports](http://mobot.org/reports).



Thank You  
for Your Support

## Members' Board

The Members' Board leadership group organizes the activities and events that enhance and encourage membership, expand awareness in the community, and increase financial support for the Garden's mission.

Susan A. Cohen, President  
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David Tognoni  
Jane S. Tschudy  
Linn Wells  
Debbie Windus  
Pamela Wingbermuehle  
Douglas R. Wolter

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The Young Friends Council leadership board engages young professionals of the St. Louis community with the global network of the Garden, developing events and initiatives to grow a younger Garden audience.

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Kyle Rosborg  
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Meghan Santen  
Arathi Srikanta  
Erin Sullentrup  
Kate Tichelkamp  
Michael J. Torney  
Courtney Vomund  
Elizabeth U. Wells  
Lee Wilber  
Athanasia Xeros

## Zoological Park and Museum District

The Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD) is a tax-supported cultural district governed by an eight-member board of directors, each appointed for a four-year term by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Executive.

Robert E. Eggmann, Chair  
Darnetta Clinkscale, Vice Chair  
Christine A. Chadwick, Immediate Past Chair

Thomas C. Mummert, Treasurer  
Michelle Harris, Secretary  
Thomas J. Campbell, Board Member

Pat Coleman, Board Member  
Jill Nowak, Board Member

## Botanical Garden Subdistrict

The ZMD levies an annual tax on property on behalf of five subdistricts, including the Botanical Garden Subdistrict. The subdistrict contracts with the Garden to provide botanical services.

Yemi Susan Akande-Bartsch, PhD  
Adrian E. Bracy  
John C. McPheeters\*  
Marcia B. Mellitz  
Brian A. Murphy

Lydia Padilla  
Pamela Shephard  
Marjorie M. Weir  
Francis Yueh  
Hillary B. Zimmerman

**Nonvoting Advisory Members**  
James F. Hoffmeister  
Naretha A. Hopson  
Janice M. Nelson  
James H. Yemm

(left) Tropical water lily, *Nymphaea* 'Queen Sirikit'.

\*deceased 2020

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The Garden's Board of Trustees oversees several mission councils and advisory groups focused on specific areas of governance. We are grateful to the following members supporting the Trustees through these councils and groups.

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The dedicated representatives of the Corporate Council collaborate with the Garden to further relationships with the business community through education, sustainable business programs, volunteer opportunities, and special events.

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Robert M. Williams, Jr., Williams Patent Crusher  
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\*deceased 2020

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Businesses participating in the Corporate Partners Program make an annual membership gift. In return, they receive recognition and benefits throughout the year for their employees.

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Gateway Chapter  
Urban Chestnut Brewing Company  
Vantage Credit Union  
Villa Lighting Supply

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We are grateful to the following event sponsors for making gifts of \$1,000 or more in 2020.

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Ameren Corporation  
Anders CPAs + Advisors  
Banner Public Affairs  
Bayer  
The Boeing Company  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner  
Bunge North America, Inc.  
Citizens for Modern Transit  
Clayton Financial Group  
Lelia and David Farr  
Graybar  
Guarantee Electrical Company

International Paper  
Mrs. Linda Lockwood and Mr. Ralph Wiechert  
Mackey Mitchell Architects  
Magnificent Missouri, Inc.  
Metro Lighting  
Missouri American Water  
Nestlé Purina  
John and Anita O'Connell  
Peters Family Charitable Trust  
Pohlmann Legacy  
SimparaHR  
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St. Charles Automotive  
St. Louis Composting  
Deborah and Patrick Starke and  
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Tarlow Family Foundation  
Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation  
Mike and Erin Torney  
UMB Bank  
Wells Fargo  
Williams Patent Crusher &  
Pulverizer Co., Inc.



# The Numbers

## Visitors

<b>Attendance at all locations</b>	<b>444,312</b>
Highest daily attendance in 2020: Sunday, February 23 (Orchid Show)	3,236
Highest nonevent attendance: June 9, (reopening day for members)	2,957
Lowest nonevent attendance: January 17	28

## Members

<b>Member households</b>	<b>43,213</b>
Total number of member visits	152,779

## Personnel

Number of staff	384
Number of volunteers	699
Number of staff volunteer supervisors	160
Number of volunteer hours worked	17,346

## Communications

Total online visits	10,811,915
Unique online visitors	6,567,136
Total visits via mobile device	4,943,431
Total email subscriber base	82,000
Social network followers	306,000

## Home Gardening

Visitors to the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening	3,983
Plant Doctor Service	698 questions
Horticulture Answer Service	3,071 calls; 3,483 questions
Online email gardening questions answered	2,572 (*Record*)
Master Gardeners	62

## Horticulture

Total accessions	31,698
Wild source accessions	7,791
Total taxa/unique types of plants	17,492
Total rare or threatened (endangered) species	1,427
Total accessions in the Seed Bank	11,093
Total genera	2,251
Total species	8,550
Total plantings	55,512

## Education

<b>Education program participation (including virtual)</b>	<b>98,282</b>
Students and teachers participating in education programs	8,227
Teachers using workshops and instructional material	560
Scouts and leaders in education programs	149
Adults in adult education programs	6,275
Youth and families in education programs	830
Seniors, special needs, others in horticultural therapy education programs	1,379
People engaged via community-based programming	10,198
Visitors experiencing drop-in education opportunities	69,503

## Education Venue Attendance

Visitors to the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden	0
Visitors to the Brookings Exploration Center	10,398
Visitors to Tower Grove House	5,970
Visitors to the Dana Brown Overnight Center at Shaw Nature Reserve	648

## Science and Conservation

PhD researchers	43
Research associates	148
Staff scientific publications	200
New species described	161
Countries where fieldwork is done	35
Graduate students	3, from 3 countries
Herbarium total specimens	7,590,000
Mounted specimens added to Herbarium	6,932,594
TROPICOS®	4,931,311 specimens 1,360,456 plant names 43,248,131 hits/year
Articles published in MBG Press's two journals, <i>Annals</i> and <i>Novon</i>	54 (19 in <i>Annals</i> and 35 in <i>Novon</i> )
New books added to the Peter H. Raven Library	560 book titles and 1,200 print journal issues
Interlibrary loans provided	116
Interlibrary loans received for our patrons	54
Reference questions (does not include COVID services)	493
Books pulled and copies provided in the foyer due to COVID (July–Oct 2020)	292
Visitors to the Sachs Museum	4,961

(left) Heckman Rock Garden in bloom outside the Climatron.

# Management Team



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(right) African daisy, *Osteospermum* 'Osoutis' SOPRANO PURPLE  
blooms in the Shoenberg Temperate House.

Thank You  
for making our mission possible





MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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