JAPANESE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 4–6

labor day weekend
Welcome

Celebrating the history, culture, and people of Japan, the Japanese Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the largest and oldest festivals of its kind in the United States. Since 1977, the Garden has proudly hosted this unique event at one of the largest Japanese gardens in North America. A fruitful collaboration with several local Japanese-American organizations provides authentic Japanese music, art, dance, food, and entertainment for thousands of visitors each year. We hope you enjoy your experience. **Yokoso!**

Festival Hours
Saturday, September 4: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, September 5: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Monday, September 6: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grounds open at 9 a.m. and then remain open until 10 p.m. for candlelight walks on Saturday and Sunday.

Upgrade your Festival Ticket to a Festival Membership

Join or renew your membership during Japanese Festival, and we will apply a portion of today’s admission cost toward the purchase of any Garden membership. Join at the Festival level to receive free admission for up to six adults to the Garden's annual festivals, including the Best of Missouri Market and Garden Glow!

Present your ticket receipt at the Membership Tent to enjoy the savings.

Annual Garden membership begins at $50 for an individual and $75 for two adults and children.

Admission

$16 for adults
$5 for children (12 and under)
$8 for Garden members
Member children (12 and under) are free

Regular admission rates apply for the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden. All activities at the Japanese Festival are included with admission except Teahouse Island Tours. Trams will not run during the festival.

Information

Festival information booth located near the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening.

Instantly view event details online at bit.ly/JFest2021

Admission

$16 for adults
$5 for children (12 and under)
$8 for Garden members
Member children (12 and under) are free

Regular admission rates apply for the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden. All activities at the Japanese Festival are included with admission except Teahouse Island Tours. Trams will not run during the festival.

Present your ticket receipt at the Membership Tent to enjoy the savings.

Annual Garden membership begins at $50 for an individual and $75 for two adults and children.

Garden Gift Shop

The Garden Gift Shop is your source for Japanese Festival merchandise. Check out our new custom line of cherry blossom merchandise this year, including cherry blossom tees and lanterns. The Garden Gift Shop offers sodas, snacks, teas, jewelry, books, and more.

Open Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Monday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

First Aid

In case of an accident or medical emergency, please locate anyone wearing Garden identification, and they will contact Security immediately to tend to your emergencies. Emergency services are provided by the St. Louis Fire Department.

Café Flora

Enjoy a selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, and Japanese specials.

Open Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Monday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Featured Performers—Sumo!

Sumo is a form of full-contact wrestling and Japan’s national sport. It originated in ancient times as religious performances to the Shinto gods, but many ancient rituals are still followed. The basic rules of sumo are simple: the losing wrestler (rikishi) is the one who either first touches the floor with something other than the sole of his foot or leaves the ring (dohyo) before his opponent.

This year, we have partnered with USA Sumo to bring you three of the most popular rikishi in the world, Yama, Ramy, and Kelly.

Saturday, 2 and 4 p.m.;
Sunday, noon and 4 p.m.;
Monday, noon and 4 p.m.
Cohen Amphitheater

Opening Ceremony

Honored guests, including government officials and dignitaries from sponsoring organizations, will officially open the Japanese Festival. Opening ceremonies will include music, remarks by distinguished guests, the ritual of kagamiwari (breaking into the sake barrel), and a performance by the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko drummers. Sake cups are available for purchase at the site for $10.

Saturday, 10 a.m., Japanese Garden

Origami is the art of paper folding. The word comes from ori meaning “folding”, and kami meaning “paper” (kami changes to gami due to rendaku) in Japanese.

Japanese origami began sometime during the 6th century after Buddhist monks from China brought paper to Japan. The art of origami transforms a flat square piece of paper into a sculpture through folding. Basic origami folds are combined to create intricate designs like the well-known Japanese paper crane, featured as this year’s logo.
**SEIWA-EN**

**Japanese Garden**

Welcome to Seiwa-en, the “garden of pure, clear harmony and peace.” One of the largest traditional Japanese gardens in North America, Seiwa-en covers 14 acres, including a 4-acre lake. Modeled on the chisen kaiyu-shiki, or “wet strolling garden,” a style developed by wealthy landowners of the late Edo period in 19th-century Japan, Seiwa-en incorporates many principles of Japanese aesthetics drawn from Zen Buddhism, such as suggestion, naturalness, and asymmetry within the landscape.

