Chris Tyson Plant Conservation Building

Dedication
November 6, 2010

Today, we are dedicating the Chris Tyson Plant Conservation Building. This is an exciting occasion! This new facility, made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Christiane Tyson, is a great advancement for our work at Montgomery.

Christiane Tyson, a native of La Tour de Peilz, Switzerland, is a great supporter of botany, horticulture, and gardens in our community. At her two homes—on Lake Geneva and in Coral Gables—Christiane's passion for horticulture is tangible. Lakeside, her venerable sycamore trees are trained into a continuous living arcade, a garden landmark on the shore. At her garden by The Biltmore, her jackfruit tree stops walkers and drivers, who study and inquire about the gigantic fruits.

Chris states: "growing up with chocolate and coffee while my father was president of Nestlé afforded me a good life, and now Montgomery, through its work with plants and seeds, makes it possible for others to enjoy the 'fruits' of the tropics."

Chris is a longtime volunteer at MBC, propagating and caring for plants in the nursery. The longer Chris spent here, the more she knew our need for a dedicated, modern seedbank facility, and space for visiting scientists.

I worked closely with Chris and Christopher, and our architect and landscape architect, to develop a building that meets our work needs, while integrating with the garden and its original design. The Chris Tyson Plant Conservation Building greatly expands our workspace, allowing greater successes in plant conservation and research.

And this is a greatly needed gift! The MBC Seedbank distributes up to one million seeds per year, to researchers, botanic gardens, and to horticulture, in partnership with the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association. And, each year, MBC hosts a growing number of researchers from around the globe, who come to study our living botanical treasures. Chris helps enable all of this important work.

Thank you for joining us today to thank Chris for her generous support of botany, horticulture, and plant conservation.

M. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director
Montgomery Botanical Center

Our Program for the Dedication:

3:30   Reception and Open House

Join us on the patio of the Chris Tyson Plant Conservation Building for champagne and tea sandwiches. View the new building and see our work in conservation horticulture and research.

4:30   Dedication Ceremony

West end of the Tyson Building, on the Cycad Walk.

Introductory remarks: Dr. Patrick Griffith
Comments from the MBC Board and Directors: Charles P. Sacher
Comments on behalf of the horticulture community: John DeMott
Comments on behalf of the botany community: Carol Horvitz
Comments by Christiane Tyson
         A toast, followed by,
Coffee and cake service.

