



National Mall Times

The official newspaper
of National Mall and Memorial Parks

April 2012 · Volume 5, Issue 4

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First Lady of Potomac Park: Nellie Taft

Ranger Jan Buerger

Helen “Nellie” Herron Taft’s dream of becoming First Lady propelled her husband William Howard Taft into running for the presidency. For her part, she was a lady of “firsts,” and was among the First Ladies to transform the role into the substantive one it is today. Her legacy is still evident in parts of the National Mall.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1861, and a graduate of Cincinnati College of Music, she married William Howard Taft in 1886. Nellie Taft distinguished herself as founder and president of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Association. After the Spanish-American War, President William McKinley appointed William Taft Governor of the Philippine Islands, where he served from 1900 to 1903. There, Mrs. Taft distinguished herself as a public servant. The Tafts worked as a team, reversing discrimination against locals and establishing a policy of equality. She was a fan of Manila’s Luneta Park, a swampland transformed in 1820 into the Paseo de Luneta, a plaza in the form of a Roman circus or parade for riding and walking. Later, the Paseo de Luneta served as a fortification, around the old Walled City, or Intramuros, a



Helen Herron Taft, 1909. Library of Congress photo.

historic Spanish colonial district that Nellie Taft fought to preserve. The Paseo de Luneta was a community recreation center where concerts were open to all.

When President Theodore Roosevelt appointed

Taft continued on page 7

Cherry Blossom Centennial

Ranger Brad Berger

March 27, 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the ceremonial planting of Japanese flowering cherry trees along the Tidal Basin by First Lady Helen Taft and the Viscountess Iwa Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador. From her first visit to Japan in 1885, noted authority on Asian culture and newspaper correspondent Eliza R. Scidmore advocated the planting of such trees in the nation’s capital. The years turned into decades in her quest to beautify the city. Despite her lack of success, this was a formative time for Washington, D.C., as a series of damaging floods underscored the need for dredging the Potomac River in order to create land barriers which would protect the city. During the 1890s, two new bodies of land known as East Potomac Park and West Potomac Park formed a protective barrier around the areas susceptible to flooding. Between the two lay a Tidal Basin engineered to allow high water on the river to flow into and then out of the basin, reinforcing the city’s protection. This grand new expanse of land lay wide open with possibilities.

As the nineteenth century turned to the twentieth, major building projects transformed what was known as a backwater amongst world capitals into the framework of the picturesque city we know today. The city, taking its cue from the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893, began to build and plan structures reminiscent of the White City, such as the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History, and the Lincoln Memorial. It was in this atmosphere, known as the “City Beautiful” movement, that Scidmore met Dr. David Fairchild. Fairchild, a prominent figure at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, began introducing Japanese flowering cherry trees to his estate in Chevy Chase, MD, just north of the city. In the closing of an Arbor Day ceremony in 1908, Dr. Fairchild called for a large number of these trees to be planted where the speedway around the Tidal Basin was located, which would create a “Sea of Cherries” in this newly reclaimed land. Hearing

Centennial continued on page 4

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks

Superintendent Bob Vogel

On behalf of the National Park Service, welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks! Here you can visit some of America’s iconic landmarks and memorials that celebrate and commemorate our nation’s heritage.

For generations, millions of people have come to the National Mall to experience the grandeur of these special places and to reflect on what it means to be an American. Many people come to exercise their First Amendment rights because of the park’s proximity to our seat of government. For others, the National Mall is a neighborhood park they use for recreation and exercise. No matter what their reason, all who visit are part of a legacy that stretches back centuries.

In this newspaper, you will find articles about the park’s many features, as well as



Superintendent Bob Vogel

information about interpretive programs by our park rangers and other activities and resources. You also will find in this issue articles about our famous cherry trees. The blossoming cherry trees symbolize the arrival of spring in Washington, D.C. and provide a spectacular show of nature’s beauty. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is held annually to showcase the beautiful trees that were a gift from the city of Tokyo to our nation’s capital. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that gift. We’ll be

offering a wide variety of special programs as part of the celebration.

The staff and volunteers of the National Mall are available to tell you about the park, answer your questions and help you make the most of your time here in America’s front yard. Enjoy your visit!

National Mall and Memorial Parks

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Ranger Programs & Activities

Daily Programs

What: Free site tours and interpretive talks

Where: Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

When: Daily at 10:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.

Special Programs

Saturday, April 14, 2012

24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

Volunteer Service Activity, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Help keep the Potomac River clean from the Lincoln Memorial to the Inlet Bridge! Gloves and bags will be provided. The activity ends prior to the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. Location: Intersection of Ohio Drive SW and West Basin Drive SW. Contact: Edward Fleming (240) 375-5904.

The Death of a President

Ranger Program, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM,

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Lincoln's assassination changed the course of history, but not the way Booth intended. Hear about that tragic night and how Lincoln emerged as a president for the ages. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Heidi Dietze (202) 438-7033.

Monday, April 16, 2012

The District Emancipation Act: An End and a Beginning

Ranger Program, 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

The 1862 District Emancipation Act represented a victory, a tragic end, and beginning recognition that military necessity must drive broader emancipation. Location: Lincoln Memorial Plaza. Contact: Bob Healy (202) 438-6314.

George Mason, The Reluctant Statesman

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness were among this forgotten thinker's contributions to American law and society. Location: George Mason Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

Emancipation in the District: The Tide Turns

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM

On April 16th 1862, Congress passed its first major act against the institution of slavery, emancipating slaves in the District of Columbia. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Bombardment of Fort Sumter

Ranger Program, 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM,
3:00 – 3:30 PM

Learn how events at a fort in the middle of Charleston Harbor propelled the United States into Civil War. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jeff Jones (202) 329-2238.

