

NYBG/125

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The New York Botanical Garden Celebrates 125th Anniversary in 2016

Highlights Include Special Exhibitions and Events; New Gardens and Collections



NYBG's Azalea Garden. Photo by Ben Hider.

Bronx, NY—The year 2016 marks the 125th Anniversary of the founding of The New York Botanical Garden. Since 1891 NYBG has been a museum of plants dedicated to achieving excellence in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Today it is one of the great cultural institutions in the world, a preeminent center for botanical research, a natural treasure for visitors of all ages, and a leader and national model for plant-based education.

In 1888 the Garden's founders, Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton, a Columbia University professor of botany and geology, and his wife, Elizabeth Knight Britton, an avid and respected scholar of mosses, traveled to London and visited the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Inspired by what they saw, the Brittons returned to New York determined to create a similar institution. On April 28, 1891, the Legislature of the State of New York passed an act incorporating The New York Botanical Garden, providing for the building and development of "a public botanic garden of the highest class" on 250 acres of land in northernmost New York City "for the collection and culture of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees, [and] the advancement of botanical science and knowledge...and for the entertainment, recreation, and instruction of the people."

Continuing to fulfill the ambitious goals of its founders, NYBG is committed to:

SAVING THE PLANTS OF THE WORLD, by conducting research that generates original knowledge about biodiversity for the use of conservation organizations and public policymakers worldwide, and graduate programs that train new generations of plant biologists and conservationists;

CREATING A GREEN URBAN OASIS, by providing stewardship of the historic landscape the institution has protected since the 1890s, and continued development of an urban oasis to inspire and teach large numbers of visitors to love and value nature;

CONNECTING GARDENING TO THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES, by offering multidisciplinary interpretive exhibitions and educational programs that reveal the deep connections between plants and people, nature and culture, and illuminate the importance of gardens to human health and to the lives and work of influential artists and thinkers;

TEACHING SCIENCE TO CITY KIDS, by designing programs to improve scientific literacy among school teachers and children of all ages to increase their awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the natural world; and

ANCHORING THE COMMUNITY, by focusing on developing the economy of the Borough of the Bronx through ongoing employment opportunities and capital projects and the well-being of its residents through urban farming and community garden programs.

Public celebratory events for NYBG's 125th Anniversary are:

Celebrating The New York Botanical Garden: 125 Years
November 21, 2015–July 31, 2016

For more than 13 years, renowned photographer Larry Lederman has been observing and photographing the Garden in all seasons and at all times of day. His captivating new photographs convey a unique artistic vision and the unparalleled natural beauty of NYBG at its most splendid. Lederman's views of the magnificent gardens, diverse collections, and landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory feature many of the stunning vistas to be found across the Garden's 250 acres, capturing the ethereal wonder of the trees, plants, and flowers throughout the year.

**Andrew Carnegie Distinguished Lecture:
NYBG Scientists in Myanmar: Tackling 21st-Century Challenges
January 12**

Myanmar is a major biodiversity hotspot, yet it has probably the most poorly studied flora in the Northern Hemisphere. As the country emerges from decades of isolation and political upheaval, NYBG scientists are working to document Myanmar's undiscovered plant life, build the country's capacity to carry out plant research, and promote the sustainable use of its forests. The three scientists leading NYBG's Myanmar program will report on their recent work in this Andrew Carnegie Distinguished Lecture.

***The Orchid Show: Orchidelirium*
February 27–April 17**

The 19th-century craze sparked by a single orchid bloom that came to be known as Orchidelirium is the inspiration for The New York Botanical Garden's 14th annual *Orchid Show*, which transports visitors on an epic journey that engages all of the senses and underscores the allure and intrigue of these exquisite beauties. Discover the far-flung adventures of daring orchid hunters who risked life and limb to secure these captivating and exotic flowers from danger-laden jungles around the world for determined collectors. Then learn about NYBG's current efforts to rescue and conserve orchids that have been collected illegally in the wild and seized at international borders.

**Daffodil Celebration and Wine Weekend
April 23–24**

The eagerly anticipated bloom of 150,000 daffodil bulbs—planted in November 2015 to bloom alongside the historic daffodil display at Daffodil Hill—provides a stunning backdrop for this oenophile's weekend. New York State vintners offer a flight of palate-pleasing local wines while experts on winemaking and viticulture host demonstrations and discussions during presentations of their crafts.

***Antique Garden Furniture Fair*
April 29–May 1**

April 28, Benefit Preview Party and Collectors' Plant Sale

Long held as the country's most renowned stage for authentic garden antiques and rarities, the *Antique Garden Furniture Fair* returns to NYBG with a new look and feel by celebrated party planner and interior designer Ken Fulk. Peruse more than 30 dealers' extensive collections of ornament, decorative art, and timeless furniture for the home and garden.

125th Anniversary Edition: *The New York Botanical Garden*

Published by Abrams

April 28

In *The New York Botanical Garden*, the institution's remarkable history and collections are presented in one magnificent volume. This revised edition includes more than 200 new photographs and features added sections that offer in-depth views of the extraordinary plants, spectacular gardens, and award-winning architecture that define the 250-acre landscape. Archival and contemporary photographs beautifully document the Garden's illustrious history and its ongoing development alongside essays that describe the origins and purpose of a botanical garden and provide a fascinating look at the Garden's groundbreaking scientific discoveries since its founding in 1891.

