Outdoor Sculpture and Indoor Tropical Plants Brighten Winter at The New York Botanical Garden

Moore in America, Extended Through March 15, and A World of Plants Offer Garden Visitors a Welcome Winter Retreat



Visitors can brighten their winter days by experiencing contrasting indoor/outdoor exhibitions at The New York Botanical Garden. They can view monumental sculpture in beautiful winter landscapes across the Botanical Garden through March 15, 2009, enjoy an "ecotour" of tropical and desert flora in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory's permanent exhibition *A World of Plants*, and use the winter season to learn more about gardening and nature through the Garden's many educational activities and programs.

Moore in America, Named One of Time's Top 10 Museum Exhibitions of 2008, Extended Through the Winter Season

The New York Botanical Garden is pleased to announce that *Moore in America: Monumental Sculpture at The New York Botanical Garden*, which in December was named one of the "Top 10 Museum Exhibitions of 2008" by *Time* magazine's art critic Richard Lacayo as part of *Time's* annual compilation of the "Best of Everything," has been extended through March 15, 2009.

Moore in America is the largest outdoor exhibition of Henry Moore's artwork ever presented in a single venue in the United States. The exhibition opened at the Botanical Garden on May 24, 2008, during the height of the spring flowering season. It has garnered <u>critical acclaim from the media</u> and the public alike. Now these magnificent works by one of modern art's greatest icons can be seen during the winter months, providing audiences with the chance to experience the sculpture for the first time or return again to witness



them in contrasting seasons. The monumental pieces are positioned throughout the Garden's 250 acres and among its 50 gardens and plant collections, complementing the historic landscape during nature's changing cycles. The Henry Moore Foundation, which is dedicated to furthering the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of Moore's work, is co-curating this exhibition with The New York Botanical Garden.

Henry Moore intended that his monumental works of sculpture be presented in expansive landscapes so that their mass and size could be seen from many angles, in great variety of light, and in differing seasons. No season is as dramatic in lighting and visual effects as winter, when the "bones" of the Garden—rock outcrops, tree profiles, rolling hills—echo, complement, and enhance the organic forms of the sculpture in every form of weather, from bright sunshine on fresh snow to winter fog and rain.

New York City's Own Crystal Palace Offers an Ecotour Through A World of Plants

After exploring the great outdoors of winter, visitors to the Garden will enjoy a plunge into tropical climates. The crystalline galleries of the largest Victorian-era glasshouse in the United States—the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory—invite visitors on an ecotour of tropical, subtropical, and desert environments displaying more than 3,000 plant specimens. Balmy atmospheres and exotic plants are enhanced by the Conservatory's architectural splendor, which was completely restored and re-opened in 1997. Known as *A World of Plants*, this permanent exhibition of diverse plants from aquatics to cacti provides a warm escape from winter weather that can be witnessed just outside of the Conservatory's 17,000 panes of glass. It features plant species in a series of different habitats, presented with the assistance of interpretive signage and cell phone, audio, and docent-led tours.

The shimmering crystal palace showcases the diversity of plants and their uses while highlighting the research done by The New York Botanical Garden's scientists. As visitors stroll through *A World of Plants*, going from gallery to gallery and environment to environment, they learn about the practices of traditional healers in the rain forest of Belize; find out how palm trees serve countless economic uses in Brazil; encounter the defenses of "armed and dangerous" desert plants from the American Southwest and arid regions of Africa. It is an eye-opening journey around the world.

The galleries include stunning collections of palms, ferns, cycads, aloes, and more. The specimens of *A World of Plants* are displayed in biomes re-creating natural habitats that present a strong and coherent storyline. This ecotour is "narrated" by the Garden's renowned scientists and curators through the signage and interpretation addressing botany, ecology, ethnobotany, and conservation.

Visitors enter through the grand *Palms of the Americas Gallery* displaying the largest collection of New World palms exhibited anywhere under glass. They then travel on through four distinct environments: the Lowland Tropical Rain Forest, the Upland Tropical Rain Forest, the Deserts of the Americas, and the Deserts of Africa. Along the way, they not only encounter diverse, intriguing, strange, and beautiful plants but also learn about the interrelationships among the species; the way climate affects the evolution of plant life; and the interaction of plants with animal species, including humans.

Plants are essential to life on Earth. They provide oxygen, filter water, shelter animals, and create habitats for other species. People around the world also rely on plants in many ways, as food, fuel, medicine, and shelter. Many of these useful plants are represented in *A World of Plants*.

A Wealth of Winter Attractions

A winter visit to The New York Botanical Garden also provides a wealth of other attractions to stretch your mind while you rest your gardening back. Outdoors, the shapes and shades of evergreen trees take center stage during winter. The Benenson Ornamental Conifers and the Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum provide exquisite specimens of spruces, firs, pines, and more from around the world.

