

Annual Report
2019



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

On the Cover: The Piper Observatory stands with the Kresko Family Victorian Garden at the heart of the Garden's Doris Waters Harris Lichtenstein Victorian District.

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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

from the President



We celebrated the 160th anniversary of the Garden in 2019. So much has changed over that time, which is the nature of an organization built around thriving and diverse living collections and an evolving mission. What has not changed is the critical role we play in supporting a better St. Louis—and indeed, a better world.

Now that I am in my 10th year at the Garden, I have enjoyed looking at our progress over the past decade. In less than 10 years, the endangered species we are conserving in our living collections have increased from around 200 species to over 1,350 species. Our Herbarium has grown from fewer than 5 million to more than 7.5 million plant specimens, making it one of the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world.

We now have more than 720 Missouri native plants conserved in our Seed Bank, which was only created in 2012. We have restored and reopened Henry Shaw's historic museum to the public after nearly 40 years of closure. We have renewed infrastructure throughout the Garden—from the glamorous and iconic Japanese Garden to the “mundane but essential” paths, walls, roofs, and boilers.

We have created beloved new events, like Garden Glow, which have quickly become a part of the holiday traditions of our community. We have welcomed more than one million visitors to our public venues each year. These are just a few examples of what has been an extraordinary, busy, and rewarding time of progress.

Our founder's vision for the “promotion of scientific investigations” has continued to expand beyond the Garden walls. Our scientists and horticulturists conduct fieldwork and collaborate in 35 countries on six continents, documenting plant diversity, describing new species, and safeguarding threatened plants and their habitats. I'm sure Shaw would be delighted to know his wish that “instruction to garden pupils shall be attended to” has cultivated math, science, and environmental instruction for more than 58,000 local students and teachers in the past year.

We also announced our plan to take Shaw's vision of “a Garden for all of St. Louis” to a new level on this anniversary year, unveiling plans for the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center. This “Gateway to the Garden” will showcase our work, gardens, and living collections while meeting the needs of our community as never before, elevating the Garden experience for generations of visitors to come.

For 160 years, our staff in St. Louis and around the world has advanced our mission every day with the support of our volunteers, sponsors, partners, members, and closest friends. That is, of course, all of you. These advancements show the confidence you have in our work and our future. Thank you for your commitment to the Garden, and thank you for making our mission possible.

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



The 160th year of the Missouri Botanical Garden was one of beauty and success. As we reflect on our progress and look toward our future plans, we know it was also a year of transformation. In 2019, we marked the beginning of an exciting time of progress for the Garden, which will be realized as we move forward with plans for the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center experience.

The purpose of the Taylor Visitor Center is to provide a world-class welcome for our guests and a resource for our community. At the same time, it will immediately orient visitors to our critical and historic global mission of education, engagement, and plant conservation.

Through the Taylor Visitor Center, our role in our community will continue to grow. Our festivals and celebrations will continue to bring diverse audiences of all ages to explore the wonders of nature. Our living collections, plant science and conservation achievements, and education programs will continue to be a measure of excellence across the world.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's work is driven by the need to protect and conserve plants and their ecosystems. We know that mission has never been more important. Plant diversity—the world's greatest natural resource—is being lost at an alarming rate. For 160 years, the Garden has been committed to serving as a leader in environmental protection here at home and around the globe.

Your support of the Garden means you are our partner in this commitment. And the value of your commitment is clear. Each year, more than one million visitors to Garden locations are directly affected by our landscapes and programs. Education partnerships are formed and advanced across the community with your investment. Plants are discovered, identified, studied, and protected for generations to come because of the work you support.

As the chair of the Board of Trustees, it is my privilege to also provide support and leadership to the global team of staff and volunteers that carry out this important work. I thank each of you for your commitment to our mission.

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Renderings of the new Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center

Community Transformation

On October 21, the Missouri Botanical Garden announced a project that will transform our visitors' experience, sustain the Garden's future, and contribute to a growing cultural renaissance in St. Louis.

The Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center will be the centerpiece of the *Gateway to the Garden* giving initiative, a multi-year plan to reorient the visitor entry experience and transform the "front door" of the Garden for the growing community.

The Taylor Visitor Center will serve as a central part of the Garden experience, integrated with our diverse living collections. Visitors will be immersed in the Garden's mission to connect people with plants and showcase the natural world before they even enter the main building. New entry gardens will feature rare plants from around the world, reinforcing the importance of plant life and the role of botanical gardens through both architecture and landscape.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to create a gateway that delivers an experience of the caliber of the displays and events that people love once they're inside," says Garden President Peter Wyse

Jackson. "This project will create a new treasure for St. Louis, allowing us to advance our role as a global leader in plant science and as an important cultural institution for the region."

Visitors will enjoy stunning views of some of the Garden's most iconic locations, as well as new gardens, walks, and water features. A new conservatory will house a permanent collection of Mediterranean plants and beloved flower shows.

The new building will make the Garden more easily accessible, featuring a single level with seating areas for gathering and resting, wide pathways, and additional drop-off areas. Guests will experience enhanced amenities including streamlined admission, outdoor plant sales through the gift shop, and expanded dining options. The new building will also provide more space for meetings and events, including a separate area for large private events and conferences.

Funding for this initiative is being led by the Taylor family, which has supported the Garden's legacy for decades, and powered by a passionate group of generous donors and Garden enthusiasts.

"We are honored to have the new building named the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center, continuing Jack's and our family's legacy and love of the Garden," says Jo Ann Taylor Kindle, Trustee of the Crawford Taylor Foundation. "It is our pleasure to make this impactful donation to a transformative project in his name as we continue our support of the Garden. We're dedicated to the growth and development of this beautiful city that we love so much—and the Garden has a deep cultural impact."

