FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIVE PLANT OUTDOOR LAB INAUGURATION

Jefferson City, MO –The **Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) Native Plant Outdoor Laboratory (NPOL)** inauguration will take place in Marshall, Missouri, on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 9 a.m. The newly established NPOL is a collaborative project between LUCE's Native Plant Program (NPP), the Nicholas Beazley Aviation Museum, Inc., the Martin Community Center, and the Missouri Department of Conservation with funding provided by the Buckner Foundation of Marshall, Missouri and LUCE.

After the inauguration, garden tours, exhibits and hands-on demonstrations will be offered until 2 p.m. and traditional El Salvadoran snacks will be available. The demonstrations will include information about the value-added uses of Missouri native plants. LUCE's Small Ruminant program will also have an exhibit educating attendees about goats and sheep. We encourage everyone to attend.

The primary mission for LUCE's NPP is to increase awareness about native plant diversity and the importance for conservation and wildlife in urban and rural areas. The main purpose of this new outdoor laboratory is to provide an accessible location for students, teachers, residents and visitors to learn to identify native plants while at the same time provide a beautiful garden for the entire community to enjoy. Signage and publications will be available in English and Spanish.

The laboratory is approximately two acres in size and consists of a series of native plant gardens, including a rain garden and a recently seeded prairie. For more information please contact Nadia Navarrete-Tindall at (573) 681-5392 or email Navarrete-TindallN@LincolnU.edu or Sue W. Bartelette at BarteletteW@LincolnU.edu.

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