



**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

Since our founding 160 years ago, the Missouri Botanical Garden has been a scientific institution. Our purpose is to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, not to keep that information to ourselves. In that spirit of shared knowledge, the men and women of the Garden work each day to engage others with the natural world. That work ranges from welcoming more than one million visitors each year to enjoy our living collections to working in more than 30 countries across the globe to document and conserve plant species—and quite a bit in between.



In 2018, we enjoyed a year of great success and important milestones. We reopened the historic Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum and hired our Museum Curator, hosting nearly 10,000 visitors on its first week of display alone. Propagation of trees and shrubs began at the newly constructed Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery, including threatened wild fruit crop relatives collected by our Horticulture team in Kyrgyzstan.

At Shaw Nature Reserve, the Nature Explore Classroom celebrated its 10th anniversary of engaging children with the natural world through active outdoor play. The Nature Reserve's unrivaled Whitmire Wildflower Garden celebrated its 25th anniversary, showcasing and promoting native plant landscapes to homeowners and professionals across our region.

The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House celebrated its 20th anniversary with a Metamorphosis Gala in June and the Evelyn Newman Founders Day Celebration in September. The Whitaker Music Festival reached—and surpassed—its one millionth visitor this summer after more than 20 years of free summer concerts in the Garden.

Each of these milestone achievements would be cause for celebration alone. Together, they illustrate the breadth of the Garden's ability to enrich life in our community.

We know these achievements also support a critical mission to protect and preserve the world's plants. Our staff continues to provide global leadership in plant research, sustainability, and conservation. Our standards for horticultural display, plant science data collection, conservation methods, and education continue to be a measure of excellence across the world.

Nearly 200 plant species were described by Garden scientists last year, approximately 10% of the global total. This world-leading pace is essential to protecting plants. All botanical research, cultivation, and conservation efforts can only begin when a plant is known and named. Without this basic scientific information, these species would simply disappear.

Our staff in St. Louis and around the world advance our mission every day with the support of our volunteers, sponsors, partners, members, and our closest friends. That is, of course, all of you. Thank you for your commitment to the Garden, our mission, and the plants we work each day to preserve.

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

Our city would not look like home without the Gateway Arch in our skyline. Our summers would be strangely quiet without Cardinals baseball. Our history would not be complete without Forest Park and the organizations within. And before any of these hallmarks of our community existed, St. Louis was home to the Missouri Botanical Garden.



The Garden is an icon. It is a National Historic Landmark. It is a destination—three destinations, really—for more than one million visitors each year. For nearly 160 years, the Garden has been anchoring our community and drawing people to it from all over the world. From world-leading botanical authorities to families enjoying a relaxing afternoon, the Garden has continued to welcome everyone to discover and share the amazing world of plants.

In 2018, we created a year of events and programs to advance our strategic plan priorities: serving as a leader in plant conservation, enhancing our role as a premier cultural destination, strengthening our internal organizational capacity, and ensuring our financial stability for the future. These priorities are as diverse and essential as our mission at their core, reflecting the breadth of our work to protect plants and inspire a love of nature.

We are all aware of the urgency behind this work. Plants across the planet are threatened with extinction; some of them may be lost before they are even discovered. Who knows what medicines, fibers, or foods could disappear in the next flood or fire or drought? Fortunately, many of the best researchers, horticulturists, and conservationists are working together at the Garden and in programs around the world to find and protect those plants—and to tackle the larger threats to our global biodiversity.

These are not small tasks. I am honored to serve as the chair of the Board of Trustees during this time of achievement and development. I also thank each of you for your commitment to our mission and our efforts. It is clear that the Garden's success as a global leader in critical plant science and as a foundational element of our community is only possible with your support.

David Hollo  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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## a cultural destination

The Garden is known as much for our diverse calendar of events as for our diverse living collections. Each year, visitors flock to annual festivals and special exhibits, from Chinese Culture Days to Garden Glow. Every summer, the Whitaker Music Festival welcomes guests to the Garden for one of St. Louis's most popular concert series. The Whitaker Foundation has made it possible for the Garden to host these free concerts since 1996. These evenings listening to music and picnicking under the stars have become a cultural phenomenon in the St. Louis community.

"The Whitaker Music Festival has become a summer tradition," says Christy Gray, Whitaker Foundation Trustee. "The Garden's commitment to quality visitor experience creates an environment that is welcoming, comfortable, and an economical evening out. And the music! The Garden stays aware of the local music scene and transfers that to the Whitaker concert stage."

In addition to celebrating local musicians, the festival also shares and promotes the Garden's mission. Since 2014, the "waste-free Whitaker" initiative has promoted sustainability at the event, recommending reusable or recyclable picnic materials and containers. Staff and volunteers

educate visitors at recycling and composting bins throughout the grounds. "Waste-free Whitaker" continues to reduce landfill waste and inspire sustainable habits.

In 2018, the Garden was proud to offer American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting at all shows through a partnership with Fusion Interpreting Services. More than 49,000 guests enjoyed a Whitaker concert in 2018, and the series reached its one millionth visitor in June.

"The Foundation makes grants in two focus areas: enriching lives through the arts and preserving and encouraging the use of City parks," says Christy Gray. "The enormous popularity of the Whitaker Music Festival shows bringing people to a park or garden can be as beneficial as capital improvement. The Garden itself is dual missioned. You have a global presence with research work in both discovery of plant species and preservation. And the Garden is also a local jewel. Special offerings make the Garden a place for both local culture and an understanding of the vast plant conservation work being done around the world."

While some summer nights were filled with music, others were filled with light. Flora Borealis created a surreal landscape of illumination and projection



Total attendance of  
more than **1,047,000**  
for 2018 across all 3  
locations

6th year of attendance  
of **1 million+**

across the Garden grounds. More than 70,000 guests experienced the magical nightscape from June to October. They began their visits with drinks in the biergarten, family activities, and live music.

