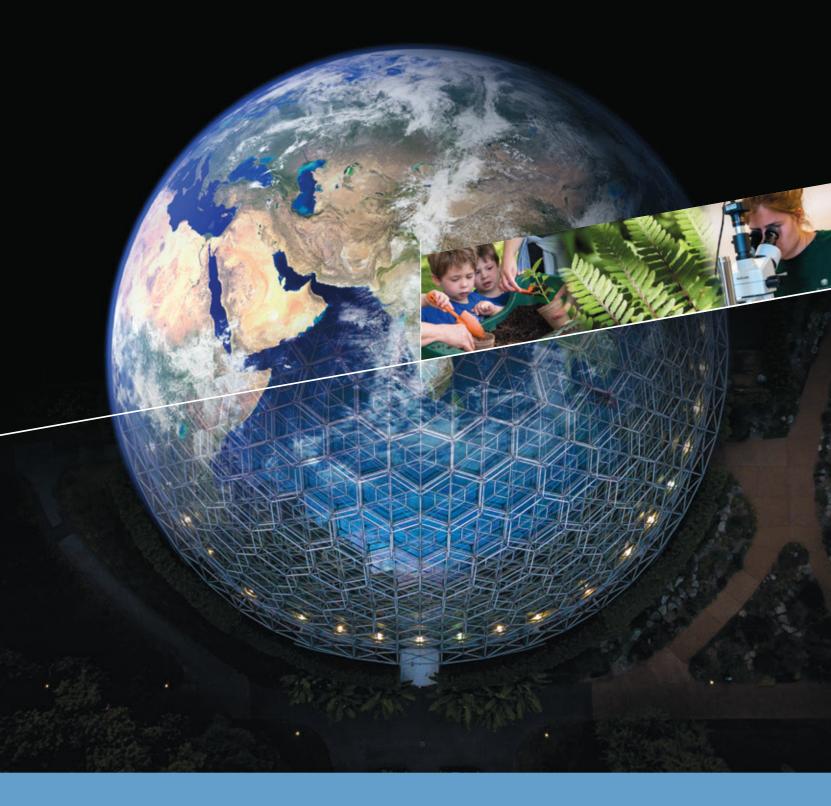
ISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



Passion, Plants, People, Planet.

On the cover: The beauty of planet Earth is juxtaposed with the architectural wonder of the Climatron[®] tropical conservatory.

PHOTOS BY TRENTON ALMGREN-DAVIS, TOM INCROCCI, CASSIDY MOODY, NATHAN WAMBOLD, AND COURTESY OF NASA

Page 1: A young child poses for a photo in the Central Axis during Japanese Festival. PHOTO BY SUNDOS SCHNEIDER

Page 52 and right: Seeds representing species preserved in the Garden's seed bank are arranged in artistic, geometric patterns and displayed in Sassafras, the Garden's restaurant. PHOTO BY SUNDOS SCHNEIDER

Back cover: Sunset over the Meramec River at Shaw Nature Reserve.

PHOTO BY CASSIDY MOODY

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花鳥風月

Kachoufugetsu

Celebrating the harmony of humanity within the wondrous beauty of nature.



From the **President**

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN CELEBRATED a year of success and growth in 2022. The Garden reached incredible heights thanks to you and fellow philanthropic champions who share your passion for our mission and love for the Garden.



Our team of researchers, botanists, and horticulturists achieved new milestones in our work to protect, conserve, and understand plants to serve all people. As one of the world's leading botanical gardens, we continue to provide a beloved and welcoming haven treasured by countless St. Louisans and nearly one million annual visitors each year.

The August grand opening of our magnificent new Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center drew praise for its world-class amenities and accessibility for all. The facility represents the most visible achievement of the *Gateway to the Garden* initiative—an effort yielding unprecedented expansion of the Garden's capacity to preserve, study, and display rare and endangered species for generations to come.

From conservation horticulture to restoration ecology, plant science remains a critical endeavor as humanity grapples with the growing impacts of climate change, loss of plant diversity, and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Botanical gardens are uniquely positioned to lead this work. Through dedicated investments like your own, the Missouri Botanical Garden is today one of the few institutions in the world working locally and globally to restore threatened plants and their habitats, including some that are perilously close to extinction in the wild.

The Garden's own 79 acres, 2,400-acre Shaw Nature Reserve, and Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House (supported by the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery and Litzsinger Road Ecology Center) are a living testament to this work. While visitors and members enjoy the outstanding beauty, they are at the same time immersed in a laboratory of landscapes devoted to protecting and managing Earth's remaining natural areas.

In 2022, staff members collected, described, and named more than 200 previously unknown plant species. The Garden's Herbarium grew to more than 7.7 million specimens and represents one of the world's largest collections.

At the same time, the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening continued its virtual outreach. Thousands of home gardeners across the region accessed their online resources, and in-person support resumed at the Garden in the summer. Through digital resources, phone support, and onsite education, the Kemper Center for Home Gardening remains a free and highly accessible educational resource for our local and global community.

The Garden's seed bank marked its tenth year of housing seed of native plants and rare species of conservation concern. The seed bank grew to more than 2,600 species, including 40% of Missouri native flora and 339 endangered species.

From our founder's era to our own, the Missouri Botanical Garden has been sustained by the love and loyalty of many people. We couldn't be more grateful for your dedication and unwavering support for the Garden's ever-broadening and increasingly urgent mission.

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson President

From the **Chair**

IT IS INDEED AN HONOR to chair the Board of Trustees at this time of remarkable transformation at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Advancing the mission of this premier institution is much more than a privilege. It also comes with the responsibility to uphold the Garden's longstanding history of exceptional financial management. In 2022, Missouri Botanical Garden achieved the highest four-star performance ranking for sound financial management and accountability as assessed by Charity Navigator, the nation's leading charity watchdog.

Yet it is your passion, confidence, and trust in the Garden's stewardship of your investments that comprise our most valuable assets.

You have supported our historic role as a beloved local cultural institution and have helped catapult the Garden as a globally recognized leader in plant research and conservation, ecological restoration, and advocacy of sustainable farming in vulnerable communities across the United States and beyond.

Friends like you have long nurtured this institution—a local oasis of incomparable beauty and year-round family fun; an international center for education, science, and conservation; a steward of Earth's rare and endangered flora; and a civic organization that is bettering the world for generations to come.

As generous supporters and advocates, your role is essential as we continue to advance St. Louis' historic crown jewel to a pinnacle of recognition among the world's leading botanical gardens. As part of this journey, we are also achieving new milestones in connecting a vast and more diverse constituency with the Garden's work both internationally and within our local community.

I invite you to engage with the Garden even more closely in the coming year, and I thank you for your continued support to advance our mission and our vision to elevate our passion, plants, people, and the planet as never before.

As you read the pages that follow, I know you'll appreciate that the best is yet to come.