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

From Mud Flats to Memorials in 200 Years

Walking Tour, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM,
5:00 - 7:00 PM

The land where our memorials now stand used to be mud flats. The transformation over 200 years is filled with more "oops" than you would think. Location: Washington Monument Bookstore. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

John Paul Jones: Man of Action

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

John Paul Jones, an audacious captain, was the first US Navy commander to cause a foreign warship to strike its flag. In 1912, this brave man was honored with a memorial. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Matt Hornberger (202) 359-7080.

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Recalling the Shot Heard around the World

Living History, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Meet rangers in 1776 attire to learn about the shot heard around the world at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

Friday, April 20, 2012

Culture Clash at the Lincoln Memorial: Nixon's Nighttime Visit

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Why did President Nixon wander into the Lincoln Memorial before dawn one sleepless night in 1970? Come hear the unbelievable story. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Susan Philpott (202) 233-3520.



Saturday, April 21, 2012

Spring Bird Walk

Ranger Program, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join National Park Service Rangers as we try to identify birds during this spring bird migration season. Binoculars are provided. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

The Death of a President

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lincoln's assassination changed the course of history, but not the way Booth intended. Hear about that tragic night and how Lincoln emerged as a president for the ages. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Heidi Dietze (202) 438-7033.

The National Mall: A Reflection of American Society

Walking Tour, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Trace the development of the National Mall as it evolved to meet the needs of American Society. Location: Washington Monument Lodge, 15th St. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

Charles Sumner and the Push for Abolition

Ranger Program, 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner was a leading light of the Northern radical abolitionists. Learn how he contributed to the end of slavery. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

The Bataan Death March

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

After the Philippines fell to the Japanese in April 1942, American soldiers had to endure the largest surrender in American history. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Paul O'Brian (202) 438-7066.

Who Won the Civil War?

Walking Tour, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The North won the war militarily. But were all of the Union's objectives for society accomplished? We are impacted by the outcome today! Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Key to Colors

- Ranger Program
- Walking Tour
- Bike Tour
- Running Tour
- Volunteer Service
- Living History

What's a Ranger Program?

Ranger programs are free activities you can join to learn about history and nature while you explore the park! Come along with a park ranger and join in the fun!

Find Cherry Blossom Festival Programs including walks, talks, bike tours, and running tours for March 24 - April 15 on page 5!

Sunday, April 22, 2012

Unexplored Tales of the City

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Have no doubts. Our history is filled with myths and half-truths, but in the end you will agree, true American History is far more fascinating than fictitious American history. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

Civil Rights in Washington, D.C.

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

What did the Civil Rights Movement look like in the Nation's Capital? Come and learn about some hometown heroes. Location: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Contact: Susan Philpott (202) 233-3520.

Have We Learned Anything Yet?

Remembering the Holocaust

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Are the horrors of the camps retreating into distant mental mists? Learn why we must ever thank WWII vets! Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Monday, April 23, 2012

Where in the Park are the Patriots? Patriots of the Civil War

Living History, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Meet rangers in Civil War period clothing and learn about American Civil War life and times. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

George Mason, The Reluctant Statesman

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness were among this forgotten thinker's contributions to American law and society. Location: George Mason Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Where in the Park are the Patriots?

Living History, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Meet rangers in colonial period clothing, learn about our Founding Fathers and Founding Mothers, and colonial life and times. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

Untold Stories of Stalin's Victims

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Joseph Stalin's tyranny led to millions of deaths during his regime. This memorial represents their unspoken stories. Location: Victims of Communism Memorial. Contact: Andrew Clark (202) 233-3520.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Pork Chop Hill

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

In the spring of 1953 the Chinese launched a large offensive against the United Nations in the Korean War. A movie was created about it. Location: Korean War Veterans Memorial. Contact: Paul O'Brian (202) 438-7066.



Thursday, April 26, 2012

Lincoln's Second Inaugural & Lee's Surrender at Appomattox

Ranger Program, 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM

Without Lincoln at the helm of the Union Army, the surrender at Appomattox Court House may have never happened. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Edward Fleming (240) 375-5904.

Friday, April 27, 2012

Four Score and Four Years: From the Civil War to World War II

Walking Tour, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Visit the sites marking our top 3 deadly conflicts, and in comparing them, learn how they are interrelated. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Saturday, April 28, 2012

FDR's Wild Side

Ranger Program, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join National Park Rangers as they explore the trees, birds, and other wildlife at the FDR Memorial. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

Off the Beaten Path

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visit and hear untold stories about out-of-the-way statues, urns, and fountains, but also learn the secrets that often linger in the shadows of the colossal icons and memorials. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

Spring Bird Walk

Ranger Program, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Join National Park Service Rangers as we try to identify birds during this spring bird migration season. Binoculars provided. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

Washington and Jones

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

George Washington and John Paul Jones were heroes of the American Revolution. Both men were critical to the success of the Revolutionary War. Location: Washington Monument Lodge Bookstore. Contact: Paul O'Brian (202) 438-7066.

How World War I Birthed Monty Python

Walking Tour, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

So many certainties prior to 1914 died in World War I. Much of today's world came from that conflict, including Monty Python! Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Sunday, April 29, 2012

Lincoln's Washington: Contraband Camps during the Civil War

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The emergence of contraband camps during the Civil War transformed the Federal City both visually and philosophically. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation

Ranger Program, 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Lincoln's most famous act was his Emancipation Proclamation of September 22, 1862, to go into effect on January 1, 1863. Learn the details. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

John Paul Jones: Man of Action

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

John Paul Jones, an audacious captain, was the first US Navy commander to cause a foreign warship to strike its flag. In 1912, this brave man was honored with a memorial. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Matt Hornberger (202) 359-7080.

