



Date: August 7, 2009

**JAPANESE FESTIVAL AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SEPT. 5-7**

- WHAT:** 2009 Japanese Festival
WHEN: Labor Day weekend; Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
Monday, Sept. 7 (Labor Day) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, Mo.
COST: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors (ages 65 and over), \$5 children (ages three to 12).
\$5 Missouri Botanical Garden members; free members' children (ages 12 and under).
SPONSORS: Novus International, Inc. and Central States Coca-Cola Bottling
INFO: www.mobot.org; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Enjoy the sights, sounds and culture of the Far East without leaving the Midwest! The Missouri Botanical Garden presents the 2009 Japanese Festival throughout Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5 through 7. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (ages 65 and over) and \$5 for children ages three to 12. Garden members receive discounted admission of \$5 for adults; members' children ages 12 and under are free.

Seiwa-en, the “garden of pure, clear harmony and peace” and one of the largest authentic Japanese strolling gardens in North America, takes center stage for the weekend’s festivities. The celebratory opening procession begins Saturday at 10:30 a.m., when an *omikoshi* Shinto shrine parades from the Climatron® dome to the Japanese Garden entrance. Booming *taiko* drums, traditional *bon odori* festival dancing, the ceremonial breaking of the *sake* barrel and a “*kanpai*” toast officially open the event at 11 a.m.

Enjoy thunderous beats from the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko group again from 7 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday and Monday at the outdoor Cohen Amphitheater.

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ADD ONE: Japanese Festival

Bon odori dancers also return to the Japanese Garden's *Yagura* Stage for demonstrations from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

New in 2009, *bunraku* (traditional Japanese puppet theater) will take the Shoenberg Theater stage for hour-long performances at 3:30 and 5 p.m. on Saturday, 4 and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, and 1:30 p.m. on Monday. Watch as four-foot-tall wooden puppets come to life, aided by a system of rods, levers, and the talents of the University of Missouri-Columbia Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe. Theater seating is limited and available first-come, first-served.

Weighing in at a combined 1,100-plus pounds, crowd-pleasers Koryu and Sunahama are joined by a third wrestler, Kamikiwa, for *sumo* demonstrations at 1:30 and 4 p.m. on Saturday and at noon and 4 p.m. on both Sunday and Monday at the Cohen Amphitheater.

Observe the quick art of ice sculpting from 1 to 1:30 p.m. each day in front of the Spink Pavilion, or head inside for themed children's activities from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. The "Candyman" Masaji Terasawa returns to delight visitors of all ages with his unique style of street magic and sugary-spun creations. Spot him at several locations near the Spoehrer Plaza throughout the weekend.

Enjoy martial arts demonstrated outdoors throughout the festival, from *aikido*, *judo*, and *karate* to *kendo* and *koryu bugei*. Step inside the Orthwein Floral Display Hall to examine *ikebana* flower arranging and *bonsai* pruning techniques.

Witness the beauty of an authentic *kimono* fashion show on Sunday at 1 and 2:30 p.m. in the Shoenberg Theater (seating is limited), or take an evening stroll by candlelight through the Japanese Garden to take in a different form of beauty.

Experience the ritual of *chado* as tea ceremonies are celebrated six times daily on the sacred Teahouse Island in the Japanese Garden. Tickets go on sale twice daily from the Plum Viewing Arbor and are an additional \$25 each, cash only; limit 12 people per session and two tickets per person for this exclusive offering.

Observe Japanese cooking demonstrations from 3 to 4:30 p.m. each day inside the Kemper Center for Home Gardening classroom. Mouth watering? Head to the food court to purchase Japanese cuisine including *sushi*, *yakisoba* noodles, pancake-like *okonomiyaki*, juicy beef kabobs, green tea ice cream and more.

Sponsorship support for the 2009 Japanese Festival provided by Novus International, Inc. and Central States Coca-Cola Bottling.

(more)

ADD TWO: Japanese Festival

Japanese Festival hours are Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (doors open at 9 a.m. and remain open until 10 p.m. for candlelight walks), and Monday, Sept. 7 (Labor Day) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors ages 65 and over, and \$5 for children ages three to 12. Missouri Botanical Garden members are \$5 and their children (ages 12 and under) are free.

Purchase tickets in advance online at <http://www.mobot.org/tickets.asp>. Download the complete schedule of events by visiting <http://www.mobot.org/events/japanesefestival/>.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, easily accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit. Free parking is available on-site and at two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit www.mobot.org or call the recorded event line at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free 1 (800) 642-8842.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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NOTE: Digital color images available by request. Download media materials at www.mobot.org/press.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, just south of I-44 at Vandeventer-Kingshighway (exit #287B). Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Dec. 25. Grounds open at 7 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday. Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free every Wednesday and Saturday until noon (exception: special admission rate events). Park for free on site and two blocks west at the Shaw-Vandeventer intersection. The Garden is easily accessible by taking the MetroLink commuter rail line to the Central West End station and picking up a Metro bus (www.metrostlouis.org). For general information, log on to www.mobot.org or call the 24-hour recording at (314) 577-9400 or 1-800-642-8842. For membership information, call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, call (314)-577-5187 or visit www.mobot.org/volunteer. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.

(Note: A section of the I-64/U.S. 40 highway is under construction through 2009. Before traveling, check www.thenewi64.org for updates or visit www.GetAroundStL.com for other helpful information.)