Water resides in every Japanese garden actually or symbolically. In Seiwa-en, the lake is the main water feature, complemented by waterfalls, streams, and water-filled basins. The dry gravel gardens symbolize islands surrounded by the sea. Caretakers frequently rake the dry gardens, changing the patterns in the gravel to look as if wind has rippled the surface of the water. Four islands rise from the lake. Tortoise Island and Crane Island take the names of symbols of longevity in Japanese lore. Paradise Island (Horai-zan), formed by three large stones, is the symbolic center of the garden, representing everlasting happiness and immortality. Teahouse Island is a serene site, dedicated in a Shinto ceremony, closed to the public except for the tours offered during the Japanese Festival.

Designed by the late Koichi Kawana, a renowned professor of environmental design and landscape architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, Seiwa-en was dedicated in 1977.

**Tours**

**Teahouse Island Tours**

The private Teahouse Island of the Japanese Garden will be open for guided public tours. Across a narrow cove and Dobashi, or Earthen Bridge, is Teahouse Island. At the end of the bridge stands a snow-viewing lantern, yukimi-doro, a gift from St. Louis’s sister city of Suwa, Japan. The teahouse itself, a gift from Missouri’s sister state of Nagano, Japan, is sacred in Japanese culture. This soan, or farm hut-style teahouse, was built in Japan, reassembled here by Japanese craftsmen, and dedicated with a Shinto ceremony in 1977. The teahouse is screened by hedges to create a sense of remoteness.

**All Three Days, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (on the hour)**

**Set 1:** 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m.

**Set 2:** 2, 3, 4 p.m.

Tickets are $10 per person and will be sold twice daily at the Plum Viewing Arbor. Tickets go on sale one hour before the first scheduled tour of each set, and are sold for all tours in that set at once. Tour capacity is limited.

Tour times subject to change. Maximum four tickets per person. Cashless transactions only.

**Japanese Garden Docents**

Garden Docents will be stationed throughout Seiwa-en to provide information and help guide your visit.

**All three days, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. | Included with admission**

**Virtual Tour: Seiwa-en**

Text “MyGuide” to 56512 for a virtual map and to discover more about the history, culture, and carefully designed plantings in one of the largest Japanese Gardens in North America.

**Candlelight Walks**

Enjoy self-guided, evening-hour tours around the Japanese Garden, splendidly illuminated by shoji lanterns.

**Saturday and Sunday from, 8–10 p.m. | Included with admission**
SATURDAY, September 4

10–11 a.m.  Opening Ceremony/Taiko Drums  Cohen Amphitheater

10 a.m.–5 p.m.  Amezakuzu  Throughout the Garden
Origami Display  Edward Jones Hall

10 a.m.–7 p.m.  Bonsai and Ikebana Display  Linnean House
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  $ Teahouse Island Tours (hourly)  Japanese Garden
11:30 a.m.–noon $ Storyteller’s Juubako  Children’s Garden
noon–1 p.m.  Okashi Fashion and Cosplay Show  Cohen Amphitheater

12:30–1:30 p.m.  Martial Arts—Kendo  Bottlebrush East
1–1:30 p.m.  Ice Sculpture  Bottlebrush West
1–2 p.m.  The Way of Tea Demonstration—Chanoyu  Yagura Stage