After dark, guests took a one-mile journey through the iconic Garden grounds guided by Nymphaea, a botanical spirit. Visitors moved through immersive displays of light, lasers, projected imagery, and cinema-quality soundscapes. They listened to the stories of the trees and watched the cosmos play across an elegant cork tree. The historic Tower Grove House became Shared World, an incredible display of modern projection, sound, and storytelling.

“Events like Flora Borealis bring people to the Garden who may have never otherwise come,” says Karen Green of Pohlmann Legacy, one of the essential sponsors that made Flora Borealis possible. “Then, those visitors are gifted with the beauty of the Garden. We are proud to support exciting events like this, which enhance the community’s awareness of the Garden.”

Flora Borealis created an incredible multimedia experience showcasing the beauty of the Garden and our role as protectors of nature, bringing a unique event to our community.





## contributing to global plant conservation

Rare and endangered plant species were at the forefront of several advancements in global plant conservation in 2018.

Garden scientist Roy Gereau, Tanzania Program Director in the Garden's Africa and Madagascar Department, participated in the rediscovery of a species feared extinct for decades. *Karomia gigas*, an 80-foot-tall member of the mint family, is critically endangered—only 19 trees are known in the wild. The Garden has been participating in field surveys of these trees, in partnership with the Tanzania Tree Seed Agency (TTSA), the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

The *Karomia gigas* has never been successfully grown in cultivation before. The Garden received a shipment of *Karomia* fruits in September to attempt propagation from seed. After hours of painstaking work, more than 100 potentially viable seeds were extracted. Now, more than two dozen seedlings are being carefully propagated and studied in the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery.

Rare species also drew crowds to the Garden. The threatened *Amorphophallus titanum*, or corpse flower, bloomed at the Garden in 2018, only the ninth time the plant has done so in Garden history.

Our living collections include nearly a dozen corpse flowers, which are cultivated in the greenhouse range and moved into public view in anticipation of a bloom. More than 750 guests came to the Garden after hours on October 5 to see—and smell—the plant at peak bloom, with thousands more visiting in the following days.

The attention-grabbing plant *Nesocodon mauritianus* (pictured above) was also on display in the Climator® over the summer. The small shrubby plant grows in just one place on the planet: high on a cliff, next to a waterfall, on the small Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. It features a bell-shaped, bluish-purple bloom with dark purple veins. While most plants produce clear nectar, *Nesocodon* nectar is blood red. It is one of a small number of plants pollinated by geckos.

The *Nesocodon* plants on display in the Climator were grown from seeds acquired from the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland—descendants of specimens collected from atop the cliff in Mauritius by Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson more than 30 years ago. Members of our Horticulture staff are visiting the same cliff, keeping tabs on the population as part of the Garden's broader conservation work in Mauritius. They are interested in collecting more

1,280 rare and endangered species in the Garden's living collections are unique in botanical collections worldwide



*Amorphophallus titanum*

seed from multiple *Nesocodon* plants, both for conservation and to understand the remaining genetic diversity.

"[My wife] Kathy and I decided to travel with the Garden to Madagascar and Mauritius to see the work the Garden has been doing in those countries and to better understand the issues and challenges in those regions," says Garden Trustee Rob Williams. "The tremendous work the Garden staff are doing in this part of the world is critical to stemming the tide of deforestation and habitat loss. Each species has a unique place in the ecosystem, and to see the connection between flora and fauna is vital to ensure we are placing importance on these regions to promote conservation and biodiversity."

This commitment to conserving plant species at home and abroad requires resources for students and scientists around the world, including a global database of the world's plant species. The World Flora Online is a global initiative begun in 2012 by the Missouri Botanical Garden, New York Botanical Garden, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to create an online flora of all known plants. The database now contains more than 1.3 million plant names and 200,000 full descriptions—and growing.

"Protecting the environment and supporting sustainable agriculture practices are keys to our global success—and to future human health," says Al Mitchell, Vice President, Corporate Engagement at Bayer. The Bayer Fund, which is the philanthropic arm of Bayer, has been a major funder of the World Flora Online project. "Initiatives like the World Flora Online provide the baseline of knowledge that the world needs to understand and protect our essential natural resources; in this case, the plants that sustain us."



## advancements in local sustainability

The Garden is proud to serve as a leader in the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in November 2018. In this time, the Alliance has developed and implemented a watershed plan accepted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the US-EPA, and the city councils of the 20 municipalities in the watershed.

"This process shows clearly the difference a few people can make in their community when they see a problem and work to fix it," says Dr. Mabel Purkerson, one of the founders of the Alliance and a longtime supporter of the Garden. "It also shows the Garden can impact sustainability efforts by creating community awareness of conservation of water resources, local geology, and the value of native plant species."

The Alliance and its partners have funded and installed 364 rainscaping projects in the watershed, pioneering best practices in bioretention and other projects to protect and restore the watershed. More than 4,000 landowners and individuals in the watershed have been educated by the Alliance's programs, events, and presentations during the 10-year effort.

"A healthy river, creek, or stream equals a healthy community," says Rick Holton, another founder of the Alliance and Garden supporter. "I'm working on this project so I can see the day when I can wet a line in Deer Creek."

Healthy communities are also comprised of strong, sustainable businesses. In 2018, the Garden also completed its ninth year of work to advance sustainability as a business solution through the St. Louis Green Business Challenge. Originally begun as a program of the St. Louis Regional Chamber in partnership with the EarthWays Center of the Garden, the Challenge is now completely managed by the Garden.

In nine years of the program, 216 companies across the bi-state region have participated in the Challenge, representing more than 150,000 employees actively engaged with sustainability information and practices. A total of 59 companies, nonprofits, and government organizations completed the 2018 Green Business Challenge.

