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 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 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 showcased in the beautiful trees of the Tidal Basin. For Washingtonians, the trees came to 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 in that location which would result in the removal of Japanese flowering cherry trees from the Tidal Basin area. What occurred next was “The Cherry Tree Rebellion.” Citizens, clubs, boards, and associations of Washington began a city-wide protest against the destruction of these splendid trees. Eleanor “Cissy” Patterson, the owner and editor of the Washington Times-Herald, published several articles criticizing the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration, and organized individuals to take action. On November 17, 1938, the day construction began on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, 50 women marched on the White House, armed with a petition to stop the damage to the trees. The following day, the same women chained themselves to the building of the memorial and the removal of the cherished trees. Eleanor “Cissy” Patterson, the owner and editor of the Washington Times-Herald, published several articles criticizing the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration, and organized individuals to take action. On November 17, 1938, the day construction began on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, 50 women marched on the White House, armed with a petition to stop the damage to the trees. The following day, the same women chained themselves to a tree at the construction site, with hopes to stop the work. A group of approximately 150 women, led by Patterson, seized shovels from workers, filled holes, and prepared for a stand-off against...
Ranger Programs & Activities

Daily Programs
What: Free site tours and interpretive talks.
When: Daily at 12:00 a.m., 12:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.

Special Programs
Saturday, March 3
First Ladies in Trying Times Ranger Program, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Martha Washington, Mary Todd Lincoln, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Learn how these first ladies were busy doing much more than household chores. Hear stories about how these women held their famous positions during times of war and personal tragedies.

Friday, March 9
The Battle of Hampton Roads Ranger Program, 6 – 7 p.m.
The Battle of Hampton Roads on March 8-9, 1862, marks the first time ironclads fought a duel. John Ericsson’s invention of the USS Monitor was the model ship for future warships.

Saturday, March 10
First Ladies in Trying Times Ranger Program, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Martha Washington, Mary Todd Lincoln, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Learn how these first ladies kept busy doing more than hosting tea parties. Hear stories about how these women held their famous positions during times of war and personal tragedies.

Monday, March 5
1st Presidential Inauguration in DC, 1801 Living History Program, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Join park staff in period attire to learn about President Thomas Jefferson’s 1801 inauguration. Use a quill pen to sign best wishes to President Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Ranger Mike Rose 202-438-9667.

Tuesday, March 6
Marian Anderson: Life Through Song Ranger Program, 6 – 6:30 p.m.
Known as a great contralto who broke color barriers as the first African-American woman to perform on the National Mall, Anderson changed American history. Lincoln Memorial. Ranger Terrieka Washington 202-233-3519.

Wednesday, March 7
Women of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ranger Program, 6 – 7 p.m.
Many women served with bravery and distinction in the Vietnam War. Maya Ying Lin, the young woman who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial had to demonstrate that same courage to see her vision become reality. Come listen to stories of women from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Ranger Kathy Kagle 202-438-5377.

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Saturday, March 11
Hispanic Women of the Civil War Walking Tour, 2 – 4 p.m.
Step back in time and discover Hispanic women in the Civil War. Travel into the past to the dangerous world of espionage and spies on this 2-mile walk. National Archives Pennsylvania Ave. Entrance. Ranger JoAnn Garcia 202-329-1641.

Monday, March 5
Revolt from page 1 Ranger Program, 3 - 3:45 p.m.
Many made great sacrifices including spending time in prison. Explore and learn the stories about these great heroines.

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The Cherry Trees in Context Bike Tour, 1 – 4 p.m.
Discover how these beautiful trees were part of the vision and symbolism of this city that George Washington, Pierre L’Enfant and other founders envisioned. Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Ranger Jan Buerguer 202-497-1397.

Sunday, March 5
Nellie Taft: First Lady of Po-tomac Park Ranger Program, 6 – 6:45 p.m.
First Lady Helen (Nellie) Taft is primarily known as the catalyst behind Japan’s gift of the Tidal Basin cherry trees to Washington, D.C. Learn more about how she contributed to Washington, and why she made a difference, despite the formidable challenges. Japanese Lantern on the Tidal Basin. Ranger Jan Buerguer 202-497-1397.