2:30–3 p.m.  Storyteller’s Juubako  Children’s Garden
3–4 p.m.  St. Louis Okinawa Eisa  Yagura Stage
3:30–4 p.m.  Raku go  Central Axis Stage
3:30–4:30 p.m.  Martial Arts—Koryu Bugei  Knolls
4–5 p.m.  Sumo  Central Axis Stage
4:30–5:30 p.m.  Martial Arts—Judo  Bottlebrush East
5:30–6:30 p.m.  Bon Odori Dancing  Yagura Stage
7–8 p.m.  St. Louis Osuwa Taiko  Cohen Amphitheater
8–8:30 p.m.  Toro Nagashi  Japanese Garden
8–10 p.m.  Candlelight Walk  Japanese Garden
8:30–10 p.m.  Anime Movie—Pattabor 2  Cohen Amphitheater

* We welcome all cosplayers to the festival, but please make sure that your costumes are family appropriate and leave your weapons at home—even if they are harmless props. Violators will be asked to leave the festival.

NO DOWNLOAD REQUIRED

View the program and schedule of activities instantly on the Japanese Festival web app using a web browser on a desktop, smartphone, or tablet.

Look for kimono models and candy artist demonstrations throughout the Garden. Check out bit.ly/JFest2021 for more information.

SUNDAY, September 5

10–11 a.m.  St. Louis Okinawa Eisa  Cohen Amphitheater
10 a.m.–5 p.m.  Amezakuzu  Throughout the Garden
Origami Display  Edward Jones Hall
Balloon Art  Kemper Center for Home Gardening

10 a.m.–7 p.m.  Bonsai and Ikebana Display  Linnean House
10:30–11:30 a.m.  Martial Arts—Aikido  Bottlebrush East
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  $ Teahouse Island Tours (hourly)  Japanese Garden
11:30 a.m.–noon $ Storyteller’s Juubako  Children’s Garden
noon–1 p.m.  Sumo  Cohen Amphitheater
1–1:30 p.m.  Ice Sculpture  Bottlebrush West
1–2 p.m.  The Way of Tea Demonstration—Chanoyu  Yagura Stage
1:30–2 p.m.  Raku go  Central Axis Stage
1:30–2:30 p.m.  Martial Arts—Kendo  Bottlebrush East
2–3 p.m.  St. Louis Osuwa Taiko  Cohen Amphitheater
2:30–3 p.m.  $ Storyteller’s Juubako  Children’s Garden
3–4 p.m.  St. Louis Okinawa Eisa  Yagura Stage
3:30–4 p.m.  Raku go  Central Axis Stage
4–5 p.m.  Sumo  Cohen Amphitheater

MONDAY, September 6

10–11 a.m.  St. Louis Okinawa Eisa  Cohen Amphitheater
10 a.m.–5 p.m.  Amezakuzu  Throughout the Garden
Origami Display  Edward Jones Hall
Balloon Art  Kemper Center for Home Gardening

10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.  Martial Arts—Aikido  Bottlebrush East
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  $ Teahouse Island Tours (hourly)  Japanese Garden
11:30 a.m.–noon $ Storyteller’s Juubako  Children’s Garden
noon–1 p.m.  Sumo  Cohen Amphitheater
1–1:30 p.m.  Ice Sculpture  Bottlebrush West
1–2 p.m.  St. Louis Okinawa Eisa  Cohen Amphitheater
1:30–2 p.m.  Raku go  Central Axis Stage
1:30–2:30 p.m.  Martial Arts—Judo  Bottlebrush East
2–3 p.m.  St. Louis Osuwa Taiko  Cohen Amphitheater
2:30–3 p.m.  $ Storyteller’s Juubako  Children’s Garden
3–4 p.m.  Zen and Japanese Culture  Japanese Garden / Yagura Stage
3:30–4 p.m.  Raku go  Central Axis Stage
4–5 p.m.  Sumo  Cohen Amphitheater

$ Additional Fee
One World, One Goal—Protecting Plants

From monitoring climate change on the world’s tallest mountains to fighting the loss of lemur habitat in Madagascar to saving rare prairie plants here in Missouri, our impact is on a global scale. Your visit and support help us discover and safeguard plants all over the world.