The Challenge delivers "triple bottom line" results to companies of all types and sizes by focusing equally on financial, social, and environmental

## Another year of sustainability:

- Over **90%** of waste at all signature and internal events composted or recycled
- More than **7,000** people utilized the Green Resources Information Service
- **Sassafras**, the Garden's onsite café, earned a **5 Star Certification** from the Green Dining Alliance



elements of operational practices. Participants benefit from sustainable business resources, professional networking, and tailored strategies to improve financial performance while reducing environmental impacts.

"The Green Business Challenge provides a clear and measurable roadmap to more comprehensive green business practices," says Dan Jay, Principal and CFO of Christner, Inc. The company has been both a participant in the Green Business Challenge

and a Corporate Partner of the Garden for many years. "By participating, businesses can move our region to a leadership position in sustainability."

In addition to managing the Green Business Challenge for our region, the Garden also participated in the program at the Champion level, working to instill sustainable best practices across our own daily operations.



## community and science education

Sharing knowledge about plants has been at the core of the Missouri Botanical Garden's mission since the beginning. Increasingly, this work has taken the shape of community engagement through citizen science programs, connecting people of all ages and abilities to the diverse plant and animal life of our region.

Since 2012, the Garden has served as the backbone of BiodiverseCity St. Louis, a growing network of organizations and people who focus on biodiversity to connect our communities and improve quality of life for all. These biodiversity advocates range from conservation organizations, government agencies, and municipalities to businesses, schools, universities, and community groups.

In 2018, the BiodiverseCity St. Louis network was tapped to help create a special living inventory and atlas for the region, one that focuses on the natural assets that transcend city and county boundaries. Launched in November, BiomeSTL: Biodiversity of Metropolitan St. Louis is a practical resource for general citizens seeking greater connections with local lands and waters, as well as for city and county decision makers seeking to strengthen and grow their communities through nature-centric design and planning.

## 64 primary partner organizations of BiodiverseCity St. Louis

BiomeSTL is, at its core, a citizen science and stewardship project. Contributors include stream teams, watershed alliances, faith-based groups, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, native plant societies, neighborhood associations, schools, scouts, service clubs, sororities, fraternities, youth employment programs, and veterans' groups. More than 3,000 citizen scientists have already contributed 38,000 observations of local plants, animals, and other organisms to the BiomeSTL inventory on iNaturalist.

"The Garden is known internationally for science, research, and care for the planet," says Dan Burkhardt, Garden Trustee and longtime supporter. "When we lend that credibility and respect to programs in St. Louis and the surrounding region, it elevates those efforts greatly."



This commitment to citizen science also informs specific education efforts like the Garden's Eco-Act program, where high school juniors and seniors participate in "ecology in action" projects that benefit their community. They share their knowledge through weekly teaching sessions and field trips with fourth graders. In 2018, 56 teens participated in Eco-Act projects and engaged 525 fourth-grade students with ecology in our community.

The projects these students choose to study are diverse. Two Eco-Act students spent the fall researching the effects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the St. Louis region. In the spring, they took a group of girls from Join Hands East St. Louis to Earth Dance Organic Farm.

Two different students researched the effects of the Bridgeton landfill and worked with fourth graders to reduce school garbage by 25% through a waste audit and awareness campaign.

Throughout the Eco-Act program, the students participate in outdoor adventure outings. These activities include canoeing and camping on the Meramec River, rock climbing in Shawnee National Forest, and an all-day scavenger hunt and overnight stay at Shaw Nature Reserve.

"Engaging children in the natural world—creeks and rivers, farms and forests—at an early age is key to their future interest in nature and conservation," says Dan Burkhardt. "People conserve what they love. Citizen-science programs like these get our children and grandchildren to love nature, and to see that we are all needed to make the world a better place."



## foundational plant science

To protect and conserve plants, we must first know plants. Before a plant can be planted in a garden, turned into medicine, or made into clothing it must first be properly identified and named. The process of classifying, naming, and identifying plants, or plant taxonomy, is at the core of the Garden's research work.

Discovering a new species begins with collecting plant specimens in the wild. Garden researchers collect plants regularly in more than 30 countries around the world. The process of fully identifying those specimens can take decades. They are compared to specimens in the Garden's Herbarium and to those in other herbaria around the world to determine if a plant is indeed a new species.

In 2018, the Garden's Herbarium grew to 7.5 million specimens, making it one of the largest and most comprehensive plant specimen libraries in the world. This growth was through discovery and collection as well as acquisition of other herbaria. Plant libraries around the world face budgetary and infrastructure challenges. Just as the Garden works to conserve plants across the planet, we have become a refuge for collections from closed herbaria.

It is estimated that more than 20 percent of the plants on earth have not yet been named for science. When considering that, and the fact that one in three known plants is threatened with extinction, the race for discovery remains a top priority for Garden scientists.

This includes scientists like Dr. Bruce Allen, who described 21 new species in 2018 as part of the fourth and final volume of his *Moss Flora of Central America*. A selection of moss specimens, accompanied by Dr. Allen's descriptions and illustrations, was featured in the Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum with the *Botanical Art Worldwide: America's Flora* exhibit, celebrating the successful completion of this 27-year project.

Mosses are particularly important species to understand. Due to their unique structures, they serve as indicators of environmental health. Mosses have no roots and acquire their nutrients directly from exposure to the atmosphere. They are found all over the world but have become highly specialized to live in specific climates. Studying mosses can help us understand air quality, climate change, and other major environmental challenges. Similarly, protecting these foundational species can in turn protect an entire habitat.



*Palicourea atlantica*

**173 species**  
discovered by Garden  
scientists in 2018

**10% of all plant**  
species discovered  
and described for  
science worldwide



*Kylicanthe arcuata*



*Digitalalia stevensii*

"The Moss Flora of Central America provides critical baseline bio-data from a crucial and ecologically sensitive part of the world," says the National Science Foundation award abstract outlining the organization's funding support for the project. "This baseline data, in conjunction with future studies on the mosses of Central America, will be useful in assessing the effects of climatic changes in this critical region."

