



JAPANESE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 2-4
LABOR DAY WEEKEND



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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 2 | 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Sunday, September 3 | 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Monday, September 4 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Grounds open at 9 a.m. and then remain open until 10 p.m. for candlelight walks on Saturday and Sunday. Last entry into the Garden is at 9 p.m.

Information

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

View event details online at mobot.org/japanesefestival

Admission

\$16 for adults

\$8 for Garden members

\$8 for non-member children
(12 and under)

Member children free
(12 and under)

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. Climatron will close at 5 p.m. each day.

Sassafras

Cool off and enjoy a beverage as well as a selection of soups, salads, and sandwiches. *Saturday and Sunday* | 9 a.m.–8 p.m. *Monday* | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.



Japanese Garden

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.

First Aid

In case of an accident or medical emergency, please locate staff wearing Garden identification, and they will contact Security immediately to tend to your emergencies. A First Aid Tent is located near Kemper Center for Home Gardening. Emergency services are provided by the St. Louis Fire Department.

Garden Gate Shop

The Garden Gate Shop is your source for Japanese Festival merchandise. The Garden Gate Shop offers sodas, snacks, teas, jewelry, books, and more.

*Saturday and Sunday | 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
Monday | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.*

Featured Performer YASU!

New this year to the Japanese Festival is Yasu a Japanese Magic Story Artist. Combining traditional Japanese theatre, music, origami, magic, and storytelling; Yasu Ishida will guide you to the enchanting land of Japan.

Yasu has a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre for Young Audiences and has been performing all around the county, including the Disney Summer Stage Kids (NY), the National Cherry Blossom Festival (Washington D.C.), to the Hawai'i Music & Book Festival.

Bayer Event Center

Saturday: 3:30–4 p.m.
Sunday: 12:30–1 p.m. | 4:15–4:45 p.m.
Monday: 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | 4:30–5 p.m.

PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall

Saturday: 6–6:30 p.m.
Sunday: 5:30–6 p.m.
Monday: 3–3:30 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: Hiroki, Ramy, and Mendee.

Cohen Amphitheater

Saturday: 2:30–3:30 p.m. | 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Sunday: noon–1 p.m. and 4–5 p.m.

Monday: noon–1 p.m. and 4–5 p.m.

Autographs and photos directly after each performance.



Hiroki

Ramy

Mendee



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.

Saturday, 10 a.m. | Japanese Garden

Sake cups are available for purchase at the site for \$10 on Saturday only.

2023 Japanese Festival Logo

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW



The 2023 Japanese Festival theme celebrates the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, a species common in Japan and elsewhere but found in the U.S. only in the immediate St. Louis area. This *suzume* is the subject of a famous Japanese folktale, often depicted in art. The *Suzume odori* or "Sparrow Dance" is a traditional dance.

The sparrow, with late summer's grains and grasses, is a perfect symbol of this year's Festival.



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. It is 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.

Tickets are \$15 per person and will be sold twice daily at the Plum Viewing Arbor Japanese Garden. 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.

Teahouse Island Tour tickets for 2024 will be sold exclusively online in advance.

Saturday and Sunday | 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Set 1: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m.

Set 2: 2, 3, and 4 p.m., 5 p.m. (5 p.m. tour on Saturday and Sunday only)

Tour times subject to change. Maximum four tickets per person.

Cashless transactions only.

