

Dear Friends:

Each and every season since 1895, The New York Botanical Garden has provided visitors with opportunities to learn about the world of plants and experience the beauty of nature in many ways, whether through explorations of the grounds and gardens or tours of illuminating exhibitions. In fiscal year 2007, the Botanical Garden celebrated a noteworthy year, welcoming a record number of visitors and advancing its distinguished reputation as an educational, scientific, and horticultural force.

One of the crowning achievements was the successful conclusion of the *Campaign for a New Era 2001–2007*, the second phase of the Botanical Garden's comprehensive renaissance. The *Campaign for a New Era* generated \$326 million in investments to improve the Garden's campus and programs and secure its financial future. Together with Phase I, *Plan for 1993–1999*, more than \$500,000,000 has been invested in this historic institution, constituting the largest redevelopment initiative undertaken by any botanical garden in the world.

With the notable improvements made to the physical landscape, public programming, and the invisible infrastructure, the Garden attained its highest-ever level of attendance in fiscal year 2007, with more than 800,000 visitors, including nearly 375,000 students, families, and educators. The Garden-wide exhibition, *Chihuly at The New York Botanical Garden: Gardens and Glass*—the first major display of Dale Chihuly's art to date in the New York area—attracted an overwhelming 358,000 visitors to the Garden during the course of its four-month run. This extensive installation displayed the artist's dramatic glass sculptures among the Garden's most beautiful plant collections and vistas, from the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory to the Everett Children's Adventure Garden to the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden.

Last spring, after an intensive six-month renovation project, the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden reopened to delight visitors with its glorious collection of 621 varieties of roses. This one-acre site, the only surviving New York City garden designed by Beatrix Jones Farrand, has been reorganized and repopulated, and now serves as a living encyclopedia of historic and modern roses.

Building on the expansion of the Garden's unparalleled plant science programs and facilities, and as part of a growing emphasis on expanding its reach and impact in botanical science research and conservation, a new position was created for a Dean and Vice President of Science. In February James S. Miller, Ph.D., joined the Garden in this leadership role. He now guides the Garden's efforts to address the world's critical plant biodiversity challenges, and to train the next generation of plant scientists. As part of the Garden's mission to educate the public about the flora of the world, a series of symposia on the effects of climate change on plants and ecosystems began with a sold-out event in Manhattan in September 2006 and continued in the spring with topics focused on the effects of climate change on gardens and gardeners.

The myriad accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible without the dedicated support and leadership of the Garden's Board Members, one of whom we lost recently. Arthur Ross, an extraordinary benefactor and devoted friend of the Garden, has left a legacy at this institution that includes the glorious Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum and the state-of-the-art Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall and Gallery.

In addition to the role of the Board, the partnership of the city, state, and federal governments and the generosity of our thousands of members, patrons, and donors enable the Garden to advance its position as one of the world's great botanical gardens. We are pleased to share some of the highlights of fiscal year 2007 with you, and look forward to welcoming you to the Garden throughout the coming year.

Wilson Nolen, *Chairman*

Gregory Long, *President*