The critical information gathered by Garden scientists is not hidden away in the Herbarium. Our collection is actively used by Garden staff, scientists, and students from around the world. Massive efforts are underway to digitize data from our specimens, contributing to the World Flora Online and increasing access to the collection.



## reopening the historic museum

After a painstaking, multiyear rehabilitation process, the Stephen and Peter Sachs Museum was proudly reopened to the Garden public in April 2018. Nearly 10,000 guests visited the historic structure on its first week of operation alone. Those visitors were treated to a stunning marriage of historic architecture and modern amenities. Three historic galleries showcase Garden treasures, while a new addition provides restroom facilities and an elevator to make the space accessible to all.

The main historic Evans Gallery is now home to the restored ceiling mural and replica portraits of 10 noteworthy botanists, installed along the rail of the gallery and displayed as they were in founder Henry Shaw's time. The upper floor of the gallery is also the permanent residence of the Garden's collection of Boehm porcelain birds and plants.

Rotating exhibits will keep visitors engaged with elements of the Garden's global mission. When it opened in April, the Sachs Museum showcased the Garden's ethnobotanical work from across the world in the main gallery, featuring the many ways people around the world use plants in their daily lives. An exhibition of historic art from the Garden's permanent collections was displayed in the lower gallery on the entry floor. Many of the paintings

were on public display for the first time, and several dated from late 1800s.

Later that summer, the south gallery hosted a display of the Garden's plant conservation and discovery efforts in New Caledonia, an island botanical hotspot in the Pacific. Visitors could see some of the plants Garden researchers had been studying since the 1970s, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth and are threatened with extinction.

**total museum  
attendance: 45,124**

"There is so much to learn by viewing these exhibits," says Jane Gleason, one of the generous donors who made the Sachs Museum rehabilitation possible. "Henry Shaw was interested in plants that he was not familiar with, and he collected and displayed them in his Museum. He had a curiosity about the world he lived in and was a lifelong learner. I think he would approve of these exhibits."



In September, the Garden hosted the premiere of *A New Leaf*, the Higher Education Channel's documentary film about the renovation of the Sachs Museum. The film captures the St. Louis history, the architectural transformation, and the continuing value of this unique structure.

Melanie Fathman understands that interest. "I fell in love with the Garden when I was ten years old, when we moved to St. Louis," she says. Melanie and her husband Tony also made a generous gift to support the reopening of the Sachs Museum.

"I developed a love of plants and have been a part of The St. Louis Herb Society and Boxwood Society for years. We used to have our Herb Society meetings in the Museum and were so sad when the building was shuttered. Contributing to a slice of St. Louis history for the renovation was especially important to me. The way its interior has been brought back to life enables all the Garden's visitors to learn more about plants and their importance in our everyday lives."



## celebrating 20 years of prosperity

The Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House celebrated a milestone 20th anniversary in 2018 with a Roaring Twenties-themed Metamorphosis Gala and a year of activities.

The idea for the Butterfly House began after the late Garden Emeritus Trustee Evelyn Newman returned from a trip to Thailand with a dream to exhibit exotic butterfly species and connect our community to the lives and environments of these beautiful and fascinating insects. With the help of the late Lucy Lopata, the late Caroline Loughlin, Charles Lowenhaupt, Linda Penniman, and many others, the Butterfly House opened its doors on September 18, 1998.

"The establishment of Evelyn Newman Founder's Day as part of this anniversary celebration is a wonderful tribute to the creative energies and joy she put into the Butterfly House," says Andy Newman, son of founder Evelyn Newman and continuing supporter of the mission of the Butterfly House. "It held a special place in her heart, and we look forward to its continued success over the next 20 years."

In 2001, the Butterfly House joined the Missouri Botanical Garden, anchoring the Garden's presence

in St. Louis County and illustrating the importance of plants and animals in ecosystems. In 2002, we began participating in the Butterfly Conservation Initiative of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, receiving our first accreditation from the AZA in 2003, becoming the only dedicated insect facility in the Association.

In 2007, the Butterfly House was recognized as a partner of El Bosque Nuevo, a Costa Rican butterfly farm and rainforest conservation project. For more than a decade, the Butterfly House has been purchasing tropical butterflies from this sustainable farming operation. More than 40% of the tropical butterflies displayed at the Butterfly House are sourced from El Bosque Nuevo. Their profits fund the conservation and restoration of Costa Rican rainforest. With our partnership, they now conserve more than 700 acres—and growing.

Over the past 20 years the Butterfly House has become an iconic St. Louis destination, a treasure in Faust Park, and a major contributor to invertebrate conservation. Families with young children are the core audience of Butterfly House classes, programs, and activities. The outdoor Nature TREK and Lopata Learning Lab are key destinations for family engagement.

In **20 years**, the Butterfly House has hosted:

- **1 million** butterflies in the tropical conservatory
- **250,000** plants in the indoor and outdoor gardens
- **1,200** weddings
- **3 million** total visitors



The Butterfly House also unveiled plans to expand and renovate the original Entomology Lab as part of the 20th anniversary celebration. Staff entomologists use this quarantine lab space to unpack, inspect, and process more than 40,000 chrysalises annually. The current laboratory is too small for the work needed to maintain the Butterfly House collections and after two decades of operation, it is essential to address the deterioration of the lab facility. It contains a case for the butterflies and moths to emerge from their chrysalises and cocoons, the entomology team office, and the homes of more than 200 additional invertebrate animals.