Garden Docents

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

Saturday and Sunday | 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

(Included with admission)

Virtual Tour of Seiwa-en

Scan the QR code 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 | 8–10 p.m. | Included with admission | Last entry 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.	Festival Procession	Spink Pavilion to Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden
10 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	Japanese Garden
10 a.m.–8 p.m.	Calligraphy Display	Spink Pavilion
10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Origami Display	Sachs Museum Lower Gallery
10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Balloon Art Teahouse Island Tours (hourly)	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plum Viewing Arbor, Japanese Garden
10 a.m.–7 p.m.	Ikebana and Bonsai Display	Farr Auditorium
11 a.m.–noon	St Louis Eisa Yui Shodo Demonstration Bonsai Demonstration	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden Bayer Event Center Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Cooking Demonstration	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Kitchen
noon–12:30 p.m.	Cosplay and Yukan Rakugo	Cohen Amphitheater PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Wagashi Demonstration Kendo	Bayer Event Center Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
12:30–2 p.m.	Ikebana Demonstration	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
1–1:30 p.m.	Storyteller's Juubako Ice Sculpting	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
1–2 p.m.	St. Louis Eisa Yui	Cohen Amphitheater
1–5 p.m.	Shodo Writing and Sales	Prefunction Bayer Center
1–5 p.m.	Children's Activities	Spink Pavilion
1:30–3 p.m.	Cooking Demonstration	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Kitchen
2–3 p.m.	Niji Choral	Bayer Event Center
2:30–3 p.m.	Wagashi Workshop	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Sumo	Cohen Amphitheater
3–3:30 p.m.	Storyteller's Juubako	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
3–4 p.m.	St. Louis Eisa Yui Koryu Bugei	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden Knolls
3:30–4 p.m.	Yasu Wagashi Workshop	Bayer Event Center Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
4–4:30 p.m.	Rakugo	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
4:30–5:30 p.m.	Way of Tea Ceremony Sumo Judo	Bayer Event Center Cohen Amphitheater Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
4:30–6 p.m.	Ikebana Demonstration	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
5–5:30 p.m.	Intro to Zen	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
5–6 p.m.	Bon Odori	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden
6–6:30 p.m.	Yasu	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Gaku	Bayer Event Center
7–8 p.m.	St Louis Osuwa Taiko	Cohen Amphitheater
7:30–9 p.m.	Toro Nagashi	Japanese Garden
8–10 p.m.	Candlelight Walk Movie: <i>Okko's Inn</i>	Japanese Garden Bayer Event Center

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Origami Display	Sachs Museum Lower Gallery
10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Balloon Art Teahouse Island Tours (hourly) Children's Activities	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plum Viewing Arbor, Japanese Garden Spink Pavilion
10 a.m.–7 p.m.	Ikebana and Bonsai Display	Farr Auditorium
10 a.m.–8 p.m.	Calligraphy Display	Spink Pavilion
10–11 a.m.	Shodo Demonstration Aikido St. Louis	Bayer Event Center Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
10:15–11:15 a.m.	St Louis Eisa Yui	Cohen Amphitheater
10:30–11 a.m.	Storyteller's Juubako	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
11 a.m.–noon	Wagashi Demonstration	Bayer Event Center
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Cooking Demonstration	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Kitchen
11:30 a.m.–noon	Rakugo	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Ikebana Demonstration	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
noon–1 p.m.	Sumo	Cohen Amphitheater
12:30–1 p.m.	Yasu	Bayer Event Center
1–1:30 p.m.	Rakugo Ice Sculpting	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
1–2 p.m.	St. Louis Eisa Yui	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden
1:30–2 p.m.	Dashi Procession Kimono Fashion Show Wagashi Workshop	Spink Pavilion Bayer Event Center Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
noon–5 p.m.	Shodo Writing and Sales	Bayer Event Center
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Kendo	Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
2–3 p.m.	St. Louis Osuwa Taiko	Cohen Amphitheater
2:30–3 p.m.	Omikoshi Procession	Spink Pavilion
2:30–3 p.m.	Kimono Fashion Show	Bayer Event Center
3–3:30 p.m.	Rakugo Wagashi Workshop Dashi Procession	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms Spink Pavilion
3–4 p.m.	Koryu Bugei	Knolls
3:30–4 p.m.	Kimono Fashion Show	Bayer Event Center
4–4:30 p.m.	Storyteller's Juubako	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
4:15–4:45 p.m.	Yasu	Bayer Event Center
4–5 p.m.	St. Louis Eisa Yui Sumo	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden Cohen Amphitheater
4–5:30 p.m.	Ikebana Demonstration	Farr Auditorium
5–6 p.m.	Way of Tea Ceremony	Bayer Event Center
5:30–6 p.m.	Yasu	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
5:30–6:30 p.m.	Bon Odori	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden
6–7 p.m.	Zen and Japanese Culture	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Gaku	Bayer Event Center
7–8 p.m.	St Louis Osuwa Taiko	Cohen Amphitheater
7:30–9 p.m.	Toro Nagashi	Japanese Garden
8–10 p.m.	Candlelight Walk Movie: <i>Okko's Inn</i>	Japanese Garden Bayer Event Center

