



## THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2010

### **Lillian and Amy Goldman Stone Mill Dedicated During September Events**

#### **170-year-old Stone Mill is the Centerpiece of a 100-acre Historic Landscape**



On September 8, 2010, The New York Botanical Garden will dedicate the Lillian and Amy Goldman Stone Mill, one of New York City's most picturesque extant pre-Civil War industrial buildings. Restored over the last two years with leadership funding from The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust and The Amy P. Goldman Foundation, the Stone Mill was built in 1840 by the Lorillard family and designated a New York City Landmark in 1966 and a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The restoration maintains the Stone Mill's mid-19th-century industrial character

on the exterior while, in the three-floor interior, equips the landmark with modern building systems to create a LEED-certified structure that meets the Silver standard. (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.) Integral to the project is an intricate landscape design and restoration plan for the area surrounding the Mill and the adjacent hillside. The landscape project itself involves treating stormwater runoff into the Bronx River, utilizing native species in the extensive plantings, and accommodating conflicting gradients to produce seamless pathways for visitors. The Stone Mill is available for community meetings, conferences, and social gatherings as well as provides much-needed office space for Horticulture curatorial staff.

#### ***Landmarks and Landscapes: History Tours at The New York Botanical Garden***

On Saturdays and Sundays, September 11 & 12 and 18 & 19, weekend programming, in collaboration with **The New York Landmarks Conservancy**, will feature guided tours of the restored Stone Mill, adjacent millrace and Bronx River, and surrounding landmarks, gardens, and collections. (See separate release.) Some tours will be by tram and include Garden landmarks outside the historic Stone Mill area, specifically, the Library building, Library Allée, and the Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life. All tours are one hour or less.

#### **Dedicated Philanthropy Led by Dr. Amy Goldman**

Gregory Long, President and CEO of the Garden, praised the stewardship, leadership, and dedication of Dr. Amy P. Goldman, and the philanthropy of her mother, Lillian, as champions of the Stone Mill's restoration. "Dr. Goldman, like her mother before her, is a dedicated philanthropist with broad-ranging interests in preservation, education, and the world of plants. Amy's commitment to the Garden includes support for its public education and scientific endeavors and serving as Leadership Sponsor of *The Edible Garden*, the Garden-wide, summer and fall exhibition of growing and preparing good food. Dr. Goldman's involvement here and generosity toward the Garden have been exemplary." The Goldman family also provided funding for the Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life, the majestic bronze Beaux-Arts sculpture in front of the Garden's Library building. The restored Fountain of Life (1905), adjacent Library building (1901), and surrounding allée (1903–11) were designated New York City Landmarks in 2009.

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Dr. Goldman said, “The New York Botanical Garden offers wonderful programs in science, education, horticulture, and preservation of historic landscapes, serving its neighbors, captivating residents throughout the region, and drawing visitors to our great city from around the world. My family and I are privileged to be contributing to such good works.”

Major support was also received from The City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor*; Kate D. Levin, *Commissioner*, Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional funding was received from Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Nolen; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; New York State, Office of the Attorney General and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bronx River Watershed Initiative; and The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

### **Historic Stone Mill Landscape Restoration**

The meticulous restoration of the Stone Mill and surrounding landscape preserves the area’s rich history, allows for current overlapping site uses, and serves the ecological needs of the Bronx River and adjacent 50-acre Native Forest. Built of schist quarried a few hundred feet away, the building’s stone façade has been returned to its original colors: earth browns and warm grays, with occasional reddish hues. The striking appearance of the exterior benefits from repointing the stone and brick walls with historically appropriate mortar. Among the more commanding elements are the cedar-shingled roof, historically accurate windows and doors, and copper gutters and leaders.

### **ADA Compliance**

The site provides improved connectivity between the Stone Mill and adjacent landscape, and addresses prior site accessibility concerns. Structural landscape design alterations involved managing numerous grade changes to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements to eliminate stairs when moving among adjacent areas. Designed to be unobtrusive while maximizing accessibility throughout the entire site, improvements include: a riverfront terrace with barrier-free connectivity from the lower floor of the Stone Mill; terrace lighting to highlight its architectural features; and a walkway connecting the neighboring Horticulture service facility with the Stone Mill’s Horticulture curatorial offices.

### **Stormwater Treatment**

Fundamental to the restoration is the treatment of stormwater from the surrounding landscape, as it moves down the steep, expansive hillside and into the Bronx River. The project incorporates several “green infrastructure” features that, in support of the Garden’s sustainability initiatives, will capture and clean stormwater that flows from the Stone Mill landscape into the Bronx River. The project includes both proven stormwater methods recognized by New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation as well as progressive environmental design principles contained in the PlaNYC Sustainable Stormwater Management Plan (2008). In summary, the landscape restoration work enhances stormwater capture and cleansing, prevents erosion, and stabilizes the river shoreline.