Much has changed at the Garden since Ridgway Visitor Center was built in 1982, including the number of visitors. The center was designed to accommodate 250,000 visitors per year. In 2019, the Garden welcomed nearly one million. As

we look to sustain and build on this growth, the Taylor Visitor Center will be critical to ensuring an exceptional experience for visitors at every point in the Garden.

St. Louis is going through a transformation. With the fostering and launching of innovative companies, the resurgence of historic neighborhoods, the development of beautiful new attractions, and the addition of exciting sports teams, our community is experiencing rejuvenation. The Missouri Botanical Garden has been a jewel for the community and region for 160 years, and the Taylor Visitor Center will ensure the Garden remains a top tourist destination, a local favorite, and a global leader in plant science and conservation.





Aerial view of the Linnean House lit for Garden Glow

Community Engagement through Events

The living collections of the Missouri Botanical Garden were at the center of several successful events to engage our community in 2019. In the spring, the Garden partnered with the Japan America Society of St. Louis and St. Louis-Suwa Sister Cities Committee for Sake and Sakura. More than 520 people celebrated the Japanese season of *hanami*, focused on new growth and renewed hope. The blossoms of the plum and cherry trees (*sakura*) of the Japanese Garden were central to the event. The Garden also stayed open late during peak cherry blossom bloom for the community to enjoy.



Sake and Sakura

Over the summer, thousands enjoyed Garden Party Lights. The Garden became an after-hours destination for visitors to enjoy evening strolls with drinks, music, food, and dynamic multimedia murals of light. Attendance averaged 1,000 visitors per night over the five months of the event. Theme nights engaged specific audiences in our community. Pride Night focused on the LGBTQ+ community. Sensory-Friendly Night was coordinated with Autism Speaks to create a special environment for those with autism. First Responders Night was provided by Pohlmann Legacy to honor first responders and their families.

In June, the Garden also partnered with LifeWise STL and South City Church for a Latinx Family Night, a private evening for Saint Louis Crisis Nursery Latino Outreach families. More than 460 families enjoyed activity stations with bilingual signage throughout the Garden, such as pot-a-plant, sensory exploration, textures in nature, and musical activities by Different Dynamics. They also explored the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden until dusk.

The Whitaker Music Festival, the free summertime



(top) Tonina Saputo and her band playing at the 2019 Whitaker Music Festival. (middle) Guests stroll through the Lopata Azalea-Rhododendron Garden during Garden Party Lights. (bottom) Visitors enjoy outdoor games in the Biergarten during summer evening events.

concert series made possible by the Whitaker Foundation, also engaged a broad audience. Despite several evenings cancelled due to rain and storms, nearly 26,000 guests enjoyed a concert at the Garden. Playlists from featured artists were also available on Spotify, and the Garden continued a multi-year partnership with Fusion Interpreting Services to provide American Sign Language interpreting for all shows.

For the second year, the last week of October became Tree Week at the Garden. Programming and communications highlighted the Garden’s world-class collection of trees—and the professionals who care for them—when spectacular fall color shines as bright as any flower. More than 8,600 people visited for Tree Week, a 22% increase over 2018. In addition to beautiful trees throughout the grounds, visitors enjoyed tree-themed activities provided by the Education Department in the Brookings Exploration Center, Doris I. Schnuck Children’s Garden, and PlantLab.

Digital Tree Week content brought more than 7,000 people to the Garden’s blog, Discover+Share, to explore plant profiles on tree species like the Osage orange, expert tree care, tips to identify native trees, and a “tree ID” quiz.

In the winter, nearly 140,000 visitors made Garden Glow a part of their holiday traditions. The seventh year of the event was presented by Wells Fargo and expanded displays along a glittering path, surrounding guests with lights and music. Children enjoyed lighting the field of luminaries by drumming on interactive flowers. The Twinkling Tunnel and romantic Kiss Goodnight remain popular destinations for marriage proposals. Garden Glow allows the Garden to showcase the magic of the natural world during winter—a time when many families might not otherwise think of walking around outside.

Events like Garden Glow have an important impact on our community,” says Jim Hays, President of Wells Fargo Advisors. “We are proud to be the presenting sponsor of an experience that combines holiday traditions, community engagement, and the vital role nature plays in our lives.”

Sachs Museum

Exhibits and Impact

The first full year of operations for the Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum included a robust calendar of exhibitions. Organized by Museum Curator Nezka Pfeifer, the exhibitions were designed to engage Garden visitors of all ages with the plants of the living collections. The historic architecture and modern amenities of the Sachs Museum were an inspirational setting for installations.



Botanical Art Worldwide: America's Flora

From February to May, visitors explored *Botanical Art Worldwide: America's Flora*. Curated by the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) and the United States Botanical Garden, the exhibition brought 46 botanical artworks of America's native plants to the Garden.

Artworks featured plants from around the country, including saguaro cactus from the desert Southwest, bigleaf maple from the West Coast, bottlebrush buckeye from the Eastern Seaboard, and bloodroot from the midwestern and eastern U.S. The exhibition included familiar sunflowers and violets, as well as rare species such as lady's slipper orchids. ASBA artists portrayed their subjects in a variety of media—watercolor, oil, colored pencil, pen and ink, and etching.

Botanical Art Worldwide: America's Flora is part of a global project of exhibitions in 25 countries on six continents. The collaboration aimed to increase understanding of plant diversity and link people with plants through art. Each exhibition featured original contemporary artwork of its country's native plants. Visitors could also explore a digital presentation of artworks in the other 24 countries' exhibitions.

Overlapping with this display in April and May, the Sachs Museum hosted *Connecting the Pieces: Dialogues on the Amache Archaeology Collection*. Presented in partnership with the St. Louis chapter of the Japan America Citizens League (JACL), the exhibit highlighted the story of Japanese Americans imprisoned at the Amache Internment Camp in southeastern Colorado during World War II and the gardens they created while detained.

"Through carefully curated exhibitions, the Sachs Museum expertly merges the world of contemporary art, plant science, and historical objects and collections," says Nancy Kranzberg. She and her husband Ken have supported exhibitions in the Sachs Museum. "This restored historic space is truly unique in both the botanical and the museum world."



