

For Immediate Release  
November 8, 2007

**Leaves and Seeds and Twigs and Bark...  
That's What New York Landmarks are Made of**

**Visit the Botanical Garden's 16th annual *Holiday Train Show*  
and See for Yourself**

**Friday, November 23, 2007, through Sunday, January 13, 2008**

Along the train routes of the annual *Holiday Train Show* at The New York Botanical Garden are dozens of interpretive replicas of landmark buildings, towering skyscrapers, historic homes, and other famous New York structures. All have been meticulously handcrafted of leaves, twigs, bark, seeds, pine cones, gourds, and other plant materials by Paul Busse and his team at Applied Imagination in Alexandria, Kentucky.

Each replica takes many months to research, design, and craft, and each year the collection of structures grows. More than 140 replicas will be on display in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the Botanical Garden's Victorian-style glasshouse, when the *Holiday Train Show* opens on November 23, 2007, the day after Thanksgiving.

Some of the natural building blocks used to construct botanically-interpreted versions of Ellis Island and the George Washington Bridge—the new additions to the 16-year-old favorite holiday exhibition—are indicated in *italics* here.

The stonework for the Main Building of the **Ellis Island** replica is *elm bark*. The steps are *sea grape leaves* as are the wooden doors, which also feature *gourd seeds*. The window mullions are *winged euonymus twigs*. Corbels are *gourd seeds*, *peppercorns*, *grapevine tendrils*, and *eucalyptus pods*. The eagles have *alder cone* bodies with *spruce cone scale* wings and *clove* feet. The eagle perch is *nuts* with *cloves* and *raffia*. The towers are comprised of *fungus*, *hemlock cones*, *spruce cones*, *winged euonymus branches*, and several varieties of *pine cone scales*. The roof is made of *gourds*, *date vines*, and *whole acorns*.

The recreation of the “most beautiful bridge in the world,” the **George Washington Bridge**, is crafted from *willow*, *bamboo*, and *cedar bark*.

Featured in a vignette with Ellis Island this season will be a replica of the **Statue of Liberty**, which made its *Holiday Train Show* debut in 2001. Lady Liberty's robes are made from *palm fronds* and *grasses*, her necklace from *wheat stalks*, and her torch flame is a dried *monarch flower* inside a *pomegranate half*.

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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](http://www.nybg.org) or by phone at 212.721.6500.

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](http://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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