Michael K. Stern, PhD Chair of the Board of Trustees

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Garden Numbers

VISITORS	
Attendance at all locations	834,477
Highest daily attendance day in 2022	12,709 (September 3)
Highest nonevent attendance day	8,064 (May 8)
Lowest nonevent attendance	12 (January 22)
MEMBERS	
Total member households	48,832
Total member visits	310,562
PERSONNEL	
Number of staff	410
Volunteers	887
Volunteer Supervisors	155
Total Volunteer Hours	39,090
COMMUNICATIONS	
Total online visits	5,818,598
Unique online visitors	3,791,416

Unique online visitors	3,791,416
Total visits via mobile device	2,831,276
Total email subscriber base	166,015
Social network followers	402,700

HOME GARDENING

Horticulture Answer Service	calls: 2,584 questions: 3,365 onsite (May–December): 1,513
Online email gardening questions	
Hours volunteered by Master Gar	deners 1,587
New certified Master Gardeners	51

Total accessions	31,784
Wild source accessions	8,323
Total taxa/unique types of plants	17,419
Total rare or threatened (endangered) species	1,488
Total accessions in the Seed Bank	2,611
Total genera	2,294
Total species	8,873
Total plantings	53,640

EDUCATION	
Education Program Participation	294,088
Students/teachers participating in education programs	34,837
Teachers using workshops and instructional materials	1,077
Scouts and leaders in education programs	522
Adults in adult education programs	7,623
Youth and families in education programs	768
Seniors, special needs, and others in horticultural therapy education programs	5,200
People engaged via community-based programming	27,812
Visitors experiencing drop-in education opportunities	195,999

EDUCATION VENUE ATTENDANCE	
Visitors to the Children's Garden	84,176
Visitors to Brookings Exploration Center	95,814
Visitors to Tower Grove House	84,021
Visitors to the Dana Brown Overnight Center	4,843

SCIENCE AND CONSERVATIO	N
Staff publications	164
New species described	203
Countries where fieldwork is done	presence in 35 countries
Graduate students	15, from 8 countries
Herbarium total specimens	7,761,700
Mounted specimens added to Herb	arium 31,700
TROPICOS®	specimens: 6,742,004 plant names: 1,376,784 hits/year: 34,556,670
Articles published in MBG Press's two journals, <i>Novon</i> and <i>Annals</i>	22 <i>Novon</i> articles 16 <i>Annals</i> articles
New books and journals added to the Peter H. Raven Library	1,263 books 1,351 print issues of journals 350 online journal titles
Interlibrary loans provided	231
Interlibrary loans received	225
Reference questions	1,325
Visitors to the Sachs Museum	20,996



GATEWAY TO THE GARDEN

A larger-than-life video wall in the Kemper Lobby of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center immerses visitors of all ages with the Garden's mission.

CULTIVATING **SEAUTY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND MISSION**

Opening of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center

AMID A BUZZ OF MEDIA ATTENTION, the opening of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center drew more than 8,000 civic dignitaries, members, donors, honored guests, and visitors of all ages to the Missouri Botanical Garden for a Grand Opening weekend in August.

The multi-year plan to create a new entry experience was prompted by steady growth in attendance at the Garden over the past four decades. Funded entirely through private donations to the *Gateway to the Garden* campaign, the expansive Taylor Visitor Center is the centerpiece of a plan to bring the Garden's living collections and global mission to the community in a visitor-centered way.

"It's a thrilling time," Garden President Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson told reporters at the grand opening. "The Taylor Visitor Center fulfills a three-fold purpose: to welcome visitors to the Garden, expand our amenities while improving accessibility, and convey the awe-inspiring beauty of the botanical world and the urgent need for plant conservation."

A Beautiful Welcome

From the moment they arrive, members and visitors are now immersed in artful, mission-centered elements that spark thoughtful reflection on the wondrous interdependence of all of nature.

Designed to give guests a sense of being one with nature, the Taylor Visitor Center features breathtaking views of Garden landscapes, terrazzo flooring with inlaid brass leaves, botanical panels featuring distinctive plants from the Garden's living collections, and a uniquely designed soaring glass atrium that filters sunlight into dappled rays to evoke the feel of a woodland clearing.



"The grand opening of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center is an incredible milestone for the Garden, the Enterprise family, and the Taylor family. We are very proud of how this unique space provides services and amenities to our community while highlighting the global plant science that helps protect our future."

Jo Ann Taylor Kindle, Chair, Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Expansion and Accessibility

From the bright and soaring William T. Kemper Lobby to Sassafras restaurant and café, from the Garden Gate Shop to barrier-free restrooms and a calming room, all amenities are now fully accessible. Sloping entry paths lead visitors through new gardens. Corridors are wider. The need for stairs and elevators has been eliminated.

"We've made it a priority to remove any physical barriers or obstacle to visiting," Dr. Wyse Jackson notes. "The Garden belongs to everyone. We want everyone to feel that they belong in the Garden."

Focus on the Mission

"People can see the beauty of plants," Dr. Wyse Jackson says, "and one of the most important roles of the Garden is to help our visitors understand how essential plants are to us all. Without plants, there can be no life on earth." The Taylor Visitor Center was designed with meticulous concern for integrating visitors into the diverse beauty of the Garden's living collections. It creates an environment where visitors are immersed in the Garden's global efforts in plant discovery, conservation, and education.

Expansive gardens surrounding the Taylor Visitor Center are an important part of this process. In 2022, more than 45,000 plants were cultivated by the Garden's horticulture team at the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery to fill these spaces. Nearly half the varieties represented are new to the Garden's displays, with more than one-third representing rare and endangered species.

"We once again thank our many campaign partners, donors, and members," Dr. Wyse Jackson says. "With your perseverance and generosity, the Garden is truly transformed. Together, we are showcasing this world-class botanical garden and firmly sowing a deeper appreciation for its countless contributions to plant science."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center kicked off a grand opening celebration that included free admission, special performances, and family activities across the Garden.



Planting New Seeds for Learning, Greening

"The William A. Kerr Foundation is honored to support BiodiverseCity St. Louis at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The BiodiverseCity St. Louis community, like the foundation, recognizes that we depend on biodiversity for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the basic health, livability, and economic prosperity of our region."

John H.K. Sweet, Trustee, William A. Kerr Foundation

Education

THROUGHOUT 2022, the Missouri Botanical Garden's educational efforts connected people with plants in increasingly diverse and creative ways.

In June, the Garden appointed Dr. Sean Doherty as Vice President of Education. Following his distinguished career as an educator and superintendent in the School District of Clayton, Doherty's vision and leadership have enhanced the Garden's educational methodology and offerings.

"We are today reaching learners of all ages through more means than ever before," Doherty says. "In 2022, educational programs reached 280,000 people, including 80,000 virtual learners. We also developed ways to



make our programs more inclusive and accessible now offering specific learning opportunities that include bilingual school curricula, American Sign Language Interpretation, audio description for people with low vision, and programs for individuals experiencing memory loss."

Therapeutic horticulture grew through a return to in-person gatherings. These initiatives focus on using plants to create a greater sense of well-being for people who are experiencing a life challenge. Staff members held engaging programs in the healthcare and senior communities, as well as social service agencies. Participants enjoyed hands-on learning about the natural world and creative activities that highlight its beauty and healing properties.

At the Garden, the education department is assuming a more intentional role in promoting learning during special events. Educational components were present through tabling, interpretation, and engaging with visitors during Kwanzaa and Juneteenth celebrations.

"We've also added a digital platform to make onsite visits more inspiring and meaningful," Doherty says. "GuideByCell allows learners to enhance their experience by using their cell phone for informative tours before, during, or after their visit."