Indoors, an exhibition of 34 glorious color images is on display in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery: <u>The Heirloom Tomato</u>: Portraits of Historic Tomato Varieties from the Gardens of Amy Goldman, An Exhibition of Photographs by Victor Schrager.

In the Britton Rotunda and Gallery on the fourth floor of the Library Building, the <u>Plants and Fungi: Ten Current Research Stories</u> exhibition gives visitors a glimpse of some of the work of Garden scientists. Since the 1890s, scientists at the Garden have traveled far and wide to better understand plants and fungi, their relationship to their environments, and their many uses by people around the world. Photographs, diagrams, unusual plant specimens, artifacts from explorations in remote locales, and audio/visual presentations bring to life several current research projects, from the study of mosses and lichens to cycads and Brazil nuts. Upstairs on the sixth floor, the world-renowned <u>LuEsther T. Mertz Library</u> offers an elegant, pleasant reading room in which to browse unparalleled resources of horticultural and botanical literature.

Winter is also a busy season in the Garden's educational programs. Everyone is welcome to join <u>tours</u>, both indoors and outdoors, led by expertly trained docents. On Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m., <u>Home Gardening Demonstrations</u> offer useful tips on everything from growing daylilies to pruning to getting rid of pernicious perennial weeds. Weekly <u>Winter Bird Walks</u> on Saturday mornings, led by a National Audubon Society member, will introduce you to bird-friendly habits at the Garden and some of the many feathered creatures who make this their permanent or winter home.

Children will enjoy exploring *The Life and Work of George Washington Carver*, plant scientist extraordinaire, in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden from January 17–February 22. In conjunction with the exhibition and **Black History Month Celebration** (February 14–22, 2009), there will be film screenings of *A Man Named Pearl*, the inspiring story of self-taught topiary artist Pearl Fryar on February 15, 18, and 21; *Rosa's Pride*, a musical dramatization of the life of Rosa Parks, on February 21; *Gifts from my Ancestors*, a program by Calvin Earl on February 15; and *Hooray for Martin Luther King*, a program on peace and brotherhood, on February 17 and 18.

For adults, the Botanical Garden presents its tenth annual Thursday morning lecture series, <u>American Gardening</u>, with accomplished plant breeders, explorers, and horticulturists introducing their favorite plants. <u>American Gardening Lecture Series</u> dates are January 15, February 19, and March 19. On January 24, there's <u>Houseplant Extravaganza</u>, a special Saturday program on exotic and unusual plants to add beauty to an interior landscape. On Wednesday, January 28, Continuing Education is sponsoring a <u>Career Information Session</u> from 6-8 p.m. in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall, with a focus on Landscape Design and Horticulture. On February 7, <u>Shade Gardening Saturday</u> offers a selection of classes to gardeners with sun-challenged sites.

Presentations by Garden scientists, *Around the World with Garden Scientists*, offer an introduction to some of the biodiversity research projects underway at the Botanical Garden, as well as behind-the-scenes tours of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium and the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory. On Saturday, January 24, Robbin Moran, Ph.D., will discuss his research on tree ferns. On Saturday, February 7, Amy Litt, Ph.D., will explain how the study of genes and DNA is helping to understand plant structure and function.

Shop in the Garden

No visit to the Botanical Garden is complete without a stop in Shop in the Garden, which offers one of the country's finest selections of horticultural and gardening books, including rare and antiquarian books, as well gardening tools and garden-inspired décor for the home and garden. *The Financial Times* of London recently called the Shop "the most intelligently run shop for garden books in America." What better time than winter to curl up with a garden book? Or to select a colored-glass bud vase for Valentine's Day?

For more information, visit www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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Media Contacts: The New York Botanical Garden: Nick Leshi 718.817.8658 or George Shakespear 718.817.8512

The New York Botanical Garden is an advocate for the plant kingdom. The Garden pursues its mission through its role as a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes across its National Historic Landmark site; through its comprehensive educational programs in horticulture and plant science; and through the wide-ranging research programs of the International Plant Science Center.

At Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road, the Botanical Garden is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. 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 and Native Plant Gardens, and Tram Tour: \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students with ID, \$5 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. 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.

The Henry Moore Foundation maintains the artist's former home, studios and grounds at Perry Green in Hertfordshire, England, which is open to visitors from April to October, by appointment. The Foundation also maintains and develops the world's largest collection of Moore's sculpture, drawings, graphics, textiles, and tapestries. The collection is managed from Perry Green by the curatorial staff, who are actively involved in the research, support, and curating of Moore's work worldwide. For more information or to book a visit to Perry Green, visit www.henry-moore-fdn.co.uk or call +44 (0)1279 843333. All press enquiries should go to Sarah Cockburn, Communications Officer, +44 (0)113 2467467 sarah@henry-moore.ac.uk

The Henry Moore Foundation