



**Date:** August 27, 2009

**LIFE OF DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER INSPIRES ‘CARVER DAY’  
AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN, OCT. 17**

**WHAT:** Carver Day  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis  
**COST:** Included with Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents) or membership. Free children ages 12 and under.  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org); (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Explore the life and legacy of famed Missouri-born scientist and educator Dr. George Washington Carver with **“Carver Day”** at the Missouri Botanical Garden, **Saturday, Oct. 17** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Carver was born into slavery in 1865 in Diamond Grove, Mo. and rose to become “the plant doctor,” an internationally-renowned scientist, teacher, humanitarian and advocate for productive, sustainable agriculture. He is credited with introducing crop rotation and plant diversity to the farm field and is well-known for the many uses of peanuts, sweet potatoes, soybeans and black-eyed peas that he developed. He is the inspiration behind the Missouri Botanical Garden’s one-and-a-half-acre George Washington Carver Garden, dedicated in 2005 and the first of its kind at a botanical garden.

Begin your Carver Day journey with a stop at the **Jesup Wagon** in the upper level of the Ridgway Visitor Center. Carver designed the original Jesup Agricultural Wagon, a moveable school-on-wheels, to bring teaching directly into communities. In the same fashion, the Garden’s Jessup Wagon will be filled information and an introduction to some of the plants that Carver studied.

Continue your learning with a walk outside to the George Washington Carver Garden,

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## **ADD ONE: Carver Day**

where a **Germination Station** staffed by Garden educators will offer a deeper exploration of Carver's agricultural endeavors. Take a seat in the small outdoor amphitheater to listen to the story, **"A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver,"** read at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.

New this year, reserve your spot for a special Carver Garden **stroll with Dr. George Washington Carver** himself, as portrayed by Paxton Williams. Chat with "Carver" about his life, trials, tribulations, and his ultimate triumphs. See how native plants and flowers inspired a young George, and how they taught him valuable lessons about the human condition. Learn how art, nature, music and poetry influenced Carver's scientific endeavors, and enjoy the chance to explore your own creativity!

Paxton Williams is the director of outreach for the George Washington Carver Birthplace Association. He has portrayed Carver nearly 300 times across the U.S. and in England. He will be joined by a Garden educator on each walk.

Advance reservations for the Carver walks are required by Oct. 14 and space is limited. Teachers, register for the educators' Carver walk from 10 to 11:30 a.m. by e-mailing [tracie.cain@mobot.org](mailto:tracie.cain@mobot.org). A visitors' Carver walk for the general public will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m.; register by e-mailing [julia.gaussoin@mobot.org](mailto:julia.gaussoin@mobot.org).

Back inside the visitor center, watch the 45-minute movie, **"Modern Marvels Tech: George Washington Carver,"** shown continuously from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Shoenberg Theater. Stop by the Sassafras café to dine on **Carver-inspired lunch specials** including a Carver Monte Cristo sandwich with side of sweet potato fries; apple, sweet potato and pumpkin bisque; and peanut butter brownies.

Cap off your Carver Day experience with the joyful singing of the **New Sunny Mount Baptist Chancel Choir**, performing at 2 p.m. in the Shoenberg Theater.

Carver Day activities are included with general Garden admission (\$8 adults, free children ages 12 and under; St. Louis City and County residents, free before noon and \$4 thereafter). Garden members are free. Advance reservations are required for the Carver walks; all other activities are drop-in.

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.

**(more)**

## **ADD TWO: Carver Day**

For general information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://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:** A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://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](http://www.metrostlouis.org)). For general information, log on to [www.mobot.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.thenewi64.org) for updates or visit [www.GetAroundStL.com](http://www.GetAroundStL.com) for other helpful information.)