

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2007

The New York Botanical Garden Celebrates the Caribbean With a Full Complement of Programming

Caribbean Festival Events for May and June 2007

As part of its four-month-long festival of tropical gardens and culture, The New York Botanical Garden is offering a wide selection of programs, from music, food, and dance presentations to tours and home gardening demonstrations. With over fifty events scheduled for the months of May and June, Caribbean Gardens: Journey to Paradise celebrates the diversity of Caribbean culture.

Docent-Led Tours

Saturdays and Sundays in June

Tours in the Conservatory, courtyards, and library will provide an in-depth look at the *Caribbean Gardens: Journey to Paradise* and *Paradise in Print* exhibitions.

Expert-Led Tours

Saturdays in May and June, at 2:30 p.m.

Join a curator of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library who will provide details about *Paradise in Print*, the botanical art exhibit in the Rondina and LoFaro Gallery.

Question and Answer Sessions with the Experts

Saturdays and Sundays in May, at 1–4 p.m.

Experts are on hand at Shop in the Garden to answer questions about tropical plants in an informal setting.

Home Gardening Demonstrations

Saturdays and Sundays, at 1:30 p.m.

Every weekend, learn how to take care of your home garden through enlightening demonstrations presented by the Botanical Garden's Gardener for Public Programs.

- **Colorful Caribbean Containers**, May 5 and 6
Bask in the colors of the Caribbean by creating your own tropical containers. Gardener for Public Programs Sonia Uyterhoeven takes you through container basics and offers suggestions for exotic displays.
- **Global Gardening: Combining Tropicals with Perennials**, May 12 and 13
Are you interested in jazzing up your perennial border this season? Gardener for Public Programs Sonia Uyterhoeven suggests some exotic alternatives for your borders.
- **Looking Good in the Tropics: Basic Design Principles**, May 19 and 20
From courtyard gardens to tapestries of lavish color and bold foliage, learn simple design principles that will help you create a tropical paradise in your own garden.
- **Community Action: Street Trees and Tree Pit Plantings**, May 26 and 27
Gardener for Public Programs Sonia Uyterhoeven discusses some street trees that are commonly used in the New York area. Learn how to beautify your street by selecting trees that work well in an urban environment. Tree pit planting and tree pit guards will also be discussed.

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Caribbean Cultural Program

(The following events take place in the Conservatory courtyards unless otherwise noted.)

Caribbean Music and Dance

Saturday, May 5, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

Be entertained by Ilu Aye and the rhythms of traditional Dominican music. Trained by master musicians from the islands and versed in sacred and popular rhythms such as bata, guiro, and rumba (Cuba); bomba and plena (Puerto Rico); and palos, salves, and kongos (Dominican Republic), Ilu Aye is dedicated to preserving and promulgating the rich cultural legacy of Africa in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Taste of the Caribbean

Saturday, May 5, at 12:30 p.m.

Stop by the Conservatory courtyards to watch a cooking demonstration and sample some traditional Puerto Rican home cooking.

Behind-the-Scenes in the Steere Herbarium

Saturday, May 5, at 2:30 p.m.

Join the Administrative Curator of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium for a rare behind-the-scenes look at what goes on behind those windowless walls. Learn the centuries-old process of preparing plant specimens in the mounting room, observe modern herbarium techniques in the digital imaging lab, and gape at one of the largest collections of plant and fungi specimens from around the world. Space on the tour is limited to the first 15 people.

Meets at the Library Building's Orchid Rotunda

Caribbean Music and Dance

Sunday, May 6, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

Enjoy the afternoon with the entertaining sounds of Meta and the Cornerstones. Meta Diya's music embodies the influence of Reggae music worldwide. His music consists of positive messages and lyrics in French, English, and his traditional language, Walof.

Caribbean Crafts

Sunday, May 6, at 12:30 p.m.

Celebrating and preserving the craft of her family, Sandra Bell designs Carnival costumes and African masquerades. She will talk about her craft and invite audience participation to turn fabric into flair.

Taste of the Caribbean

Sunday, May 6, at 2:30 p.m.