Lincoln Haunts Jaunt

Walking Tour, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Walk in Lincoln's footsteps. Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Monday, April 30, 2012

George Washington takes Oath of Office, 1789 in New York City

Living History, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Meet rangers in late-18th century attire to learn about George Washington taking the oath of office in New York City. Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

George Mason, The Reluctant Statesman

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness were among this forgotten thinker's contributions to American law and society. Location: George Mason Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.



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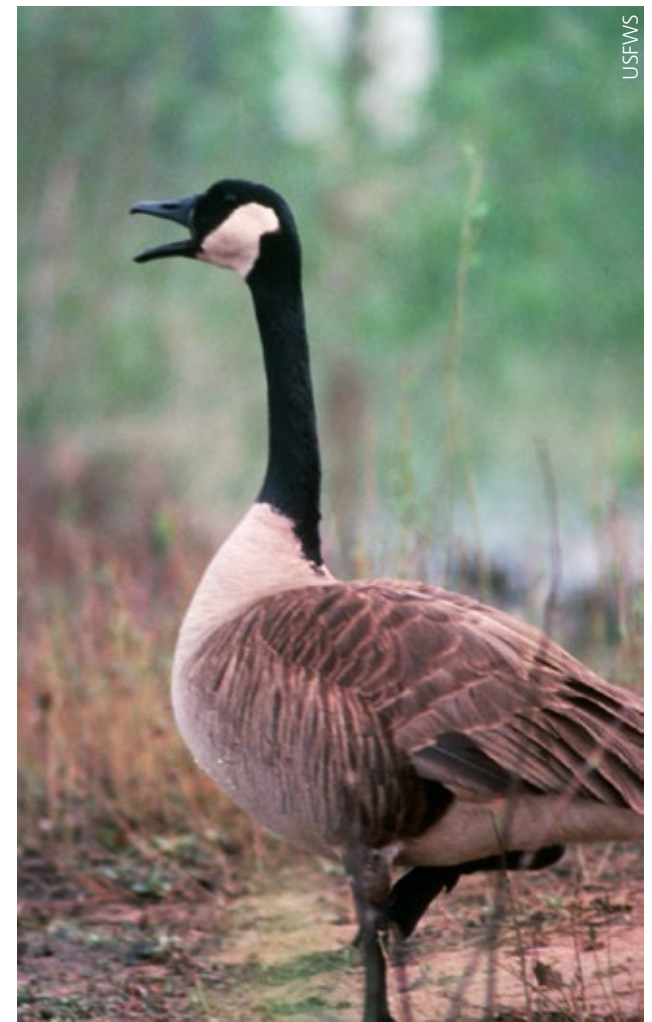
Canada Goose

The National Mall's blend of well-manicured grassy areas and open bodies of water provide ideal habitats for Canada geese. There is a good chance you'll see a Canada goose eating, considering they can spend upwards of ten hours a day feeding on grass, berries, fish, and insects! Females, known as geese, and males, known as ganders, may live over 20 years and typically begin mating for life at the age of 3.

Keep wildlife wild! Although the National Mall and Memorial Parks is an urban park, Canada geese are wild and must be respected accordingly. Help National Mall and Memorial Parks protect Canada geese by observing them, and all wildlife, from a distance.

Did you Know?

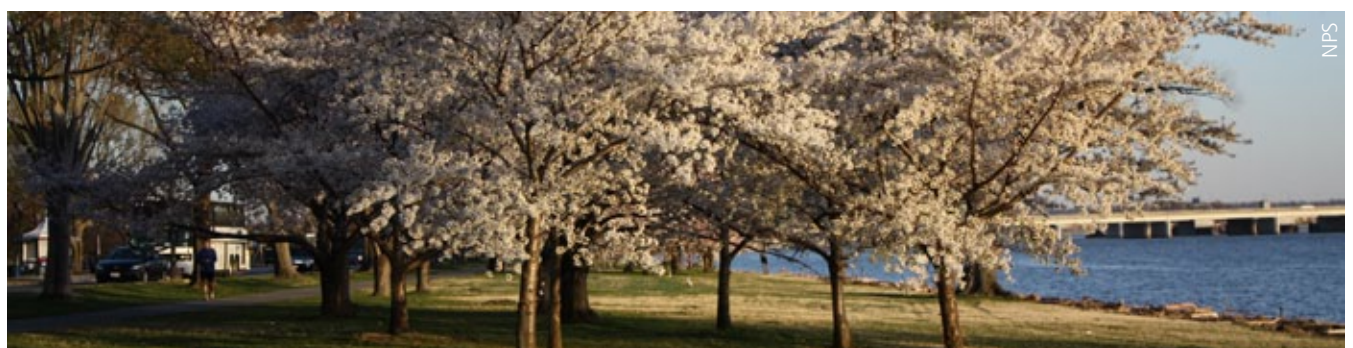
- Canada geese nest in the same region every year. Look for them year round at Constitution Gardens, East Potomac Park, and the Tidal Basin!
- The iconic "flying V" formation aids communication and assists flight efficiency by cutting lines in the wind and creating an upward current.
- Goslings (baby geese) communicate with their mothers while in their egg.
- Canada geese are the second in size among North American waterfowl. Trumpeter swans are the largest.



