



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
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**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* straps. 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 Katzen 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. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at 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.

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Images and video b-roll available