

## **“In Celebration of Plant Science” Program Marks Grand Opening of the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory**

*May 16–21, 2006*

The New York Botanical Garden will observe the grand opening of its new state-of-the-art Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory with a multi-day program, “In Celebration of Plant Science.” The festivities begin on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, with the dedication of the Pfizer Laboratory. They continue through the following weekend with behind-the-scenes tours open to the public, lectures, demonstrations, a *Café Scientifique*, family and children’s programs, and other events.

### **Tuesday, May 16**

#### **Grand Opening of the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory**

##### **Dedication of the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory**

11 a.m. Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

##### **Public Tours**

10 a.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist

12 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist

1 p.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (*A World of Plants*)

2 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist

2:30 p.m. Library Building Highlights (Orchid Rotunda, Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery, *Plants and Fungi: Ten Current Research Stories* exhibition, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, *Dutch Watercolors: The Great Age of the Leiden Botanical Garden* exhibition) – led by docent

3 p.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (*A World of Plants*) – led by docent

3:30 p.m. Library Building Highlights (Orchid Rotunda, Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery, *Plants and Fungi* exhibition, Mertz Library, *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition)

##### **Hands-on Discovery Programs for the Whole Family**

Ongoing programs throughout “In Celebration of Plant Science” in the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden and the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden

1:30 – 3 p.m. Budding Botanists (Children’s Adventure Garden) *Tuesday – Friday only*

1:30 – 5:30 p.m. Mud, Buds, and Butterflies (Children’s Adventure Garden) *Tuesday – Friday; 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday*

1 – 5:30 p.m. Wild Wiggly Worms (Family Garden) *Tuesday – Sunday*

### **Wednesday, May 17**

#### **Science campus visits by area middle school students and public tours**

##### **Visits by Middle School Students**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pre-arranged behind-the-scenes tours for middle school classes. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery tour covers science learning concepts under national, state, and city standards. Pfizer Laboratory tour includes a scanning electron microscope, growth chambers for genomics research, and DNA collections.

**Public Tours** *Led by docents*

- 1 p.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (*A World of Plants*)  
2:30 p.m. Library Building Highlights (Orchid Rotunda, Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery, *Plants and Fungi* exhibition, Mertz Library, *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition)  
3 p.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (*A World of Plants*)  
3:30 p.m. Library Building Highlights (Orchid Rotunda, Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery, *Plants and Fungi* exhibition, Mertz Library, *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition)

**Thursday, May 18**

**Science campus visits by area middle school students and public tours**

**Visits by Middle School Students**

- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pre-arranged behind-the-scenes tours for middle school classes. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery tour covers science learning concepts under national, state, and city standards. Pfizer Laboratory tour includes a scanning electron microscope, growth chambers for genomics research, and DNA collections.

**Public Tours** *Led by docents*

- 1 p.m. Forest  
2:30 p.m. Library Building Highlights (Orchid Rotunda, Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery, *Plants and Fungi* exhibition, Mertz Library, *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition)  
3 p.m. Native Plant Garden  
3:30 p.m. Library Building Highlights (Orchid Rotunda, Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery, *Plants and Fungi* exhibition, Mertz Library, *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition)

**Friday, May 19**

**Theme for the day: Welcome to Plant Science**

**Public Tours**

- 11 a.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist (Dr. Eric Brenner)  
12 p.m. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery – led by docent  
1 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist (Dr. Larry Kelly)  
2 p.m. *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition – led by Library staff  
3 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist (Dr. Damon Little)  
4 p.m. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery – led by docent

**Saturday, May 20**

**Theme for the day: Science at the Garden**

An introduction to the broad scope of biodiversity research  
by New York Botanical Garden scientists at the Garden and around the world

**Public Tours**

- 11 a.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by graduate student (Todd Osmundson)  
11:30 a.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (*A World of Plants*) – led by docent  
12 p.m. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery – led by docent, with American Sign Language interpreter  
12:30 p.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (*A World of Plants*) – led by docent  
1 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by scientist (Dr. Amy Litt)  
1:30 p.m. *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition – led by Jane Dorfman, Reference Librarian and Exhibitions Coordinator, the LuEsther T. Mertz Library

