



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

4344 Shaw Boulevard • St. Louis, MO • 63110 • (314) 577-9400 • www.mobot.org

Date: June 17, 2010 a

What's growing on
at the Garden!

**EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF JAPAN AT THE
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN LABOR DAY WEEKEND**
Annual Japanese Festival Features Sumo, Taiko, Bunraku and More, Sept. 4-6

- WHAT:** 2010 Japanese Festival
WHEN: Labor Day weekend; Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
Monday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis
COST: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors (ages 65 and over), \$5 children (ages 3 to 12).
\$5 Missouri Botanical Garden members; free members' children (ages 12 and under).
SPONSORS: Central States Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Novus International, Inc. and
Bodine Aluminum, Inc.
INFO: www.mobot.org/events/japanesefestival; (314) 577-5100, 1-800-642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): *Konichiwa!* Enjoy the culture and traditions of the Far East from the closer-to-home Midwest when the **Japanese Festival** returns to the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis over Labor Day weekend. Experience the reverberating boom of *taiko* drums and the mighty clash of a *sumo* wrestling match. Delight in the delicacy of *bon odori* dance and theatrics of *bunraku* puppetry. Savor the smell of grilled *shish kabobs* and *yakisoba* noodles, the thrill of martial arts, perfection of *bonsai* and *ikebana* displays, serenity of candlelit walks through the Japanese Garden and more, Saturday, Sept. 4 and Sunday, Sept. 5 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 6 (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 3 to 12. Visit www.mobot.org/events/japanesefestival for details.

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. A boisterous opening ceremony kicks off the celebration Saturday morning at the Japanese Garden entrance with an elaborate *omikoshi* Shinto shrine parade, *bon odori* festival dancing, *taiko* drumming and remarks by local and

(over)

ADD ONE: Japanese Festival

visiting dignitaries.

Returning favorites include gentle giants Koryu, Sunahama and Kamikiwa, weighing in at 1,100-plus combined pounds and giving visitors a glimpse of the lifestyle, training and fighting techniques of Japan's ancient warrior: the *sumo* wrestler. The "Candyman" Masaji Terasawa is back to roam the grounds, delighting onlookers with his unique style of street magic and sugary-spun creations.

The University of Missouri-Columbia Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe takes the stage daily for performances of *bunraku*, a form of traditional Japanese puppet theater. Watch detailed, four-foot-tall wooden puppets dramatically come to life, aided by a system of rods, levers and a team of three puppeteers called the *ningyo-zukai*. Festival favorites and hometown talents from the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko group sound their formidable drums twice daily in outdoor performances at the Cohen Amphitheater.

Watch martial artists demonstrate the ancient techniques of *aikido*, *judo*, *karate*, *kendo* and *koryu bugei*. Learn about the disciplined art of *ikebana* flower arranging and the proper pruning of a delicate *bonsai* tree. Take in a colorful *kimono* fashion show and marvel at the quick work of ice sculptor Naomi Hamamura. Join your young one to perfect *origami* paper folding skills, play traditional Japanese games and be entertained by the *Koma-Mawashi* (top spinning) skills of Dr. Hiroshi Tada.

Shop for souvenirs and other Asian-inspired merchandise at the Japanese marketplace and the Garden Gate Shop. Sample Japanese cuisine at the outdoor food court, including *sushi*, *yakisoba* noodles, crab *rangoon*, pancake-like *okonomiyaki* and green tea ice cream.

Support for the 2010 Japanese Festival is provided by Central States Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Novus International, Inc. and Bodine Aluminum, Inc.

Japanese Festival hours are Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (doors open at 9 a.m. and remain open until 10 p.m. for evening candlelight walks), and Monday, Sept. 6 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 3 to 12. Missouri Botanical Garden members are \$5 and their children are free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit and from Interstate 64 at the Kingshighway North & South exit. Free parking is available on-site and two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit www.mobot.org or call (314) 577-5100 (toll-free, 1-800-642-8842).

###

NOTE: Digital 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, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.

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. Wednesdays and Saturdays (exception: special admission rate events). Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon (exception: special admission rate events - third weekend of May, Labor Day weekend, and first weekend of October). 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) 577-5100 or 1-800-642-8842. For membership information, visit www.mobot.org/membership call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, visit www.mobot.org/volunteer or call (314) 577-5187. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.