

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
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NEWS RELEASE

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BOOK TALK AND SIGNING,
*MY WORK IS THAT OF CONSERVATION: AN ENVIRONMENTAL
BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER* BY MARK HERSEY
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, October 6, 2011**, as Mark Hersey presents ***My Work Is That of Conservation: An Environmental Biography of George Washington Carver***. This informative talk and book signing will be held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

George Washington Carver (ca. 1864–1943) is at once one of the most familiar and one of the most misunderstood figures in American history. In *My Work Is That of Conservation*, published by the University of Georgia Press, Mark D. Hersey reveals the life and work of this fascinating man who is widely known as the African American scientist who developed a wide variety of uses for the peanut. In this talk, Hersey will trace Carver's life and contributions from the perspective of his interest in the environment and conservation, love of nature, and desire to help poor black farmers preserve farm land and make sustainable livings. He will show that Carver's environmental vision came into focus when he moved to the Tuskegee Institute in Macon County. Hersey uses Carver's life story to explore aspects of southern environmental history and to place this important scientist within the early conservation movement.

Mark D. Hersey is an assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas. He has lectured on agricultural and environmental history nationally and internationally, including Finland and China. Also, he has served as an advisor to a documentary on George Washington Carver produced by Iowa Public Television.

The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history, free. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. His book will be available to purchase and he will sign copies of the book after the program. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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