

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years

For Immediate Release
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Application Deadline for Nation's Leading Horticulture Career Training Program at The New York Botanical Garden is August 15

School of Professional Horticulture Students and Alumni Are Excelling in the Field: Monet's Garden at Giverny and U.S. National Arboretum among Internship Sites for Second-Year Students; Recent Alumnus is Manager of Verdant Gardens Design in Brooklyn

The nation's leading horticulture career training program, the Botanical Garden's School of Professional Horticulture, offers students high-quality academic studies with hands-on practical training in a two-year, full-time horticulture program in New York City. The School is now accepting applications for the class of 2014. Interested, qualified individuals have until August 15, 2011, to apply. Prospective students may visit <http://www.nybg.org/edu/soph/> to view the application form, then print out, complete, and return it.

"Students who attend the School of Professional Horticulture at The New York Botanical Garden learn best horticultural practices from some of the world's most skilled horticulturists," said School Director Charles Yurgalevitch, Ph.D. "Our mission is to provide students with versatile training in professional horticulture, with access to the Garden's unparalleled resources and exposure to cutting-edge horticultural projects around the region, so that they can create spectacular green spaces for others to enjoy."

The School has been training the world's leading horticulturists for nearly 80 years. Designed by leading horticulturists and botanists, the program is mission-driven to cultivate horticulturists of the highest caliber who will take on leadership positions in public and private venues. Through classes, work rotations, group projects, plant walks, educational field trips, and lectures, students of the School are able to master the science of horticulture in the classroom and practice what they learn on the 250-acre campus of The New York Botanical Garden. Students gain real-world experience working closely with the Botanical Garden's renowned Horticulture staff in the first year and through a six-month professional internship in the program's second year.

Some internships of note by the Class of 2012 are:

Monet's Garden at Giverny, France: Diana Reese is helping to care for the constantly flowering garden. Reese is studying the flowering sequences in all of the garden beds in order to maintain the same color palettes with different species as the seasons change. This work involves noting which species are in bloom together at any moment and which species are planted to replace them over the course of time. In addition to studying new plants, Reese is also learning their common names in French in order to respond to inquiring visitors. Reese came to the School with a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Columbia University, and worked as a gardener at a private estate prior to enrolling in the School.

U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.: Brenden Armstrong is working with Dr. Richard Olsen, a tree breeder, and David Kidwell-Slak, a shrub breeder, to research the eastern North American native box huckleberry, *Gaylussacia brachycera*. Armstrong is investigating the plant's cultural conditions along with propagation techniques in order to help assess its potential value in the nursery trade.

While at the National Arboretum, Armstrong is also responsible for maintaining the nursery, learning how to keep up with the constantly changing growing conditions. Armstrong came to the School right after graduating from high school in Lawrence, Kansas, during which time he worked on a chestnut tree farm and at a garden center.

School of Professional Horticulture graduates have gone on to pursue rewarding careers in gardening and landscape design, as estate managers and horticulturists for major public parks. Among the prominent positions held by alumni are: Head Gardener at Mount Usher Gardens in Ireland, Director of Horticulture at the High Line in New York City, Head Curator at the Bermuda Botanical Gardens, and Associate Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions at The New York Botanical Garden.

One recent graduate success story is:

Peter Couchman, a 2010 graduate of the School of Professional Horticulture, who came to the program with a MA in music from the University of Cincinnati. After a successful career as an opera singer with solo appearances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, he worked as a freelance landscape designer before attending the School. Couchman currently works at Verdant Gardens Design, a landscape design firm in Brooklyn, as Associate Designer and Horticulture Manager. Their projects involve creating conceptually rich and finely detailed landscapes, from green roofs to master plans.

Admission to the School of Professional Horticulture program is selective and based on a combination of academic achievement and previous horticulture experience. Prospective applicants are required to have about 1,800 hours of previous horticultural work experience through internships, nursery work, or gardening. Classes are kept small to ensure that each student receives maximum attention from staff and instructors.

For information on admission requirements and to apply, visit <http://www.nybg.org/edu/soph/> or call 718.817.8797.

Begun in 1932 as a professional gardener training program at The New York Botanical Garden, the School of Professional Horticulture became accredited in 2005 by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) and certified by the U.S. Department of Education to administer Title IV funds. Its accreditation was renewed for an additional five years in 2011, the maximum length of time.

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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. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org. Read the Botanical Garden's popular blog, *Plant Talk: Inside The New York Botanical Garden* at nybg.org/wordpress

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

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