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Origami Display Teahouse Island Tours	Sachs Museum Lower Gallery Plum Viewing Arbor, Japanese Garden
10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Balloon Art Calligraphy Display Children's Activities Ikebana and Bonsai Display	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Spink Pavilion Spink Pavilion Farr Auditorium
10 a.m.–11 a.m.	Shodo Demonstration Bonsai Demonstration	Bayer Event Center Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
10:15–11:15 a.m.	St Louis Eisa Yui	Cohen Amphitheater
11–11:30 a.m.	Storyteller's Juubako	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
11–12:30 p.m.	Cooking Demonstration	Kemper Center for Home Gardening Kitchen
11:30 a.m.–noon	Wagashi Workshop Yasu	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms Bayer Event Center
noon–12:30 p.m.	Rakugo	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
noon–1 p.m.	Sumo Koryu Bugei	Cohen Amphitheater Knolls
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Wagashi Demonstration	Bayer Event Center
1–1:30 p.m.	Rakugo Ice Sculpting	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
1–2 p.m.	St. Louis Eisa Yui	Yagura Stage, Japanese Garden
1:30–2 p.m.	Dashi Procession	Spink Pavilion
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Judo	Bottlebrush Buckeye Path
1:30–3 p.m.	Ikebana Demonstration Cooking Demonstration	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms Kemper Center for Home Gardening Kitchen
2–2:30 p.m.	Storyteller's Juubako	Spink Pavilion
2–3 p.m.	St. Louis Osuwa Taiko Gaku	Cohen Amphitheater Bayer Event Center
2:30–3 p.m.	Omikoshi Procession	Spink Pavilion
3–3:30 p.m.	Yasu Dashi Procession	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall Spink Pavilion
3–4 p.m.	Gaku Contemporary	Bayer Event Center
3:30–4 p.m.	Wagashi Workshop	Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center Meeting Rooms
4–4:30 p.m.	Intro to Zen	PlantLab, Edward Jones Hall
4–5 p.m.	Sumo	Cohen Amphitheater
4:30–5 p.m.	Yasu	Bayer Event Center

*Event schedule is subject to change. Please see mobot.org/japanesefestival for the latest updates.

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.

MERCHANDISE VENDORS

Animeggroll
Anime St. Louis
Arise Bazaar
Bonsai Society of Greater St. Louis
Copper Crane Pottery
Far East Emporium
Japan America Society
Women's Association
St. Louis Eisa Yui
Suwa/St. Louis Sister City Committee
Colorkoi
Flying Plum Tree
Kaori's Shodo Art Sale
My Squish Studio
Japanese Language School
Shodo Writing and Sales

FOOD VENDORS

Chef De Art Catering
Confluence Kombucha

Confluence Zen Center
Drunken Fish
Ed's Foods
Japan America Society/
Seinen Kai Committee
Japanese American Citizens League
Soda Booth
Ozark Forest Mushrooms
Poke Doke
Red Apron
Top Sushi
Sando Food Truck
Sushi Kitchen
Japanese American Society Alcohol Sales

ART EXHIBITS

Bonsai and Ikebana
Calligraphy
Origami
Balloon Artist

WAGASHI

Literally “Japanese sweets,” *wagashi* are far more than mere confections. They are formed from rice flour, sugar, and gelatinous agar into fantastic and whimsical shapes. *Wagashi* are associated with the tea ceremony, served as part of the process of making and drinking matcha tea.

