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MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER AWARDED LEVEL IV ACCREDITATION BY ARBNET ARBORETUM ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

LISLE, Ill. (June 17, 2014) – The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce that the Montgomery Botanical Center of Coral Gables, Florida has been awarded a Level IV Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, the Montgomery Botanical Center is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in The Morton Register of Arboreta.

“We’re honored to be a part of such a vital network of arboreta working to improve standards for tree collections, promote collaborative conservation, and advance the field,” said Dr. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director of the Montgomery Botanical Center. “The ArbNet accreditation is a wonderful achievement for the Montgomery Botanical Center team.”



A nonprofit organization established in 1959, the Montgomery Botanical Center keeps living specimens from wild plant populations worldwide. Emphasizing palms and cycads, the population-based, documented, scientific collections are available for study within the institution’s 120 acres.

Originally known as The Montgomery Foundation, the botanical center was established by Nell Montgomery Jennings in memory of her husband, Colonel Robert H. Montgomery, and his love of palms and cycads. Today, the Montgomery Botanical Center advances botanical research, conserves rare species, and educates the community through workshops, lectures, publications, and tours of its scientific plant collections. Its mission is to advance science, education, conservation, and horticultural knowledge of tropical plants, emphasizing palms and cycads, and to exemplify excellent botanical garden design.

The Montgomery Botanical Center carries out its mission by collecting seeds from wild populations around the world, germinating these seeds in its nursery and growing the resulting plants in its extensive garden. The botanical center also participates in research by collecting and maintaining scientific data on its collections, making this data available to scientists, and disseminating information through scientific and popular publications. It cooperates with many botanical institutions and countries around the world by making its plant collections, knowledge, and expertise available to their scientists, educators, and students and performs outreach to the general public.

About the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program

The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This international initiative offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Accreditation is based on self-assessment and documentation of an arboretum's level of achievement of accreditation standards. Standards include planning, governance, labeling of species, staff or volunteer support, public access and programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

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