The new Entomology Lab design will nearly double the size of the current lab. It will also include interactive interpretation of a butterfly's life cycle, "meet the keeper" opportunities with entomology staff, and new climate-controlled animal habitats for the invertebrate animal collection. This expansion will improve the functionality of the space while creating an interactive exhibit where our guests can learn more about the important work in the field of entomology and conservation.



## native plant legacy

In 2018, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of a birthday promise. In 1987, local businessman Blanton Whitmire surprised his wife Peg with the promise of a wildflower garden at one of her favorite places for her 70th birthday. In 1993, the Whitmire Wildflower Garden was officially dedicated at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Gardens dedicated to native plants are still comparatively rare. Though Blanton and Peg have both passed on, over the past 25 years, their Whitmire Wildflower Garden has grown to become one of the largest and most inspiring wildflower display gardens in our region. Located next to the historic Bascom House, it is a destination for enjoying and learning about native landscaping. Everyone from casual visitors to home gardeners to professional landscapers can experience the beauty of native plants and discover the benefits they bring to soil quality, stormwater management, and wildlife conservation.

More than 600 Missouri native plant species are on display throughout the garden's landscapes. Paths take visitors through five native plant community areas: woodland, wetland, glade, savanna, and prairie. The centerpiece is the home gardening area, which includes a native perennial garden, rock garden, prairie garden, water garden, woodland

garden, and rain garden. In 2018, a new Council Ring was added as a gathering and education space in the heart of the Whitmire Wildflower Garden—an anniversary gift from Larry and Joan Hummel.

"We have been coming to the Nature Reserve for decades," says Larry Hummel. "It's a great place for birdwatching, especially in the spring. We wanted to give something back to the Wildflower Garden, partly for all the wonderful classes we took at the native plant school."

The Nature Reserve also commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Wildflower Garden with a new Wildflower Concert Series on Saturdays in June. Guests enjoyed picnics on the lawn, live music, and the Wildflower Garden in full summer bloom.

"The Whitmire Wildflower Garden is a huge gift to the St. Louis area," Larry says. "Folks can visit, learn, and enjoy the native plants. And [horticulturist] Scott Woodbury has contributed so much to our knowledge and enjoyment of native plants. He and his team have had such an impact through the native plant school, wildflower sales, special programs, and Scott's constant promotion of the benefits of native plants."



The 2018 Wildflower Concert Series hosted **hundreds of guests** who enjoyed the Wildflower Garden on warm summer evenings

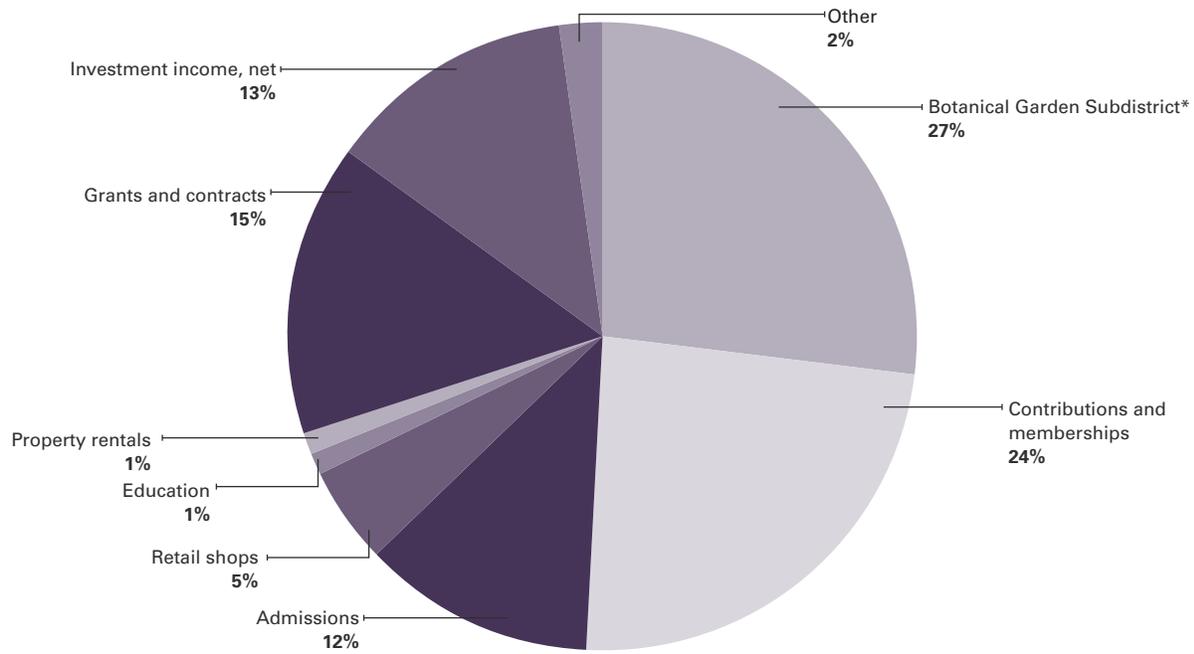
the wildflower garden covers **5 acres** of native garden and **30 acres** of adjoining tallgrass prairie and open woodland