Leafing through History: Plants that Make Paper

In the summer, the Sachs Museum hosted its first interdisciplinary exhibition highlighting the science, history, and art of paper. From June to October, *Leafing through History: Plants That Make Paper* focused on the role of plants as paper.

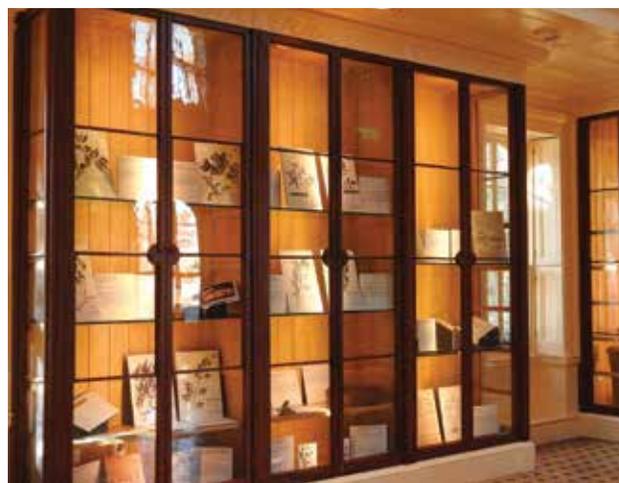
Visitors learned about paper-making techniques used by different cultures for religious texts, tourism, and cultural practices. Ethnobotanical displays highlighted the connection between people and plants and featured unique items like fig paper, used in ancient Mayan traditions. Historical items such as antique writing tools illustrated the evolving story of paper, particularly when juxtaposed with contemporary paper art displays.

Specimens from the Garden's Herbarium also showcased 40 different plants used to make paper across the globe. Additional displays featured the "art of the herbarium," showcasing items Garden staff and volunteers use to preserve these important specimens.

The year closed with an in-depth look at one of the most important crops on the planet: the potato. *Potato (Solanum tuberosum): Apple of the Earth* highlighted botany, history, and contemporary art focused on this underestimated tuber.

The potato is the most important non-cereal food crop in the world and a significant part of the diet of more than 1.5 billion people. The Sachs Museum show included 40 specimens from the Garden's Herbarium representing potato species around the world. The exhibit also showcased tools used for farming and cooking potatoes. Other items, like Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, highlighted the potato's role in pop culture.

The South and Lower Level Galleries featured work from contemporary artists interpreting the unique story of this food crop. Artworks included the historic impact of the late potato blight that



Potato (Solanum tuberosum): Apple of the Earth

devastated the potato crop in Ireland in the mid-19th century.

"Creating a series of exhibitions to invite Garden visitors inside the historic exhibit space is brilliant," says John and Anita O'Connell, who also support exhibits in the Sachs Museum. "We especially enjoyed the *Apple of the Earth* exhibit. I know only a slice of what any Irishman should know about potatoes, and the exhibit greatly expanded that. The addition of 'whimsy'—Mr. Potato Head, the masher assemblage, and other elements—enabled the show to appeal to all ages."

Advancement in *Horticulture*

More than 1,350 species in cultivation at the Missouri Botanical Garden are rare or endangered. This is a marked increase in only a decade; in 2009, only 75 such species were in cultivation.

The Garden is working to safeguard the future of plants like the Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*), one of America's most popular Christmas trees. Millions of Fraser firs are grown for holiday use, but wild populations are rare. Fraser firs occur in isolated pockets in the Appalachian mountain range, and the species is endangered.

The main threat to these trees is an invasive insect known as the balsam woolly adelgid. Nearly 90% of the mature fir trees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park have been killed in the past 50 years, affecting the entire ecosystem. The Park Service has treated mature trees to kill the adelgid and collected seeds for dedicated preservation.

In 2019, Garden horticulturists made two trips to the Appalachian Mountains in search of Fraser firs and other threatened plants. Many of the target trees were located on Mount Rogers in southern Virginia, which has not experienced the most devastating effects of the adelgid.

The team collected seed from more than 50 individual Fraser fir trees from two distinct populations. Seeds were sent to the Seed Bank at Shaw Nature Reserve to preserve for future conservation efforts. Horticulture staff will also propagate the plant and incorporate it into the Garden's public display, though growing it in St. Louis's climate could be a challenge.

The team also collected seeds and spores from more than 75 other species on the trip, including orchids, lilies, ferns, and evergreens. About 30 of these species are new to the Garden's living collection, and more than a dozen are already

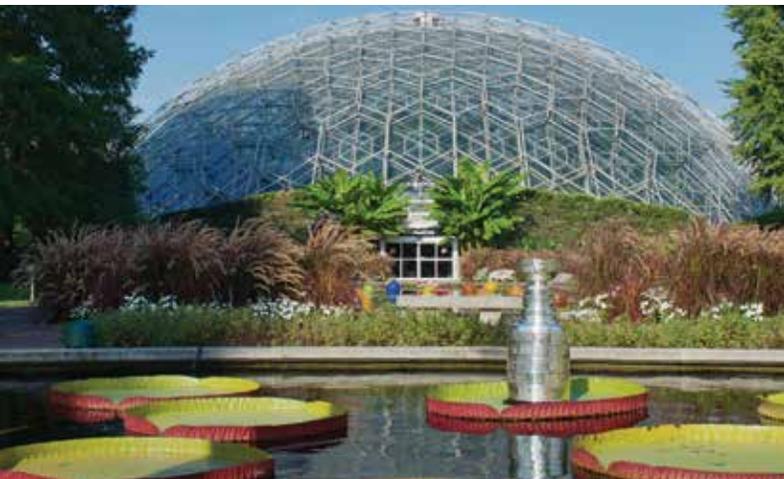


Horticulturist Travis Hall, climbing a Fraser fir to collect seeds.

being propagated in the Garden greenhouses at the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery.