GuideByCell allows Garden visitors to personalize their visit, create a custom digital tour, and access additional information about Garden landscapes.



A student on a school field trip studies leaf diversity at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, a 39-acre study center managed by the Garden.

Doherty emphasizes the importance of introducing youth to careers in plant science. "In the early 1990s, I worked for the Garden as a tour guide and eventually in the Education Division as an intern. Those experiences influenced my life in many positive ways. The Education Division wants to provide those relevant and hands-on experiences for youth to help them consider careers connected to the work of the Garden."

The Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden welcomed thousands of children in 2022, introducing them to the significance of plants and nature in fun and innovative ways. At the adjacent Brookings Exploration Center, visitors of all ages took part in an array of interactive, multimedia opportunities to learn about plants, the places they grow, how people rely on them, and the importance of protecting them.

Education programs and classes for adults continued to expand, with newer offerings focusing on the Garden's global mission. The "Native Plant School" is a year-round series of classes taught by the horticulture staff at Shaw Nature Reserve and covers various aspects of native landscaping. Ecological Gardening teaches participants ways to maintain an aesthetically pleasing yard while also promoting sustainable living. Overall, participation in nature walks, focused online learning opportunities, and family programs made a robust comeback in 2022.

The Garden continued its broad-based program of graduate studies in systematic botany in cooperation with area universities, allowing learners full access to Garden staff members, facilities such as laboratories and the Herbarium, and research opportunities.

"I see the Missouri Botanical Garden setting the standard for model programs that reach children and adults across the communities we serve," Doherty says. "Our work is not just teaching people about the Garden's mission. It's also about helping them understand the relevancy of plants, horticulture, conservation, and sustainability in their own lives."







(left) EarthWays Center team member Rob Kennedy leads a rainscaping presentation. (right) A family enjoys a craft activity at the Green Living Festival.

Sustainability

THE EARTHWAYS CENTER is the Garden division focused on sustainability and St. Louis' expert on sustainable choices. It is a regional leader in teaching children and adults about the many ways that plants improve the air, water, soil, and energy of our environment and sustain our homes, health, and planet.

In 2022, the division strengthened its impact across and beyond St. Louis. Educational outreach grew, culminating in:

- 3,484 students in 117 classes engaging in programs related to waste reduction, recycling, composting, and clean water.
- 178 educators attending professional development opportunities on topics including energy efficiency, waste reduction, clean water, and climate change.
- 4,482 participants tapping into the Garden's Green Resources Info Service, accessing education via talks, customized consultations, and public event outreach.
- 10,144 readers of 2022's sustainability e-newsletter editions.
- Zero Waste Ambassadors who volunteered more than 400 hours to educate 68,000 Garden event guests about sustainable dining practices.

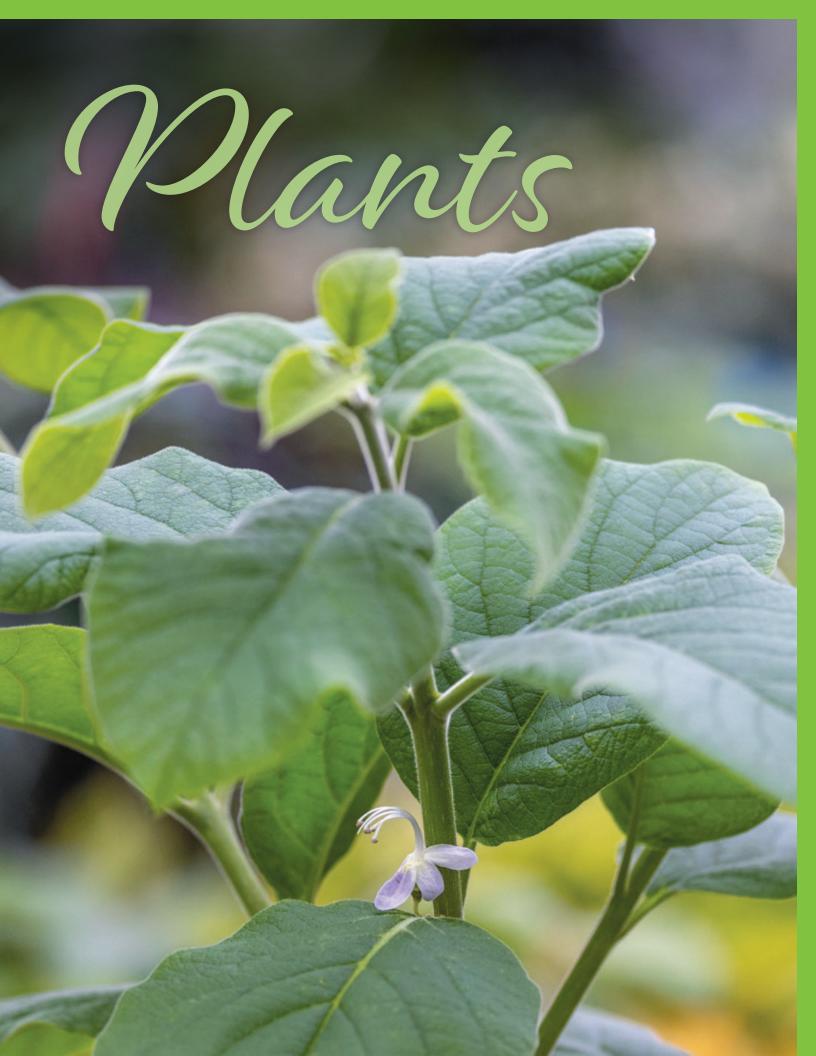
With pandemic protocols easing, the Garden reignited its commitment to recycling and composting. More than four tons of single-stream recycling materials were amassed at the Garden's three largest annual events. The return to using compostable serviceware and collecting food waste at events resulted in collection of nearly 10 tons of compost. Gardenwide, nearly 90% of waste products were redirected in 2022.

EarthWays Center also created a "summer of sustainability" that offered fun, family-friendly opportunities for St. Louisans to learn and live greener.

The focal point was the expanded Green Living Festival, presented by Ameren Missouri. Nearly 21,000 participants attended the event, which expanded from its previous single weekend format to five separate programs. This format exposed the program to a wider audience and allowed St. Louisans opportunities to participate at all five member organizations of the St. Louis Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD).

Each Green Living Festival host location held a full day of workshops, exhibitions, tours, and family activities designed to help neighbors live greener, healthier lives. The expanded programming also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ZMD itself.

Expanding further into the community, the Garden continued partnerships with the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance (DCWA) and Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to improve homeowners' management of stormwater. In 2022, those collaborations yielded installation of 22 rain gardens, 55 lawn alternatives, 11 permeable paver features, 10 rain barrels, and 4 woodland restoration projects.



ENRICHING LIVES AT HOME AND ABROAD

Wild apple (Malus sieversii), native to Central Asia and collected in Kyrgyzstan, growing in the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery greenhouse. Nearly 26% of the Garden's total accessions in the living collections are now wild-collected plants.

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN'S horticultural programs continue to position us as both a beautiful urban oasis and a living laboratory of research and conservation.

Andrew Wyatt, Senior Vice President of Horticulture and Living Collections, oversees the Garden's increasing emphasis on helping communities appreciate the diversity of plant life, including a growing number of species that are rare or threatened with extinction.

