



For Immediate Release
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**CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN'S
DR. VALERIE C. PENCE HONORED BY
CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (April 12, 2010) – Dr. Valerie C. Pence, director of plant research at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, received the Center for Plant Conservation's Star Award last month. The conservation award was presented to Dr. Pence on Thursday, March 25, at the national meeting of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), which was hosted by the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

The Star Award honors those who are committed to the conservation of America's native flora and who demonstrate the concern, cooperation and personal investment needed to conserve the imperiled plants of the United States. Dr. Pence was recognized for her dedicated research developing tissue-culture and cryopreservation techniques for vulnerable species and her quiet generosity providing cultures to others for restoration and reintroduction work. Her efforts have supported recovery plans for some of the most at-risk plants of the United States.

"Dr. Pence makes priceless contributions to species restoration and plant conservation science," notes Dr. Kathryn L. Kennedy, the president and executive director of CPC.

The mission of CPC is to conserve and restore the imperiled native plants of the United States to secure them from extinction. CPC is a nonprofit organization that works with 36 leading botanical institutions across the country to fulfill its mission. The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden and the North Carolina Botanical Garden are part of the CPC network, and these institutions, along with the others in the network, maintain CPC's National Collection of Endangered Plants. The collection contains plant material from more than 700 of America's most at-risk native plants. This material is used for research purposes and restoration work that could return these plants to their natural habitats in the future.

About the Center for Plant Conservation: CPC is dedicated solely to saving America's most at-risk plants. It is a 501(c)(3) conservation organization that is coordinated by a national office in St. Louis, Missouri, and guided by a volunteer board of trustees and the experts of the CPC Science Advisory Council. By developing standards and protocols, conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research and restoration, and raising awareness, CPC's network is striving to save America's most imperiled plants from being lost forever. For additional information about the Center for Plant Conservation, visit the CPC website at www.centerforplantconservation.org.