"Starting with Henry Shaw, many individuals have been involved in the collection, preservation, and display of endangered species at the Garden," says Garden donor Roger Volk. He and his wife Jean support these efforts. "The Oertli Plant Nursery will provide expanded, state-of-the-art quarantine and germination spaces, allowing horticulturists to preserve and display new species in the Garden."

Garden horticulturists also showed off historic favorites in 2019. The St. Louis Red poinsettia, popularized by Louis Bourdet in the early 20th century, was featured in *Gardenland Express*. The reedy St. Louis Red grows much taller than poinsettias commonly seen in Christmas décor. It was a favorite for years before fading from the spotlight in favor of smaller, bushier varieties, becoming difficult to find.



(left) The Stanley Cup visited the Garden on its tour of St. Louis attractions. (right) Staff measure the Victoria water lily growth.

Garden Horticulturist Josh Higgins received a dormant St. Louis Red from California in 2016. After 3 years of care, it was nearly 6 feet tall when it debuted at Gardenland Express. The plant reached nearly 10 feet by the end of the holiday flower and train show.

The historic water lilies also made headlines in 2019. In 1894, 30,000 people gathered at the Missouri Botanical Garden to see the bloom of the very first Victoria water lily flower. That is the last time that the lily pools were heated—until now.

The center pool of the Garden’s Central Axis received a new heating system in late 2018. The heated pool means water lilies can be transplanted from the greenhouse much earlier in the season. In 2019, the Garden grew its largest lily pad ever, with a Longwood hybrid variety measuring 91 inches across. That’s over a foot larger than the typical growth of a Victoria in St. Louis and just two inches short of the world record.

The Victorias were so large, they were growing out of the water. They may have grown even larger with deeper water, which Horticulture intends to test in 2020 and beyond. One of the Victorias also briefly hosted The Stanley Cup, courtesy of the St. Louis Blues.

The helpful horticulture resources at the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening are also more accessible than ever, thanks to an overhaul in spring 2019. A new information desk consolidates gardening information resources, with Garden staff

and volunteers working side-by-side as they assist the public. The renovations were made possible by a generous gift from the late Alma Reitz, who served as a horticulture volunteer from 1975 to 2011.

“The Horticultural Answer Service and Kemper Center for Home Gardening were Aunt Almie’s second home,” says Martha Kratzer, Alma’s niece and a Garden donor and volunteer. “She would be thrilled to see how much the new desk has been used by the public.”

Additional improvements are planned for 2020 and beyond, including an interactive calendar for planning gardening tasks, an enhanced beehive display highlighting the importance of pollinators, and a demonstration area for quick tutorials on common gardening tasks.



New resource desk at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening.



In 2014, much of the Ankafoabe Forest on the Malagasy Highlands was destroyed by fire. The local community is working to restore the forest.

Research Alerting the World

The Missouri Botanical Garden engages in critical plant science and conservation in more than 35 countries around the world, including the United States. Some of the Garden's largest and most comprehensive conservation programs are based in mainland Africa and Madagascar. The Garden has had a sustained research presence in Madagascar since the 1970s and established a permanent base in the 1980s. Now the program has more than 150 staff members, almost all of whom are Malagasy, working across more than a dozen locations.

The Garden's work in Madagascar was widely celebrated in 2019 in a number of noteworthy publications. *National Geographic* published a piece about the work of Garden ecologist Dr. Adam Smith. Dr. Smith studies the effect of climate change on biodiversity, including the future of lemur habitats in Madagascar. Deforestation and changing climate could wipe out the rainforests of Madagascar in 60 years, eliminating the lemurs' habitat. Studies like Dr. Smith's show the critical importance of ecological preservation and restoration work for plant and animal species alike.



(left) A species of lemur endemic to the Loky-Manambato region. (right) The President of Madagascar plants a Sohisika tree (*Schizolaena tampoketsana*) as part of reforestation efforts.

The Madagascar project was also recognized in *Mother Jones* and *Atlas Obscura* in a feature story about Garden scientists working alongside citizens of Madagascar to protect the last sohisika trees in the wild. When fire threatened to consume the protected 230-acre Ankafoabe Forest—and the last of the sohisikas—the community

came together and fought off the fire for days. Local conservationists have since been replanting the forest with native seedlings grown in nurseries rebuilt after the fire.

“To me, the most compelling aspect of the Garden’s long-term commitment to Africa and Madagascar is the development within the Malagasy communities in which they work,” says Susan Lanigan. She and her husband Edward have been donors to the Garden’s conservation programs in Madagascar for several years. “They are a vibrant, dedicated group of researchers and citizen scientists with the expertise to discover and protect the unique flora of the island.”

Furthering the Garden’s work in Africa in 2019, Dr. Tariq Stévant coauthored a study that suggests that one-third of all tropical African plant species are at risk of becoming extinct. Dr. Stévant is an Associate Curator in the Garden’s Africa and Madagascar Department. The study uses an algorithm to support a faster approach to flag plants as potentially endangered. This would allow experts to quickly identify regions in the most desperate need of an official Red List classification by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The threats to animals around the world have been well studied, but the plants at risk for extinction are not as well-known. Only 8% of known plant species have been assessed by the IUCN for its Red List. The designation is a crucial first step in conserving high-risk plants.

Dr. Stévant and his colleagues focused on two IUCN Red List criteria related to reduction in population and habitat decline, developing the algorithm to automatically classify the conservation status of plants. The team applied the algorithm to a database of more than 20,000 plant species across tropical Africa, with data on threats including agricultural use, urban areas, and mining activities.

The algorithm classified 17% of the plant species as likely to be under threat and 14% as potentially threatened. That means almost 7,000 species—nearly a third of the study—might be threatened by extinction. Most of the threatened species



Local nurserymen grew 9,726 seedlings of 29 native species of trees and shrubs to restore the Ankafoabe Forest.

are located in western Africa and the Ethiopian highlands, giving scientists a clue to which regions need to be prioritized for further study.