"Visitors can come here and see coffee, bananas, rice, and other important food crops," Wyatt says, "and have a better understanding for where our food comes from. They can get a firsthand look at plants they might never have the chance to see otherwise and learn about their native biomes."

In 2022, Wyatt's team completed the landscaping plan led by Michael Verguson Landscape Architects for the 3.5 acres surrounding the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center. "It's one of the single biggest areas we've ever done," he notes. "The process involved curating a collection of valuable and beautiful species, preparing the soil, and getting the game-changing underground rainwater collection tanks installed." That 50,000-gallon pumping system will store rainwater for irrigation. The new system provides more than 90% of the water needed for the Tropical Nursery housed in the production greenhouse space and for the new Emerson Conservatory. The rainwater system helps the Garden be more sustainable while providing superior water quality for the Garden's diverse living collections in the Tropical Nursery and Emerson Conservatory.

Just over a mile away at the six-acre Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery, the horticulture team cultivated more than 45,000 plants for these new landscapes. The Oertli Nursery extends the Garden's total capacity for propagation, conservation, and education. In 2022, that work included plant trials for suitability in the St. Louis climate and propagating endangered plants for regional and global conservation.

Conservation is also the driving force behind the Garden's growing seed bank, which marked its tenth year of operation in 2022. New x-ray imaging equipment and development of new testing protocols resulted in enhanced capacity and greater standardization in viability testing of more than 2,400 dormant seed accessions. The seed bank includes more than 1,000 total species, and almost 200 of those collected are of conservation concern. The collection includes more than 40 percent of Missouri's native plant species, with a plan to collect all 2,400 known species and safeguard them for the future.

"Our ultimate goal is to prevent species extinction," Wyatt notes. "We are increasingly positioning the Garden as a living laboratory of research and conservation. This includes purposefully acquiring more species of conservation concern."

Some of those species are found in Kyrgyzstan, where Garden field work continued to conserve wild fruit trees. Garden botanists completed accession labeling on all 200 remaining red apple plants in the region, an essential step in recreating a viable population and restoring the fruit-bearing forests critically important to the Kyrgyzstani people.

Back home, the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening continued to help neighbors and visitors build their own flourishing home landscapes. The Kemper Center for Home Gardening reopened to onsite visitors in the summer and answered more than 18,000 inquiries, providing free horticultural expertise online and in person.

The newly renovated Lucy and Stanley Lopata Native Plant Garden at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening also reopened for visitors over the summer with new native plantings. The landscape displays native Missouri plants in an herbaceous border that home gardeners can replicate in native plantings of their own. The display includes prairie blazing star, black-eyed Susan, tickseed, little bluestem, and smooth-leaf aster.

"The Garden is leading the charge to promote and fulfill the important role botanical gardens play in conservation horticulture at the local and global levels,"



Visitors are inspired by the beauty of the Lucy and Stanley Native Plant Garden at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening.

Wyatt says. "We're also thinking ahead five, 10, even 50 years. How do we make the Garden more relevant for future generations of visitors? How do we make our unique, data-driven curation method an even better tool for tomorrow's plant scientists?"

The Garden's 2022 achievements strengthen the foundation needed for our multi-faceted vision of increasing visitor engagement and expanding global conservation efforts in the years to come.

"The Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery is an important part of the Garden's master plan supporting the Garden overall and the Taylor Visitor Center in particular. In 2022, its first full year of operation, it grew more than 10,000 plants to be installed at the main campus. Kathy and I are excited to support this growth, and much more to come."

Robert Williams, Trustee

and the second



Purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) *and lanceleaf coreopsis* (Coreopsis lanceolata) showcase the beauty and biodiversity of prairie restoration at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Renaissance of Restoration

IN 2022, SHAW NATURE RESERVE continued its renowned work in ecological restoration and stewardship of native habitats.

Restoring natural habitats through the control of harmful invasive species, well-timed application of prescribed fire, and sowing seed of diverse native species remains an essential pillar of the Nature Reserve's focus. In both natural areas and residential landscapes, the Nature Reserve promotes native plants adapted to our environment. These native plants provide habitat for wildlife, improve soil and water quality, and support ecological health and diversity.

To that end, the Nature Reserve partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation and Quail Forever for the second year to advance restoration priorities at the Nature Reserve and other priority habitats on both public and private land in the surrounding region.

Progress on the ambitious Wolf Run Grassland Restoration project also flourished. This multi-year plan will transform ecosystem health in the Nature Reserve's most severely degraded area. Over the next several years, the 120-acre area around Wolf Run Lake will be actively transformed into a highly diverse mosaic of native prairie, savanna, and woodland.

Furthering its mission to increase knowledge and understanding of native Missouri flora, the Nature Reserve continued work on the new Ozark Ethnobotany





The multi-year Wolf Run Grassland Restoration project begins with removal and control of invasive species on the acres surrounding Wolf Run Lake at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Garden. Propagation of native plants began for the garden landscape. When completed, the garden will feature native plants used for food, medicine, fiber, and dye. Reconstruction continued for the historic David Thornley Orthwein Log Cabin, which will serve as a focal centerpiece of the garden.

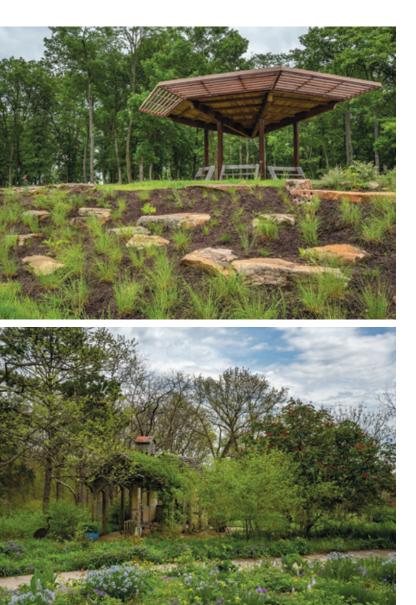
Staff and volunteers accelerated their efforts to increase plant diversity across the Nature Reserve's 2,441 acres. Collecting a record 278 native species and 760 pounds of bulk, milled seed, they furthered the foundation for tomorrow's richly diverse and vibrant natural communities.

In 2022, grant funding supported the Nature Reserve's growing restoration staff, new equipment purchases, and other emerging priorities to ensure long-term success. Among those pressing concerns is controlling invasive species. More than 3,600 labor hours were

(continued)

"We have been patrons and visitors to Shaw Nature Reserve for more than 50 years. It is a very special place for us, providing a place for quiet reflection and also a perfect venue for celebrating with family and friends. Hiking the Nature Reserve has helped us maintain our appreciation of nature and the wonderful diversity of life."

Parker and Steve McMillan, longtime Garden Giving Society members



dedicated to this aim—triple the time investment of just three years prior.

In other progress, renovations to the Nature Explore Classroom and construction of the Abigail Arla McMillan Prairie Overlook were completed in the summer. Classroom visitors are benefiting from more accessible pathways and enjoying new recreational amenities, including the addition of child-sized picnic tables. Out on the prairie trail, the beautiful cantilevered pavilion of the McMillan Overlook provides guests a shady respite to enjoy the spectacular view.

