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FIRST EAST COAST APPEARANCE FOR NEW EXHIBIT ON GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, OPENS FALL 2009

PHILADELPHIA—Many people know George Washington Carver as the man who invented many uses for the humble peanut. But a new exhibit making its first East Coast appearance at The Academy of Natural Sciences this fall digs deeper into this inspiring African American scientist whose foresight revolutionized agriculture in the South and who was “green” before his time.

Born into slavery in 1864, Carver became a trailblazing scientist, educator and humanitarian who devoted his life to bringing practical knowledge to those in need. His chemistry creations resulted in hundreds of new uses for sweet potatoes, soy beans and peanuts. He introduced poor sharecroppers to sustainable agriculture and laid the groundwork for today’s research on plant-based fuels, medicines and everyday products.

The story of Carver’s remarkable life and work is the subject of “George Washington Carver,” at the Academy from Nov. 14, 2009 to Feb. 28, 2010. The exhibit is the largest ever assembled on the life and legacy of Carver, and the Academy is its first East Coast appearance.

The exhibit features more than 150 historical artifacts, videos, interactive displays, and re-created scenes that trace Carver’s modest beginning to world-renowned scientist. Beginning with Carver’s eyeglasses, visitors are introduced to his “mighty vision” to harness nature’s power for the benefit of those in need. 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, recipes and plants to use as teaching tools.

Some of his actual lab equipment, including his peanut grinder and hydraulic press, will be on view as well as a re-creation of his laboratory. Visitors will meet some modern-day Carvers working to develop the potential of plants in modern medicine and space exploration.

“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.”

“George Washington Carver” is free with museum admission. This exhibition was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service.

For more information, visit www.ansp.org/carver.

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on weekends. Admission is: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is a \$2 fee for “Butterflies!”

Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas. Our mission is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.