Learn more at discoverandshare.org
Japanese Garden

The 14-acre garden is stunning in all four seasons, showcasing distinct aspects of its beauty from different vantage points. Proposed by the Japanese American Citizens’ League in 1972, Seiwa-en was designed by renowned landscape architect Koichi Kawana. Construction began in 1974, and the garden was formally dedicated on May 5, 1977.

The dedication was symbolic for St. Louis, as it promoted positive international relations. Several elected officials attended the ceremony, including the President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen Paul Simon. He referred to the Japanese Garden as, “a garden which is building a bridge to international understanding.” We continue to celebrate Seiwa-en, “garden of pure, clear harmony and peace,” and its significance in honoring Japanese culture.

POKÉMON AT THE GARDEN

One of Japan’s most beloved exports, Pokémon, has taken hold at the Garden. Bellsprouts, Beedrills, and Bulbasours abound! Pokémon Go players are encouraged to visit all of our PokéStops, compete to be the very best at one of our seven gyms, and hatch an egg or two along the way. Be sure to check out the Anime St. Louis booth outside the Temporary Visitor Center to participate in the PokéStop and Smell the Roses scavenger hunt. While you’re on the prowl to fill your Pokédex, please do not walk in any mulched or planted garden beds. There will be plenty of Pokémon on the paths. Happy hunting!
UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GARDEN

ORIGAMIINTHEGARDEN
Now–October 10

Now in its final days, the exhibition includes stunning large-scale metal sculptures created through collaboration with world-renowned origami artists such as Robert J. Lang, Te Jui Fu, Michael G. La Fosse, and Beth Johnson.

BEST OF MISSOURI MARKET*
Oct. 1 | noon–8 p.m.
Oct. 2–3 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Missouri’s best food producers and crafters offer baked goods, fresh and dried flowers, live plants, handcrafted items, baskets, furniture, custom jewelry, children’s activities, live music, and more.

GARDEN GLOW
Nov. 13–Jan. 8, 2022 | 5–10 p.m.

Celebrate the season by strolling through displays of more than a million lights, with a mix of fun new experiences and traditional favorites.

SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT BY

© 2021 Missouri Botanical Garden / Booklet design by: Mary Shocklee

Photos by Erik Anderson, Kent Burgess, Kelly Cato, Claire Cohen, Steve Frank, Cassidy Moody, Kat Niehaus, Wesley Schaefer, Margaret Schmidt, Sundos Schneider, and USA SUMO

SUSTAINABILITY

The Missouri Botanical Garden strives to make the most sustainable choices for the future of people, plants, and the planet. This publication is printed on paper containing 100% post-consumer recycled content manufactured with wind power. We hope that you will recycle it, when finished, or pass it along to a friend.

Thanks to our vendors, volunteers, and visitors for keeping this huge event’s footprint small.

YOU help the Garden show the way to be Green Today—Greener Tomorrow!

© 2021 Missouri Botanical Garden / Booklet design by: Mary Shocklee

Photos by Erik Anderson, Kent Burgess, Kelly Cato, Claire Cohen, Steve Frank, Cassidy Moody, Kat Niehaus, Wesley Schaefer, Margaret Schmidt, Sundos Schneider, and USA SUMO

SUSTAINABILITY

The Missouri Botanical Garden strives to make the most sustainable choices for the future of people, plants, and the planet. This publication is printed on paper containing 100% post-consumer recycled content manufactured with wind power. We hope that you will recycle it, when finished, or pass it along to a friend.

Thanks to our vendors, volunteers, and visitors for keeping this huge event’s footprint small.

YOU help the Garden show the way to be Green Today—Greener Tomorrow!
Now through October 10, the Missouri Botanical Garden is filled with the monumental works of Jennifer and Kevin Box and their collaboration of origami artists.

The exhibition elevates the ancient art of origami to new heights. Each piece glorifies the precision of origami in stately museum-quality metals using an innovative 35+ step process that took nine years to perfect.

Plan your visit at mobot.org/origami or text “MyGuide Origami” to 56512 for a mobile tour and more information.