In 2022, the Nature Reserve's long-time horticulture manager retired. Scott Woodbury served as one of the Garden's most passionate advocates of native plant horticulture, increasingly preferred as the most ecologically beneficial and sustainable method of home gardening and natural landscape maintenance.

Woodbury dedicated early efforts to coordinate the establishment of the Whitmire Wildflower Garden. For 30 years, the vibrant space has offered inviting paths through five native plant communities—woodland, wetland, glade, savannah, and prairie—as well as a home gardening area that includes a native perennial garden, rock garden, prairie garden, water garden, woodland garden, and rain garden. More than 500 Missouri native plant species are on display.

"Native gardening feeds the soul," Woodbury says. "The Whitmire Wildflower Garden gives us all a unique space to learn and explore, and it inspires us to bring more native plants to our homes."

(top) The Abigail Arla McMillan Prairie Overlook offers a spot to rest and enjoy the view along the Prairie Trail. (bottom) The Whitmire Wildflower Garden has grown to display more than 500 native Missouri plant species across five plant community areas.

PHOTOS BY MATILDA ADAMS





United By Nature

The beloved Whitaker Music Festival returned for a full summer series of 10 free concerts and welcomed full-capacity audiences each night.

EACH YEAR, the Missouri Botanical Garden offers hundreds of classes and dozens of events to engage people with the beauty of the natural world in a variety of ways. These opportunities enrich community members of all ages and walks of life.

Botanical Resonance: Plants and Sounds in the Garden commenced at the Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum in June 2022. More than 20,000 visitors attended the exhibition in 2022 and through March 2023, which explored how plants create and cause sounds. The display featured plants used to create musical instruments in cultures around the world and detailed how plants make unique sounds throughout their life cycles. Sachs Museum galleries featured artifacts from the Garden's ethnobotany and herbarium collections as well as contemporary art commissions. These included two guided soundwalks by Annika Kappner, a quilt installation by Brooke Erin Goldstein, and an immersive sound installation by St. Louis artist Kevin Harris.

Over the summer, the iconic Whitaker Music Festival returned to the Garden for the first time in three years. More than 20,000 guests enjoyed the 10-week series of free Wednesday-night concerts through the generous support of the Whitaker Foundation. Guests brought their picnics and spread their blankets out across the Garden grounds. The Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden stayed open until dark for some additional summer family fun. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting was provided by Fusion Interpreting Services.

Japanese Festival, held over Labor Day weekend for its 45th year, highlighted the Garden's most well-known botanical landscape—*Seiwa-en*, the Japanese Garden. The annual festival is an opportunity to provide culturally diverse experiences that showcase the wonders of nature across the world. The 2022 event was the largest weekend festival at the Garden since the 2019 Japanese Festival, marking a welcome return to pre-pandemic levels of community engagement.

From October 7–9, the Best of Missouri Market[®] celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Missouri Botanical Garden. More than 25,000 visitors attended over three days, the second-highest attendance in the event's history. It featured more than 100 vendors—the region's finest artisans, crafters, growers, and beverage producers offering an incredible range of foods, gifts, and other goods. A two-acre Kids Corner included live animals, family crafts, and a pumpkin patch. Live music and food vendors accompanied the family-friendly activities inside and around the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center. "*Missouri Life* is proud to have our brand associated with the Missouri Botanical Garden. We especially love participating in the Best of Missouri Market[®] each year. We continually grow our audience through the Market, and we enjoy Market-goers that come to our booth to tell us how much they love *Missouri Life* magazine. We greatly appreciate our partnership with the Garden."

Deborah Marshall, Director of Sales and Marketing, Missouri Life

Mayor Tishaura O. Jones proclaimed October 8, 2022, as "Best of Missouri Market Founders, Nora Stern and Ellen Dubinsky, 30th Anniversary Day" to honor the occasion, the founder's continued volunteer efforts, and the Market's role at the Garden.

Over the winter, Garden Glow offered its tenth year of holiday cheer with 49 nights of lights from November 19 to January 7. The exhibition of nearly two million lights was presented for the season by Wells Fargo and enjoyed by more than 180,000 visitors. Dazzling displays illuminated some of the Garden's most iconic locations and presented new delights, particularly around the Taylor Visitor Center. The Emerson Conservatory opened to the public with a debut Holiday Floral Show, expertly layering new, permanent Mediterranean collections with the pines and poinsettias of a traditional holiday display.

Building our robust calendar of traditional favorites and new offerings of diverse and engaging special events enhances our mission, keeping our community more closely connected to the important work of global plant conservation through local activities and celebrations.

Gongoma (thumb piano) from Benin, made from part of a Calabash gourd (Lagenaria siceraria), with metal blades. On loan from Dr. Annie Hounsokou.





(top) A young child selects a pumpkin from the patch at Best of Missouri Market. (bottom) Guests enjoy a winter night at the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center and head out to explore the light displays of Garden Glow.

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING



ON JUNE 19, 2022, the Missouri Botanical Garden held its inaugural Juneteenth observance. Individuals and families visiting the Garden, Butterfly House, and Shaw Nature Reserve were admitted for free that day. The event commemorated the "Freedom Day" from slavery that generations of Black Americans have celebrated, a day that was declared a federal holiday in 2021. The Juneteenth event was developed by Michelle Martin Bonner, the Garden's Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

"The Garden grows plants from around the world," Bonner says. "Our scientists represent a global perspective in botany and horticulture. So we need to grow aspects of visitorship, membership, staff, and board to reflect that same diversity. People go where they're comfortable. We want people of every race, gender, age, and life circumstance to feel like they belong here."

A native St. Louisan and attorney with over two decades' experience in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), Bonner sees her journey and mission as rooted in laying a foundation of trust with the community. From there, it's about outreach and engagement.

"We have so many positive resources, and so much beauty, to share with people who might never know or consider the Garden as a place for them," Bonner says. "We want people to visit and explore how the Missouri Botanical Garden can become part of their lives."

During the Juneteenth celebration, visitors to the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden potted their own okra, an edible perennial introduced to the U.S. from Africa in the early 18th century. Docents shared fascinating facts and history surrounding the George Washington Carver Garden. The inspirational site honors the internationally renowned Missouri native, a man born into slavery who went on to be recognized as one of America's greatest scientists, teachers, and advocates for sustainable agriculture.



The Garden's newly-formed DEI committee, comprised of staff and leaders from across Garden divisions, is bringing other creative DEI ideas to the table. The Garden joined other civic leaders in sponsoring the 20th Annual Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing Celebration in October. The annual event honors the American abolitionist who, with her husband, helped enslaved people escape to freedom in the Underground Railroad.

"All life intersects," Bonner says. "When people think of diversity, they concentrate on demographics and differences. But it's really more about how we interact and treat one another as human beings. Nearly everyone is working toward similar goals—to make a good living, take care of their family, and enjoy life."

Taken together, these steps take the Garden into a new era of fulfilling its founder's vision—to cultivate "a Garden for all of St. Louis." Indeed, for all the world.

A statue of Missouri native George Washington Carver serves as a focal point in the garden honoring his achievements.



Exemplary Service

BEHIND THE EXQUISITE BEAUTY of Missouri Botanical Garden's displays and its internationally celebrated contributions to plant science are diverse teams of devoted staff and volunteers. They are the roots of the Garden's blossoming global mission.