Centennial from page 1 Dr. Fairchild's words that day was a kindred spirit, in the form of Scidmore. The passion of these two advocates to adorn the city with natural beauty, a complement to the burgeoning architectural wonders both then in construction and planning stages, fell on a sympathetic ear.

In April 1909, First Lady Taft, upon reading a letter sent by Scidmore which presented both her and Fairchild's sentiments, heartily agreed. She was familiar with the trees herself, having lived in Japan for a time. A fundraising campaign was proposed, yet unnecessary, for Dr. Jokichi Takamine, discoverer of adrenaline, and Japanese Consul General in New York, Mr. K. Midzuno offered a donation of 2,000 trees as a gift to the people of the United States, in the name of the people of Tokyo.

Upon their arrival in January 1910, the 2,000 trees were inspected and unfortunately found to be infested with parasitic nematodes. Ultimately, the trees were burned, as they were deemed unsafe in their condition to be planted in large numbers. Two years later, a gift of 3,020 young, healthy trees arrived in Washington, D.C. On March 27, along the northwest wall of the Tidal Basin, the first gift tree was planted. Every spring which followed this occasion, millions of visitors descended upon the area around the Tidal Basin, East Potomac Park, and the grounds of the Washington Monument as more trees planted from the clippings of originals



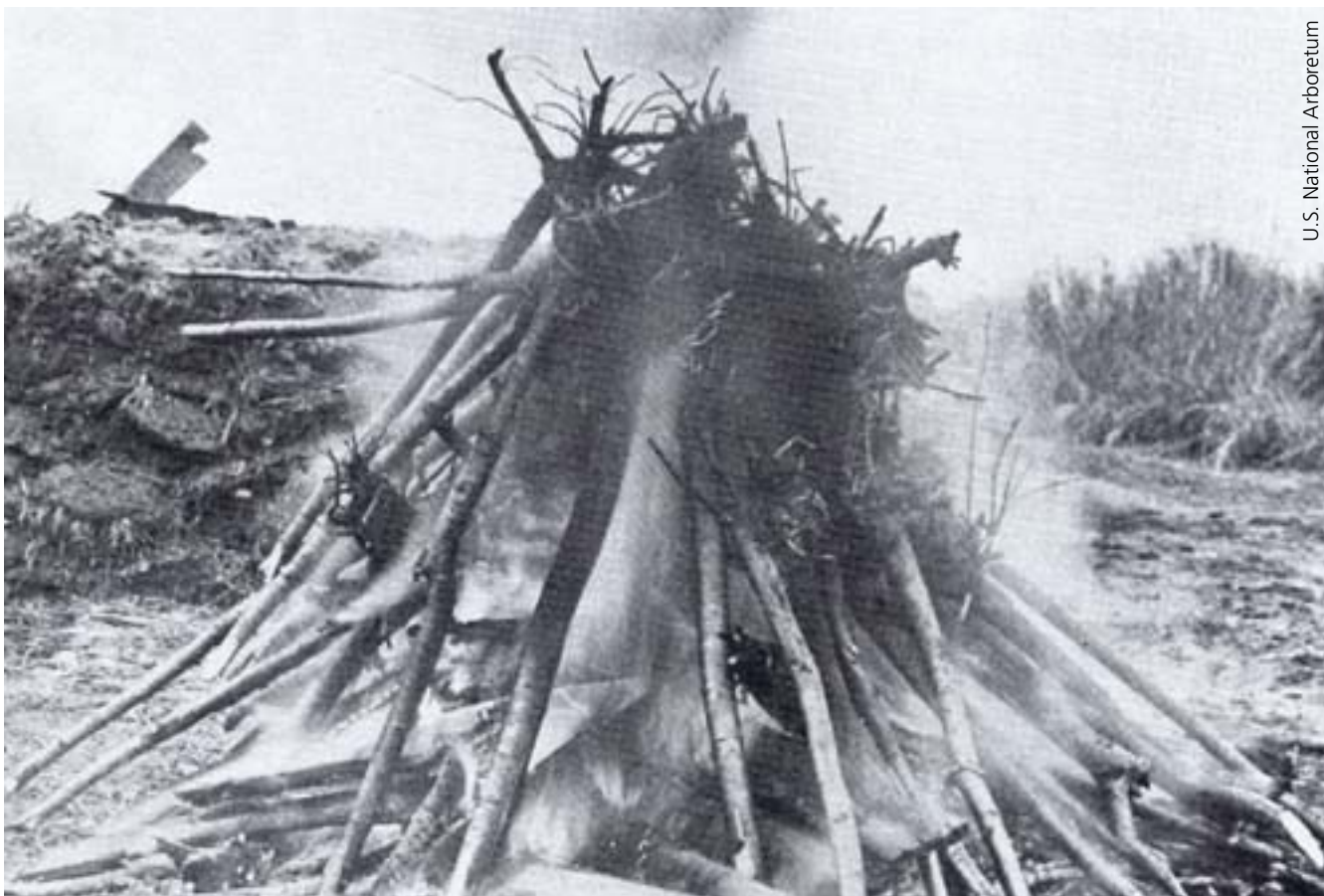
and subsequent gifts from Japan filled out the park. In 1935, the viewing of the blooming of the cherry blossoms became an organized event known as the Cherry Blossom Festival.

The following handful of years were very hard on the Japanese flowering cherry trees, for there was a full-scale rebellion by prominent ladies of Washington society who objected to the planning of the site for a new memorial to President Thomas Jefferson along the southern edge of the Tidal Basin. In November 1938, many of these ladies chained themselves to the cherry trees which were destined to be removed for the construction of the new memorial. The ladies eventually left the area, after showing their disdain for the removal of the 26-year-old trees. Eventually the "Cherry Tree Rebellion" as it came to be known, proved a victory for both sides. Advocates of the memorial saw the formal dedication take place on Thomas Jefferson's 200th birthday, April 13, 1943, and beautifully framing the new structure were hundreds of newly

planted, young cherry trees. The coming of World War II resulted in a handful of the cherry trees being vandalized after the attack on Pearl Harbor. A moratorium was placed on the annual springtime festivals for the duration of the war as well.