photography by Matilda Adams

# financial information (year ended December 31, 2018)

## 2018 Operating Revenue



### 2018 Operating Revenue

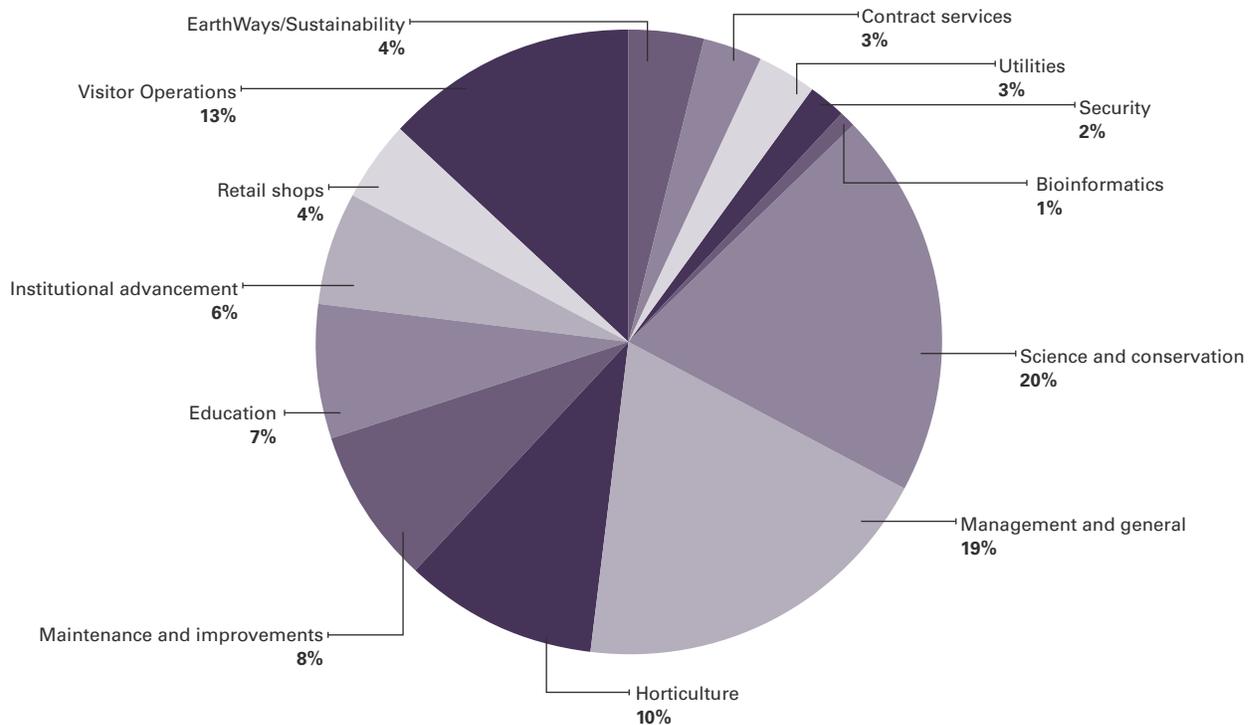
Botanical Garden Subdistrict	\$11,400,000
Contributions and memberships	10,130,691
Bequests	20,000
Grants and contracts	6,000,747
Investment income, net	5,498,726
Admissions	5,018,041
Retail shops	1,980,364
Other	977,811
Education	440,809
Property rentals	454,451
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$41,921,640</b>

### 2018 Operating Expenses

<b>Operating Services</b>	
Science and conservation	\$8,183,842
Horticulture	3,941,155
Education	3,039,431
Property rentals and events	143,511
Retail shops	1,794,447
Contract services	1,058,506
EarthWays/Sustainability	1,530,219
Bioinformatics	618,395
Visitor operations	5,202,355
Program services	25,511,861
<b>Supporting Services</b>	
Management and general	\$7,506,913
Maintenance and improvements	3,357,593
Institutional advancement	2,293,641
Utilities	1,107,078
Security	727,696
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>14,992,921</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$40,504,782</b>

# financial information

## 2018 Operating Expenses



### 2018 Fund Balances

#### Operating Fund

Total operating support and revenue	\$41,921,640
Total operating expenses	(40,504,782)
Total operating transfers	(748,902)
2018 Operating fund excess/(deficit)	667,956
2018 Pension liability adjustment	(473,003)
1/1/18 Operating Fund balance	4,882,908
<b>12/31/18 Operating Fund balance</b>	<b>5,077,861</b>
Endowment Fund	141,544,697
Land, Building, and Equipment Fund	81,850,268
Capital Campaign Fund	9,146,344
Gift Annuity Fund	12,465
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$237,631,635</b>

#### \*Botanical Garden Subdistrict

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

Commissioners for the ZMD and the Botanical Garden Subdistrict as of April 2019 are listed on page 24.

Financial information used in this report was obtained from the 2018 Missouri Botanical Garden audited consolidated financial statements. These financial statements may be obtained by visiting [mobot.org/reports](http://mobot.org/reports).

thank you



## 2018 corporate partners program

Businesses participating in the Corporate Partners Program make an annual membership gift. In return, they receive recognition and benefits throughout the year for their employees. They can also appoint a representative to the Garden's Corporate Council leadership board.

### Principals

Anonymous  
Ameren Corporation  
Bayer  
The Boeing Company  
Centene Charitable Foundation  
Commerce Bank  
Drury Hotels Company LLC  
Edward Jones  
Emerson  
Hunter Engineering Company  
PGAV, Inc.  
Renewal by Andersen  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Williams Patent Crusher & Pulverizer Company, Inc.

### Shareholders

Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.  
Bunge North America, Inc.  
Carr Lane Manufacturing Co.  
Glory Light International Ltd.  
Macy's  
Major Brands  
Maritz Holdings, Inc.  
MilliporeSigma  
Nidec Motor Corporation  
Peabody  
Nestle Purina  
Schnuck Markets, Inc.  
SteadyRain, Inc.

### Underwriters

Alberici Group  
American Direct Marketing Resources Inc.  
Bryan Cave LLP  
Caleres

CBIZ & Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.  
Complete Weddings + Events  
The Daniel and Henry Company  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
The Graybar Foundation  
Hager Companies  
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District  
Safety National Casualty Corporation  
Spire  
Novus International, Inc.  
PNC Bank  
TOYOTA Bodine  
UMB Bank, N.A.

