

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2008

Earth Day is FREE at The New York Botanical Garden

**Free Admission and Free Programming Throughout the Day
Tuesday, April 22, 2008**

The New York Botanical Garden is offering free All-Garden admission to all visitors on Earth Day, April 22, 2008. Free demonstrations, tours, and other programming are scheduled throughout the day as part of the global observance of environmental awareness. April 22 is also Corporate Volunteer Day at the Garden and dozens of volunteers from HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and Mitsubishi International Corporation will dedicate their time and efforts to help clean the Garden's historic Forest.

Earth Day, originated by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970 and now observed throughout the world, is intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. The New York Botanical Garden is a steward of 250 acres of National Historic Landscape, including 50 gardens and plant collections. The Botanical Garden serves its mission as an advocate for the plant kingdom through its comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science and through the wide-ranging research programs of the International Plant Science Center.

New Cell Phone Tour

On April 22, The New York Botanical Garden will launch its cell phone tour on the topic *Climate Change and Sustainability at the Garden*. Visitors can take a walk around the Garden grounds enhanced by an interpretive cell phone tour and learn about how Botanical Garden research contributes to the study of climate change, the challenges that face the Garden's horticulturists, and what action the Garden is taking to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Audio Tours sponsored by

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Free Gardening Demonstrations

In the Home Gardening Center, visitors can discover how to make their lives a little bit greener.

- 1:30 p.m. **Home Gardening Demonstration: *Celebrating a Green Planet***
Before the planet can be green, it needs to be brown. Sonia Uytterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, covers the fundamentals of gardening. She demonstrates and discusses ways to make your own home brew of compost and compost tea.
- 2–4 p.m. **Composting Q&A with Bronx Green-Up Master Composters**
Jodie Colon of the Botanical Garden's Bronx Green-Up program leads this question-and-answer session, explaining how everyone can create and use compost to aid their home gardens.
- 2:30–4 p.m. **Vegetable Gardening Q & A**
Sonia Uytterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, answers visitor questions about best practices for growing fresh vegetables in home gardens.

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Free Guided Tours

Experts and docents share their knowledge with visitors in tours scheduled throughout the day.
All tours meet at the Reflecting Pool in the Leon Levy Visitor Center.

- 11 a.m. **Forest Tour** with Todd Forrest, Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections
- 12 p.m. **Notable Trees Tour** with Jessica Arcate, Associate Curator of Woody Plants
(featuring the plantings of MillionTreesNYC volunteer efforts in which 500 trees are being planted at The New York Botanical Garden in April 2008 as part of “MillionTreesNYC” Month, in addition to the normally scheduled spring plantings at the Botanical Garden.)
- 1 p.m. **Docent Tour: *Forest***
- 3 p.m. **Docent Tour: *Climate Change and Sustainability at the Garden***
- 4 p.m. **Peak Flower Collection Tour** with Joanna Payne, Curator of the Rock Garden

Free Family Programs

The entire family can celebrate Earth Day together with these kid-friendly activities.

- 1:30–5:30 p.m. **In the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden**
Plant tree seedlings to take home, recycle garden waste and make compost, and make friends with all the plants in the Children’s Adventure Garden. Also, get a sneak peak of the family activities planned for the Garden’s spring exhibition, *Darwin’s Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure*. Delve into Charles Darwin’s discoveries and learn about his groundbreaking work in uncovering some of nature’s greatest mysteries. Children can conduct an experiment to explore how seeds travel by water, create herbarium specimens, and experience Darwin’s voyage aboard the HMS *Beagle*.
- 1–5:30 p.m. **In the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden**
Participate in *Wake Up, Garden!* Enjoy the plantings of colorful spring bulbs and recycle winter debris into a nature craft to take home.

Corporate Volunteer Day

Corporate volunteers from HSBC Bank USA, N.A., and Mitsubishi International Corporation will participate in a Forest Clean-Up Day.

The environment has been a long-standing concern for HSBC; indeed, the company is now donating over \$100 million to environmental causes globally and has moved beyond reactive engagement to proactively including sustainability as a core part of its overall business. In addition to incorporating the environment into its business practices, HSBC also actively promotes employee involvement and volunteerism for a variety of environmental activities throughout the year, including Earth Day and Hands on New York Day.

Respect for the environment and community service are important aspects of Mitsubishi International Corporation's (MIC's) overall commitment to corporate social responsibility. By encouraging its employees to participate in volunteer activities that support environmental causes, MIC seeks to help cultivate a deeper appreciation for nature, while also instilling in its employees a sense of civic duty.

Visit the Information Table in the Leon Levy Visitor Center to learn how to participate in upcoming volunteer opportunities at The New York Botanical Garden.

Find out more about The New Botanical Garden's sustainability efforts and how everyone can contribute in their own way by visiting NYBG.org.

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Greening the Garden sponsored by Con Edison

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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 year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. The Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock and Native Plant Gardens, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$7 for children ages 2–12, Members and children under 2 are free. (APRIL 8–24 ONLY: \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students with ID, \$5 for children ages 2–12, Members and children under 2 are free.) A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit 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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