At the end of World War II relations between the United States and Japan again grew strong. As symbols of friendship, the two nations continued to give one another gifts. Clippings from Tidal Basin trees were sent back to Japan to help replenish groves of cherry trees which were diminished during the war. The nation of Japan bestowed upon the park in 1954 the gift of an ancient stone lantern, which is ceremonially lit at the beginning of each Cherry Blossom Festival. This gift marks the 100th anniversary of formal relations between the two nations. It stands in the grove of trees where the first one was planted in 1912, along the northwest edge of the Tidal Basin. Near the exit of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial stands a decorative stone Japanese pagoda given as a gesture of goodwill in 1958. Pagodas are the dominant architecture in Japanese Shinto temples which honor those who have come before us.

Japanese flowering cherry trees surround the grounds of many of these sites, for the brief duration of their brilliant blossoms symbolize the brevity of life for the people of Japan. It is therefore quite fitting that these trees adorn the grounds upon which we as a nation have placed monuments and memorials to our forebears. In 1965, further gifts of 3,800 trees from Japan were planted on the grounds of the Washington Monument and elsewhere. Through the years, the reciprocal gifts of the two nations were tempered by the steady arrival of visitors every spring to witness the blooming of these magnificent trees. The *sakura*, as they are known to the people of Japan, bear deeply important symbolism that has drawn people together for generations. The cherry blossom is portrayed second only to the moon in Japanese art, and the amount of poems written about them is virtually limitless. The festival held every spring in Washington, D.C. is a clear indication of how the U.S. has blended facets of cultures from around the world into something truly unique, something American.



Burning the original nematode-infested trees at Hains Point.

Cherry Blossom Festival



Park Events for March 24 - April 15, 2012

Welcome!

On this page, you will find information about events happening at National Mall and Memorial Parks during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Information about other events happening throughout Washington, D.C. can be found on the National Cherry Blossom Festival website, www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the gift of the flowering cherry trees on the National Mall!

The first 3,020 cherry trees were given to the City of Washington, D.C. by the City of Tokyo, Japan in 1912. Since then, the trees have been cultivated throughout the park, to include more than a dozen varieties to enjoy.

These beautiful, flowering trees have attracted millions of people to the National Mall over the years, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival has grown into a major event. This year's National Cherry Blossom Festival is bigger than ever.

Enjoy this extraordinary celebration, and help us kick off the next 100 years of cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C.!

Services

Welcome and Information

Tents

Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. *(Every Day)*

Sylvan Theater (March 31 - April 15)
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. *(Friday & Saturday)*
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. *(Sunday through Thursday)*

Food Tents

Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. *(Every Day)*

Souvenir/Bookstore Tents

Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. *(Every Day)*

First Aid Tent

Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. *(Every Day)*

Bloomin' Jr. Ranger Tent

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. *(Saturday & Sunday)*

Bicycle Parking

BRING YOUR OWN LOCK!

Thomas Jefferson Memorial & Independence Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets



Paddles reminds us, "Please do not pick the blossoms," and "Please do not climb the trees."

Ranger-Led Programs

Cherry Talks

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial & Thomas Jefferson Memorial
11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. *(Every Day)*
Learn more about the history of the blossoms on these daily programs.

Lantern Walks

NPS Welcome Tent at Tidal Basin Welcome Area
8 p.m. - 10 p.m. *(Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday)*
Enjoy the memorials and blossoms at night. Bring your own flashlight.

Bike Tours

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. *(Saturdays & Sundays)*
Enjoy the cherry blossoms without all the traffic! Bring your own bike, helmet, and water.

Cherry Chit-Chat Runs

Washington Monument Lodge
8 a.m. - 9 a.m. *(Saturdays)*
Lace up your shoes and join a Park Ranger for a 3.5 mile run and learn about the blossoms.

