

For Immediate Release
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The New York Botanical Garden Hosts Climate Change Symposium

Al Gore Will Deliver Keynote Address

September 15, 2006 at the Equitable Center in Manhattan

Leading scientists and experts on the critical issue of climate change will present the latest data and interpretations in a special half-day, public symposium in Manhattan, followed by a panel discussion of compelling scientific issues facing life on Earth. The morning concludes with a keynote address delivered by the Honorable Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States and author of *An Inconvenient Truth*. The symposium will be held on Friday, September 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Auditorium at the AXA Equitable Center, 787 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

The symposium, "Climate Change: Prospects for Nature," has been organized by The New York Botanical Garden and Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., editor of *Climate Change and Biodiversity*, an important work that summarizes the most recent scientific research and current thinking on global warming.

Kim E. Tripp, Ph.D., Director of The New York Botanical Garden, observes, "We're approaching this topic in the positive spirit of promoting professional discussion and public dialogue. The symposium will focus on the science behind this serious environmental problem and the significant opportunity it poses for humankind right now. We hope to raise awareness and stimulate future discussion by clearly presenting what is known and not known and assisting in efforts to develop an effective response to climate change phenomena."

The latest data and interpretations

During "Climate Change: Prospects for Nature," eminent scientists will present fresh, relevant scientific data; panelists will provide context and perspective; and Mr. Gore's keynote address will set forth powerful evidence that this bout of climate change is not merely part of natural cycles.

Featured speaker Dr. Lovejoy will open the session with welcoming remarks and introduction of the other presenters, who include Cameron P. Wake, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Climate Change Research Center, University of New Hampshire; David W. Wolfe, Ph.D., Professor of Plant Ecology, Department of Horticulture, Cornell University; and Elizabeth Kolbert, author of the series "The Climate of Man," published by *The New Yorker*.

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Dr. Lovejoy will also moderate the roundtable discussion among the panelists, who include Frances Beinecke, President of the Natural Resources Defense Council; Peter C. Goldmark, Jr., Director of the Climate and Air Program at Environmental Defense; Stephen B. Heintz, President of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Adam Markham, Executive Director and Founder of Clean Air–Cool Planet; and Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*.

The symposium will draw attention to the serious need for dissemination and discussion of scientific knowledge in order to advance international, national, and local climate change efforts.

Admission to “Climate Change: Prospects for Nature” is \$35 per person; \$20 for members of The New York Botanical Garden; and \$15 for students (with valid ID). Seats are limited. Register by phone at 718.817.8747; fax at 718.817.8666; or mail.

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The New York Botanical Garden is an advocate for the plant kingdom. The Garden pursues its mission through its role as a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes across its National Historic Landmark site; through its comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science; and through the wide-ranging research programs of the International Plant Science Center.

The buildings and grounds of The New York Botanical Garden are owned by the City of New York. A portion of the Garden’s general operating funds is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, 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.

The New York Botanical Garden is located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. The Botanical Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. During the *Chihuly at The New York Botanical Garden* exhibition, which continues through October 29, 2006, the Botanical Garden is open 10 a.m.–6 p.m. For more information about the Botanical Garden, including directions, admissions pricing, and programming specifics, please visit www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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