

For Immediate Release  
October 8, 2004

## **The New York Botanical Garden Celebrates Opening of Benenson Ornamental Conifers**

**Tours, Talks, and Demonstrations Intrigue, Educate, and Inspire  
Saturday, October 30, 2004**

### **Bird Walk—10:30 a.m.**

Join expert birder and ornithologist Starr Saphir for a walk through the beautifully restored Benenson Ornamental Conifers—a sanctuary for conifer-loving birds. Bring your binoculars!  
*Meets at the entrance to the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

### **Questions & Answers with the American Conifer Society—11 a.m.—4 p.m.**

Chat with members of the American Conifer Society and get answers to your questions about conifers.

*Meets at the Shop in the Garden.*

### **Restoration of the Benenson Ornamental Conifers Tour and Talk—11:30 a.m.**

The Garden's Associate Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections Todd Forrest gives an insider's view of the restoration of the collection, from protecting existing plants during construction to selecting new conifers, choosing appropriate planting locations, and planting specimens properly. *Meets at the entrance to the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

### **“Cultured Conifers: Rare Works from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library”— 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.**

Curator Marie Long leads tour of this exhibition, highlighted by botanical prints and rare books related to conifers. The exhibition illuminates the fascinating diversity of conifers, and their many uses, from culinary to medicinal, economic, and garden design.

*Meets in the Rondina and LoFaro Gallery of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library.*

### **“Witches’ Brooms & Marvelous Dwarfs”—1 p.m.**

Since 1963, Dr. Sidney Waxman, Professor Emeritus of the University of Connecticut has selected and introduced more than 30 new ornamental pines, hemlocks, larches, and Japanese Umbrella pine cultivars, many of which were grown from seed collected from witches' brooms. Dr. Waxman will discuss his research and highlight many of the beautiful conifers he has introduced, including some of the wonderful plants featured in the Benenson Ornamental Conifers. This presentation will be followed by a Q&A session in the new dwarf conifer beds.

*Meets at the Snuff Mill, across from the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

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**Questions & Answers with the Experts—1–4 p.m.**

Conifer experts Kurt Morrell, Director of Arboretum, Grounds, and Gardens for The New York Botanical Garden, Tim Steele of Tandy Farms, and Susan Martin, Curator of Conifers at The United States National Arboretum will be on hand to answer questions about conifers.  
*Meets at the entrance to the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

**Questions & Answers with the Expert—1:30–2:30 p.m.**

Join legendary plantsman Dr. Sidney Waxman, Professor Emeritus of the University of Connecticut for a special Q&A session.  
*Meets in the new dwarf conifer garden.*

**“Conifer Selection and Planting Techniques”—1:30 and 4 p.m.**

Sonia Uyterhoeven, Gardener for Public Programs at The New York Botanical Garden guides you in choosing the right conifers for your garden or terrace and provides care and maintenance tips.  
*Meets at the entrance to the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

**Conifer Walk and Booksigning—2 p.m.**

Join author and conifer expert, Adrian Bloom, for a walk through the Benenson Ornamental Conifers followed by a signing of his much-treasured book, *Gardening with Conifers*.  
*Meets at the entrance to the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

**“Dwarf Conifers and Container Planting”—3 p.m.**

George Smith from Blue Sterling Nursery will display many dwarf conifers including sun and shade varieties. He will demonstrate how to create a variety of container plantings with these lovely specimens.  
*Meets at the entrance to the Benenson Ornamental Conifers.*

*An Acoustiguide with highlights from the Benenson Ornamental Conifers will be available.  
This audiotour may be picked up at the Leon Levy Visitor Center or at the  
Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.*

*The restoration of the Benenson Ornamental Conifers was made possible  
by Mr. and Mrs. James Benenson, Jr.*

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and on Monday holidays, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. November through March. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *Garden Passport* that includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Tram Tour, and Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and costs \$13 for adults, \$11 for students and seniors, \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free all day Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information call 718. 817. 8700 or visit our Web site at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

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