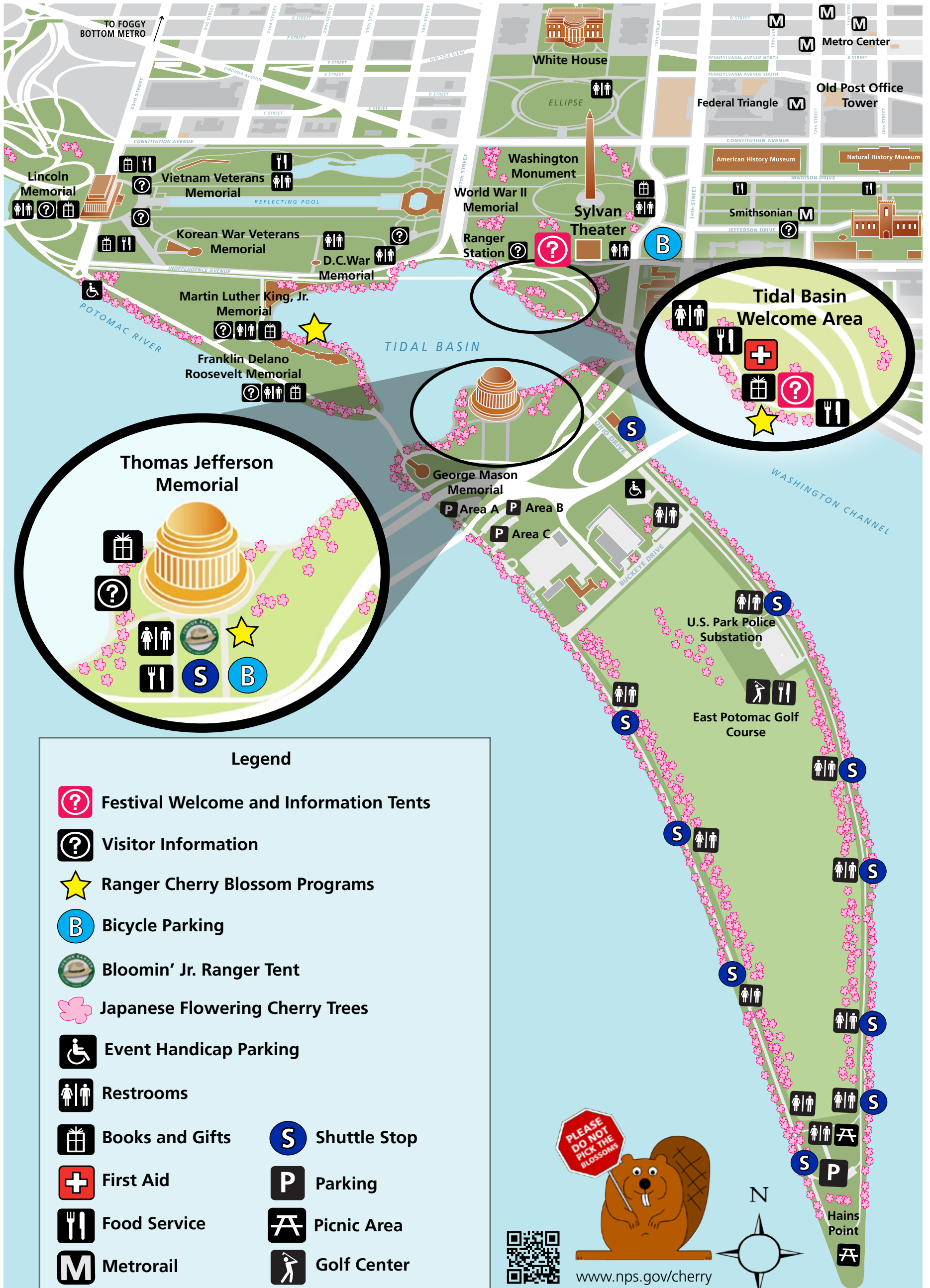
Bloomin' Jr. Ranger

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Earn your Jr. Ranger Badge with hands-on activities!
10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. *(Saturdays & Sundays)*
Special Ranger Activity
2 p.m. *(Saturdays & Sundays)*

Ranger Audio Tours

Dial (202) 747-3465 to learn more about the blossoms.

Celebrating 100 Years of Cherry Blossoms in D.C.



In Case of Emergency - United States Park Police (202) 610-7500
 Lost and Found (202) 426-6849

William Taft Secretary of War in 1904, the Tafts returned to the United States via Japan, where they were feted like political celebrities. Stateside, Mrs. Taft read the McMillan Commission's "city beautiful" plan for the capital, and discovered another niche. Commissioner Daniel Burnham traveled to Manila to see Luneta, and in 1906 a Luneta type plan materialized as West Potomac Park's "Four Fountains" in a recently-established evergreen and rose nursery. By the 1920s, the "Four Fountains" sported Asian magnolias and forsythias, and by the 1930s, Japanese flowering cherry trees. Almost all was destroyed in the 1940s to make way for the new Potomac bridges. Fountain four, now in the George Mason Memorial, and the Cuban Friendship Urn remain, still surrounded by Asian plantings.

As First Lady from 1909 to 1913, Nellie Taft continued to be exceptional. She was the most-traveled First Lady to date. She was first to ride with her husband in the inaugural parade, establishing the precedent. She took command of White House domestic and social matters, establishing equal treatment of staff and entertaining a wider scope of visitors, to which she provided entertainment worthy of a nation. She arranged White House concerts, including at a new series of garden parties, featuring established and hot new virtuosi, performing classical, folk, popular and lyrical music. She added dramatic performances, including Shakespeare.

Within a month First Lady Taft had driven the first presidential auto to the new Potomac Park "Speedway," which she promptly renamed Potomac Drive, returning in hours with a Paseo de Luneta type plan for a Potomac Park bandstand and a series of public concerts. She attended the first concert on April 17, 1909, sporting her signature Japanese geisha-style hairdo.

Nellie Taft shared an interest in Japanese culture with Eliza Scidmore, whom she had met in Japan. Scidmore was the only woman trustee of National Geographic, the author of seven books on Alaska and Asia, and a correspondent to the *New York Times*. When Scidmore pleaded for the beautification of Potomac Park with Japanese flowering cherry trees, Mrs. Taft immediately ordered Buildings and Grounds to buy all the cherry trees it could find in the country for that purpose. They located about 90 trees. Fortuitously, the noted Japanese chemist Tokicho Takamine and the Japanese Consul in New York, Midzuno, were both in town, heard of Nellie Taft's plan, offered to buy her more trees in Japan, and suggested the Mayor of Tokyo gift them to the city. Mrs. Taft approved. Three weeks later, on May 17, 1909, Mrs. Taft suffered a stroke. Health issues continued to plague her for the rest of her tenure.



Paseo de Luneta, Manila, Philippines, 1899. Taft's experiences here influenced her aspirations for Potomac Park.