“It is imperative that we proactively preserve the critical ecosystem of Madagascar for future generations, and the Garden’s longstanding programs are doing that,” says supporter Virginia Koors. Virginia and her husband Mark travelled to Madagascar with the Garden to see these conservation efforts firsthand. “Because of the Garden’s efforts, my grandchildren and great grandchildren will also be able to marvel as lemurs communicate and interact with each other in their natural habitat. That is an awesome experience.”

Sustainability and Education

Missouri Botanical Garden staff and volunteers engage the St. Louis community with all facets of the Garden's mission throughout the year. One program with a robust year in 2019 was Outdoor Youth Corps (OYC), a year-round employment and career program for urban St. Louis teens. The program builds work and life skills through collaborations with St. Louis Public Schools and local organizations including AmeriCorps St. Louis, Missouri Department of Conservation, North Newstead Association, City of St. Louis Parks, and Forest Park Forever.

OYC annually recruits, hires, and mentors local youth. Projects focus on ecological restoration, community beautification, and environmental education in their own neighborhoods. It is part of the St. Louis Green Teen Alliance, a coalition of organizations in St. Louis that collectively employ 75-80 teens each summer, connecting them with professionals to increase their awareness of potential academic and career pursuits.

OYC has expanded since its start in 2014 through grant funding from the City of St. Louis and a private donor to include three programs in 2019. These programs included habitat restoration in Forest Park over spring break; trail restoration, invasive species removal, and other environmental projects on Saturdays during the school year; and a summer horticulture program in both O'Fallon Park and at the Garden. Grant funding in 2019 allowed a past participant to be hired as an OYC summer intern for the program. Funds also allowed for an extra week of professional development and field trips about outdoor careers.

With support from Boeing and the Hearst Foundation, the Garden's Education team also offered "PlantLab Student Scientists: Growing the Future" in 2019. The new program forges relationships between students and subjects in



(top) Outdoor Youth Corps planting a new urban oasis in the city. (bottom left) Student Scientists working in the PlantLab. (bottom right) Young visitors join a planting activity in the Herb Garden.

the STEM field, such as plant science, horticulture, ecological restoration, and sustainability. The 1,100-square foot PlantLab is the creative hub of the program.

The 2019 pilot year focused on students in grades 3 through 5. The Garden school program staff coordinated with teachers, conducted field labs, mentored students, and served as a liaison for the students with Garden professionals for further mentoring opportunities.

The program is positioned to serve 1,000 students from 30 classrooms in Title 1 schools across our community, providing hands-on opportunities across a data-driven and STEM-focused curriculum.



(left) Students assist the BiodiverseCity St. Louis Program. (middle) EarthWays Center programs help students perform a waste audit and develop actions to implement in their schools to reduce waste. (right) Students volunteer to remove invasive honeysuckle at the Al Foster Memorial Trailhead in Wildwood.

“The Garden’s education programs are unique,” says Brittany Douglas, Senior Community Investor of Boeing, St. Louis Region. “The PlantLab is an ideal setting for combining nature and education. Programs here forge relationships for students with STEM-field careers and subjects like plant science and ecological restoration; this aligns well with our philanthropic goals for supporting our communities.”

The EarthWays Center of the Garden leads sustainability education programs at the Garden and across the community. In 2019, this included the Student Innovation Challenge, funded with support from St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District. The program brought students together from school districts across the community for a 1-day eco-challenge. The students, representing grades 4 through 12, were presented with a real-world environmental problem and spent the day designing and presenting solutions.

The EarthWays Center also offered the Leadership in Environmental Action Projects (LEAP) program again in 2019, which supports waste-reduction programs in schools. Students complete a waste audit and develop action projects to change the culture around waste in their school. EarthWays led students through an eight-step problem-solving framework and provided professional development for teachers.

In 2019, the BiodiverseCity St. Louis program completed the first full year of BiomeSTL, a local plan to develop the ecological data and inventory tools needed to conserve biodiversity in our region. With support from the Ameren Corporation, the Garden led dozens of partners to curate and develop the BiomeSTL atlas of biodiversity data, intended to serve as a bi-state best practices standard by 2025 for regional planning and land-use. The core team also led efforts to distribute the 2019 Ecological Data Inventory, developed by East-West Gateway Council of Governments’ OneSTL team, as a preview of BiomeSTL’s purpose and capacities.

The Young Friends Council of the Garden voted to direct all funds raised from their events to the programs of the EarthWays Center beginning in 2019. Efforts raised nearly \$70,000 in 2019 to support sustainability programs in the community.

“In 2019, the Young Friends Council evaluated what area of the Garden to support with the funds we raise each year. The Council overwhelmingly chose EarthWays,” says Mike Torney, chair of the Young Friends Council. “Their mission of conserving natural resources and reducing impact on our environment aligns with the demographics of our Council; sustainability is increasingly important to Gen X, millennials, and younger generations.”



Hiking through the prairie at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Shaw Nature Reserve

Shaw Nature Reserve experienced a year of restoration and continued revitalization in 2019. The Visitor Center received significant aesthetic improvements and offered a curated selection of merchandise. Native plants were available for purchase in the courtyard of the Visitor Center for the first time. A new lift arm gate was installed to ensure accurate documentation of attendance and greater opportunities for customer service.

The Nature Reserve also instituted an early morning access program for members to enjoy birding, photography, and hiking before the grounds open to the public each day. As expected, members have responded well to this enhanced benefit.

Events and education programs also increased. The Annual Art Show welcomed more than 2,200 in November, nearly doubling 2018's then-record attendance. The Nature Reserve hosted its second Careers without Walls event in 2019, a career day focused on jobs with an outdoor component. Over 400 students participated, more than double the 2018 attendance. With the generous support of donors, the Nature Reserve offered classes, overnight lodging, and bus transportation for nearly 500 students from underserved schools in 2019.



