

For Immediate Release
November 8, 2007

Holiday Train Show Returns with Replicas of Ellis Island and the George Washington Bridge

Popular Seasonal Attraction Opens the Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 23, 2007–Sunday, January 13, 2008

The holiday season is full of family traditions, and the *Holiday Train Show* is one of the most eagerly anticipated. The wonderful and impressive collection of landmark replicas along winding train tracks returns to The New York Botanical Garden on Friday, November 23, 2007, with many familiar favorites from seasons past and some spectacular additional structures to amaze audiences anew. Beloved by people of all ages, this popular exhibition will be on display in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory through January 13, 2008. Added to this year's show will be renditions of the George Washington Bridge and Ellis Island.

Using a multitude of diverse natural materials such as leaves, twigs, bark, berries, seeds, pine cones, gourds, and other botanical resources, the show's designer, Paul Busse, and his team at Applied Imagination, have handcrafted more than 140 detailed replicas of historic New York landmarks since the show's inception 16 years ago. Large-gauge model railway trains and trolleys enliven meticulously crafted city, suburban, and long-since-forgotten scenes as they chug across trestles, over bridges, and through tunnels.

Ellis Island is perhaps the foremost symbol of America's immigrant experience. From 1892 to 1954, nearly 12 million people landed there in a quest for freedom of speech and religion and economic opportunity. Most of those individuals were processed in the Main Building, an impressive French Renaissance structure in red brick and limestone trim, which opened in 1900 and today is the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Visitors will be awed by the easily recognizable, botanically interpreted replica.

The **George Washington Bridge** was called the most beautiful bridge in the world by celebrated architect Le Corbusier (1887–1965). The 4,760-foot suspension bridge is highly identifiable by the steelwork of its towers. These were designed to be covered with concrete and granite, but the plan was changed when the beauty of the steel skeleton was revealed. The George Washington Bridge replica will assume its rightful place in the remarkable showcase of iconic New York structures as the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the actual bridge comes to a close.

These two new additions to the *Holiday Train Show* will be placed among recreations of other iconic New York sights such as: the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, the original Yankee Stadium, and many more—all made of plant parts.

The holiday season at the Botanical Garden offers activities for the whole family. Children can enjoy *Gingerbread Adventures* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden and the holiday puppet theater presentations of *The Little Engine That Could*™ in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall. Shop in the Garden, a beautifully festive destination in itself, will offer a wide selection of superb holiday gifts and large-gauge holiday train sets, starter sets, and train toys for sale.

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“Holiday Nights at the Garden” is also new this year. These 12 special holiday evenings will be held from 6–9 p.m. on November 23, 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 26–31: opening day and the first Saturday, all Saturdays in December, plus the holiday week ending with New Year’s Evening. These special evenings will provide an opportunity for enjoyment of the *Holiday Train Show* at night, when the exhibition is most stunning and magical. Holiday lights, caroling performances, treats such as cider, hot chocolate, and gingerbread, and themed family suppers in the Garden Cafe will combine for a delightful holiday experience reminiscent of the days of old.

During the *Holiday Train Show* regular Botanical Garden hours will be Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Botanical Garden is closed on Christmas Day and closes at 3 p.m. on Friday, December 7 and Monday, December 24. **The Garden will be open on Monday, December 31.**

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Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.

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.

HOURS: November 23–January 13, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday. The Botanical Garden is closed on Christmas Day and closes at 3 p.m. on December 7 and 24. The Garden will be open on Monday, December 31.

“HOLIDAY NIGHTS AT THE GARDEN”: November 23 and 24 and December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 26–31; 6–9 p.m.: opening day and the first Saturday, all Saturdays in December, plus the holiday week ending with New Year’s Evening.

PRICING FOR THE HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW:

Adults: \$20, Seniors/Students with ID: \$18, Children ages 2–12: \$7, Children under 2: free.

Advance timed tickets are strongly advised and are available online at www.nybg.org

A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available on-site: \$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 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 Contact: Melinda Manning 718.817.8659/8616 or mmanning@nybg.org; images available