



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release

September 5, 2014

The New York Botanical Garden's Reimagined Seasonal Walk Opens with Ribbon-Cutting, Tours, and Remarks

**Legendary Dutch Designer Piet Oudolf Transformed Site
With his "New Wave Planting Style"**



The New York Botanical Garden's Seasonal Walk opened on September 4, 2014 with a ribbon-cutting and remarks from the Botanical Garden Chairman Maureen K. Chilton and CEO and The William C. Steere Sr. President Gregory Long, and Dutch internationally celebrated designer Piet Oudolf, who reimagined the 200-foot-long double border adjacent to the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. The Seasonal Walk is a project of Marjorie and Jeffrey A. Rosen.

A favorite of Garden visitors and a frequent site for wedding portraiture, the transformed Seasonal Walk features the newest garden-worthy cultivars, unusual plant species, and selections not currently available in North America. Oudolf chose plants not only for their color and drama, but also for their shape and structure in order to create a distinct architecture for the borders. Using his "new wave planting style", he has combined thousands of native plants, perennials, grasses, and bulbs to provide a year-round visual feast of flowers and foliage.

The Botanical Garden has also made notable improvements to the site of the Seasonal Walk, including reconstruction of a stone retaining wall, enhancements to the pathway, and the planting of new Alaska yellow-cedar screening and yew hedges.

– more –

More than 8,000 bulbs and perennials were planted in November 2013 by Oudolf and Garden staff. The palette of bulbs includes a mix of minor bulbs and daffodils to begin the spring season—species tulips, allium, foxtail lilies, and Henry’s lilies. Perennials rarely seen in the United States include *Actaea* ‘Queen of Sheba’, with its gracefully pendant white fragrant spires, standing to five feet tall; *Phlomis tuberosa* ‘Little Amazon’, with its whorls of pink flowers adorning three foot stems; and *Thalictrum* x ‘Elin’, with its clouds of delicate lavender flowers floating atop lobed foliage to eight feet tall.

Perennials new to The New York Botanical Garden include *Anemone* x ‘Wild Swan,’ which won Chelsea Plant of the Year in 2011, with its white flowers backed in violet-blue; *Datisca cannabina*, which resemble fireworks with its giant pendant stems draped with yellow flowers bursting towards the sky; and *Salvia* ‘Serenade,’ with its spikes of glowing, purple-blue flowers.

Currently, the Seasonal Walk is enthusiastic and tall, with lots of variety but also many combinations repeated throughout for cohesiveness. By mid-autumn, the Walk will be riotous. Six-to-eight-foot-tall glowing golden daisies, *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* ‘Henry Eilers’, will be just one highlight. Next spring, lots of bulbs in warm, glowing colors will be mixed through rising perennials of varied texture as is indicative of Oudolf’s aesthetic. In early summer, there will be tall, glowing spires of white foxtail lilies dancing through the border. Lots of classical perennials will be blooming in pink, blue, and yellow with the color white throughout. As the summer progresses, it will be a different place week to week, as the colors get bolder. There are three different types of meadow rue, which will read as ethereal, gentle, big, soft masses.

The reimagined Seasonal Walk is about the interplay between really big plants and foliage textures and lots of intricate flowers, creating little worlds onto themselves.

The Seasonal Walk is a project of Marjorie and Jeffrey A. Rosen.

###

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. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

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.

Contact: Gayle Snible 718.817.8637/8616; gsnible@nybg.org.