- 2 p.m. William and Lynda Steere Herbarium (behind the scenes) – led by Dr. Jackie Kallunki, Associate Director of the Steere Herbarium
- 2:30 p.m. *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition – led by docent
- 3 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by graduate student (José de la Torre)
- 4 p.m. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery – led by docent

### **Presentations in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall**

- 11 a.m. *What Genomics Tells Us About Tulips and Tomatoes*  
by Dr. Amy Litt, Director of Plant Genomics
- What is genomics?
  - What kinds of questions can genomics help us answer? How?
  - Plus a brief introduction to one or two genomics projects currently underway at the Botanical Garden
- 1 p.m. *In the Field to the Lab and Back Again: Research at the Botanical Garden*  
by Dr. Dennis Stevenson, Vice President for Botanical Science
- The broad scope of plant and fungal research at the Botanical Garden
  - How integrated efforts in diverse work locations (field/forest, library, herbarium, laboratory) in our broad scope of disciplines (genomics, molecular systematics, systematics, economic botany, ecology) lead to significant plant and fungal discoveries
  - Introduction to cycad projects at the Botanical Garden as illustrative of broad scope and integrated effort in research
  - Plus a focused look at laboratory research as a whole at the Garden
- 3 p.m. *Diversity in Rice Around the World*  
by Dr. Christine Padoch, Curator of Economic Botany
- Brief history of rice and its importance to mankind
  - An overview of Dr. Padoch's work studying the great variety of rice grown by the world's farmers and the wide range of production systems (e.g., rice paddies, swidden agriculture) used to grow rice around the world
  - The importance of preserving the diversity of rice varieties and production systems

### **Café Scientifique in the Conservatory Plaza**

- 12 – 1:30 p.m. Join Botanical Garden scientist Dr. Ken Cameron, Director of Molecular Systematics, in an interactive discussion of plant science at the Garden. Bring your questions, grab a bite to eat, and participate in an informal exchange about the latest ideas in science and why science matters.

### **Sunday, May 21**

#### **Theme for the Day: Plants and Conservation**

Ecology, environment, ecotourism, conservation, and ethnobotany:  
Plant research at the Botanical Garden and its impact on broader conservation issues

### **Public Tours**

- 11 a.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by graduate student (Nat Bletter)
- 11:30 a.m. *Dutch Watercolors* exhibition – led by Jane Dorfman, Reference Librarian and Exhibitions Coordinator, the LuEsther T. Mertz Library
- 12 p.m. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery – led by docent
- 12:30 p.m. Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (ethnobotanical focus) – led by docent
- 1 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by graduate student (Michael Sundue)
- 1:30 p.m. Native Plant Garden – led by docent

- 2 p.m. William and Lynda Steere Herbarium (behind the scenes) – led by Dr. Barbara Thiers, Director of the Steere Herbarium
- 2:30 p.m. Forest – led by docent
- 3 p.m. Pfizer Laboratory – led by graduate student (Jillian DeGezelle)
- 4 p.m. Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery – led by docent