Nonetheless, in March 1912, when Tokyo's gift of 3,000 trees arrived, she planted the first on the Tidal Basin, where a stone and plaque now mark the spot.

Now a consummate politician, Mrs. Taft got a \$25,000 appropriation for further beautification of the park. However, the improvements were tempered with sadness. In 1912, she led the effort to raise a memorial there to the victims of the RMS *Titanic* disaster, which included one of the Tafts' treasured aides, Archie Butt.

Nellie Taft's "firsts" continued. In 1912 she became the first First Lady to initiate a Federal act, Executive Order 1498, for Bureau of Public Health inspections of executive branch buildings to secure sanitary and safe conditions for federal employees. In May 1912 she donated her inaugural gown to the Smithsonian, the founding jewel in its popular First Ladies exhibit. She was active until her death on May 22, 1943, when she became the first First Lady to be buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Despite her many "firsts," of which these are just examples, the public will always remember Nellie Taft as the "First Lady of Potomac Park." In 1987, the 75th anniversary of her planting of the first Tidal Basin cherry, there was a gathering at her grave. Another "first" woman, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, was among the speakers. O'Connor reflected, "Mrs. Taft's dream became Washington's most famous symbol of beauty."



Above: Marker commemorating the first cherry tree planting in March, 1912.

Left: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial accented with cherry blossoms propagated since the original planting, 2005 photo.



Below: The Potomac Park Speedway between 1909 and 1923. Library of Congress photo.



Discover a Monument

Japanese Stone Lantern

Ranger Stacy Shannon

Japan's 200-year policy of isolationism ended on March 31, 1854 when representatives from Japan and United States Naval Commodore Matthew Perry signed a treaty in Edo, modern-day Tokyo, promoting trade between the two nations. Under orders from President Millard Fillmore, Perry travelled to Japan with an intimidating naval fleet - 1,600 men, a hundred cannon, and no diplomats - to urge apprehensive Japanese representatives to open ports to U.S. trade. Perry wrote to Tokugawa Shogun, "If you are still to disagree we would then take up arms.... However, one will realize the victory will naturally be ours and you shall by no means overcome us." Wary of Perry's intentions, Japan's harbor defenses were put on alert. Eventually the Japanese capitulated and signed the treaty. The treaty opened relations between the nations and ultimately improved Japan's economy.

On March 30, 1954, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the treaty, Japan presented the City of Washington, D.C. with a stone lantern. Over three hundred years old, and solid



Commodore Matthew Perry, photographed in 1853.

granite weighing over two tons, the lantern stands today. One of a set of twin sculptures, it once stood in a temple in Ueno Park famous for its cherry blossoms, and its twin stands there today. The annual lighting of the lantern by the Embassy of Japan's Cherry Blossom Princess signals the beginning of the Cherry Blossom Festival on the National Mall.

The Japanese Lantern is located on the Tidal Basin between the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the Kutz Bridge.



Japanese Stone Lantern



Commodore Perry Meeting the Imperial Commissioners at Yokohama

What's Happening with the Washington Monument?

The Washington Monument was damaged by a magnitude 5.8 earthquake on Aug. 23, 2011. The National Park Service and structural engineers performed a complete inspection of the historic structure and identified numerous types and locations of damage within the building: cracking, spalling, and displacement of stones, loose and missing mortar, and damage to components of the elevator and elevator shaft.

For your safety, the Washington Monument and portions of the Washington Monument grounds are closed while the National Park Service works to repair the historic structure. \$15 million are available for the repairs, half appropriated by Congress, and half donated by David Rubenstein.

For detailed information, photos, and videos, visit online at: www.nps.gov/wamo



Structural engineer Emma Cardini inspects the Washington Monument's exterior, September 2011.



NPS staff collect and analyze broken pieces of stone on the monument's 500' observation level.



Most of the earthquake damage, like this spall, occurred in the upper 100 feet of the monument.

Get a Bird's-Eye View of the City!

Climbing to 315 feet, the Old Post Office Tower is third in height among Washington, D.C.'s buildings. The National Park Service invites you to take a free elevator ride to the observation deck 270 feet above Pennsylvania Avenue for an awe-inspiring view of Washington, D.C.

Ranger Programs:
Talks of the Tower on the Half-Hour

Daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m.



For more information about park programs at the Old Post Office Tower, check the program schedule on page 2 or call 202-606-8691.

Winter Operating Hours:

Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Sunday and Holidays
12 - 5:45 p.m.

www.nps.gov/opot

Trust for the National Mall

Trust for the National Mall

In November of 2010, the Department of the Interior published the National Mall Plan, a visionary blueprint for the future of the National Mall. Less than one year later, the Trust, the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service, launched the National Mall Design Competition. The competition is for three key areas on the National Mall: Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds, Constitution Gardens, and Union Square. The goal of the competition is to enhance the beauty, usefulness and sustainability of the National Mall for its 25 million annual visitors.

In Stage I of the competition, hundreds of designers from across the country submitted their portfolios. An esteemed jury of eight design professionals evaluated the submissions and selected 12 designers for each space to advance. In Stage II, lead designers assembled teams, each of which was interviewed by the jury; four teams per location were selected to advance. In the third and final stage, design teams prepared final design concepts. The final concepts will be on display starting April 9th at nationalmalldesign.org.

Final designs will be judged for how well they respond to the vision for the National Mall as articulated by the Trust and the National Mall Plan; respect the historic landscape; provide environmental, functional and operational sustainability; create a

welcoming and secure environment; and enhance the visitor experience.

The winning designs will be announced at the Trust's 5th Anniversary Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, May 3rd. To learn more about the competition and the Trust, visit nationalmalldesign.org.