The following Garden staff retired in 2022 following decades of exemplary service. The Garden is grateful for their years of vision, commitment, and passion.



Paul Brockmann 51 years with General Services



Barry Hammel 38 years with Science and Conservation





Julie Hess 34 years with Horticulture



Robert Quirin 26 years with Security



Deborah Lalumondier 40 years with Horticulture



Scott Woodbury 30 years with Shaw Nature Reserve



Olga Martha Montiel 31 years with the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development



Laurel Zimmer 31 years with the Herbarium



PHOTOS BY TOM INCROCCI AND SUNDOS SCHNEIDER

"Volunteering has been such a fulfilling experience. It has been wonderful to see the Garden, and membership, grow over the years. Getting 'behind the scenes' is a great way to understand the Garden's work, and there's an opportunity for everyone to find a way to connect."

Ellen Dubinsky, Past President of the Members' Board and co-founder of Best of Missouri Market



Treasured Time and Talent

In 2022, the following volunteers celebrated significant service milestones.

45 Years

Ann Case Sheila Hoffmeister

40 Years

Ellen Dubinsky Sue Reisel

30 Years

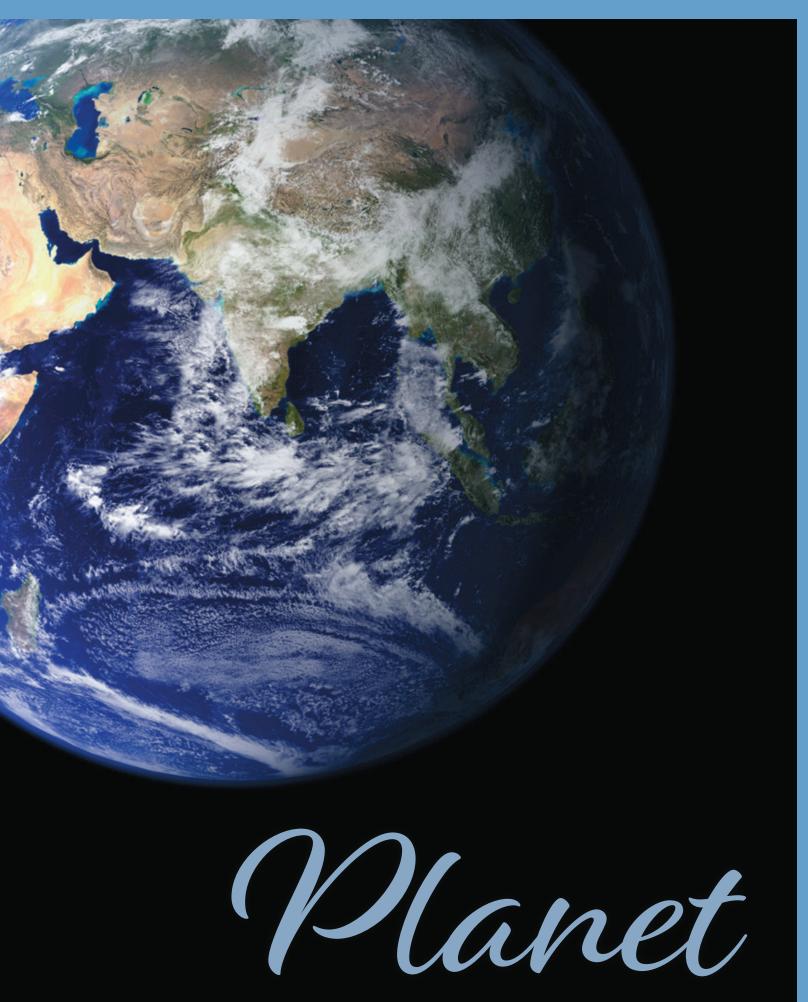
Kay Banks Cherie Moody Pat O'Brien Madeline Pisani Caroline Sant

25 Years

Robert Barnicle Marjorie Courtney Susan Hackney Jane Helbig Jan Hermann Donald Rumer

20 Years

Elaine Baden Eileen Carr Nancy Clark Lois Cromwell Nancy Hohn **Ruth King Doris Kroupa** Ann Larson Sue McCool Jan Moran David Reindl Fredric Rissover Judith Rosen Jean Rosenfeld Norma Schechter **Charles Schmidt** William Schwab Paul Travers **Doug Wolter**



SOPHIA M. SACHS BUTTERFLY HOUSE



Domino roaches (Therea petiveriana) show off their spots at the Butterfly House.

Entomology in action

THROUGHOUT 2022, the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House marked a robust re-emergence in the postpandemic era.

Along with more than 150 tropical plant species, the Butterfly House is home to more than 60 tropical butterfly species, as well as a diverse collection of insects and arachnids. It offers an unparalleled environment for both indoor and outdoor family recreation. At the same time, the Butterfly House promotes science and natural history education, environmental stewardship, and conservation. Thousands of visitors were enriched by community events that offered innovative learning opportunities in artful, fun environments.

In a unique educational collaboration with the National Blues Museum, the Butterfly House created interpretive materials highlighting fascinating parallels in both blues music and butterfly biology. Shared concepts of roots, scales, rhythm, migration, and diversity were put on display. The museum helped identify blues musicians to highlight in these materials and supported the Butterfly House's Bugs, Rhythm, and Blues event following the annual January closure. The Blues Museum connected Butterfly House visitors with local performing artists and provided a crowd-pleasing "instrument petting zoo."

In February, more than 7,200 visitors attended Morpho Mardi Gras, a month-long family event that highlighted the exquisite beauty of blue morpho butterflies in the Tropical Conservatory of the Butterfly House. Amid the tranquil tropics, guests could learn about legendary blues musicians, make a Mardi Gras masquerade mask, and kick off a new year of events and activities with these majestic creatures.

The Butterfly House also celebrated its 20th year of participation with the Butterfly Conservation Initiative of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in 2022.

In 2022, the newly expanded Entomology Lab was put to good use. We became "foster bug parents" for a wide variety of insects coming from the collections of other institutions and those confiscated during illegal importation to the United States.

After one East Coast institution lost its USDA permit in early 2022, the Butterfly House accepted custody of a collection of hundreds of tarantulas, giant beetles, and a colony of roaches from a species believed to be extinct in the wild.

In addition to caring for the animals in both permanent and temporary collections, Butterfly House entomologists partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rehome hundreds of animals smuggled into the country. This includes a Singapore bark scorpion (*Lychas scutilus*), which was on display through the Summer Buggin' programs. These efforts support increased education in our community and prevent these smuggled animals from being euthanized.

The boldly patterned Indian ornamental tarantula (*Poecilotheria regalis*) was a crowd favorite during 2022. This world-traveling spider's life adventure included illegal importation into the U.S. When the insectarium in New Orleans that received the arachnid had to close due to the pandemic, the Butterfly House lab brought this spider, along with many other animals from their collection, into our care.

As the tarantula's home institution prepared to reopen, the Butterfly House returned many of the foster animals to enable the insectarium to rebuild its collection. The rehomed invertebrates include some descendants of the original animals received in 2020.

In late fall, entomologists received five dozen tropical mantids from Kansas State University's insect zoo. An unusually large number of mantids hatched at the university's zoo, and the ample space in the new Entomology Lab has ensured plenty of room to give them a good home at the Butterfly House. The move gave visitors to the Butterfly House a fascinating opportunity to watch these mantids thrive.