### Investors

Argent Capital Management  
Bank of America  
BSI Constructors Inc.  
CBRE  
Chemia Corporation  
Christner Inc.  
Clayton Financial Group LLC  
CSI Leasing Inc.  
Fifth Third Bank  
Gamma Tree Experts  
J.W. Terrill, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company  
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
MiTek Industries Inc.  
Office Essentials, Inc.  
Orion Genomics, LLC  
Senniger Powers LLP

### Supporters

ABNA Engineering, Inc.  
American Radiolabeled Chemicals  
Anders CPAs + Advisors

Acertus  
Arcturis  
Belden Inc.  
Cass Information Systems, Inc.  
Catering St. Louis, Inc.  
CDG Engineers, Inc.  
Dierbergs Markets, Inc.  
First Bank  
FleishmanHillard  
Guarantee Electrical Company  
H.B.D. Contracting, Inc.  
Holland Construction Services, Inc.  
Husch Blackwell LLP  
Lawrence Group  
Lewis Rice LLC  
Metro Lighting  
Midwest Recycling Center  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
The Northern Trust Company  
Protiviti Inc.  
RBO PrintLogistix  
Regions Bank  
Renaissance Financial  
Ronnoco Coffee, LLC  
SCI Engineering  
SmithAmundsen LLC  
Square One Brewery & Distillery  
Standing Partnership  
Stinson Leonard Street LLP  
Systems Service Enterprises, Inc.  
Tarlton Corporation  
Thompson Coburn LLP  
Urban Chestnut Brewing Company  
U.S. Green Building Council—  
Missouri Gateway Chapter  
Villa Lighting Supply, Inc.

## 2018 event sponsors

We are grateful to the following sponsors making gifts of \$1,000 or more in 2018.

Ameren Missouri  
The Boeing Company  
Caleres  
Victoria J. Campbell  
Carol and Michael Staenberg and  
The Staenberg Group  
Clayton Financial Group LLC  
Commerce Bank  
Consulate General of Japan  
Elizabeth Danforth  
Edward Jones  
Lelia and David Farr  
Fifth Third Bank  
Graybar Electric Company, Inc.  
Will and Sara Gregerson  
Hager Companies  
Japanese American Citizens League

The Johnston Family Foundation  
John and Celeste Kennedy  
Lenoir Charitable Trust  
The Caroline Loughlin Fund  
Macy's  
Maritz Holdings, Inc.  
Members' Board of the  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
Metro Lighting  
Metropolitan Sewer District  
Missouri Department of Energy  
Tanna Morgan and William J. Courtney  
Moneta Group—Dan and Peggy West  
Nidec Motor Corporation  
Novus International, Inc.  
Peters Family Charitable Trust  
Pohlmann Legacy

Premier Party Rentals  
Quiet Village Landscaping  
Reinsurance Group of America  
Renewal by Andersen  
Shane and Amy Russell  
Schnuck Markets, Inc.  
SmithAmundsen LLC  
Spire  
St. Louis Composting  
Nora R. Stern  
Waterway Gas & Wash Company  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
The Whitaker Foundation  
Williams Patent Crusher & Pulverizer Company Inc.

# thank you

## 2018 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 by the St. Louis County Executive.

Christine A. Chadwick, Chair  
Michelle Harris, Vice Chair  
Thomas J. Campbell, Immediate Past Chair

Robert E. Eggmann, Treasurer  
Darnetta Clinkscale, Secretary  
Thomas C. Mummert, Assistant Secretary

Pat Coleman, Board Member  
Robert G. Lowery, Sr., Board Member

## 2018 botanical garden subdistrict

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

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

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

### Non-voting Advisory Members

James F. Hoffmeister  
Naretha A. Hopson  
Janice M. Nelson  
James H. Yemm

## 2018 members' board

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

Jeanie C. Davis, President  
Tammy Behm  
Ann M. Bowen  
Debbie Callihan  
Sue Cohen  
Kristen Cornett Knapp  
Janelle Criscione  
Mary Kay Denning  
Libby Donnell  
Ellen Dubinsky  
Kathy Durel  
Patty Erker  
Kim Gamel  
Carola Gloyd  
Barbara Hilton  
Sandra Holmes  
Laure B. Hullverson  
June Hutson

Ellen E. Jones  
Celeste Kennedy  
Lynn Koeneman  
Sally Kriegel  
Martha LaFata  
Janet B. Lange  
Anne Lathe  
Stephanie Littlefield  
Mary V. Longrais  
Virginia McCook  
Parker McMillan  
Janet Mika  
Isabelle C. Morris  
Anita O'Connell  
Sue B. Oertli  
Julie Peters  
Sue M. Rapp  
Marsha J. Rusnack

Mary Lee Salzer-Lutz  
Nancy L. Sauerhoff  
Ron Schlappizzi  
Susie Littmann Schulte  
David Schulz  
Jan Simons Raiser  
Suzie Spence  
Carol A. Squires  
Patricia Steiner  
Nora R. Stern  
Elizabeth Teasdale  
David Tognoni  
Ann Travis  
Jane S. Tschudy  
Linn Wells  
Debbie Windus

## 2018 young friends council

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

Megan S. Maher, Chair	William D. Brennan	Colin M. Gibbs	Rebecca Miller, Ph.D.	John Strahlman
Lucy Adams	Allison Cohn	Stacy Hudson	Jennifer Mullikin	Erin Sullentrup
Erica L. Agnew	Kristin Cotner	Cindy Hults	Rosemary Nazaruk	Michael J. Torney
Gwen Arenberg	Erin B. Davis	David Hults	Joseph A. Nonnenkamp	Elizabeth U. Wells
Robyn Ast-Gmoser	Ashley Diaz	Kati Johnson	Kevin O'Shaughnessy	Lee Wilber
Eryn C. Bassett	Hilary Engelbrecht	Rachel L.S. Jones	Daniel Richter	Athanasia Xeros
Ryan A. Bell	Sally Evans	Kyle R. Juvers	Katy Robertson	
Laura Bentele	Elizabeth M. Ferguson	Evan Martin	Christine Hill Rogers	
Adam Berkowitz	Mallory Fisk	Chelsea Merta	Kyle Rosborg	
Anne Bommarito	Emily Fletcher	Susan R. Meyer	Meghan Santen	
Kimberly M. Bousquet	Ryan M. Furniss	Laura Miller	Cary Stalneckner	

## 2018 corporate council

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.

