

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2011

Resplendent Roses Celebrates America's National Flower on Display in Award-Winning, Sustainable Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden

**Thousands of New Roses Showcase Color, Fragrance, Variety, and Disease Resistance
June through October**



With the addition of over 600 roses this year, The New York Botanical Garden's acclaimed Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden now has more than 4,000 of America's national flower planted in its magnificently landscaped beds. *Resplendent Roses*, the Botanical Garden's annual five-month-long showcase of the beloved plant, begins with a two-week peak bloom in June and continues with a kaleidoscope of color throughout the summer months and into the fall. Daily tours, weekend Q&A sessions and home gardening demonstrations, and Adult Education classes provide visitors to the Garden opportunities to appreciate and learn more about the iconic flower whose beauty continues to fascinate.

Last year, the Rockefeller Rose Garden was presented the Rose Garden Hall of Fame Award by the Great Rosarians of the World™ and also was named the "Most Outstanding Public Rose Garden Display in America" by All-America Rose Selections.

The Rose Garden was designed in 1916 by celebrated landscape architect Beatrix Jones Farrand, whose full vision for the site was realized in 1988 thanks to the generosity of David Rockefeller in honor of his wife. The garden was meticulously renovated in 2007 and continues to charm and delight all who walk its paths.

During the past three years, over 2,500 new roses have been added to the increasingly comprehensive collection. Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator Peter Kukielski's mission is to grow a diversity of varieties of roses from around the world that are not only stunningly beautiful but disease resistant as well. "One of the many highlights this year is a brand-new planting at the Rose Garden's Main Entrance," he offered as an example. "Flanking both sides, left and right, it includes some of the latest introductions of hybridization efforts in rose genetics that are not only some of the most disease resistant roses in the world, but are incredibly fragrant as well."



With the addition of 91 new varieties, the Rose Garden now boasts over 680 total varieties. Of these, 58 were chosen specifically for their disease resistance and decreased chemical dependence, and 33 were selected as additions to the Heritage Rose Border, making it one of the largest Heritage Rose Collections in the Northeast. Starting with species roses and ending with the first modern hybridized rose ('La France,' 1867), this encyclopedic border allows visitors to stroll along and see the "evolution" of roses and learn how their flower form has developed over the past two centuries.

The entire Rockefeller Rose Garden is evaluated on a monthly basis using the EarthKind™ Rose Trials system. This provides yearly quantitative results and provides a basis for varieties on disease resistance and fragrance, helping transform the Rose Garden into one of the most sustainable public gardens in the world as well as one of the most beautiful rose gardens in America.

View a video of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ijeqs3Bf-D4>, and then visit The New York Botanical Garden and experience it in person.

The Botanical Garden's Adult Education Program is offering several rose-themed classes in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, including "Heirloom Roses" on June 1 at 4:30 p.m., "The Rose De-Mystified" on June 4 at 10 a.m., and "Going Green with Roses" on June 18 at 1 p.m. Register online at www.nybg.org/AdultEd or call 800.322.NYBG (6924).

Shop in the Garden offers many rose-related items for sale, including rose plants, rose-inspired merchandise, and much more.

In addition to the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, visitors can enjoy seeing roses in a number of other locations at The New York Botanical Garden this year, including a dazzling display at the Conservatory Gate entrance and in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory as part of the exhibition *Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra*.

For more information, go to nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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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 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, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is also available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors and students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit 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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