

NYBG/125

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The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*[®] Celebrates 25 Years of Holiday Fun!

Programs Bring Holiday Activities and Performances for All Ages



Bar Car Nights include an after-dark viewing of the *Holiday Train Show*.

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*[®], a beloved New York City tradition, enters its 25th year with the exhibition's first roller coaster. The Coney Island Cyclone will join NYBG's collection of more than 150 replicas of New York buildings that are all made out of plant parts and enlivened by large-scale model trains. In addition to the the famous Cyclone, new this year are Coney Island's Wonder Wheel and Elephantine Colossus. The Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge will also make its exhibition debut. The *Holiday Train Show* opens to the public on Saturday, November 19, 2016 and runs through Monday, January 16, 2017.

In addition to the exhibition, programming for all ages adds to the winter experience at the Botanical Garden:

- The festive and popular **Bar Car Nights** return to NYBG on select Fridays and Saturdays. Exclusively for adults 21 and over, the evenings include festive outdoor adventures with an after-dark viewing of the *Holiday Train Show* as the centerpiece. Pop-up acts feature some of NYC's favorite street performers and ice sculpting demonstrations; stilt walking and buugeng, and the Cartier Williams Dance Theatre.

Spiked beverages and other holiday treats are available from cash bars. The Pine Tree Café will host a rotating lineup of musicians, including **The Lovesome** (jazz and vintage R & B), **Love, Charley** (jazz), and **The Smoke Rings** (swing). November 19 & 26; December 2, 3, 16, 17, 23, & 30; January 7 & 14. Please refer to nybg.org for details about specific evenings, as the entertainment varies each night. Advance tickets recommended. Non-Member \$35/Member \$25.

- During **Evergreen Express** in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, children step into Discovery Center Depot to explore plant parts from assorted evergreens, make herbarium pressings of a conifer specimen, and craft a miniature scented sachet to take home. On weekends, children create a train puppet inspired by master puppeteer Ralph Lee and join a musical marching parade. All can enjoy the wonders of winter while exploring the trails of the Adventure Garden on a hike in search of beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs, while younger visitors can play on a kid-sized train engine and put on a puppet show in the Woodland Theater. Guided Activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Holiday Week (December 26–31), 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Attend the **Holiday Tree Lighting** of a stunning conifer display and join in an old-fashioned sing-along with the Westchester Chordsmen featuring carols from many traditions. Sunday, November 20, 4–5:15 p.m.
- Hear **former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins** and **beloved Irish poet and former Vassar College Professor Eamon Grennan** read their own poems and have a dialogue on their experience of writing poetry on Saturday, December 10, at 2 p.m. Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America. Space is limited; reserve your tickets in advance to guarantee seating. Get your tickets [here](#) and select the special *All-Garden Pass* entitled Poetry for Every Season Reading: *Holiday Train Show*.
- Stroll through the Leon Levy Visitor Center and along Perennial Garden Way to read train-inspired poems by Billy Collins in the **Poetry for Every Season: Holiday Poetry Walk**. Poetry will be displayed in the landscape and accompanied by a free cell phone audio tour. Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America.
- The **Winter Harmonies Concerts** on December 18 presents the **Cassatt String Quartet performing along with visual artist Rebecca Allen** in a display of music for your eyes. As the quartet performs seasonal classics, Ms. Allen captures the music in her art, which will be projected as it is being created for the musicians' backdrop. Stay for a post-performance conversation with the artists, moderated by series curator Laura Kiminsky. **The general audience concert is at 4 p.m. Families can enjoy a special concert just for children at 2 p.m.**, offering a chance to learn about the

different instruments that make the unique sounds. Children will also create a work of art to take home. Special tickets are required. Non-Member Adult \$35/Child \$23 (includes *All-Garden Pass* admission to the *Holiday Train Show*); Member Adult \$15/Child \$10.

- Celebrate the holidays with **Holiday A Cappella**, a mix of holiday music, both familiar and new, and alternative music performed by a cappella musicians. Saturdays and Sundays, December 3–31 plus daily December 26–January 1; 1, 2, & 3 p.m.
- Watch holiday classics during **Holiday Film Screenings** daily November 25–27 and December 26–29. Films include *Elf* (2003), *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), and *Polar Express* (2004). For a full listing, visit nybg.org.
- Children join Thomas and Driver Sam on a fun-filled, sing-along, mini-performance adventure in **All Aboard with Thomas & Friends™**. In Thomas' Budding Adventure, kids will help Thomas discover the steps to growing a beautiful garden. Make sure to have a professional photo taken with the Really Useful Engine to capture the special day. Select dates, December 31–January 22. Visit nybg.org for the full performance schedule.

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Visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org, to check dates and times for all of the holiday offerings and to purchase advance timed tickets.

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.

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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, bus, or subway.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:

During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 19, 2016–January 16, 2017, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Sunday, and Monday, December 19 and January 2 & 16, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Saturdays, November 19–January 14; Friday, November 25 (day after Thanksgiving); and December 26–December 31. The Garden is closed all day on November 24 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 3 p.m. on December 9 and 24 (Christmas Eve).

PRICING:

All-Garden Pass tickets start at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 2–12) and differ during certain peak times and weekends. Members and children under 2 are free. Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at nybg.org. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at nybg.org

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Images and b-roll available.