Linda L. Lockwood, Chair, Regions Bank	David B. Lemkemeier, Lewis Rice LLC
Emily Andrews, U.S. Green Building Council-Missouri Gateway Chapter	Richard Lindquist, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
Lindsay Auer, Standing Partnership	C. Eric Lobser, Spire
Julie E. Bahr, Clayton Financial Group LLC	Diane Lochner, PGAV, Inc.
Robert M. Bain, Senniger Powers LLP	Jeania Lowery, Bank of America
Michael Bernard, Centene Corporation	Joseph Marcallini, SteadyRain, Inc.
Patrick Bousquet, SmithAmundsen LLC	Wally McClellan, Office Essentials, Inc.
Matt Bremehr, Object Computing, Inc. (OCI)	Gayla Nunn, ABNA Engineering, Inc.
Thaddeus Brija, Renaissance Financial	Steve O'Rourke, EnerGuidance
Donald J. Brown, Guarantee Electrical Company	Ginny Powell, Hager Companies
Brian Bush, CBRE	Edward R. Rataj, CBIZ & Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.
Timothy Carpenter, Graybar Electric Company, Inc.	Peggy Reilly-Tharp, Caleres
Trey Coad II, SCI Engineering	Christi Reiter, Cass Information Systems, Inc.
Larry Corley, Maritz, Inc.	Glenda Ricketson, Community Volunteer
Kenneth H. Crawford, Argent Capital Management	Megan Ridgeway, AIA, LEED, AP, Arcturus
Jeanne Dee, Anders CPA's + Advisors	Julie Ring, MiTek Industries, Inc.
Christi Dixon, Bayer	Dustin Ruch, Acertus
Melissa Earthman, CISP, The Northern Trust Company	Christoph H. Schmidt, CSI Leasing, Inc.
Jay Ellington, CDG Engineers	Shawn Schukar, Ameren
Timothy W. Gamma, Gamma Tree Experts	Deb Seidel, Bunge North America, Inc.
Gregory J. Gorman, Nidec Motor Corporation	Danielle Skosky, Ronnoco Coffee, LLC
Diane Grimsley, Tarlton Corporation	Deborah Slagle, MilliporeSigma
Richard Halpern, The Daniel and Henry Company	Molly Spowal, J.W. Terrill, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company
Laurel Harrington, Christner Inc.	Julia Steininger, Standing Partnership
Patricia Hernandez, Emerson	Julio Suarez, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
Chip Hiemenz, Hunter Engineering Company	Suzu Stone, Macy's
Jesse Hill, Edward Jones	Jason P. Thein, Thompson Coburn LLP
Jenny L. Hoelzer, Commerce Bank	Peter Van Cleve, Bryan Cave LLP
David Hunnius, RBO PrintLogistic	Tom Walsh, Drury Hotels Company LLC
John Iffrig, Lawrence Group	Steve H. Wang, Protiviti Inc.
Katie Jenner, Husch Blackwell	J. Nicci Warr, Stinson Leonard Street LLP
Thompson Knox, SteadyRain, Inc.	Robert M. Williams, Williams Patent Crusher & Pulverizer Company, Inc.
Carleen S. Kramer, Catering St. Louis, Inc.	



# by the numbers

## visitors

<b>Attendance at all locations</b>	<b>1,047,641</b>
Highest daily attendance: Sunday, September 2 (Japanese Festival)	11,161
Highest non-event attendance: Sunday, May 13 (Mother's Day)	5,514

## members

<b>Member households</b>	<b>47,051</b>
Total number of member visits	305,203

## personnel

Number of staff	417
Number of volunteers	1,902
Number of volunteer hours worked	118,554
Number of staff volunteer supervisors	153

## communications

Total online visits	10,198,178
Unique online visitors	5,404,361
Total visits via mobile device	4,233,656
Total email subscriber base	93,000
Social network followers	246,000

## home gardening

Visitors to the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening	91,143
Plant Doctor Service	8,564 questions
Horticulture Answer Service	6,225 calls; 9,045 questions
Gardening Help web visitors	1,863,237
Online email gardening questions answered	1,602



#### education

<b>Education program participation</b>	<b>330,328</b>
Students and teachers participating in education programs	58,199
Teachers using workshops and instructional material	1,432
Scouts and leaders in education programs	4,952
Adults in adult education programs	21,024
Seniors, special needs, others in horticultural therapy education programs	6,142
Youth and families in education programs	3,386
People engaged via community-based programming	7,075
Visitors experiencing drop-in education opportunities	228,118

#### education venue attendance

Visitors to the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden	95,518
Visitors to the Brookings Exploration Center	134,331
Visitors to Tower Grove House	99,776
Visitors to the Dana Brown Overnight Center at Shaw Nature Reserve	6,082

#### horticulture displays

Total accessions	31,161
Wild source accessions	7,095
Total taxa/unique types of plants	17,058
Total rare taxa/unique types of plants	1,273
Total genera	2,176
Total species	7,856
Total plantings	55,711

#### science and conservation

PhD researchers	43
Research associates	148
Staff publications	152
New species described	173
Countries where fieldwork is done	30
Graduate students	21, from 6 countries
Herbarium total specimens	7,500,000
Mounted specimens added to Herbarium	57,118
TROPICOS®	4,783,070 specimens 1,328,187 plant names 69,000,000 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	1,650
Interlibrary loans provided	676

# management team



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