A student catches a frog during BioBlitz.

The Habitat Helpers program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019. It offers fourth- and fifth-grade students a free, educational program to become more familiar with natural settings and value the natural world. It fosters appreciation for science and nature through games and activities that focus on the plants, animals, and ecosystems of Shaw Nature Reserve.

"My late husband and I were both middle school teachers. We both loved the outdoors, plants and wildlife, and travel," says Ilene Murray, a longtime Nature Reserve supporter who makes gifts to fund the Habitat Helpers program. "Ed taught biological science and ecology. His students knew the importance of preserving wild spaces and rebuilding what has been lost. He would be delighted to know that helping young people appreciate and care about the natural world at the Nature Reserve continues as part of his legacy."

Ecological restoration efforts to enhance native biodiversity through invasive species control, prescribed fire, and native seed addition have continued to grow rapidly. In 2019, the Nature Reserve sowed nearly 600 pounds of seed from 208 species across 45 acres of woodlands, prairies, glades, and wetlands. More than 1,500 of the Nature Reserve's 2,400 acres are now actively managed for native biodiversity. The collective contributions of restoration volunteers exceed 2,500 hours annually.

The restoration team also works closely with scientists from regional universities and other strategic partners. Researchers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) tagged and monitored federally endangered Indiana bats at the Nature Reserve, leading to the discovery of one of the largest maternal colonies ever identified in Missouri. The intensive focus on endangered bats began with the capture of a single female bat during the fall 2017 BioBlitz. That bat led researchers to the roost tree housing a colony of more than 200 bats. The ideal habitat provided by that burned tree is the direct result of ecological



Dr. James Trager educates visitors on a nature trail.

management practices. The Nature Reserve received additional support from USFWS in 2019 to further capacity for land stewardship through expanded woodland restoration work near the maternal colony.

The Missouri Humanities Council donated a historical log cabin to the Nature Reserve in 2019. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, the reconstructed cabin will serve as a focal point for a new native edible plant garden within the Whitmire Wildflower Garden.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) continues as a major partner for the Nature Reserve as well. The MDC Cooperate Agreement supports native plant horticulture and education programs and is the largest single grant, donation, or agreement providing programmatic operating support. These partnerships collectively expand the Nature Reserve's capacity to serve as a leader in environmental education, ecological restoration, and native plant horticulture.

"The mission of the Nature Reserve is so important," says Susie Russell, who volunteered at the Nature Reserve for more than 40 years. Her gifts continue a legacy that includes her husband Dick, who volunteered at the Nature Reserve for more than 20 years. "Dick and I are proud to have been a part of the team and the work to restore the landscape."



Researchers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked to tag and monitor endangered bats found at the Nature Reserve.

Sophia M. Sachs

Butterfly House

The 21st year of the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House provided community engagement and insect milestones. Nearly 36,000 butterflies were displayed in 2019, bringing the total number of butterflies to have lived in the Conservatory to more than 750,000. Perennial favorites include the blue morpho, owl, and rare green birdwing butterflies.

One of the most striking new species to come to the Butterfly House in 2019 is the black beauty walking stick (*Peruphasma schultei*). This unique species is found only in a 12-acre habitat in Peru, along the mountain range that separates Peru and Ecuador. For reference, that's slightly smaller than the Japanese Garden.

The black beauty was described to science less than 20 years ago. While new plant and animal species are identified every year, it's unusual for a 2-inch long insect with striking black, red, and yellow markings to be unknown. Those markings let predators know the black beauty is toxic. Butterflies, like the orange and black monarch, have the same colors to advertise toxicity.

The black beauty's home is a unique, biologically diverse region. The Missouri Botanical Garden was one of several organizations able to explore the Cordillera del Cóndor mountains after a treaty was signed between Peru and Ecuador. The treaty allowed for extensive plant research and cataloging right around the same time this species was discovered. This research and the discovery of the black beauty walking stick illustrate the value of preserving entire ecosystems; plant and animal conservation go hand-in-hand.

The walking sticks have been very happy at the Butterfly House. The initial generation of about 50 black beauties now has "grandchildren" at the Butterfly House; the entomologists stopped counting after 1,000. They have a dedicated space in the lab and on display in the Exhibit Hall.



Black beauty walking stick (Peruphasma schultei)

The black beauty is also helping a bit to clean up the ecosystem of Faust Park. The voracious eaters enjoy all types of honeysuckle—including invasive bush honeysuckle removed from the park. In the winter, they enjoy porterweed, a nectar plant in the Conservatory.

The Keeper for a Day program introduced children to this amazing species and others. Designed for kids ages 8 to 12, the program offers an exclusive, hands-on, behind-the-scenes opportunity for participants to serve as an entomologist for a day. In 2019, 15 children fed the insects, released butterflies, worked in the entomology lab, and even hosted an animal encounter for other Butterfly House visitors.



Keeper for the Day assists in pinning chrysalides to hang in the butterfly emergence cabinet.

“Both my boys participated in the Keeper for a Day program last year,” says Garden member Mary Schinkel. “It was an invaluable way to build confidence and eliminate fear toward insects and arachnids. They also benefited from interacting with adults that are excited to share their knowledge of entomology; the program gives children a wonderful introduction to that field.”

The program is an ideal way to introduce children to a lifelong love of insects—and career opportunities. One former Keeper for the Day joined the teen program Making Advocates of Nature-Loving Teens In Service (MANTIS) in 2019 as well. These young leaders could one day become interns and employees at the Butterfly House and other insectariums.

Across the community, Project Pollinator gardens are thriving and engaging people with the role of pollinators. Since 2016, dozens of pollinator

gardens featuring thousands of native plants have been planted in public spaces. The Butterfly House joined with St. Louis County Parks and Libraries as part of a national movement to protect pollinators and their habitats. Project Pollinator also benefits from the advice and support of 14 local conservation agencies.

