



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
September 19, 2014

## **The New York Botanical Garden's 23rd Annual *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup> Opens on Saturday, November 15, 2014**

**Special Display of World's Fair Replicas in *The Artist's Studio*  
Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 New York World's Fair**

**The Botanical Garden's Holiday Experience Happens  
Saturday, November 15, 2014 through Monday, January 19, 2015**



The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup>, a New York City holiday tradition for visitors of all ages, opens for the season on Saturday, November 15. In its 23rd annual exhibition, New York's Favorite 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 cherished holiday experience at the Botanical Garden continues through January 19, 2015, with a plethora of accompanying programming, including children's activities, poetry, classical music, cocktail evenings, and more.

The *Holiday Train Show* 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. This year only, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1964 New York's World Fair held in Queens, the *Holiday Train Show* features replicas of the World's Fair-famed Unisphere, observatory towers, and the Tent of Tomorrow at the New York State Pavilion, all from the Paul Busse Collection.

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,

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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*, which will feature the World's Fair replicas, also illustrates how the replicas are constructed by displaying in-progress models of Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate, will also be on display.

### Seasonal Programming at the *Holiday Train Show*

The Garden brings visitors real trains, real landmarks, and real fun with programming for all. This year, visitors can enjoy *Evergreen Express* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden; a poetry reading by former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins; classical concerts; 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 November, December, and January.



- The experience continues in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden with *Evergreen Express*. Children can embark on a journey through a variety of hands-on activity stations to explore cones, needles, and other amazing evergreen plant parts and craft a miniature balsam fir sachet. Children walk the trails of the Adventure Garden on a scavenger hunt in search of beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs. Each weekend brings even more fun with Holiday Train Parades and Ralph Lee's Artist Station, where children can build their own train puppet. The Everett Children's Adventure Garden is open all day for exploration. Guided Activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Weekends and Holiday Weeks (December 22–January 2), 10 a.m.–6:30 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, December 13, at 2 p.m.

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 Winter Harmonies Concert Series* on December 7 & 21 provides a warm respite from the winter cold along with lovely classical interludes. Intimate post-performance conversations with the artists—moderated by composer and series curator Laura Kaminsky—allow for unique insights into the music and the music-making process. Concerts begin at 4 p.m. in the Ross Hall and last approximately 75 minutes.

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Artists include the Cassatt String Quartet and the dynamic young ensemble Le Train Bleu. Special tickets required. Visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) for additional information.

- The popular **Bar Car Nights** return with opportunities for grown-ups to enjoy the evening while sipping a complimentary cocktail. Explore the Conservatory after dark with a viewing of the *Holiday Train Show* before heading outside for new seasonal fun throughout the Visitor Center. Dinner and refreshments will be available for purchase in The Pine Tree Café. Fridays and Saturdays, November 21 & 22; December 5, 6, 19, 20; January 2, 3, 9, 10; 7–10 p.m. Advance tickets are recommended at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org).  
Non-Member \$35/Member \$25 (Adults 21 and over)
- 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 15, 4–5:15 p.m.
- Celebrate the holidays with **Holiday A Cappella**, a mix of traditional and contemporary seasonal music performed by a cappella musicians and choir groups. Saturdays and Sundays, November 29–January 18; 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.
- In January it's **All Aboard with Thomas & Friends™**. Join Thomas and Driver Sam on a 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 3–25. Visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) for the full performance schedule.  
(*Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends™* ©2015 Gullane [Thomas] Limited.)



Visit the Garden's Web site, [nybg.org](http://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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*Generous support also provided by the Karen Katen Foundation*

*Additional support provided by Brooks Brothers*

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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 15, 2014–January 19, 2015, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Saturdays, November 15– January 17; Friday, November 28 (day after Thanksgiving); and December 20–January 1. The Garden is closed all day on November 27 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 3 p.m. on December 12 and 24 (Christmas Eve)

**PRICING:**

*All-Garden Pass* tickets start at \$20 for adults and \$8 for children (ages 2–12) and differ during certain peak times. Members and children under 2 are free.

Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org). Discounts available for group of 15 or more; contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.

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