Leaves and Seeds and Twigs and Bark...
That’s What New York Landmarks are Made Of

Visit the Botanical Garden’s 17th Annual Holiday Train Show
and See for Yourself

Sunday, November 23, 2008–Sunday, January 11, 2009

Along the train routes of the annual Holiday Train Show at The New York Botanical Garden are dozens of interpretive replicas of landmark buildings, towering skyscrapers, historic homes, and other famous New York structures. All have been meticulously handcrafted of leaves, twigs, bark, seeds, pine cones, gourds, and other plant materials by Paul Busse and his team at Applied Imagination in Alexandria, Kentucky.

Each replica takes many months to research, design, and craft, and each year the collection of structures grows. More than 140 replicas will be on display in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the Botanical Garden’s Victorian-style glasshouse, when the Holiday Train Show opens to the public on Sunday, November 23, 2008.

New to this year’s Holiday Train Show will be renditions of the American Museum of Natural History’s Rose Center for Earth and Space, home of the famous Hayden Planetarium, and four structures in New York City’s Historic House Trust—Hendrick I. Lott House, Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, Old Stone House, and Merchant’s House Museum. Some of the natural building blocks used to construct the botanically-interpreted versions of these ultra modern and centuries-old landmark buildings are indicated in italics here.

The “glass cube” of the Rose Center for Earth and Space has a skeleton of reeds, palm frond base top framing, birch twigs, for its top edge, and top vents of bur oak acorn cap. The blocks on the facade are horse chestnut. The steps are wood fungus and the lettering is cinnamon curls, reed, and preserved salal twigs. The “floating” sphere in the Rose Center’s “glass cube” is freeze dried tea roses and the planets in Earth’s solar system are various pods, including a pomegranate pod that represents Mars.

The replica of the rare Dutch-American Hendrick I. Lott House, 1792, has siding shingles of birch bark and pine cone scale roof shingles. Its chimneys are contorta branches with cinnamon stick and twisted bark strips. The porch roof is pine bark and the foundation is oak bark. Shutters are strips of plum bark with grapevine shutter dogs and pine cone scale hinges. Porch columns are honeysuckle vines with acorn cap feet.

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Central Park’s Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, 1876, has cedar bark roof shingles and willow walls. The chimney is plum bark with wood fungus. The windows are comprised of reeds, twisted sea grass, birch twigs, salt cedar twigs, and spruce cone scales.

Old Stone House, 1699, has elm bark to represent its stone walls. Shutters are cedar bark with hinges of whole cloves. The roof is palm leaves with willow ridges, while the roof gutters are willow twigs. The doors are horse chestnut bark with grapevine tendril handles.

Merchant’s House Museum, 1832, has eucalyptus leaf roof shingles. Its first chimney is contorta with acorn cap and the second chimney is plum bark with acorn cap. For the windows: the mullions are salt cedar, casings are bamboo, tops are oak bark with forsythia stems, and the shutters are palm leaves with banana stems. The fence is juniper, eucalyptus, and pepper corns. The door is sea grass, honeysuckle vine, and gourd seeds, with ornamentation including dusty miller acorn caps and beech seeds.

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Victoria and Robert Zoellner, Founding Sponsors
Additional support has been provided by the Karen Kaien Foundation
Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.

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.

**HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:** During the Holiday Train Show, November 23–January 11, The New York Botanical Garden will be open 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday. Closed all day on November 27 and December 25. Closing at 3 p.m. on December 5 and December 24. Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays and during Christmas week: November 28, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and January 1, 2.

**PRICING:** Adults $20, Seniors/Students $18, Children $10. Advance timed tickets are strongly advised and are available online at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org). For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at [www.nybg.org](http://www.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.

**Contact:** Melinda Manning 718.817.8616/8659; mmanning@nybg.org
**Images and video b-roll available**