The new designs will bring beauty, energy-efficiency and sustainability as well as buildings and landscapes, including restaurants, performance space, educational resources, park ranger resources and restrooms. Since the National Mall has not been renovated in 36 years, the new designs will modernize the areas and provide public enjoyment for the large volume of people visiting the sites.

There are already a number of significant repair projects underway on the National Mall thanks to the partnership between the National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall. However, there is still much work to be done to bring the National Mall back to its intended glory. Visit nationalmall.org to learn how you can help.

The winning designs for the National Mall Design Competition will be the first step in making large-scale improvements to this iconic space. We hope you will visit nationalmalldesign.org to see the final concepts.

The Trust for the National Mall is the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall. For more information please visit:



www.nationalmall.org
 Twitter: @thenationalmall
 Facebook.com/TrustfortheNationalMall
 Email: information@nationalmall.org

KIDS' Column



Become a Junior Ranger!

Junior Ranger books are located at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station and at most memorials.



Cherry Blossom Word Search

This year we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the gift from Tokyo, Japan of flowering cherry blossom trees, or Sakura, as the Japanese people call them.

There are 12 varieties of pink and white blossomed trees planted in the National Mall and Memorial Parks, however, the majority of the trees are Yoshino.

Eliza Scidmore returned in 1885 from a trip to Japan, and was amazed by the culture and trees. She worked for over 24 years with officials in Washington, D.C. to plant cherry trees along the Potomac.



Dr. David Fairchild from the U.S. Department of Agriculture planted the first cherry trees in Chevy Chase, MD in 1906.

In 1909 Scidmore wrote to First Lady Helen Taft, who had once lived in Japan. Taft agreed with Scidmore, and helped to promote the idea of bringing the beautiful flowering trees to the city.

First Lady Taft and Viscountess Iwa Chinda ceremonially planted the first cherry trees on March 27, 1912.

The stone lantern and the pagoda are also gifts from Japan, the lantern from Edo, and the pagoda from Yokohama.

Find the words that are underlined below.

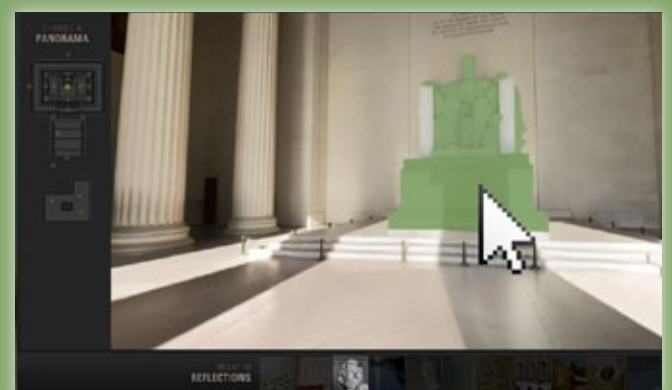
E	D	G	Y	B	L	O	S	S	O	M	S
L	C	H	D	P	A	G	O	D	S	B	A
I	W	S	P	I	N	Y	E	I	T	A	K
Z	R	F	A	N	R	T	L	A	U	X	U
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F	O	C	J	H	U	N	T	A	T	W	N
Y	S	Z	W	E	I	R	H	F	Q	U	V
V	H	E	R	H	S	L	A	J	M	O	M
O	I	Q	C	F	M	T	U	Y	U	J	O
T	N	K	H	U	P	A	G	O	D	A	B
N	O	X	E	I	Z	L	R	S	O	P	E
B	M	P	R	K	F	Y	Q	C	K	A	M
F	A	I	R	C	H	I	L	D	H	N	T
J	P	K	Y	E	W	P	U	Z	T	L	H

Explore the Lincoln Memorial Online!

<http://www.nps.gov/linc>

Click on "Lincoln Memorial Interactive Site"

- Interactive Panoramas
- Ranger Videos
- Award-winning website



Plan Your Visit



Cherry Blossom Festival map and information on pages 5-6!

Things to See

- 1 Lincoln Memorial
- 2 Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 3 Korean War Veterans Memorial
- 4 World War II Memorial
- 5 Washington Monument
- 6 Old Post Office Tower
- 7 Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- 8 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- 9 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

In all memorials:



Bookstores

Capture the moment, take home a book, and explore the ideas and values that make visiting National Mall and Memorial Parks such a stirring experience. Eastern National, a park partner, operates five bookstores:

- Washington Monument Lodge
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Lincoln Memorial
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.



www.easternnational.org

Things to Do

Ranger Programs and Tours

What: Free site tours and interpretive talks

Where: Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

When: Daily at 10:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.

Want more? Take your experience to the next level with our special programs! Locations, topics, types, and times vary. See page 2 for more information about these ranger programs.



Be Your Own Guide

National Mall App

Use the official National Mall App for Android and iPhone/iPad to plan your visit, navigate, learn about the memorials, search for programs, and more!



Android
go.usa.gov/IUZ



iPhone / iPad
go.usa.gov/IUC

Concessions

Guest Services, Inc. manages all retail operations for National Mall and Memorial Parks including refreshment kiosks and gift stores throughout the park, plus seasonal paddle boat rentals.

Tidal Basin Paddle Boats

202-479-2426

www.tidalbasinpaddleboats.com



www.guestservices.com

Cell Phone Tours

Dial from anywhere to listen to recorded programs on the following topics:

- Lincoln Memorial: (202) 747-3420
- First Amendment: (202) 595-0085
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial: (202) 595-0093
- Hispanic Heroes: (202) 595-1730
- Cherry Blossoms: (202) 747-3465