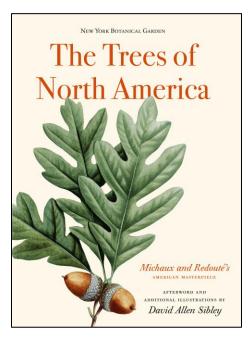


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 30, 2017

The New York Botanical Garden Presents a Contemporary View Of a Classic and Foundational Work of American Forestry

The Trees of North America: Michaux and Redouté's American Masterpiece, Featuring 277 Color Plates and Species Descriptions, Available May 9 from Abbeville Press



The Trees of North America: Michaux and Redouté's American Masterpiece. Published by Abbeville Press, New York. All rights reserved.

Bronx, NY—Among the early nineteenth century's bold expeditions into the American West, French botanist François-André Michaux's exploration unveiled and documented the arboreal bounty of the nation's wilderness. The result is a landmark of American botanical history, *The North American Sylva*. It is the first illustrated compendium of North American trees, featuring the original three volumes of Michaux's work and a three-volume supplement by English botanist Thomas Nuttall. Now for the first time, all 277 magnificent color plates are compiled in a single volume in *The Trees of North America: Michaux and Redouté's American Masterpiece* (Abbeville Press, \$49.95, Hardcover). The exquisitely rendered images by renowned botanical artists Pierre-Joseph Redouté, Pancrace Bessa, and others reveal the continent's sylvan diversity, ranging from Atlantic to Pacific and from Canada to Mexico.

Elucidating the significance of Redouté's work, best-selling ornithologist and natural history artist David Allen Sibley examines the golden age of botanical illustration and the artistic processes of his predecessors. Notably, this book's fascinating descriptions of every tree species featured in *The North American Sylva*, written by New York Botanical Garden staff and many accompanied by Sibley's illustrations, bring contemporary context to the nineteenth-century survey. Likewise, the institution's Susan M. Fraser explores the publication history of this groundbreaking work held in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. Finally, award-winning garden writer Marta McDowell recounts the story of the two botanist-explorers uncovering the continent's arboreal riches.

The Trees of North America is a journey into the old-growth forests of the New World as well as an appreciation of trees for the expert and the novice. Beautifully designed and extensively researched, this remarkable volume will entice and delight gardeners, art connoisseurs, and nature lovers alike.

The Trees of North America: Michaux and Redouté's American Masterpiece

Afterword and additional illustrations by David Allen Sibley Foreword by Gregory Long
Preface by Susan M. Fraser
Introduction by Marta McDowell
277 full-color illustrations
Hardcover · 392 pages
8 x 11" · \$49.95

Publication Date: May 9, 2017 ISBN: 978-0-7892-1276-4

About the Contributors

The New York Botanical Garden hosts more than one million annual visitors to its 250-acre National Historic Landmark site, which features over one million living specimens, as well as one of the world's preeminent plant research and conservation programs. Founded in 1899, the Garden's Mertz Library is one of the largest, most comprehensive botanical libraries in the world.

David Allen Sibley is one of the world's best-known natural history illustrators and the author of acclaimed field guides, including *The Sibley Guide to Trees*, which have sold more than one million copies.

Gregory Long is Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden.

Susan M. Fraser is Vice President and Director of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library at The New York Botanical Garden.

Marta McDowell is a gardener, lecturer, and horticultural writer. Her books include *All the Presidents' Gardens* (2016) and *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life* (2013), winner of the Gold Award from the Garden Writers Association.

###

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.

Contact: Stevenson Swanson at 718.817.8512/8616; sswanson@nybg.org.