Watch Jamaican Chef, Roland Brummer, as he flavors his delicious dishes with spices from the Caribbean.

Caribbean Music and Dance

Saturday, May 12, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

Come enjoy the sights and sounds of Something Positive. Utilizing a unique blend of poetry, storytelling, theater, music, and dance, Something Positive specializes in multi-media performing art presentation.

Caribbean Storytelling

Saturday, May 12, at 12:30 p.m.

Visitors young and old will be enchanted as they listen to Bobby Gonzalez spin Taino Indian and Caribbean folktales about flowers, nature, and traditional Caribbean culture.

Caribbean Music and Dance

Sunday, May 13, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

Known for his melodic and percussive style, Ray Martinez of Sabor Criollo has been considered one of the most gifted and prominent bassist/arrangers in contemporary Latin and salsa music. Hear his sweet sounds among the *Caribbean Gardens* at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

Taste of the Caribbean

Sunday, May 13, at 12:30 & 2:30 p.m.

Chris Fisk, author of *Sneaky Veggies*, demonstrates how to make cooking and dinner time fun for kids of all ages. She will whip up some simple Caribbean recipes for you to sample and try again at home.

At Shop in the Garden

Caribbean Music and Dance

Sunday, May 19, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

The Side Street Kids are a not-for-profit group that empower youth cultural awareness through Mambo and Salsa dance. The Side Street Kids have performed regularly in festivals and venues such as Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and have toured throughout Italy, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Caribbean-inspired Silk Flower Arranging

Saturday, May 19, at 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to capture the Caribbean gardens in a tropical flower arrangement. Discover how to arrange brightly colored silk and dried flowers in Caribbean-inspired pottery and baskets.

Caribbean Music and Dance

Sunday, May 20, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

CASYM Steel Orchestra is one of the most successful Steel Pan Orchestras in New York. These 2005 Panorama winners have traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean and have performed with jazz legend Lionel Hampton, the Harlem Boys choir, the Calypso King of the World – the Mighty Sparrow, and Calypsonian David Rudder.

Taste of the Caribbean

Sunday, May 20, at 12:30 & 2:30 p.m.

Stop by the Conservatory courtyards to watch a cooking demonstration and sample some traditional Puerto Rican home cooking.

Caribbean Music and Dance

Saturday, May 26, at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

Kongo is dedicated to promoting a better understanding of Afro-Haitian music, culture, and history, and believes that the artist's role is to bring people together to make positive change. Hear the music among the *Caribbean Gardens* at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

Taste of the Caribbean

Saturday, May 26, 12:30 p.m.

Stop by the Conservatory courtyards to watch a cooking demonstration and sample some traditional Puerto Rican home cooking.

Caribbean Music and Dance

Sunday, May 27 at 12, 1, and 3 p.m.

Blazin Fire Tassa Crew is a community based organization dedicated to teaching and preserving Indo-Caribbean art and culture. This group of young Trinidadian musicians has performed in the United States and in Trinidad.

Taste of the Caribbean

Sunday, May 27, at 12:30 & 2:30 p.m.

Stop by the Conservatory courtyards to watch a cooking demonstration and sample some traditional Puerto Rican home cooking.

The Culinary History of the Caribbean

June 9, at 1 p.m.

Take a journey around the world, learning the culinary history of the Caribbean and its ties to Africa and beyond. Jessica Harris, author of *Sky Juice and Flying Fish: Traditional Caribbean Cooking*, offers an enthusiastic and enticing introduction to the lively array of cuisines found in the Caribbean islands. She reveals the unique tastes of different islands through her slides and stories.

Caribbean Storytelling

Sunday, June 17, at 2:30 p.m.

Visitors young and old will be enchanted as they listen to Bobby Gonzalez spin Taino Indian and Caribbean folktales about flowers, nature, and traditional Caribbean culture.

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Exhibitions in the Mertz Library are made possible by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, William D. Rondina and The Carlisle Collection, and The Kurt Berliner Foundation.

For more information, visit www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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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. The Botanical Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April through October. PRICING: \$18, Seniors/Students \$16, Children \$5. Advance tickets are available online at www.nybg.org. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org

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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