Each spring, the Pollinator Plant Sale offers schools, homeowners, and others a wide variety of native plants that benefit butterflies, bees, and other native pollinators. The sale proceeds then benefit Project Pollinator.

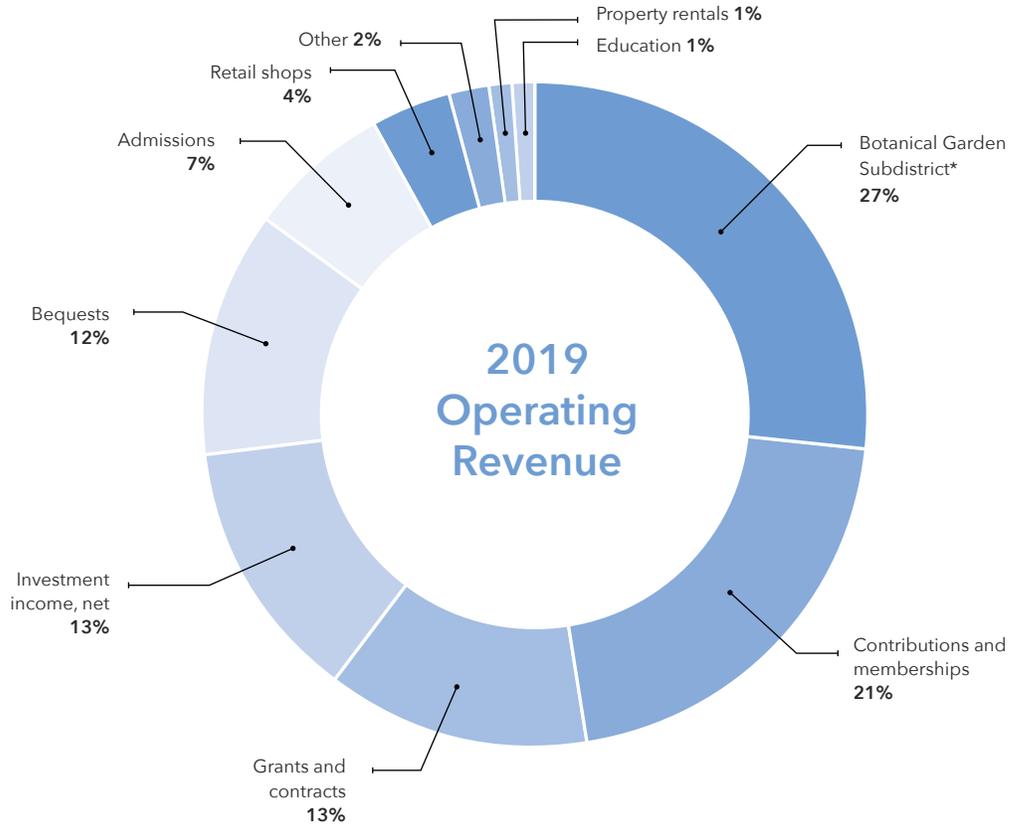
“The sale is a wonderful way to introduce curious and enthusiastic gardeners to the benefits of incorporating pollinator plants into their landscapes,” says Harriet Blickenstaff, a longtime Butterfly House volunteer. “The only downside is that I am always discovering new plants to buy!”



Spring beauty at the entrance to the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House.

Financial Information

(for the period of January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019*)



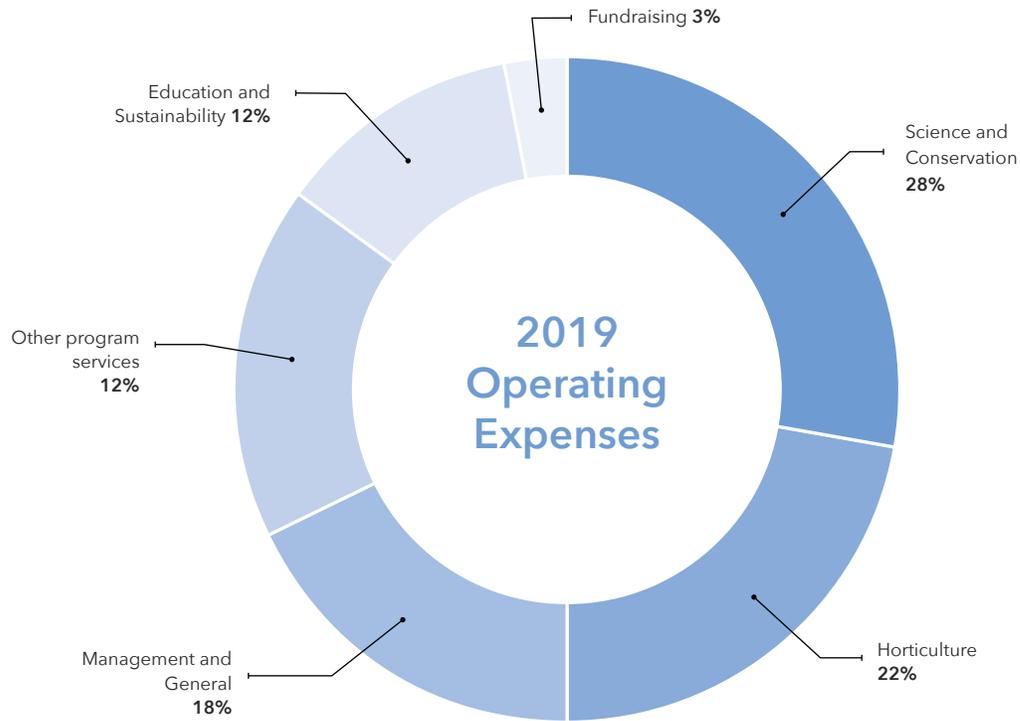
2019 Operating Revenue

Botanical Garden Subdistrict	\$ 9,614,000
Contributions and memberships	7,479,683
Bequests	4,213,907
Grants and contracts	4,734,600
Investment income, net	4,521,423
Admissions	2,565,235
Retail shops	1,434,288
Other	762,734
Education	294,568
Property rentals	317,196
Total Operating Revenue	\$35,937,634

2019 Operating Expenses

Operating Services	
Science and Conservation	\$ 8,361,392
Horticulture	6,785,892
Education and Sustainability	3,565,645
Other	5,190,387
Total Program Services	23,903,316
Supporting Services	
Management and general	\$5,540,639
Fundraising	815,825
Total Supporting Services	6,356,464
Total Operating Expenses	\$30,259,780

* The Missouri Botanical Garden changed their fiscal year during 2019, resulting in a short 9-month fiscal period.