Wagashi shapes and recipes vary throughout Japan and change seasonally. They assumed the status of art form during the early 19th century. Mildly sweet, they are eaten slowly to appreciate their wonderful taste.

Mr. Noriyuki Kamiyama is among the Japan's most artistic *wagashi* makers. His creations reflect the traditions of the art and a chance for visitors to see this extraordinary aspect of Japanese culture.



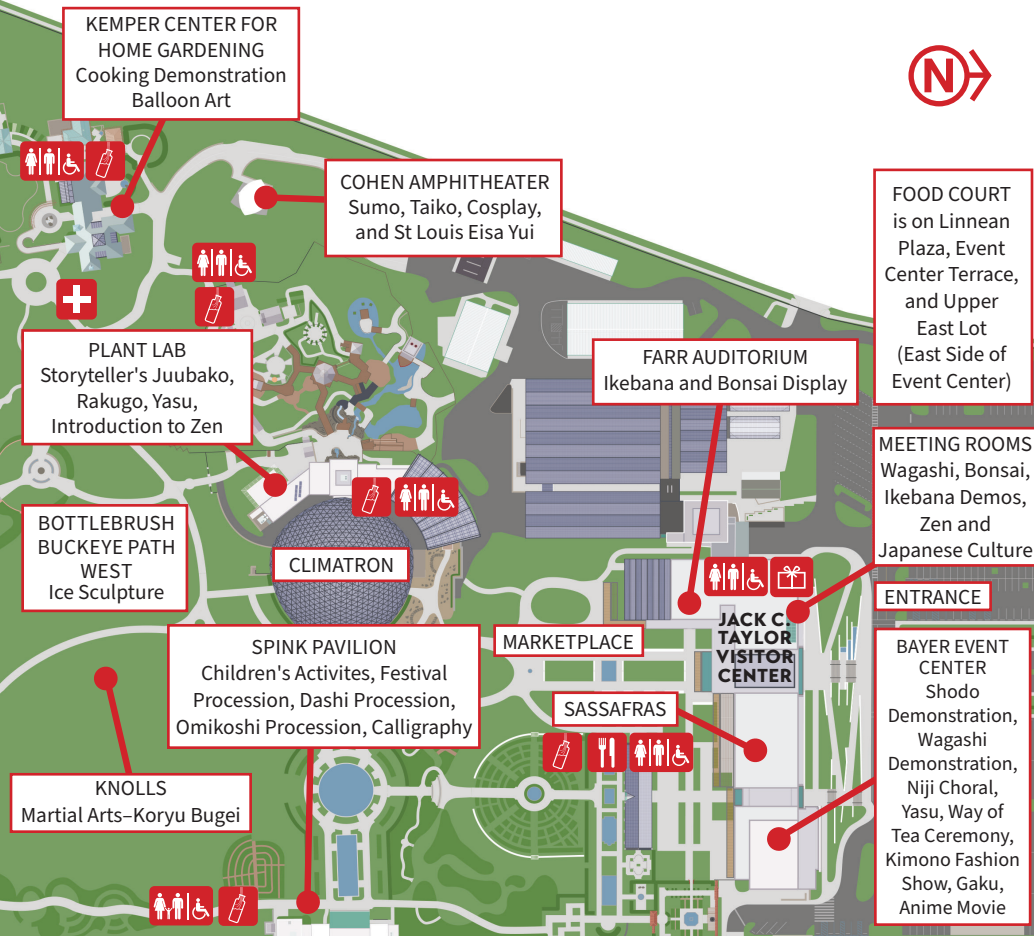


* Teahouse Island tickets available only at the entrance to Plum Viewing Arbor Japanese Garden.