Mother's Day Weekend Garden Party

May 7 & 8

The most spectacular spring landscape New York City has to offer is the setting for live music, games, picnicking, and more. After a significant restoration and expansion, the historic Lilac Collection reopens, making room for more Garden spots to play and relax with crafts, live music, a delicious brunch, and other special activities.

Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas

May 14–September 11

Experience the horticultural inspiration behind American Impressionism, the prominent artistic style that flourished at the turn of the 20th century. In the Conservatory, stroll through an American Impressionist garden, a stunning interpretation by Francisca Coelho, NYBG's renowned curator and designer, of the alluring gardens that influenced iconic artists such as Childe Hassam and John Singer Sargent. In the Art Gallery, view a beautiful complementary display of more than 20 paintings and sculptures by these famed artists and their contemporaries that capture the colors, shadows, and ephemeral quality of light they observed in the natural world and infused in their distinctive imagery. Throughout the Garden, celebrate the spirit of America and NYBG's 125th Anniversary with an exciting array of programs showcasing many aspects of American culture from this era, which coincided with NYBG's founding.

NYBG/125 Evenings

May 14–September 11; Select Thursdays & Saturdays

Highlighting the great American contributions to music, dance, and film, this expanded event series brings the inspiration of *Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas* to the Conservatory Lawn for lively performances under the evening sky. Bring your picnic blanket and take in the show with beer, spirits, and refreshments from the new 1891 Alehouse.

**125th Anniversary Concert:
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
June 9**

Wynton Marsalis, music legend and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and his 15-piece orchestra comprised of the finest soloists, ensemble players, and arrangers in jazz music today, present a very special performance honoring NYBG's 125th Anniversary. The evening includes cocktails as well as surprise guests amid the beauty of the landmark Conservatory in late spring.

**125th Anniversary Science and Conservation Symposium
September 23**

A distinguished panel of experts discusses the current challenges of saving the plants of the world, NYBG's role, and how everyone can help in this global effort.

***What in the World is a Herbarium?*
September 17, 2016–April 2, 2017**

This exhibition highlights the importance of NYBG's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium—founded in 1901 and hailed by the National Science Foundation as a “national treasure”—and its collection of 7.8 million preserved plant and fungal specimens. This fascinating display explores the Steere Herbarium specimens as museum pieces, scientific data, and historical artifacts, underscoring their significance as an essential botanical resource, the impact of Herbarium specimens on cutting-edge scientific study, and the historical value of the Herbarium's collection.

**Edible Academy Family Garden Picnic
September 25**

NYBG has been a leader in organic vegetable gardening education for nearly 60 years. Become a part of this long-standing tradition by bringing the whole family for an exciting culinary adventure in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden that supports the Edible Academy, a new initiative to promote nutrition and the benefits of a healthful lifestyle that will serve twice as many children, parents, and teachers (from 50,000 to 100,000) in a state-of-the-art complex featuring a LEED-certified environmentally sustainable building with a green roof, two high-tech classrooms, new display gardens, a teaching greenhouse, and a terraced amphitheater.

***Kiku*
October 8–30**

The chrysanthemum, *kiku* in Japanese, is the most celebrated of all Japanese fall-flowering plants, and the meticulously trained *kiku* are on display in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in accordance with ancient techniques developed at Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo, which are among the world's most elaborate of such creations. These traditional forms are joined by contemporary styles developed by Garden horticulturists, including an astonishing

mix of single-stemmed chrysanthemums with flowers the size of softballs, as well as blossoms trained to grow in densely flowered pyramids, columns, bridges, and even abstractions that incorporate large pieces of driftwood.

Dedication of the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Maple Collection October 15–16

The Garden's historic collection of maples from around the world has been expanded with the addition of many rare and unusual plants, including new Japanese maple cultivars. The majestic beauty of the Steinhardt Maple Collection's distinguished trees sets the stage for a colorful weekend of fall activities and live music. Located on a sun-drenched knoll, the Maple Collection features dozens of rare and unusual specimens planted among rock outcrops and ancient shade trees that rise above open lawns. Japanese tree peonies and flowering perennials planted amid the maples add splashes of color while new seating and gathering spaces provide opportunities for visitors to sit and reflect upon the beauty of the maples and the surrounding landscape.

***Holiday Train Show*[®] November 19, 2016–January 16, 2017**

To mark the 25th year of this eagerly anticipated annual exhibition, the *Holiday Train Show*[®] continues to expand with new elements that enhance the display of enchanting model trains that zip through the collection of 150 iconic landmarks, each re-created with pine cones, bark, leaves, and other natural materials. Complementary programming includes musical concerts, children's activities, evenings for adults, and holiday film screenings and poetry.

For more information about The New York Botanical Garden and the 125th Anniversary offerings, please visit nybg.org.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday, as well as certain federal holiday Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (winter hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., mid-January through February). The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check the Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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