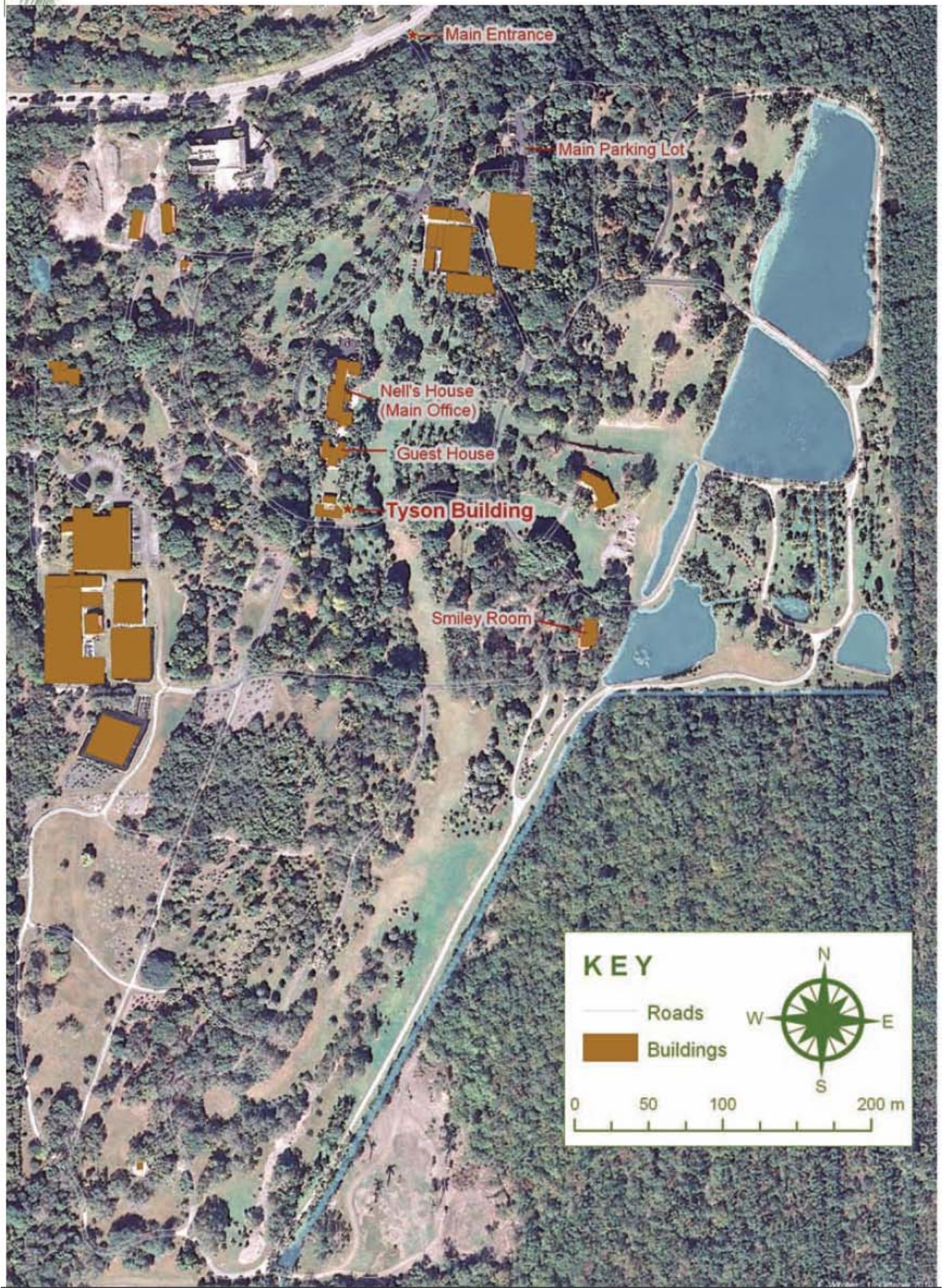**Afterwards:**   Please stay and enjoy the garden by cart or on foot.

From left to right: Barry Tomlinson (back), Carol Horvitz, Chris Tyson, John DeMott, and Larry Schokman at Montgomery

CORAL
GABLES
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

MONTGOMERY
BOTANICAL CENTER
ESTABLISHED 1959

Main Entrance

Main Parking Lot

Nell's House
(Main Office)

Guest House

Tyson Building

Smiley Room

KEY

Roads

Buildings

N
W   E
S

0   50   100   200 m

Open House Exhibits; Tracy Magellan.

Paul Monnin, Lynn Beth Monnin, Chris Tyson, Ellen Beck-Tyson,
and Natalie Lashmit.

Dr. Jenny Richards, Dr. John Popenoe, Dr. Javier Ortega,
Dr. Suzanne Koptur, and Dr. Eric von Wettberg.

Charles P. Sacher, Dr. James Jude, Emerson King, Lange King,
Charles S. Sacher, and Dr. Karl Smiley.

Reception guests.

Craig Morell and Dr. Larry Noblick.

Audience ready for program.

Dr. Patrick Griffith introduces the program.

Charles P. Sacher, MBC President.

John DeMott, Past President of the Florida Nursery Growers and
Landscape Association.

Dr. Carol Horvitz, Professor of Biology at UM,
and Director Emeritus of the Gifford Arboretum.

Chris Tyson shares her thoughts, and speaks about her gift.

For the "ribbon cutting," a pair of Swiss-made pruners.

Unveiling the plaque!

The Tyson Family.

Chocolate and cake.

The MBC Team appreciates this generous gift!

A great day for Montgomery Botanical Center.