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, *Seiya-en* the Japanese Garden 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 *Seiya-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. Pokémon Go players are encouraged to visit all of our PokéStops, compete to be the very best at one of our gyms, and hatch an egg or two along the way. Be sure to check out the Anime St. Louis booth at the South Garden marketplace 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



BEST OF MISSOURI MARKET®

October 6 | noon–8 p.m.

October 7 | 8–9 a.m. | Member's Hour

October 7–8 | 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.



SPIRITS IN THE GARDEN

October 27 | 6–8:30 p.m.

Celebrate All Hallows' Eve sampling tastings from local and regional distilleries, wineries, and breweries! Enter the costume contest, dance the night away, and learn about the spirited history of the Garden. Ages 21 and up.



GARDEN GLOW

November 18–Jan 6 | nightly

Closed Nov. 23 and 27, Dec. 24–25

Celebrate the season by strolling through displays of almost 2 million lights, with a mix of fun new experiences and traditional favorites.

Visit mobot.org/glow for more information.

Presented by

WELLS
FARGO

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

November 13–19

Join us for our annual celebration of our members who make our mission possible. Enjoy special events, extra shopping and dining perks, and 20% off membership all week long.

Visit mobot.org/memberappreciation for complete details.

PERKS FOR MEMBERS ONLY

GARDEN GATE SHOP DOUBLE DAYS

November 13–19

Members at the Individual through Friends and Family levels receive 20% off all regular-priced merchandise. Members at the Festival level and higher who always receive 20% off also get double punches on their punch card all week long.

SASSAFRAS DINING DISCOUNT

November 13–19

Dine with us and save all week long. Present your membership card at the café and receive 10% off your bill.

LITTLE SHOP MEMBER OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, November 14 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Add antiques and collectibles to your holiday shopping list! Stop by the Little Shop Around the Corner for shopping and light refreshments—and save an extra 20% on all items.

RETAIL PARTNER SALE

November 13–19

Show your Garden member card at participating garden and floral design shops to save 10% on your purchases. Visit mobot.org/memberappreciation for a list of our generous partners. Exclusions apply.



SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT BY



TOYOTA | MO

THE GARDEN THANKS THE JAPANESE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, A COALITION OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

Confluence Zen Center—A St. Louis-based zen community dedicated to zazen.

Japanese American Citizens League—Devoted to the special needs and interests of the Japanese American community.

Japan America Society of St. Louis—Devoted to promoting business and cultural ties between America and Japan.

Japan America Society of St. Louis Women's Association—Assists Japanese and American women in cultural exchange.

Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of St. Louis—Founded for the purpose of promoting trade, commerce, goodwill, and partnership between Japan and the US.

The Office of the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago—Represents the Japanese government in Missouri and other Midwestern states.

St. Louis Japanese Language School for Children—An institution providing Japanese language instruction for children in Missouri and Illinois.

St. Louis—Suwa Sister City Committee—Seeks to further ties between.

St. Louis and our sister city of Suwa in Nagano Prefecture, Japan.

St. Louis Japan Society—Primary purpose is for Japanese nationals in the area to meet and socialize.

Seinen Committee—An organization for young Japanese/American professionals.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Missouri Botanical Garden strives to make sustainable choices for the future of people, plants, and the planet. Recyclables such as beverage containers and compostable food and service ware will be kept out of the landfill by our Zero Waste Ambassadors. Look designated waste station tents on the food court during the event. Thanks to our vendors, volunteers, and visitors for keeping the huge event's footprint small. YOU help the Garden show the way to be Green Today—Greener Tomorrow!



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

©2023 Missouri Botanical Garden | Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Photos by Kat Niehaus, Karen Fletcher, Mary Lou Olson, Rebecca Pavelka, Sundos Schneider, and Tom Incrocci.