The blue morpho butterfly (Morpho peleides) has become an icon of the Butterfly House, and thousands are on display during Morpho Mardi Gras in February.



"When I volunteer at the Butterfly House, I am around young entomologists and horticulturists serving under excellent leadership and supportive staff. Because of this positive educational context, I have become a strong advocate in the quest to preserve native bees and butterflies. I am a layman who continually is inspired to keep learning about such preservation."

Paul Travers, volunteer

PLANT SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

PROTECTING AND RESTORING VITALECOSYSTEMS

Nurserymen grow rosewood seedlings (Dalbergia sambavensis) at the Makirovona-Tsihomanaomby reserve, one of the Garden's 11 community-based conservation sites in Madagascar.

IN 2022, THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN'S science and conservation team grew to 392 staff members, consultants, and students working across the Americas, Africa and Madagascar, and in central and southeast Asia. The team is led by Dr. Gunter Fischer, who was named the Senior Vice President of Science and Conservation early in the year. Fischer has been charged with developing a forward-looking vision for the Garden's work in global plant science and conservation.

"The progressive reduction of global biodiversity has put the trajectory of humanity's well-being on a downward slope," Fischer says. "It will take major investments in plant science and conservation to reverse this trend. With the Garden's authoritative scope and reach, our vision is to become the world's leader in the exploration, conservation, and restoration of species, habitats, genetic diversity, and the use of plants—building capacity locally and globally to preserve and enrich life."

One such investment is the Garden's major contributions to documenting the world's plant diversity. The Tropicos

database grew to include information on nearly 7 million specimens associated with more than 1.3 million digital images and more than 163,000 references of scholarly publications. Tropicos is the world's largest and most robust freely accessible source of botanical knowledge.

Tropicos also represents a major source of information for World Flora Online (WFO), the most complete compilation of the world's plant species involving contributions from more than 50 institutions around the world. The open-access database celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2022, and the Garden has made significant contributions every year. Garden scientist John Brinda led the contribution of more than 90,000 names of bryophytes to WFO in 2022, creating the most authoritative checklist of mosses in the world.

The Garden's work in Madagascar reached several milestones in 2022 as well. The Garden team includes more than 160 Malagasy staff and consultants supporting scientific discovery and 11 nature reserves. "Our work there is having a massive impact on sustainability as we engage local villagers in community-based conservation projects to protect 52,000 acres of land with exceptional botanical diversity," Fischer notes.

In 2022, three of the Garden's Malagasy botanists each approached or eclipsed the important milestone of making 10,000 collections, adding to our knowledge of this island nation's diverse flora and enriching the Garden's Herbarium. The collection, which comprises more than 7.7 million specimens, includes nearly 700,000 from continental Africa and Madagascar, far more than any other institution in North America.

Garden botanists continued cataloging rosewood and ebony species across Madagascar, many of which are commercially valuable yet highly threatened. Their study of Malagasy ebonies has tripled the number of recorded species to nearly 285. The team has identified those that require protection, which will be essential for the conservation and sustainable management of this important source of highly sought-after precious wood.

Working closely with the Malagasy government, the Garden's ultimate goal is to protect and restore natural ecosystems, essential for improving the quality of life for the island's roughly 28 million inhabitants, about one third of whom are food insecure.

"People may say, 'What does it matter if this plant goes extinct?" Fischer notes. "It matters because every species is a link in the food chain of a much larger ecosystem. You can only lose so many links before there is no chain anymore."

Conservation and Sustainable Development

Olga Martha Montiel retired in late December as the Vice President of Conservation and Sustainable Development following a 30-year career at the Garden. In that time, Montiel led efforts to establish and cultivate what remains a unique initiative among the world's botanical gardens—the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development (CCSD).

The native Nicaraguan's prior experience in capacitybuilding and fundraising for long-term endowment were foundational to ensuring the CCSD is poised for vibrant growth in perpetuity. To take the CCSD forward, Montiel has laid the groundwork to pass the baton to an accomplished scientist.

"I am a lay person," she explains. "The world moves. Science moves. We have to move with it. Now is the time for someone whose knowledge of restoration ecology, climate change, and plant conservation can position the Garden at the international forefront of training and exchanging knowledge with fellow scientists and communities across the globe — empowering all people with the tools to build a sustainable future."

The impact of the CCSD is found in natural areas, labs, and libraries—and in unexpected places. In a December 2022 episode of *48 Hours*, CBS News highlighted the work of three CCSD researchers in bringing a Missouri killer to justice.

(continued)



Garden field botanist Patrice Antilahimena preparing his 10,000th collection at the Vohidava-Betsimalaho protected area, one of the Garden's 11 community-based conservation sites in Madagascar. This was the first collection of a new species of Diospyros, one of nearly 285 species of ebony on the island.

"The Tree That Helped Solve a Murder" outlined how Dr. Christine Edwards, Dr. Aaron Floden, and Dr. Alexander Linan were asked by prosecutors to investigate the DNA of juniper needles and to identify other plant fragments extracted from mud-caked boots seized from a suspect's home. They wanted to determine if the evidence matched samples taken from trees near the victim's body.

"Junipers happen to have a lot of genetic diversity," Edwards later remarked. "We had five samples that matched exactly to three different trees near where the remains were found. Three samples matched the tree that was directly above the gravesite. There's no doubt in my mind that the suspect had been at the scene of the crime."

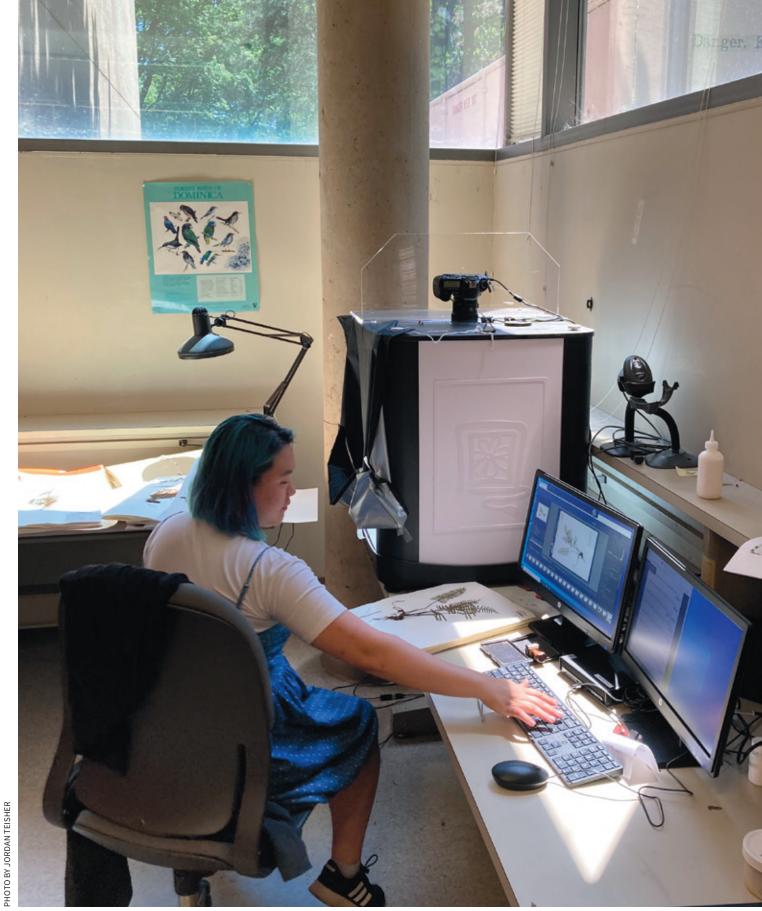
While such forensics are commonplace on TV, they are not common in real life. CBS correspondent Peter Van Sant said in his two decades with *48 Hours*, "I've never heard of anything like this before."