2019 Fund Balances

Operating Fund

Total operating support and revenue	\$35,937,634
Total operating expenses	(30,259,780)
Total operating transfers	(1,427,606)
2019 Operating fund excess/(deficit)	4,250,248
2019 Pension liability adjustment	(700,385)
1/1/19 Operating Fund Balance	5,077,861
Cumulative effect of ASC Topic 606	1,177,450
9/30/19 Operating Fund Balance	9,805,174
Endowment Fund	154,382,881
Land, Building, and Equipment Fund	82,348,013
Capital Campaign Fund	51,638,874
Gift Annuity Fund	12,465
Total All Funds	\$298,187,407

*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 2019 Missouri Botanical Garden audited consolidated financial statements. These financial statements may be obtained by visiting mobot.org/reports.

— Thank you —



Flowering dogwood (Cornus kousa) in the Japanese Garden.

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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 Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD) is a tax-supported cultural district governed by an 8-member board of directors, each appointed for a 4-year term by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Executive.

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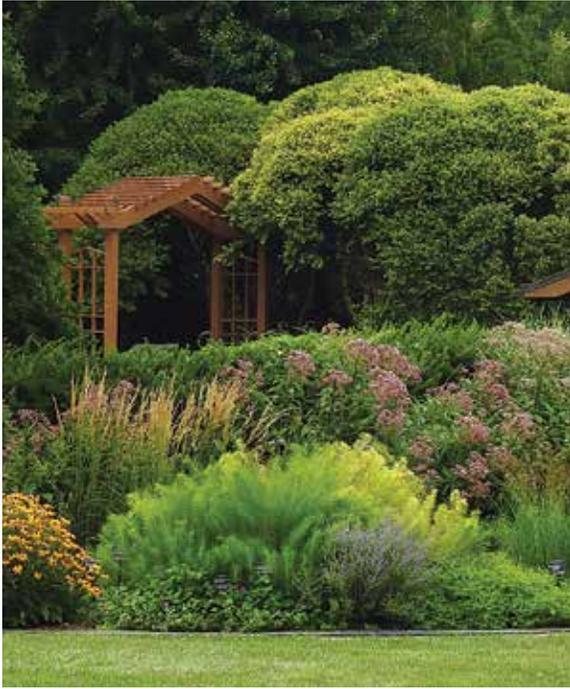
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Summer blooms in the Kemper Center for Home Gardening.

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The following endowed positions have been created by generous donors to further the Garden's mission-critical work, attract and retain outstanding talent, and reduce impact on annual operating needs.

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Emily Warshefsky, PhD
(starting summer 2020)

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We are grateful to the following donors for their significant support of special projects in 2019, including the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center.

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*Magnolia 'Yellow Fever'
in the Bulb Garden.*

by the Numbers

Visitors

Attendance at all locations	1,011,862
Highest daily attendance: Sunday, September 1 (Japanese Festival)	16,146
Highest non-event attendance: Saturday, April 20	6,981
Lowest non-event attendance: Saturday, January 12 (closed due to weather)	0

Members

Member households	47,384
Total number of member visits	324,791

Personnel

Number of staff	417
Number of volunteers	1,784
Number of volunteer hours worked	103,381
Number of staff volunteer supervisors	171

Communications

Total online visits	10,048,333
Unique online visitors	5,519,813
Total visits via mobile device	2,914,397
Total email subscriber base	76,000
Social network followers	287,000

Home Gardening

Visitors to the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening	47,797
Plant Doctor Service	7,461 questions
Horticulture Answer Service	6,115 calls; 9,126 questions
Gardening Help web visitors	1,845,507
Online email gardening questions answered	1,446

Horticulture

Total accessions	18,771
Wild source accessions	1,970
Total taxa/unique types of plants	11,090
Total rare taxa/unique types of plants	573
Total genera	1,501
Total species	3,982
Total plantings	56,326

Education

Education program participation	297,873
Students and teachers participating in education programs	53,606
Teachers using workshops and instructional material	1,231
Scouts and leaders in education programs	4,793
Adults in adult education programs	18,766
Youth and families in education programs	2,618
Seniors, special needs, others in horticultural therapy education programs	7,077
People engaged via community-based programming	8,367
Visitors experiencing drop-in education opportunities	199,554

Education Venue Attendance

Visitors to the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden	102,372
Visitors to the Brookings Exploration Center	110,891
Visitors to Tower Grove House	84,185
Visitors to the Dana Brown Overnight Center at Shaw Nature Reserve	2,371

Science and Conservation

PhD researchers	43
Research associates	148
Staff Scientific Publications	201
New species described	156
Countries where fieldwork is done	30
Graduate students	21, from 5 countries
Herbarium total specimens	7,549,000
Mounted specimens added to Herbarium	55,108
TROPICOS®	4,861,179 specimens 1,338,199 plant names 53,668,509 hits/year
Articles published in MBG Press's two journals, <i>Novon</i> and <i>Annals</i>	59
New books added to Peter H. Raven Library	1,782
Interlibrary loans provided	452
Visitors to the Sachs Museum	41,999

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