

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years

For Immediate Release
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Get on the Fast Track to a New “Green” Career

The New York Botanical Garden’s “Summer Intensives” Accelerated Certificate Programs Allow Students to Earn Classroom Hour Credits in Just Five Weeks

Register Now for Intensives in Landscape Design, Floral Design, and Horticultural Therapy Starting July 11, 2011

The New York Botanical Garden is now accepting registrations for its 2011 Summer Intensives. The Botanical Garden’s full-time concentrated Certificate programs offered through the Adult Education Program are ideal for individuals seeking a new profession or personal enrichment in the fields of Landscape Design, Floral Design, and Horticultural Therapy.

Summer Intensives offer students the opportunity to fulfill most or even the entire classroom hours required for a Certificate in just five weeks. Intensives are targeted toward career changers and individuals wishing to pursue an education in horticulture on a fast track. Registrations are now being accepted online at nybg.org/AdultEd for Intensives starting July 11, 2011.

“With the broadest array of courses and Certificate programs offered at any botanical garden in the world, professional instructors who are innovators in their fields, and the unparalleled resources of the plant collections and grounds, The New York Botanical Garden is the best place for people to learn about plants,” said Jeff Downing, Vice President for Education at the Garden. “Our Summer Intensives program offers students the chance to tap into these tremendous resources at an accelerated rate so that they can get started on rewarding new paths.”

The 2011 Summer Intensives now accepting registrations are:

Landscape Design: July 11–August 12 (5 weeks)

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

(Course code: 121LAN960)

Interactive classes, taught by professional landscape architects and designers, cover each step of the design process, from site analysis to design development. Other subjects include landscape design history, graphics, site detailing, and identifying the right plants for each landscape. Guest lecturers present their own work and discuss design philosophies, professional issues, and presentation strategies.

Floral Design: July 11–August 12 (5 weeks)

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

(Course code: 121FLO950)

Learn the art of floral arranging for a multitude of occasions, including weddings, parties, and holidays. One-on-one training prepares students for working with versatile design skills. The Intensive includes a trip to the NYC flower district. Students also practice real-world business situations, including retail ordering for clients.

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Horticultural Therapy: July 11–27 and August 1–17

(5 weeks total; 2.5 weeks each)

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

(Course codes: 121THR950 for July, 121THR960 for August)

The program allows students to combine a passion for plants with a desire to improve the lives of others. Among the oldest of healing therapies, horticultural therapy uses the natural environment for health and wellness purposes in hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, and social service agencies. Students learn from professional horticultural therapists in the classroom and visit sites for one-on-one interaction with therapists and clients.

Intensive Students Hail From Varied Professional Backgrounds

Whether motivated by the benefits of green living or a desire to engage in more rewarding work, each year students turn to the Garden's Summer Intensives for training and personal enrichment. Participants in the 2010 Summer Intensives came from a variety of professional backgrounds, including: business and sales development, environmental studies, financial advising, graphic design, teaching, pharmacy, and costume design.

One participant in last year's Floral Design Summer Intensive was Alexandra Kayser Toman, a nurse and native of Greenwich, Connecticut, who discovered late in life her passion for flowers and plants. After earning her Certificate at an accelerated rate, Kayser Toman commented, "The five weeks of the Intensive were among the happiest times in my life. I loved every minute of it!" She is currently doing freelance work in floral design.

Diverse Green Offerings for Adult Education Cultivate Personal Enrichment

The New York Botanical Garden's Adult Education Program has helped people achieve their horticultural education goals since 1917. Each year the Adult Education Program offers over 500 different hands-on courses for beginners taking classes for personal enrichment and professionals seeking to hone their existing skills in their chosen field of study. Accelerated Summer Intensives geared toward career changers are offered in Landscape Design, Floral Design, and Horticultural Therapy. These Intensives are part of a larger Certificate program, which offers year-round courses in these discipline areas as well as in Botanical Art, Botany, Gardening, and Horticulture. Some Certificates offer students a choice among areas of concentration.

Day, evening, and weekend classes are available at the Garden's 250-acre National Historic Landmark site in the Bronx (just 20 minutes from Grand Central Terminal on Metro-North Railroad) and now in Manhattan at the NYBG Midtown Education Center, conveniently located at 20 West 44th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues. The Garden's Adult Education Program also operates at satellite locations in Westchester, Dutchess, and Fairfield Counties. To browse classes and for more information on registration fees, visit nybg.org/AdultEd or call 800.322.NYBG (6924).

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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 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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