



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

**BACKGROUNDER:
EXPERTS AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN**

The following is a list of New York Botanical Garden experts involved in *The Edible Garden*, the summer-long celebration of growing great food.

HORTICULTURE

Todd Forrest

Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections

Todd Forrest is responsible for the Horticulture Division's programs and activities, including overseeing the grounds, all 50 gardens and living collections, flower shows and exhibitions, and a staff of 80 managers, curators, gardeners, and community horticulturists. In addition, he advises on long-term strategy for the Garden's 250-acre landscape.

An expert advocate for historic trees, forests, and urban landscapes, Forrest is also an instructor of ornamental woody plants and has written many articles and interpretative materials. He joined The New York Botanical Garden in 1997, first as an intern and then as a research assistant, before becoming a vital part of the horticulture staff in 1999.

Previously, Forrest worked at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. A graduate of Wesleyan University, he has a Master of Forest Science degree from Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Francisca Coelho

Associate Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions

Francisca Coelho leads all Conservatory exhibition-related planning and implementation for the Horticulture Division and is best known for her plantsmanship and management skills in developing the high-profile shows in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

Coelho came to the Garden as a student in the School of Professional Horticulture and joined the staff in 1981, serving as an assistant gardener before joining the Plant Records office. In 1985 she moved to the glasshouses and in 2005 became Director of Glasshouses and Senior Curator. She was deeply involved in the restoration of the Conservatory and instrumental in moving the Garden's research collections and plant production operations from the Propagation Range to the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections.

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Kristin Schleiter

Curator of Herbaceous Collections and Outdoor Gardens

Kristin Schleiter is working on a number of new garden installations as well the established Perennial Garden and Ladies' Border. Formerly, she was an associate at Lindquist Landscape Design and the Garden Editor for the Martha Stewart Living television show. She got her start in horticulture at Oliver Nurseries, a specialty nursery located in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Marc Hachadourian

Manager of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections

Marc Hachadourian is responsible for overseeing the Nolen Greenhouses' state-of-the-art climate control systems, developing and implementing best practices for plant production, and supervising the horticulturists who grow plants for exhibitions, seasonal displays, and living collections.

He began his career at the Botanical Garden in 2000 as a gardener in the Propagation Range and in 2005 was promoted to Curator of Glasshouse Collections, where he was instrumental in the success of the Garden's exhibitions and in facilitating the use of the glasshouse collections by Garden scientists.

Hachadourian received his B.S. in horticulture from Cornell University in 1995 and afterward worked as a horticulturist at Waterford Gardens, a premier aquatic plant nursery in New Jersey.

PUBLIC EDUCATION**Jeffrey Downing**

Vice President for Education

Jeffrey Downing oversees the Garden's three educational departments: School of Professional Horticulture, Continuing Education, and Children's Education. Through classes related to *The Edible Garden*, students of all ages can learn about nutrition and the value of domesticated species like peppers and beans to our lives as well as techniques on growing herbs, vegetables, and other delicious food.

He came to the Botanical Garden in 1999 as Manager of Student Services, was promoted to Associate Director for Student Services in 2003, and the following year became Director of Continuing Education.

Downing began his career as a teacher trainer, instructor, and manager for Kaplan Education Center in New Haven, Connecticut. He graduated with an economics degree from Trinity College and a Master of Arts degree from Yale University.

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Jennifer Rothman

Associate Vice President for Children's and Public Education

Jennifer Rothman provides leadership, direction, and supervision for all aspects of Children's Education, including programs and facilities, professional development, and curriculum development. In addition she spearheads the Garden's public education interpretation planning and implementation.

Since coming to the Botanical Garden in 2002, she has held the positions of Manager of Public and School Programs and Director of Public Programs for which she was responsible for developing activities and exhibitions for families and school groups.

Previously, Rothman worked for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo as the Director of Education and Interim Director. She holds a biology degree with a concentration in environmental science from Colby College and a Master of Arts degree in museum studies with a focus in public programming from John F. Kennedy University.

Sonia Uyterhoeven

Gardener for Public Education

Gardening Program Coordinator, Continuing Education

Sonia Uyterhoeven is best known for the practical tips and how-to advice she offers visitors during her weekly demonstrations in the Home Gardening Center, where she is also a gardener, combining her background in both education and horticulture.

A Harvard University graduate, she studied and worked as a historian of science at Harvard and the University of Cambridge prior to training as a horticulturist at Cambridge.

She interned at the New England Wildflower Society where she was responsible for garden maintenance, tours, and lectures, was a Putnam Fellow at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, and received the Marco Stufano Fellowship at the Garden Conservancy.

Toby Adams

Manager of the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden

Toby Adams oversees the staff and programming in the Howell Family Garden, where children and families learn to garden through hands-on activities such as planting, cultivating, and harvesting vegetables and flowers.

Prior to this, Adams worked in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, where he coordinated, trained, and supervised interns, explainers, and volunteers and worked with the public.

He came to the Botanical Garden in 2001 as a science education intern in the GreenSchool. He holds a B.S. in biology from the State University of New York College at Geneseo.

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SCIENCE

Michael J. Balick, Ph.D.

Vice President for Botanical Science, Director and Philecology Curator, Institute of Economic Botany

For nearly three decades Michael Balick has studied the relationship between plants and people, working with traditional cultures in tropical, subtropical, and desert environments. He is an ethnobotany specialist, working with indigenous cultures to document their plant knowledge, understand the environmental effects of their traditional management systems, and develop sustainable utilization systems, while ensuring that the benefits of such work are always shared with local communities. Dr. Balick also conducts research in New York City, studying traditional healing practices in ethnic communities of the urban environment.

In 1981 he co-founded the Garden's Institute of Economic Botany with Sir Ghilleen Prance. It has become the largest and most active program of its kind in the nation and includes an interdisciplinary staff of biological and social scientists.

Dr. Balick is the author of more than 16 scientific and general interest books and monographs. He has published more than 90 scientific papers and contributed to nearly 30 horticultural and general interest publications.

Amy Litt, Ph.D.

Director of Plant Genomics and Cullman Curator

Amy Litt's interests are in the mechanisms that underlie the evolutionary origin of new plant forms. Her work combines phylogenetic, morphologic, molecular, and genomic techniques to discover how evolutionary changes in gene structure and function have produced the wide array of plant forms we see around us.

Dr. Litt's new projects include trying to trace the domestication history of eggplant, using population genomic techniques to look at ecologically important questions such as climate change, studying plant development and evolution, and continuing the research begun in her dissertation work on floral morphology of Vochysiaceae, a family of evergreen flowering plants.

Scott A. Mori, Ph.D.

Nathaniel Lord Britton Curator of Botany

Scott Mori's major research emphasis has been on the taxonomy and ecology of New World tropical rain forest trees. He is an expert on the Brazil nut (*Lecythidaceae*) family and on the lowland Amazonian flora. Much of his research focuses on the relationships among plants and animals in tropical forests.

He and his collaborators were awarded the prestigious Engler Medal in Silver for 2002 by the International Association of Plant Taxonomists for their illustrated *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central French Guiana*. He is a co-editor of the *Flowering Plants of the Neotropics*.

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Dr. Mori was Director of the Institute of Systematic Botany at the Garden from 1995–2001. He is a former Executive Director of Flora Neotropica, a Fellow of the Explorers Club, a past President of the Torrey Botanical Society and current member of the Council of the Society, and an adjunct professor at the City University of New York, the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation centered at Columbia University, and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Dr. Mori was recently awarded the David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration and the Asa Gray award by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists for lifetime achievement for his study of the classification of New World tropical plants.

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