Friday, March 30
Murasaki Shikibu’s Tale of the Genji Ranger Program, 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Find more Cherry Blossom Festival Programs on page 41
Eastern Gray Squirrel

Did you know that Washington, D.C. hosts one of the higher concentrations of squirrels in the country? Eastern gray squirrels live in woodland and parkland environments throughout the eastern United States. Trees are essential for eastern gray squirrels because they provide homes, food, and safety from most predators.

Like other rodents, eastern gray squirrels have special teeth to eat their food. They use their teeth to manage their food. If you look up high in the trees, you may spot a squirrel nearby feeding in the trees or on the ground.

Sharp, chisel-like teeth to chew through tough food like nuts and acorns. Squirrels also eat berries and flowers when these items are available.

Remember it is illegal to feed any wildlife in national parks! Help keep wildlife wild!

Enjoy your Natural Mall!

In the winter and early spring, it is easy to see where squirrels go to stay warm. If you spot a drey, you are likely to spot a squirrel nearby feeding in the trees or on the ground.

In 1965, further gifts of 3,800 trees from Japan were planted on the grounds of the Washington Monument. 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.

Centennial from page 1 to be planted where the Centennial Speedway around the Tidal Basin was located, which would create a “Sea of Cherries” in this newly reclaimed land. Hearing 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 northwestern 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 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, beautifully framing the new structure with the planting of hundreds more 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 arrival. The festival for the duration of the war as well.

At the end of World War II relations between the United States and Japan grew stronger. 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 people of Tokyo, Japan during the Taft Administration. To her right and left are the queen’s two attendants Masako Saito, also a daughter of the Japanese Ambassador, and Barbara Caldwell, American playmate of the two youngsters. Washington, D.C., April 8, 1937. LC-H22-D-1227
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 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.!

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. (Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays)
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
10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Saturdays & Sundays)
Earn your Jr. Ranger Badge with hands-on activities!

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

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

Discover a Monument

John Ericsson Memorial

“Of such is the greatness of America.”

With these words, President Calvin Coolidge closed his remarks upon the dedication of the John Ericsson Memorial in West Potomac Park on May 29, 1926. Sculpted by James Earle Fraser, the figure of Ericsson is seated below images reflective of Adventure, Labor, and Vision. These qualities were embedded in the work of John Ericsson, who from his youth in Sweden, was recognized as a prodigy in engineering. The base of his memorial is a mariner’s compass, fittingly, for it is in the field of naval warship development that he is most remembered. He arrived in the U.S. in 1839, taking up residence in New York City, and dove into his work.

Despite his prodigious output, he made his most lasting mark on American history decades after his arrival. Upon the opening of the Civil War, the Confederate States Navy began work on modifying the remains of the scuttled wooden warship, the USS Merrimac, creating an ironclad. John Ericsson already had plans, which until this time were collecting dust, that became the basis for the Union ironclad, USS Monitor. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Ironclads at Hampton Roads, on March 9, 1862. Ericsson’s ship proved able protection for the remains of the Union blockading fleet, and spawned the creation of many more “monitors” for the navy. He continued working tirelessly, creating other wonders such as the world’s first solar powered engine, until his death in 1889.

The John Ericsson Memorial is located just south of the Lincoln Memorial at the intersection of Independence Ave. and Ohio Drive SW.

Discover a Monument

Ranger Brad Berger

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In honor of Women’s History Month, draw a line to match up the woman’s photo to her famous act!

Maya Ying Lin  
photo by Adam Stoltman

She performed a famous Easter Sunday concert at the Lincoln Memorial.

Marian Anderson  
photo by Carl Van Vechten

She was an early delegate to the United Nations.

Helen Herron Taft  
photo courtesy of U.S. National Arboretum

First Lady who helped bring the cherry trees to Washington, D.C.

We Can Do It!  
Rosie the Riveter

She was the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

She represented the women who went to work in factories during World War II.

Become a Junior Ranger!

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

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

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:

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.

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.

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

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

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!

Eastern National

www.easternnational.org

www.guestservices.com

www.guestservices.com