

For Immediate Release
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Dr. Kim E. Tripp Appointed Director of The New York Botanical Garden New Position Combines Leadership of Science, Education, and Horticulture

In an important milestone for the institution, Dr. Kim E. Tripp has been appointed Director of The New York Botanical Garden effective March 1. Dr. Tripp will be the senior executive responsible for all programmatic areas, including Horticulture and Living Collections, Botanical Science and the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, and Education. She reports to Gregory Long, Garden President and CEO.

“As the organization has become more complex and the need to integrate our activities increasingly important, the time is perfect. Dr. Tripp will have the opportunity to build on the strengths of our three vibrant core programs,” said Mr. Long. “With her strong background as a researcher and horticulturist, a keen interest in education, and a distinguished career here in the past five years as Senior Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections, Dr. Tripp is a natural to take this new position at our 113-year-old institution.”

In accepting this appointment, Dr. Tripp said, “The New York Botanical Garden is one of the world’s great plant research and education centers. It has a rich history and outstanding collections. At the Garden, people experience the great beauty of hundreds of thousands of plants from around the world in a magnificent historic landscape. They learn the importance of plants in our lives and delve into the natural world. I am thrilled to have the chance to contribute to the Garden’s visionary programs in science, education, and horticulture.”

10 Years of Leadership at Botanical Gardens

During the past 10 years, Dr. Tripp has held senior positions at several botanical gardens. She received her B.S. and M.S. from Cornell University, and her Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, where she also served as Curator of Conifers for the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. She completed her postdoctoral work at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, served as the Director of the Botanic Garden of Smith College, and joined The New York Botanical Garden in 1999 as Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections.

Dr. Tripp has extensive experience in the management of diverse landscapes, gardens, and forest environments. Her work includes research on the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of rare and endangered conifers; growth and development of trees in managed environments; and evaluation and

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distribution of plants that are promising for horticultural introduction and wider distribution. She has collected plants in varied habitats throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Dr. Tripp has also developed internationally recognized educational exhibitions about plants. She teaches and lectures on a broad range of horticultural and botanical subjects, and has published widely in horticultural and scientific journals and books for both professional and general audiences.

Contributions to The New York Botanical Garden's Renaissance

Dr. Tripp has been key to the extensive restoration of gardens, grounds, and collections that has made the Garden one of the world's premier botanical gardens. In fall 2002, Dr. Tripp unveiled the refurbished Ladies' Border, originally designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman in the 1920s and 1930s. The daring new design includes many plants not typically cultivated in the Garden's geographical region.

In May 2004, the Garden opened two large and enhanced collections whose renovation was realized under Dr. Tripp's leadership. The refurbished Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum is a historic showcase of irreplaceable pines, spruces, and firs from around the world, including a venerable grove of mature Tanyosho pines. In the same month, the Garden opened the renovated Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden, conceived and directed by renowned public garden designer Lynden Miller. The new design features refreshed "garden rooms," improved traffic flow and vistas, and an additional 1,200 square feet of planting area.

In October 2004, Dr. Tripp's most significant contribution to the Garden's renaissance to date, the Benenson Ornamental Conifers, opened to the public. This is the largest landscape restoration ever at the Garden and includes some of the world's most striking cultivated conifers set in 15 historic acres. Two new beds of unusual dwarf conifers display recent horticultural introductions and other choice cultivars. The landscape has been restored, the existing mature collection enhanced with more than 200 new conifers, and new interpretive signage and viewing pavilions installed.

Dr. Tripp has also been instrumental in enriching the Garden's offerings to attract new audiences. In April 2002, she managed *Sculpture from The Museum of Modern Art at The New York Botanical Garden*, a first-time collaboration between the Museum and the Garden that presented some of the best-loved icons of modern sculpture in the courtyards of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. In March 2003, Dr. Tripp directed the debut of *The Orchid Show*, a blockbuster winter exhibition of thousands of orchids in the Conservatory. The exhibition has quickly become one of the premier orchid shows in America.

In May 2005, the Garden will open the next development directed by Dr. Tripp: the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections. Nearly an acre under glass, the Nolen Greenhouses will provide eight growing zones specific to the Garden's collections, matching the temperate conditions outdoors and the

varied biomes in the Conservatory. The new facility will enable the Garden to develop its living collections, propagate plants for exhibition, and grow plants under specialized conditions for study, research, and conservation.

In addition, Dr. Tripp has been responsible for:

- Establishing a new program of museum exhibitions and flower shows including *Momijigari: The Japanese Autumn Garden*; *Waterlilies and Lotus*; *The Woodland Garden*; and *Victorian Ornamentals*.
- Creating *The New York Botanical Garden Forest Management Plan*, a blueprint for managing and preserving the Garden's 50-acre forest, the largest tract of uncut native forest in New York City.
- Leading the development of *The New York Botanical Garden Collections Master Plan*, a plan for the future development of all of the Garden's distinguished living plant collections from alpenes to *Zauschneria*. The plan has been created in collaboration with a team of renowned curators and plant professionals from around the world.
- Creating new interpretive materials and guidebooks for the Garden's collections and exhibitions.
- Directing the expansion and enhancement of Bronx Green-Up, the Garden's community gardening outreach program.
- Planning a new water-conserving, Garden-wide irrigation system.

As an advocate for the plant kingdom and a leader in horticultural excellence, The New York Botanical Garden manages a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes across its National Historic Landmark site, offers comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science, and pursues wide-ranging scientific research programs. The Garden's Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Program for Molecular Systematics Studies recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, and, together with the Plant Genomics Consortium and the Garden's graduate studies program, will move into the new Pfizer Plant Science Laboratory in 2006. This laboratory will form a "science campus" at the Garden with the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, and other related facilities. The Garden's diverse educational programs have also expanded significantly. Adult education classes, for example, now number more than 900 a year. The New York Botanical Garden's extensive programs and plantings make it one of the premier botanical gardens in the world.

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, The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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