

Quick Reference Guide

Mission

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

Visitors

Nearly one million each year across the family of attractions

Members

About 37,000 households

Landscape Highlights

- 79 acres
- Floral and architectural displays of Japan, Turkey, China, Germany, and England
- Climatron® tropical rainforest conservatory
- Orchid collection featuring some of the rarest orchids in the world

Family of Attractions

- Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, Mo., 2,400 acres, featuring native Missouri habitats and 14 miles of hiking trails
- Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, Chesterfield, 8,000-square-foot conservatory where tropical butterflies fly freely

Science and Conservation Work

- About 150 scientists are at work in 36 countries identifying plants, understanding their potential, and working with residents to develop strategies for living sustainably, meeting their needs without compromising the opportunities for future generations to do the same.
- Resources shared by the Garden include TROPICOS, a six-million specimen herbarium, and one of the finest botanical libraries

Festivals and Floral Shows

(Attendance numbers reflect a five-year average for events.)

- Whitaker Music Festival: 62,000 for the summer series
- Chinese Culture Days: 14,000
- Japanese Festival: 41,000
- Best of Missouri Market®: 28,000
- Holiday Flower & Train Show: 46,000
- Orchid Show: 39,000

Activities for Children

- Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden, a learning environment featuring a wetland, cave, tree canopy, and more
- Great Green Adventures, free, family drop-in activities focused on nutrition, exercise, and outdoor discovery
- ECO-ACT, an environmental leadership project that has touched more than 16,000 city and county students
- Science Alliance, in collaboration with St. Louis Science Center and St. Louis Zoo, establishing best practices in math and science at Mullanphy Elementary School
- Year-round classes and field trips

Resources for Gardeners

- Master gardener program, in which gardening students learn from the best and volunteer on Garden grounds
- William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening, featuring 23 educational gardens
- Plant Doctor, an on-the-premises expert who fields gardeners' questions
- A website (gardeninghelp.org) that attracts 1.8 million visitors in a year
- Plants of Merit program, which offers a list of plants known to be successful in this climate and collaborates with nurseries to introduce those plants to home gardeners

History

The Garden was founded in 1859 by Englishman Henry Shaw, who gave it the public and established a structure to assure it would remain open to visitors for all of time. The Garden is the nation's oldest botanical garden in continuous operation and a National Historic Landmark.

President

Peter Wyse Jackson became Garden president and the George Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University in September 2010. Born in Kilkenny, Ireland, Dr. Wyse Jackson has helped establish or develop botanic gardens and related organizations in over 30 countries. He was lead author of the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation, now endorsed by nearly 500 botanic gardens. He played a lead role in the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted by the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002. He is currently the chairman of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation.

