



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
November 12, 2013

**The New York Botanical Garden's 22nd Annual *Holiday Train Show*[®]
Opens on Saturday, November 16, 2013**

**Abundance of Programming Accompanying This Spectacular Holiday Tradition
Includes a Tree Lighting Ceremony, *Holiday Adventures* Activities for Children,
Bar Car Nights for Adults, Poetry Walk, and Poetry Reading by Billy Collins**

All Aboard with Thomas & Friends[™] Returns in January

Saturday, November 16, 2013 through Sunday, January 12, 2014



The *Holiday Train Show*[®] is celebrating its 22nd year at The New York Botanical Garden with plenty of fun programming for all ages. A critically acclaimed and always eagerly anticipated tradition, the *Holiday Train Show* presents an enchanted New York enlivened by model trains amid the glow of twinkling lights in America's premier Victorian-style glasshouse, the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. The exhibition showcases replicas of New York landmarks, artistically crafted of natural materials such as bark, twigs, stems, fruits, seeds, and pine cones by designer Paul Busse's team at Applied Imagination. The original Pennsylvania Station and Yankee Stadium, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, the Brooklyn Bridge, and Rockefeller Center are among the favorites in the Botanical Garden's collection of more than 150 *Holiday Train Show* replicas.

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Over 20 large-scale model railway trains and trolleys—from American steam engines and streetcars from the late 1800s to modern freight and high-speed passenger trains—traverse nearly a quarter-mile of track across rustic bridges, along overhead trestles, through tunnels, and past waterfalls that cascade into flowing creeks. The trains in the *Holiday Train Show* are G-gauge, sometimes measuring more than two feet long and weighing as much as 10 pounds. Thomas the Tank Engine™ and other trains especially loved by children also travel the tracks of the exhibition.

The Artist's Studio is a popular show element that illustrates how the replicas are constructed by displaying models of Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate, in varying stages of completion. Additional *Artist's Studio* features include botanically inspired trains (trains made of plant materials) running on their own separate tracks.

Activities for Everyone at the *Holiday Train Show*

This year at the *Holiday Train Show* new programming includes *Holiday Adventures* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, a poetry reading by former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and in January, a new performance at *All Aboard with Thomas & Friends*™. The Garden's popular *Bar Car Nights* return on select Fridays and Saturdays in December.

- Attend the **Holiday Tree Lighting** of a stunning conifer display by special guests, and join in an old-fashioned sing-along with the Westchester Chordsmen featuring carols from many traditions. Saturday, November 16, 4–5:15 p.m.
- The *Holiday Train Show* continues in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden with *Holiday Adventures*. Children can embark on a journey through a variety of activity train station stops, including an architect's station, a scientist's station, and a builder's station, as well as an educational display of *Holiday Train Show* houses. Each weekend brings even more fun with Holiday Train Parades and Ralph Lee's Artist Station, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., a craft studio for families featuring train landscapes and materials kids can use to create their own trains, people, and animals to inhabit the scene. Different activities are available throughout the day, so be sure to check nybg.org to see what exciting adventures are in store during your visit. The Everett Children's Adventure Garden is open all day for exploration. Guided Activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Weekends and Holiday Week (December 23–January 1), 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Hear **former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins** at a special reading of his work and train-themed poems—including beloved winter selections to celebrate the season. Space is limited; reserve your tickets in advance to guarantee seating. Get your tickets [here](#) and select the special *All-Garden Pass* titled *Poetry for Every Season Reading: Holiday Train Show* on Saturday, November 23, at 2 p.m.
This event was funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. through public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

Stroll through the Leon Levy Visitor Center and along Perennial Garden Way to read train-inspired poems by former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins in the *Poetry for Every Season: Holiday Poetry Walk*. Poetry will be displayed in the landscape and will be accompanied by a free cell phone audio tour.

Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America

- The popular *Bar Car Nights* return with opportunities for grown-ups to enjoy an evening viewing of the *Holiday Train Show* while sipping a complimentary cocktail. Bundle up and watch live ice sculpting demonstrations and purchase additional beverages and seasonal refreshments at the limited-run Holiday Dining Pavilion: “Streets of New York.” Fridays, December 6 & 20, and Saturdays, December 7, 14, & 21, 7–10 p.m. Advance tickets are recommended and are available for purchase at nybg.org. Non-Member \$30/Member \$20 (Adults 21 and over)
- In January it’s *All Aboard with Thomas & Friends™*. Join Thomas and Driver Sam on a new fun-filled, sing-along, mini-performance adventure by helping them decorate the station in time for the big Sodor surprise party before the guest of honor arrives! Parents: Bring your camera to have a photo op with Thomas and capture the special day! Select dates, January 1–26. Visit nybg.org for the full performance schedule.
(*Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends™* ©2014 Gullane [Thomas] Limited.)

Also new this year will be the **Holiday Dining Pavilion: “Streets of New York,”** a Stephen STARR Events dining destination adjacent to the Haupt Conservatory, celebrating the best of New York City neighborhood foods—the Italian heritage of the Bronx’s Arthur Avenue, soul-inspired flavors of Harlem, hot dog carts of Broadway, and more. Afterward, shop for everyone on your gift list at **Shop in the Garden**. (In addition to the fabulous selection, your purchase supports the Garden’s pursuit of excellence in Horticulture, Science, and Education.)

Visit the Garden’s Web site, nybg.org, to check dates and times for all of the Garden’s holiday offerings and to purchase advance timed tickets.

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Founding Sponsors: Victoria and Robert Zoellner

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Generous support also provided by the Karen Katen Foundation

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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, bus, or subway.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:

During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 16, 2013–January 12, 2014, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., including Friday, November 29 (day after Thanksgiving). Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., daily (including Mondays) from Monday, December 16 through Wednesday, January 1. The Garden is closed all day on November 28 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 3 p.m. on December 24 (Christmas Eve). In addition, the *Holiday Train Show* closes at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11 and Friday, December 13.

PRICING:

Weekdays (November 19–December 13; January 2–10): Adults \$20, Seniors/Students \$18, Children ages 2–12 \$10, Children under 2 free.

Weekends and Holiday Weeks (December 16–January 1): Adults \$25, Seniors/Students \$22, Children ages 2–12, \$15, Children under 2 free. Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at nybg.org. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

Contact: Gayle Snible 718.817.8637/8616; gsnible@nybg.org. **Images and video b-roll available.**