



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
October 26, 2009

**Original Pennsylvania Station Set for Reincarnation—
in The New York Botanical Garden’s *Holiday Train Show***

**Annual Extravaganza Showcasing Model Trains and New York Landmarks
Runs Saturday, November 21, 2009, through Sunday, January 10, 2010**



The holiday season is full of family traditions, and the *Holiday Train Show* is one of the most eagerly anticipated. The amazing display of New York landmark replicas created out of plant materials and enlivened by model trains returns to The New York Botanical Garden on Saturday, November 21, 2009, with familiar favorites from seasons past and spectacular additions to enchant audiences anew. Beloved by people of all ages, the popular exhibition will be on display in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory through January 10, 2010.

Using a multitude of diverse natural materials such as leaves, twigs, bark, berries, seeds, pine cones, nuts, and pods, *Holiday Train Show* designer Paul Busse and his team at Applied Imagination in Alexandria, Kentucky, have handcrafted dozens of replicas of historic New York landmarks since the show’s inception at the Botanical Garden 18 years ago. More than 100 of those model landmarks, from museums and mansions to ballparks and bridges, will be displayed in this season’s edition of the show.

Get Set for Most Exciting Replica Yet

The **original Pennsylvania Station (1910 – 1964)**, this year’s blockbuster addition to the *Holiday Train Show*, “could be our most exciting building yet” according to Paul Busse. The reincarnation of this major railroad hub is certainly one of the most appropriate ever for the show, which is acclaimed not only for the model trains, but also for the historic and architectural significance of the New York buildings and structures represented.

Six artists on Mr. Busse’s team have constructed his meticulously detailed replica of the building, which when it was built at West 34th Street and Eighth Avenue nearly a century ago, was greatly lauded for its Beaux Arts architecture. In his design of the replica, Mr. Busse scaled down the original Penn Station’s approximate eight-acre span to be about 20 square feet—and to fit into the Conservatory, which itself houses an acre of plants under glass. The elaborate botanical interpretation even features Penn Station’s “Grand Concourse”, set two feet above the replica’s street level, and a cutaway view to the train tracks beneath the station with a shuttling passenger train.

In the *Holiday Train Show* version of Penn Station, botanical building materials visitors will spy include columns made of honeysuckle, façade trim of sea grape leaves, peppercorns, viburnum, willow, and oak bark, and railings of screw pod, burning bush, willow, and acorn caps. The roof is magnolia and pine cone scales and the sky lights are burning bush and basket reed. The adorning eagles have white pine cone bodies, hemlock clove feet, magnolia bud feathers and acorn cap wings. The clocks are birch bark and wheat seeds and the statues have pistachio bodies and cedrela wings.

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Pennsylvania Station was demolished under controversy 46 years ago to make way for the fourth incarnation of Madison Square Garden. The station's demolition is considered to have been the catalyst for the enactment of New York City's first architectural preservation statutes.

Also new to this year's *Holiday Train Show* will be a rendition of the **Brooks Brothers flagship** located at 346 Madison Avenue at 44th Street in Manhattan. Founded in 1818 by Henry Sands Brooks as the first ready-to-wear fashion emporium in America, Brooks Brothers is the country's oldest clothing retailer, and its flagship store is a New York icon.

The Pennsylvania Station and Brooks Brothers building replicas will be placed among re-creations of other only-in-New York sights such as: the original Yankee Stadium, Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Radio City Music Hall—all made of plant parts.

Model Trains Provide a Thrill All Their Own

Although the landmark replicas could stand alone as a museum-quality exhibition, the model railway trains are also superstars in the *Holiday Train Show*. More than one dozen of these large-scale, so called "garden-gauge" trains, from late-1800s American steam engines and streetcars to whimsical ladybugs and circus cars to modern freight and high-speed passenger trains, traverse over bridges, under waterfalls, around mountains, and through tunnels to the delight of kids from 1 to 92.

A Destination for the Holidays

The holiday season at the Botanical Garden offers activities for the whole family. Children can enjoy *Gingerbread Adventures* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden and on select dates, puppet show presentations of *The Little Engine That Could*[™] in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall, and visits with *Thomas the Tank Engine*[™] on the Garden grounds.

During the *Holiday Train Show* regular Botanical Garden hours will be 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday. The Garden will have extended hours, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., on select Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays and during Christmas week: November 27, 28, 29, December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and January 1, 2, 3, 9, 10. The Garden will be open on Thanksgiving Day, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Garden will close at 3 p.m. on December 4 and 24 and will be closed all day on Christmas Day. Advance timed tickets may be purchased online at www.nybg.org beginning October 28. Check the Garden's Web site to plan your visit.

Founding Sponsors, Victoria and Robert Zoellner

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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.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS: During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 21, 2009–January 10, 2010, The New York Botanical Garden will be open 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday. Closed all day on December 25. Closing at 3 p.m. on December 4 and 24. Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., on select Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays and during the holiday week: November 27, 28, 29, December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and January 1, 2, 3, 9, 10.

PRICING:

NON-HOLIDAY: Adults \$20, Seniors/Students \$18, Children \$10.

HOLIDAY WEEK (December 26 – January 3): Adults \$25, Seniors/Students \$22, Children \$15.

Advance timed tickets are strongly advised and will be available online beginning November 2 at www.nybg.org

[http://www.nybg.org/](http://www.nybg.org). For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org

[http://www.nybg.org/](http://www.nybg.org).

Discounts available for groups of 15 or more. Contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687.

Bank of America credit, ATM, or debit cardholders: Purchase one full-priced adult ticket to the *Holiday Train Show* and get the second adult ticket at 50% off. Weekdays only 11/24/09 through 12/24/09. Other restrictions may apply. See Web site for details.

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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Images and video b-roll available