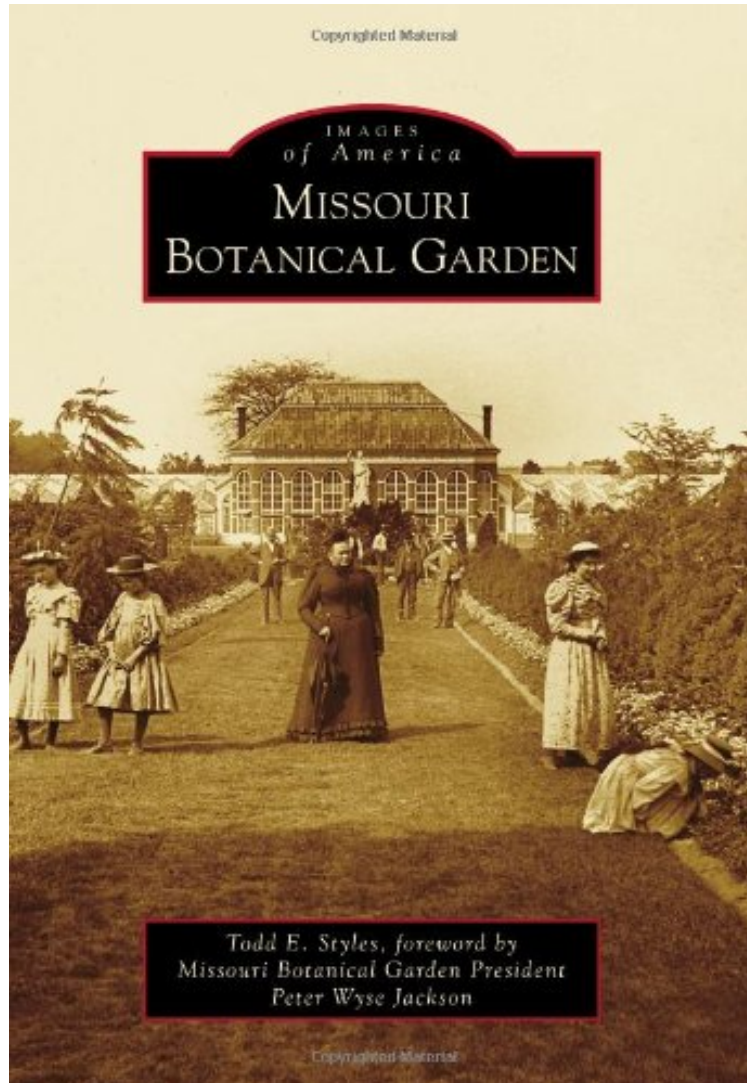


(Download) Missouri Botanical Garden (Images of America: St. Louis)

## Missouri Botanical Garden (Images of America: St. Louis)

*Todd E. Styles*

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**Todd E. Styles : Missouri Botanical Garden (Images of America: St. Louis)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Missouri Botanical Garden (Images of America: St. Louis):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating history of one of our great public gardens By Beth in Iowa As a twice-annual visitor to friends living in St. Louis, I make sure we get to visit the Missouri Botanical Gardens (MOBOT) every chance we get. The gardens are magnificent and I highly recommend visiting in spring when the azaleas and cherry trees are in glorious blossom. But I knew little about the garden's history, other than that it had been started by wealthy businessman Henry Shaw in the 19th century, and that he had lived in the house that still stands in the garden. This well-written overview of the garden's history describes the influences on Shaw in the mid-19th century

that inspired him to plan and execute a large public garden. But it is the numerous black and white photographs and captions that really tell the story from the early days of Victorian-style gardens surrounded by miles of prairie, through the changes after Shaw's death in 1889, the major additions and renovations just before the First World War, the challenges of low visitor counts and aging facilities in the 1950s, the Renaissance that began with the construction of the geodesic indoor Climatron in 1959, the major project of the Japanese Garden in the early 1970s and the flurry of lovely new gardens in the 1990s. I had no idea that the garden had gone through such changes over the 150 years of its existence -- pretty much everything except the location of Shaw's house, his mausoleum and the Linnean House have completely changed since the garden's beginning, and many garden areas from the early 20th century have been totally swept away. It was somewhat difficult to keep track of the locations in the photos compared to what is in those areas today, and a modern map of the garden would have helped. But I simply went to the MOBOT website and printed out a copy of their map, which greatly aided visualizing the locations of historical garden areas. I unreservedly recommend this well-illustrated "story of a garden" to anyone who regularly visits the MOBOT or to readers interested in garden history or St. Louis history.

One of St. Louis's premier cultural institutions, the Missouri Botanical Garden has grown from the dream of businessman and philanthropist Henry Shaw to a National Historic Landmark and a world-renowned center for science, conservation, education, and horticultural display. Enlisting the help of some of the most famous botanists of his time, Henry Shaw planted and opened the Garden to the public in 1859. The photographs in this book chronicle the dynamic history of the Missouri Botanical Garden and the men and women who have continued Shaw's legacy for over 150 years. The Garden today comprises 79 acres of magnificent horticultural display in south St. Louis, featuring a 14-acre Japanese strolling garden, Henry Shaw's original estate home, and one of the world's largest collections of rare and endangered orchids. In addition to the main campus, the Garden operates two additional attractions in the metro area: the 2,400-acre Shaw Nature Reserve located in Gray Summit, Missouri and the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House in Chesterfield, Missouri.

About the Author Author Todd E. Styles is a Missouri Botanical Garden volunteer and a writer and editor living in St. Louis. He holds an MFA from the University of Florida. Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson is current president of the Missouri Botanical Garden and George Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis.