



# National Mall Times

## March 2009

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Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

March is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival begins March 28 and features a wide variety of ranger programs that highlight the cherry trees.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website ([www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan](http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan)) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!

## A Country Divided

By Ranger Richard Ayad

*"I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington...."*



Lincoln's First Inauguration - March 4, 1861

Portending the future, it was on that note that Abraham Lincoln departed Springfield, Illinois on Monday, February 11, 1861 for his inauguration in Washington, DC. Seven hundred miles to the south, Jefferson Davis left his Mississippi home for Montgomery, Alabama to become President of the Confederate States of America. Seven states already had seceded before Lincoln's inauguration, while others debated joining the revolt. The argument over slavery, that "peculiar institution," its politics, its economics, and its morality, issues that had baffled the nation since its inception, finally boiled over.

Just sixty-five years earlier, George Washington had reminded Americans that unity was the pillar of their independence and vital to their future security and stability. Now, a morass of political parties, old fears, suspicions, and long-standing sectional differences yielded

Lincoln victory, but with just forty percent of the popular vote. The Democrats were split over the means of expanding slavery into new territories. Among the members of Lincoln's Republican Party were "Radicals," who thought abolition of slavery paramount regardless of the consequences, and others who simply opposed expansion of slavery into the territories. These differences and more were exacerbated by the widely held belief, North and South, that blacks were inferior.

Following his March 4, 1861 inauguration, Lincoln felt the full weight of the "task" he had referenced in Springfield. Fort Sumter, near Charleston, South Carolina, one of the few southern forts still in Union control, was surrounded by Confederates and short on supplies. Lincoln, in his inaugural address, reiterated his oath to "preserve, protect, and defend" the government, but that government would not fire the first shot. On April 12, 1861, Confederates attacked Fort Sumter and the President called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion.

Soon, civil war exploded in battles never imagined, spilling the blood of Northerners and Southerners, friends and foes alike, on the fields and waterways of America. Four years later, Lincoln won reelection by 400,000 votes. Although Lincoln's victory was cut short by his assassination, the country was made whole again.



Union troops on the grounds of the unfinished Washington Monument

For more information, look for numerous Lincoln titles at the Eastern National Bookstore at the Lincoln Memorial.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

202-233-3520  
[www.nps.gov/nama](http://www.nps.gov/nama) or [www.nps.gov/mall](http://www.nps.gov/mall)  
National Mall Plan Website:  
[www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan](http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan)

Radio: 1670 AM

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**Ranger Led Bike Tours**



Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.)

Tour season begins Saturday, March 28 and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391 or check our website: [www.nps.gov/mall](http://www.nps.gov/mall)

**Saturday, March 28 – History of the Mall - Explore the History of America's Front Yard**

The history of the National Mall is as diverse and fascinating as the history of our nation itself. From George Washington's vision of the Federal City

to the District of Columbia of today, how has this span of green space in the heart of the Nation's Capital been altered over time? How has this area been influenced by great natural, cultural, historical, and social events through time? Come see and hear how the National Mall has evolved into what you experience today.

**Sunday, March 29 – Unexplored Tales of the City – History of the Cherry Trees**

Have you ever wondered about the history behind the Japanese cherry trees on the National Mall? Are you curious about their arrival in Washington, DC, the different species found along the National Mall, or how to identify a cherry tree from the similar-looking crab-apple tree? Then join National Park rangers for a bike tour around the National Mall to explore the history and science behind these famous flowering Japanese cherry trees.



**National Park Service Cell Phone Tours**



**National Park Service Cell Phone Tours**

It's easy! Just call the following phone numbers to listen to National Park Service rangers present programs about various aspects of the Lincoln Memorial and the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

NOTE: Please be respectful. No speakerphones within memorials. Standard cell phone rates apply.

**Lincoln Memorial**

**202-747-3420**

**National Cherry Blossom Festival**

**202-747-3465**

**Potomac Nature Packs**

**Birds, Bugs and Trees, OH MY!**

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes and explore the unbe-leaf-able sights and sounds of the National Mall!

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis and require an adult's drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.



**Daily Ranger Programs**



Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park's many memorials. No prior sign up is required and all programs are free. Program length varies. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial. Programs are offered at the following memorials...

- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Scheduled Programs are presented at:

11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.

\*\*Additional programs on request.

**Special Ranger Program**

**Saturday, March 14  
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**Women's Military Service during the World Wars**

You are invited to join a National Park Service ranger for a special program honoring Women's History Month. The program will focus on American women's military service during World War I and World War II. Women served in the military during the First World War in an unofficial capacity and during World War II as an official part of the Army. From 1943 to 1945 over 250,000 women served their country during World War II as members of the newly founded Women's Army Corps (WACs), the Army Nurse Corps, the Coast Guard (SPARS), Navy (WAVES), and the Marine Corps. These women served both stateside and in every major theater of war around the world.

This program will be an hour walking tour and will start at the World War II Memorial. Please contact the Survey Lodge Ranger Station at 202-426-6841 for details.





## National Cherry Blossom Festival

March 28 - April 12, 2009



### Welcome Areas

The **Tidal Basin Welcome Area**, near the paddle boats, and **Thomas Jefferson Memorial Welcome Area** are convenient locations for services offered by the National Park Service and its partners during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The National Park Service will have tents providing visitor services, first aid and children's activities. Guest Services and Eastern National will provide tents for food, souvenirs and books.

The National Park Service Welcome Tents serve as a place for visitors attending the Festival to learn the history of the cherry trees, the various park ranger programs, as well as the many events occurring during the festival. Park rangers and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions concerning the Festival and National Mall and Memorial Parks.

#### Welcome Tents and Information: (Every Day)

10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

#### First Aid Tents: (Every Day)

10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

#### Bloomin' Junior Ranger Tent: (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays)

10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

#### Food Tents: (Every Day)

10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

#### Souvenirs/Bookstore Tents: (Every Day)

10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

**Note: Dates and hours of operation are subject to change.**



**Remember,  
Paddles Says:**

**"Please Do Not Pick  
The Blossoms."**

### Ranger Programs

#### Daily Interpretive Cherry Blossom Talks:

10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M., 3:30 P.M., 5:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.

**Locations:** Entrance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Welcome Tent

Come to one or several cherry blossom programs presented by National Park Service rangers. These programs relate the cultural and natural stories behind these national treasures. No two ranger programs are the same! Topics range from the story of the arrival of the cherry trees in Washington, DC, to the Cherry Tree Rebellion, just to name a few! Programs are 20-60 minutes in length.

#### Ranger-Guided Lantern Walks:

Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the Festival  
8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

**Location:** Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Evening walks led by National Park Service rangers bring new perspectives to the story of the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. Soft light turns to night during these strolls amongst the annual glory of the blooming cherry blossoms. Follow the history of these precious resources on this 1.5 mile walk around the perimeter of the Tidal Basin. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your own flashlight.

#### Bloomin' Junior Ranger Program:

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the Festival  
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Join National Park Service rangers for activities and games that relate to the cherry blossoms! The activities are both fun and instructive. Practice Japanese origami and solve puzzles while learning about Washington's world famous cherry trees. This program is centered around children ages 6-12.



### Bike Valet

Saturdays and Sundays during the Festival  
10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. (Weather Permitting)

**Location:** Thomas Jefferson Memorial parking lot - south side of the Memorial

Spend more time experiencing the attractions of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and less time in traffic. Bring your whole family and take advantage of the free valet bicycle parking that will be offered during the weekends.

Brought to you by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and the District Department of Transportation in partnership with the National Park Service.

## The Great American Scientist and Father of the Smithsonian

By Ranger Tom Downs



Joseph Henry Statue in front of the Smithsonian Castle

Take a stroll down the National Mall and you will undoubtedly stumble across the Smithsonian Castle, a Washington landmark since its completion in 1855. Once you arrive at the castle, look for the bronze statue and then look for the electromagnet on its side. The statue is easy to miss, and most visitors probably believe it to be James Smithson. Smithson had bequeathed his fortune to establish an institution "for the increased diffusion of knowledge among men." However, the statue

honors one of America's great scientists during the nineteenth century, a man whose work affects our daily lives today.

The man has been largely forgotten, but in his day such was not the case; everyone knew and respected him immensely. In fact, he was so well known and respected that the entire United States government closed for his funeral on May 16, 1878. The funeral was attended by the President, Vice-President, members of the Cabinet and Supreme Court, Congress, and the senior officers of the Army and Navy. In 1880, Congress passed special legislation to create a statue in his honor to grace the grounds of the Smithsonian, and appropriated a sum of \$15,000. The government once again showed its respect for this man and closed early for the unveiling of his statue on April 19, 1883. John Philip Sousa led the Marine Band in the inaugural performance of "The Transit of Venus March," a piece he composed for the occasion. This great American scientist and first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution was Joseph Henry. Few people today know his name or what he did to command such respect.



Professor Joseph Henry

Joseph Henry's initial teenage dream was to become famous in the theater. That all changed at age sixteen when he stumbled upon a book by George Gregory, *Popular Lectures on Experimental Philosophy, Astronomy, and Chemistry*. It was a book he could not put down as he realized his true calling, science. Years later, Henry gave his only son a copy of that book in which he inscribed, "This... opened to me a new world of thought and enjoyment; fixed my attention upon the study of nature, and caused me to resolve at the time of reading it that I immediately devote myself to the acquisition of knowledge."

Henry attended his hometown college, Albany Academy, now Princeton University, and excelled in his studies which focused mainly on electromagnetism and meteorology. In 1831, he experimented with electromagnetism by using batteries to

supply a current of electricity through insulated copper wire wrapped around an iron core. The result of his experiment was the most powerful electromagnet of its time. It could lift 2,300 pounds! His discoveries in electromagnetism include: mutual induction, self-induction, an electromagnetic relay for the first long distance electromagnetic telegraph, and the concept of the electric transformer. Henry also invented the first electric motor and contributed to the development of the telephone. He did not acquire a patent for the telegraph and later stated, "I did not then consider it compatible with the dignity of science to confine the benefits which might be derived from it to the exclusive use of any individual."

In 1846, the Smithsonian Board of Regents selected their first Secretary. *The National Intelligencer*, a Washington newspaper, ran an article that stated "There has, perhaps, never been an occasion, in the literary history of our country, when so much depended upon the decision of so small a number of men." This was certainly true to the occasion and out of more than one-hundred candidates, two emerged for consideration. One was Francis Markoe, Jr. He had powerful political connections and was secretary of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, which was founded with the intent of receiving the Smithson bequest to establish a national museum. The other was Joseph Henry, whose candidacy was easily proposed since he was the greatest living American scientist and had a strong international reputation. Just before the Board of Regents voted on December 3, 1846, they passed the following resolution:

*...that the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution be a man possessing weight of character, and a high grade of talent; and that it is further desirable that he possess eminent scientific and general acquirements; that he be a man capable of advancing science and promoting letters by original research and effort, well qualified to act as a respected channel of communication between the institution and scientific and literary individuals and societies in this and foreign countries; and, in a word, a man worthy to represent before the world of science and of letters the institution over which this Board presides.*

In a vote of seven to five, Joseph Henry was selected as the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Henry then opened the doors of the castle, where he lived the remaining twenty-nine years of his life, to all scientists around the world. He also started collections that would later earn for the Smithsonian Institution its nickname, "America's Attic." In 1848 he went on to establish the Smithsonian Meteorological Observer Network, the very beginning of our weather forecasts.

Henry was posthumously honored again in 1897 when the Library of Congress opened its doors. Sixteen bronze portrait statues surround the main reading room of the library and represent human development and the progress of civilization in world history. Joseph Henry was chosen as one of those sixteen representatives. His portrait joins figures such as Beethoven, Columbus, Fulton, Gibbon, Herodotus, Homer, Michelangelo, Moses, Newton, Plato, Saint Paul, Shakespeare, and Solon. Joseph Henry was an important figure in our history of science and progress; to add further to his honor, the unit of inductance that he discovered, was appropriately termed, "the Henry."

Visit the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and discover Joseph Henry's original 1831 Electromagnet!



Henry's 1831 Electromagnet

For more information about other famous Americans, visit the four Eastern National Bookstores throughout the park.

## Ranger Led Evening Walking Tours

Come out and experience National Mall and Memorial Parks at night and enjoy one of our rangers' numerous evening interpretive programs. These programs will take you to familiar locations that you will never see the same way again! All tours are free of charge. Read each description to find out when and where to meet. Reservations are not required.



**Saturday, March 7**  
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

### Ironclads at Hampton Roads

On March 7, 1862, the first clash of ironclads occurred in the waters of the lower Chesapeake Bay. The fascinating story behind the inventor of the Union warship *Monitor*, John Ericsson, will be detailed. This tour will explore John Ericsson, the clash of the ironclads, and Abraham Lincoln's role in this story. This tour will begin at the base of the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and will visit the Lincoln Memorial and the John Ericsson Memorial. For more information, please call Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

**Wednesday, March 11**  
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

### Lending to the Allied Cause

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Lend-Lease Act to aid the Allies during World War II. Why was this aid so important to the Allies' cause and did it actually aid countries like Great Britain during the war? Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to learn more about this historic act and its impact on the relationship among the Allies during the Second World War. For more information, please call Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

**Saturday, March 14 and 21**  
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

### Candlelight Tour with the Commander In Chief

Abraham Lincoln was Commander-in-Chief during the American Civil War. Lincoln is remembered for many things, but his role as Commander-in-Chief defined the role for presidents after him. Why was this particular role a critical factor of why the north won the war? Did his role in this capacity enhance his image even more? This one hour candlelight tour about these Lincoln topics will take place in the Lincoln Memorial chamber. For more information, please call Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

**Tuesday, March 17**  
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

### "I Shall Return"

On March 17, 1942, American General Douglas MacArthur was ordered to leave the Philippines by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Why was MacArthur ordered to leave and what impact did this have on the average American soldier still fighting in the Philippines against the Japanese? Was MacArthur's quote important to the war effort? This program will detail the war effort in the Philippines during World War II. This tour will begin at the World War II Memorial ranger station. For more information, please call Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.



## Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Events

**April 12, 2009**

### Marian Anderson Tribute Concert

Join opera's own Denyce Graves, the Chicago Children's Choir, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and the Washington National Opera as we celebrate Abraham Lincoln and the civil rights legacy of opera star Marian Anderson. Described as having a "voice heard once in a hundred years," Miss Anderson was denied the right to perform in Constitution Hall due to the color of her skin. Through the efforts of Miss Anderson, Howard University, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, a new location was chosen: the Lincoln Memorial.

From the moment that Marian Anderson sang to the nation from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday 1939, she anointed the memorial as a shrine to the ideals of freedom and activated the modern civil rights movement. Those in attendance described her voice "as it were a prayer" and the performance as a "beautiful awakening."

Miss Anderson herself recalled: "It was more than a concert for me... it seemed that everyone present was a living witness to the ideals of freedom for which President Lincoln died." Seventy years later, it is fitting that we pay tribute to Marian Anderson's courage and Abraham Lincoln's legacy of equality of opportunity, freedom and democracy.

A naturalization ceremony precedes the event.

**May 30, 2009**

### Lincoln Memorial Rededication

Four score and seven years ago in 1922, Americans of different generations, races, backgrounds, and occupations gathered in Washington, D.C. to dedicate the Lincoln Memorial. The President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Robert Lincoln, and veterans of the Blue and Gray alike came to honor the Savior of the Union. In the wake of Civil War, unity alone was the prevailing sentiment of that day.

Now, eighty-seven years later, the memorial built to honor Abraham Lincoln continues to bring Americans together in struggles for equality and celebrations of freedom. Join us on May 30, 2009 as we rededicate the Lincoln Memorial and demonstrate that this government—this nation—truly is one of, by, and for, the People.



## Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website!

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook. This flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the Lincoln Memorial construction from inception to completion.

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



## The Washington Monument

**Washington Monument hours of operation:**  
**9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may pick up to six tickets. Open daily (except July 4 and December 25).

**Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:**

1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M.
2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time during peak visitation (spring, summer, weekends, and holidays). Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a \$1.50 convenience charge.



## Eastern National

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks? Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial  
9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial  
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial  
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

[www.easternnational.org](http://www.easternnational.org)

Washington Monument Lodge  
8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

## Tourmobile Sightseeing

Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing's narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100

[www.tourmobile.com](http://www.tourmobile.com)

"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act

August 25, 1916

## Old Post Office Tower NHS

The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation's Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation's Capital.

### Operating Hours

**Summer:** Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday  
9:00 A.M. - 7:45 P.M.  
Sunday and Holidays  
10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

**Winter:** Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday  
9:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.  
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.



202-606-8691 [www.nps.gov/opot](http://www.nps.gov/opot)

## Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations

**Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue**  
**On Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.**

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, DC's more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls:**  
**The Washington Ringing Society**  
**and the Bells of Congress**  
**First Thursday of every month 6:45 P.M.**

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

## Career Opportunities

Do you enjoy being outdoors? Are you well-informed about history? Are you a people person? If you answered yes then we would like you to consider employment opportunities at National Mall and Memorial Parks. National Parks are among the more remarkable places in America to recreate, learn, and become inspired. Park employees do rewarding work as park rangers, maintenance laborers, electricians, plumbers, park guides, information technology specialists, natural resource specialists, archivists, education specialists, and other great career fields.

Join our diverse and well trained National Mall and Memorial Parks staff. Help protect the environment and preserve national treasures.

For more information visit [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) or call Kim Brown 202-245-4678.