



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
October 30, 2008

***Gingerbread Adventures* Returns to the Botanical Garden
with New Look and Additional Activity to Entertain and Teach Children
about Plant Ingredients in the Sweet and Spicy Holiday Treat**

Sunday, November 23, 2008–Sunday, January 11, 2009

In the hands-on *Gingerbread Adventures* program at The New York Botanical Garden, children can learn about the different plant parts used in creating the favorite holiday snack, gingerbread. From November 23, 2008, through January 11, 2009, in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, youngsters will be amazed to discover that cinnamon comes from the bark of a tree, ginger is derived from an underground stem, and more. They'll have an opportunity to grind and examine gingerbread ingredients under a microscope and develop a field notebook about their visit.

New this season, children will be able to decorate pots with faces and plant wheat seeds that will quickly grow into a miniature head of wheat hair at home and be a fun, living reminder that flour, a key ingredient in gingerbread, is derived from a plant.

Gingerbread Adventures aficionados are in for a treat in addition to their personally decorated gingersnap cookie. Gone are the topiary bunnies that were a hallmark of the program in years past. Vibrant vignettes of a gingerbread town will deck the halls of the Discovery Center where *Gingerbread Adventures* takes place. A gingerbread jazz band, ice skaters, and farmer are among the colorful characters that will be displayed having adventures of their own. The popular gingerbread playhouse will remain in the Discovery Center Plaza for outdoor fun.

While in the Adventure Garden, families will also enjoy viewing the display of gingerbread houses. Some of New York's best and most imaginative bakers will prepare an exhibit of whimsical one-of-a-kind gingerbread creations sure to capture the imaginations of children and adults alike, while evoking all the wonder of the winter holiday season.

This year's bakers:

Jill Adams, from The Cake Studio in Brooklyn, will create an indoor scene depicting gingerbread people at work and play in a bakery, icing cakes, baking cookies, and gearing up for the holidays.

Kaye and Liv Hansen, a mother-daughter team and co-owners of the Riviera Bakehouse in Ardsley, New York, will prepare a barnyard scene complete with a barn, haystacks, farm animals, and of course, a gingerbread farmer.

Mark Randazzo, from Mark Joseph Cakes in Brooklyn, will design an old-fashioned New York firehouse, with a winter scene of a fire truck, firemen, and children playing in the snow.

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Kate Sullivan, owner of LovinSullivanCakes, based in Manhattan, will present an upside-down house with gingerbread people attempting to turn it right side up.

Mark Tasker, from Soho's Balthazar Restaurant, plans a grand ballroom with a working chandelier crafted of poured sugar and featuring gingerbread men and women dressed in ball gowns and tuxedos dancing on a moving dance floor.

Gingerbread Adventures is a fun and educational component of the entire holiday experience at the Botanical Garden and a great interactive complement to the annual *Holiday Train Show* in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, which features large-scale model trains traversing replicas of New York landmarks made from plant parts.

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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.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS: During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 23–January 11, The New York Botanical Garden will be open 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday. Closed all day on November 27 and December 25. Closing at 3 p.m. on December 5 and December 24. Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays and during Christmas week: November 28, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and January 1, 2.

PRICING: Adults \$20, Seniors/Students \$18, Children \$10. Advance timed tickets are strongly advised and 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.

Media Contacts:

Dachell McSween, 718.817.8136/8616 or dmcsween@nybg.org or
Melinda Manning or 718.817.8616/8659; mmanning@nybg.org

Images available