Last year, progress at the CCSD also continued on saving the Missouri native Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), a species recognized as threatened since 1988. A recent genetics study by Garden conservationists pinpointed that its failure to reproduce was unrelated to genetic diversity, refuting the previous theory that such diversity was essential to robust reproduction. That finding has led to improvements in regional and national conservation practices.

Other achievements the CCSD recorded in 2022 include:

- St. Louis Public Radio reported on the CCSD's published paper detailing its statistical approach to predicting plant survival in botanical gardens, a key challenge of conservation science.
- Researchers published two chapters in *Conservation Translocations*, detailing best practices in reintroducing threatened plant species for conservation purposes.
- CCSD collaborated with Red de Bosques Andinos in Tucuman, Argentina, a network to teach young researchers from across the Andes about forest data and methods for studying forest dynamics.
- CCSD's Global Change Lab served as a scientific authority for a mini-documentary exploring tree migration in a changing climate.
- Fieldwork was completed on a multi-year project that added 15 populations of four globally imperiled plant species from the southeastern U.S. to the Garden's seed bank.

Junipers have a lot of genetic diversity, which allowed CCSD researchers to have a high degree of confidence when they found a genetic match between samples collected from the mud on a murder suspect's boots and trees growing at the scene of a crime.

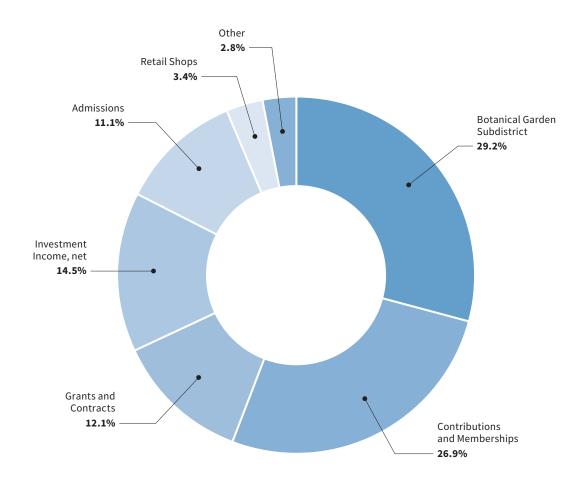


Garden Data Processor Jeddy Choi images one of the Garden's fern specimens using a digital camera attached to a light box. In 2022, digitization staff photographed over 300,000 preserved specimens from the Garden's Herbarium collection.





2022 OPERATING REVENUE



2022 Operating Revenue

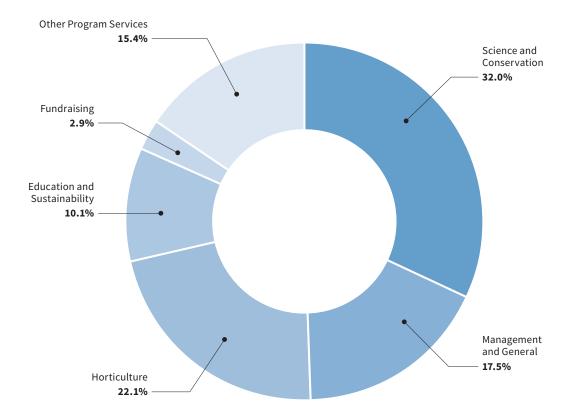
Revenue

Investment income, net	7,016,205
Admissions	5,364,994
Retail shops	1,624,375
Other	808,059
Education	264,558
Property rentals	300,760
Total Operating Revenue	\$48,369,482

2022 Operating Expenses

Total Operating Expenses	\$46,717,844
Total supporting services	9,575,784
Fundraising	1,385,819
Management and General	8,189,965
Supporting Services	
Total program services	37,142,060
Other	7,189,981
Education and Sustainability	4,695,660
Horticulture	10,303,778
Science and Conservation	\$ 14,952,641
Program Services	

2022 OPERATING EXPENSES



2022 Fund Balances

Operating Fund

Total All I unus	\$ 551,105,520
Total All Funds	\$ 337,703,320
Gift Annuity Fund	12,465
Capital Campaign Fund	6,101,634
Land, Building, and Equipment Fund	158,347,116
Endowment Funds	161,427,151
9/30/22 Operating Fund	11,814,954
10/1/21 Operating fund balance	11,388,382
2022 Operating fund excess/(deficit)	426,572
Total operating transfers	(1,225,066)
Total operating expenses	(46,717,844)
Total operating support and revenue	\$ 48,369,482

*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.

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.

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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.

Lydia Padilla, *Chair* Adrian E. Bracy, *Vice Chair* Francis Yueh, *Treasurer* Kristin Thompson Poelker, *Secretary* Diego Abente Charlotte Hammond James F. Hoffmeister Sal Martinez Marcia B. Mellitz Hillary B. Zimmerman

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Darnetta Clinkscale, Chair, Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District

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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 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.

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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.

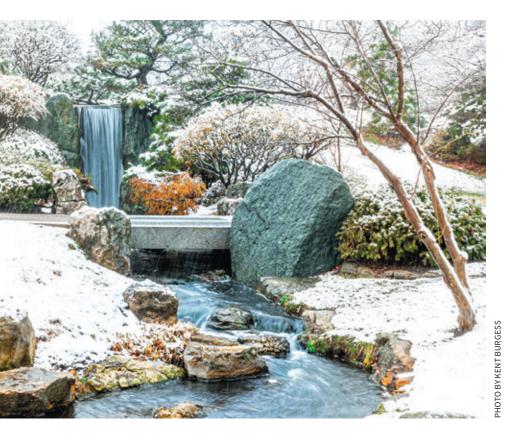
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Kelly Malone, Vice President of Corporate Communications, Caleres

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"Ameren Missouri proudly supports the Green Living Festival to ensure our community has access to healthy and sustainable choices. As a sponsor and presenter during the event, Ameren Missouri Energy Efficiency employees have the opportunity to connect with attendees and provide knowledge that creates a greener world for us all and encourages energy savings tips."

Shelly Harmon, Manager, Ameren Missouri Energy Efficiency

A family learns about native Missouri species at the Green Living Festival.



Cumulative Giving

We are proud to honor the following donors for their total history of giving to the Missouri Botanical Garden, including gifts through December 31, 2022.

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our children didn't want to go to the Garden to 'smell the flowers and feed the fish.' One of the best things I can do is to ensure that those opportunities—for love, beauty, and joy—continue to exist for everyone."

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The multi-phase development of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center is the centerpiece of the Gateway to the Garden campaign.

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The Garden is grateful to the following donors for their contributions to the *Gateway to the Garden* campaign, including gifts and pledges made through December 31, 2022.

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

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