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GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EXHIBIT MAKES EAST COAST DEBUT AT THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES Nov. 14–Feb. 28, 2010

PHILADELPHIA—George Washington Carver, a groundbreaking scientist, educator and humanitarian who laid the groundwork for organic farming and today's research on plant-based fuels, is the subject of a new exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences beginning Saturday, Nov. 14.

George Washington Carver makes its East Coast debut with more than 150 historical artifacts, videos, interactive displays and re-created scenes that trace Carver's modest beginning as a child of a slave in the Deep South to world-renowned scientist with a postage stamp, submarine and national monument in his honor. The exhibit is free with museum admission and runs through Feb. 28, 2010.

Carver (1864–1943) is best known for developing many uses for the peanut plant, but his influence on everyday life stretches much further. He developed hundreds of unexpected products from common plants, such as sweet potatoes and soy beans, sparking a nationwide movement to identify plant-based products including fuels and medicines. He used his natural curiosity, scientific skill and personal motivation to overcome adversity and racial prejudice to devote his life to bringing practical knowledge to those in need, including introducing sustainable agriculture to poor sharecroppers.

The exhibit, created by The Field Museum, Chicago, traces Carver's journey from a remote frontier town to his success as a teacher and researcher at the famed Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University in Alabama. Visitors will see Carver's eyeglasses, recipes, agricultural bulletins, artwork (he was a talented artist), and lab equipment, including his peanut grinder. They will learn how he traveled from farm to farm to share his knowledge of crop rotation, composting, fertilization and pest control—innovations that revolutionized southern agriculture by saving the soil from decades of nutrient-depleting cotton farming. Visitors can explore a life-size reproduction of the Jesup Wagon, a "movable school" he designed to carry soil samples, farm equipment and plants to use as teaching tools. Videos introduce "modern-day Carvers" working to develop the potential of plants in modern medicine and space exploration.

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"George Washington Carver's life is a joy to reflect on," said Academy President and CEO William Y. Brown. "He discovered use after use of many kinds of plants, and he proclaimed a mystical awe of nature and her service to humankind."

Shortly after his death, Congress, with President Franklin Roosevelt's blessing, passed legislation for the creation of the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Mo.—the first national monument for someone who was not a U.S. president. His likeness was put on a postage stamp, and a number of schools, libraries, college buildings, and even a submarine bear his name. In Philadelphia, the George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science opened in 1979 and is operated by the School District of Philadelphia.

George Washington Carver was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service. It is funded in part by BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Diversified Search Odgers Berndtson, and The Wachovia Foundation. Media partner: The Philadelphia Tribune. For more information, visit www.ansp.org/carver.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!