Stormwater from the paved forecourt will flow through a band of permeable granite cobbles and into a buried detention basin designed to filter pollutants and promote local infiltration of stormwater. After heavy rains, any stormwater not captured by the system is treated by a hydrodynamic separator before it outflows to a series of stone-lined step pools that cascade down a steep slope adjacent to the Stone Mill. These step pools help to slow the velocity of peak storm flows and allow the cleansed stormwater to slowly filter into the soil, where it will be absorbed by the roots of the native trees, wildflowers, and grasses planted in broad sweeps above the Bronx River. The system has been designed to take advantage of both the natural filtering capacity of plants and soil as well as innovative new filtration technologies developed for application in urban areas with the goal of protecting the Bronx River from harmful pollutants.

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### “Green” with Native Plants

Plantings feature native species, primarily Northeast forest plants, throughout the restoration landscape, all surrounding the dramatic sycamore standing near the Stone Mill since the mid-1800s. Riverbank forest species include button bush and black tupelo. Up-slope plantings are flowering dogwoods, gray birches, serviceberry, spicebush, sassafras, winterberry, and witch-hazel. These plantings frame views of the Mill from the adjacent bridge and outward into the landscape from its interior locations and the terrace next to the Bronx River. Herbaceous plants carpet the slope. In the sunny patches, little bluestem predominates, dotted with showy, butterfly-attracting milkweed. In the shady areas are Pennsylvania sedge and ferns, accented with native phlox, native columbines and geraniums, and spiderwort.

### Stone Mill Area Rich in Landmark and Landscape History

The 100-acre historic Stone Mill precinct comprises one of the largest, most varied historic landscapes in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley. The area contains diverse historic assets: three buildings from the mid-19th century; the Bronx River, New York City’s only freshwater river, with its dramatic gorge, waterfall, and camel-back bridge; the 50-acre Native Forest, the largest remnant of the old-growth forest that once covered all of New York; eight gardens and collections, many dating from the first half of the 20th century; and landscape marked by undulating terrain and dramatic rock outcrops, all located within the Botanical Garden’s 250-acre National Historic Landmark site. The **Goldman Stone Mill** is just across Stone Mill Road from the **Benenson Ornamental Conifers** and the **Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden**, destinations that are among the most historic in the Garden.

Additional landmarks, gardens, and collections that comprise the historic Stone Mill precinct are: **Stone Cottage**—built about 1854, restored 2009; **Native Forest**—ancient, restored 2008 to present, with work ongoing; **Bronx River**—ancient, restored throughout the 1990s and ongoing; **Hester (High) Bridge**—built 1910; **Lorillard Stables**—built 1855, not yet restored; **Lilac Collection (including T. A. Havemeyer lilacs)**—established 1949, restoration and expansion is ongoing.

Also in the historic area’s landscape are: the **Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden**, one-and-a-half enclosed acres of planting beds, display gardens, compost facilities, and activity areas where children and family members plant and tend vegetable gardens, located on the site of the Lorillard mansion destroyed by fire in 1924; **Cherry Valley** established in 1969; the **Dolores DeFina Hope Tree Peony Collection**, established in 1998; and the **Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections**, a working, teaching, and research greenhouse Garden staff utilizes to grow plants for all the display gardens and seasonal exhibitions.

### Garden-wide Framework for Renaissance and Restoration

The New York Botanical Garden has been a vital New York City cultural destination since its founding in 1891. The Botanical Garden is committed to preserving its landmark landscape as it continues to build new facilities that advance its programs in horticulture, education, and science. During the past two decades, the Garden has restored the historic living collections and gardens as well as modernized the century-old infrastructure. Simultaneously, the Garden has endeavored to create peerless horticulture exhibitions, expand renowned adult and children’s education programs, and conduct scientific research with worldwide impact on environmental and conservation policy.

Since the opening of the restored Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in 1997, the Botanical Garden has invested \$270 million in capital projects, including the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the Leon Levy Visitor Center, the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections, and the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory. Projects currently underway include an intermodal transportation facility as well as two new, major gardens: the Azalea Garden opening in May 2011 and the Native Plant Garden opening in September 2012. The dedication of the Lillian and Amy Goldman Stone Mill underscores the Garden's committed stewardship of its 250-acre National Historic Landmark site.

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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. 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.**

**Media Contact:** Karl Lauby 718.817.8637/8616; [klauby@nybg.org](mailto:klauby@nybg.org)