



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington
Carver National Monument

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George Washington Carver NM News Release

For Immediate Release

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PRAIRIE DAY

George Washington Carver National Monument invites the public to participate in Prairie Day on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is free of charge. Prairie Day is a celebration of life on a southwest Missouri farm during the mid-1860s and 1870s, the years of George Washington Carver's childhood.

Features include horse-drawn wagon rides through the prairie with a storyteller to entertain. At the 1881 Moses Carver House history comes alive with candle dipping, Dutch-oven cooking, wool spinning, soap making, weaving, crochet, rag rugs, laundry & making lye soap, butter making, corn shucking, corn shelling & grinding, a chuck wagon, and a kitchen garden. The Town & Country Quilters will host a quilting bee and other quilters will demonstrate fancy quilting and tied quilts.

Professional storytellers include John Anderson as "Brother John", with music and stories about African American life on the prairie from the 1860s & 1870s; Richard and Judy Young presenting Ozark traditional stories; and Bobby Norfolk sharing African American folklore.

A special feature is the music of Rev. John Wilkins with his selections of blues. Ripplin Creek and Flyin Buzzards play traditional bluegrass, Ozark Wilderness Dulcimer Club play hammered dulcimers, Panhandle Slim shares songs of African American life, and Bramble & Rose, an old-time string band, present Civil War-era selections.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



At the Carver Family Cemetery visitors may explore the hidden meanings of epitaphs & engravings. Edible & medicinal plants found on the prairie are displayed and prairie walks are conducted. Near the pond basket weavers create works of art, and interesting exhibits show woodland & prairie animals and birds. Kid-friendly activities include painting with natural dyes, old-fashioned toys & games, and a special Junior Ranger badge. An exhibit near the site of the slave cabin shows Civil War medicine, and the role of archeology is explored. Tri State Carvers Guild demonstrates wood carving techniques, the Missouri Department of Conservation discusses the benefit of prescription fire on the prairie, and the Neosho Fish Hatchery presents interactive exhibits.

Visitors are also invited to enjoy the 18th Annual Gem City Days, September 10th & 11th at the Diamond Christian Church parking lot. The theme this year is “*Honoring our Heroes.*” The Saturday parade begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Diamond Jazz Band, Old Fat & Ugly Band, a Car, Truck, & Bike show, children’s games, Billy Jo Gentry, No Apparent Reason, and Coldcreek Rockin Country Band. For more information about Gem City Days please call 499-3300, 439-1463 or 529-8022.

The park visitor center will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and concessions will be offered by the Carver Birthplace Association. The monument is located two miles west of Diamond, Missouri on Highway V, then south ½ mile on Carver Road. For more information, please call the park at 417-325-4151 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or visit the park website: www.nps.gov/gwca.

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