### **Presentations in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall**

- 11 a.m. *The Endangered Atlantic Coastal Forest of Brazil*  
by Dr. Wayt Thomas, Curator of Botany
- Introduction to the unique and diverse plant life in the Atlantic Coastal Forest of Bahia, Brazil, and why it is endangered
  - Documenting the diversity of this area
  - Efforts to conserve the Atlantic Coastal Forest of Bahia
  - How Dr. Thomas' work on the area's plant diversity will aid that conservation effort
- 1 p.m. *An Introduction to Ethnobotany and the Sustainable Use of Plants*  
by Louis Putzel, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/CUNY)
- What is ethnobotany? What is economic botany?
  - How the usefulness of plants can often lead to their being endangered
  - The concept of “sustainable” use of plants, its origins, and how it relates to environment and conservation
  - The design of Putzel's Ph.D. thesis project, including ethnobotanical questions and sustainability—just one example of the important work to conserve biodiversity being conducted by graduate students at the Garden
- 3 p.m. *Research and Conservation at the Botanical Garden*  
by Dr. Dennis Stevenson, Vice President for Botanical Science
- Plant and fungal research at the Botanical Garden (i.e., genomics, molecular systematics, systematics, economic botany, ecology)
  - How these efforts help us understand our environment and conserve biodiversity
  - Introduction to cycads, a relict and endangered group of organisms, and to cycad research at the Botanical Garden
  - The worldwide cycad conservation action plan
  - Botanical Garden participation in other worldwide conservation action plans for palms and gymnosperms
- 4:30 p.m. *A Manhattan Medicinal Garden: Healing Herbs in 17th-Century New Amsterdam*  
by Dr. Richard Schaefer, historical archaeologist  
A specialist in New Netherland and 17th-century Dutch history, avid gardener, and expert on Dutch ceramic forms, from flowerpots to chamber pots, Dr. Schaeffer has published an analysis of the depiction of early gardens of New Amsterdam. His lecture on healing herbs in historic New Amsterdam will touch on archival research, archaeological excavation, reconnaissance surveys, and historic structures.

### **Café Scientifique in the Conservatory Plaza**

- 12 – 1:30 p.m. Join Botanical Garden scientist Dr. Charles Peters, Curator of Botany, Institute of Economic Botany, in an interactive discussion of plants and conservation. Bring your questions, grab a bite to eat, and participate in an informal exchange about the latest ideas in science and why science matters.

The scientific staff at the Botanical Garden, including 200 Ph.D. scientists, graduate students, professional researchers, technicians, and assistants, is known for its depth and range of expertise in the plant sciences. Among the scientists participating in “In Celebration of Plant Science” events are the following:

Nat Bletter, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/City University of New York)  
Eric D. Brenner, Ph.D., Assistant Curator  
Kenneth M. Cameron, Ph.D., Director and Associate Curator, the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Program for Molecular Systematics Studies  
Jillian DeGezelle, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/City University of New York)  
Jacquelyn A. Kallunki, Ph.D., Associate Director and Curator, William and Lynda Steere Herbarium  
Lawrence M. Kelly, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Studies  
Damon P. Little, Ph.D., Research Associate, Institute of Systematic Botany, Cullman Program for Molecular Systematic Studies  
Amy Litt, Ph.D., Director of Plant Genomics and Cullman Curator  
Todd Osmundson, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/Columbia University)  
Christine Padoch, Ph.D., Matthew Calbraith Perry Curator of Economic Botany  
Charles M. Peters, Ph.D., Kate E. Tode Curator of Botany, Institute of Economic Botany  
Louis Putzel, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/City University of New York)  
Dennis Wm. Stevenson, Ph.D., Vice President and Rupert Barneby Curator for Botanical Science  
Jan Wassmer Stevenson, J.D., Manager of Special Projects, Institute of Economic Botany and science coordinator, “In Celebration of Plant Science”  
Michael Sundue, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/City University of New York)  
Wayt Thomas, Ph.D., Elizabeth G. Britton Curator of Botany, Institute of Systematic Botany  
Barbara M. Thiers, Ph.D., Director, William and Lynda Steere Herbarium  
José de la Torre, doctoral student (The New York Botanical Garden/New York University)

*Note:* Planning for “In Celebration of Plant Science” is in progress, details are being finalized, and programs may be modified and/or added.

*Principal funding for the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory  
has been provided by the federal government through the leadership of Congressman José E. Serrano;  
Pfizer Inc and The Pfizer Foundation;  
the State of New York through the leadership of Governor George E. Pataki;  
and Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman.*

*Family Programs are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

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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 in the Bronx. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. April through October and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. November through March. The best way to enjoy the Botanical Garden is with the *Combination Ticket*, which includes admission to the grounds, Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour, and costs \$13 for adults; \$11 for students and seniors; \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free to everyone on Wednesdays all day and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.**

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