Approximately 1,200 people attended the annual George Washington Carver Day festivities on July 14 at the G.W. Carver National Monument in Diamond, Mo. The Hill ‘N Hollow Master Gardeners were on hand with a display of native plants including varieties used for food, landscaping, and medicinal purposes. Several volunteers got involved and made the event fun, educational, and successful. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated plants!

“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books . . . ”

George Washington Carver
The annual Missouri State Master Gardeners Conference will be held September 14-16 in Sedalia at the Best Western State Fair Inn. Conference registration is open through August 10, and the theme of this year’s conference is “Our Missouri Garden Heritage.” Some of the activities planned are outlined below. Please click here to see the registration form, along with more information about the conference.

**Pre-Conference Morgan County Mennonite Tour (Friday, September 14, 8:30 – 4:30)**
A large portion of this agribusiness is operated within the Mennonite community. With its rich cultural and religious heritage, the Mennonite community conducts its business using a blend of old traditions and modern innovations. ($30 additional fee)

**Saturday Group Guided Garden Tours (Full Day & Includes Lunch)**

*Tour 1 – Benton County Tour*
Antique and unique shops throughout Warsaw’s Main Street area invite shoppers inside to discover bargains and collectibles reminiscent of a historic thriving river town. Enjoy the walk to Drake Harbor and visit Steamboat Landing. Travel to Lost Valley Fish Hatchery. Enjoy lunch at Bledsoe Ferry and the spectacular views of the Osage River and the Harry S. Truman Dam.

*Tour 2 – Cooper County Tour*
The Horticulture Agroforestry Research Center includes experimental fruit and nut orchards, forest farming, shade trials, greenhouse and the Thomas Hickman House. Take a guided tour of Warm Springs Ranch, the Budweiser Clydesdales breeding operation, to meet and interact with foals, mares, and stallions. Historical homes, beautiful gardens and parks will be included on this tour as time allows.

*Tour 3 – Pettis County Tour*
We are known for the Missouri State Fair, the Scott Joplin Festival, Bothwell Lodge and the Daum Museum located on the State Fair Community College. We will visit Liberty Park, the Missouri State Fair Grounds, Bothwell Lodge and the Show-Me Master Gardener gardens at the Liberty Center for Arts and historic Katy Depot.

**Sunday Educational Sessions**

*Session 1 – 8:00 – 8:50 a.m.*
Mervin Wallace: The Care and Assets of Using Natives in Your Landscape
Dianne Ott Whealy: Saving Heirloom Seeds/Seed Savers
Earlene Britton: From Dirt to Dinner
Bev Greever/Barb McKinzie: Flower Arranging

*Session 2 – 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.*
Mark Albright: Missouri Weeds
Alice Longfellow: Vertical Gardening
Jeff Oberhaus: Cacti and Succulents
Rick Hanks: Growing Mushrooms

*Session 3 – 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.*
Mervin Wallace: Natives for Sun, Shade and Everything In Between
Barbara Fechenhier: Far Out and Refreshing Fruits, Nuts, and Berries
Diane Ott Whealy: Saving Heirloom Seed
Annie Albright: Making Herbal Soap

**Sunday Advanced Training**
Advanced classes will be available until filled (refunds will be made if classes are unavailable).

*Session 1, 8:00-8:50 a.m.: Cynthia Green: Edible Wild Plants ($5.00 additional fee)*

*Session 2, 9:00-9:50 a.m.: Jack Hayes: The Chemistry of Composting ($5.00 additional fee)*

*Session 3, 10:00-10:50 a.m.: Mark Goodwin: Landscape Design ($5.00 additional fee)*

The August meeting of the Hill ‘n Hollow Master Gardeners will take place at the Newton County Extension Center on August 7 at 6:30 PM. Please bring your opinions regarding the survey you received about the Missouri State MG Assoc.