

NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*[®] Is a Must-Experience Seasonal Tradition!

Complementary Programs Offer Festive Activities and Performances for All Ages



Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*[®] will showcase iconic skyscrapers and architectural wonders of Midtown Manhattan in the 26th year of this beloved tradition. New replicas of the Empire State Building, Chrysler Building, General Electric Building, and St. Bartholomew's Church from this celebrated district will join NYBG's collection of more than 150 New York buildings and landmarks crafted from plant parts and enlivened by large-scale model trains. Other visitor favorites include the Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, Grand Central Terminal, and the original Yankee Stadium. The *Holiday Train Show* opens to the public on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 and runs through Monday, January 15, 2018.

In addition to the exhibition, programming for all ages adds to the seasonal experience at the Botanical Garden:

- The festive and popular **Bar Car Nights** return to NYBG on select Fridays and Saturdays. Exclusively for adults 21 and over, the evenings include lively outdoor adventures, holiday specialty cocktails, spiked coffee and hot chocolate, and other beverages available from cash bars, with an after-dark viewing of the *Holiday Train Show* as the centerpiece. Visitors can relax around the all-new Fire Pit in the Leon Levy Visitor Center, sing along to their favorite songs with dueling pianos in the Pine Tree Café, and follow the illuminated Snow Globe Dancers through the Garden. The Pine Tree Café hosts **Shake Rattle & Roll Dueling Pianos**, with performances that are equal parts concert, comedy, and cabaret, with no tunes off-limits. **Snow Globe Dancers**, with circus artists Richard and Ashlee and featuring performers from Connecticut Ballet, lead Garden visitors arriving via Metro-North Railroad to the *Holiday Train Show*. Larger-than-life twinkling **Snow Queens** from Cirque De Light glide among visitors along Perennial Garden Way and in the Visitor Center.

Bar Car Nights take place 7–10:30 p.m.; November 24 & 25; December 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 22 & 23, 29 & 30; January 6 & 13. Performers vary each night and advance tickets—Non-Member \$35/Member \$25—are recommended. Check nybg.org for details and to purchase tickets.

- During **Evergreen Express** in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, children step into Discovery Center Depot to explore plant parts from assorted evergreens, make herbarium pressings of a conifer specimen, and craft a swag (a miniature, simple evergreen wreath with bow) to take home. On weekends, children create a train puppet inspired by master puppeteer Ralph Lee and join a musical marching parade. All can enjoy the wonders of winter while exploring the trails of the Adventure Garden on a hike in search of beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs, while younger visitors can play on a kid-sized train engine and put on a puppet show in the Woodland Theater. Guided Activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, and Holiday Week (December 26–31), 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Attend the **Holiday Tree Lighting** of a stunning conifer display and join in an old-fashioned sing-along on Sunday, December 3, 4–5:15 p.m.
- Hear **former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins** read poems he has written specifically for the Garden on Sunday, December 17, at 2 p.m. This event is co-presented with the Poetry Society of America. Space is limited. Reserve your tickets in advance to guarantee seating by selecting the special *All-Garden Pass* “Poetry for Every Season Reading: *Holiday Train Show*” at <https://www.nybg.org/visit/admission/>.
- Enjoy train-inspired poems by Billy Collins displayed in the landscape and accompanied by a free cell phone audio tour in the **Poetry for Every Season: Holiday Poetry Walk**, co-presented with the Poetry Society of America.
- **Connecticut Ballet: Highlights from *The Nutcracker*** celebrates the holiday with this beloved dance classic on Sunday, December 10, at 12 & 2 p.m. After the show, visitors can have photos taken with their favorite characters. Performances are included with an *All-Garden Pass* and seating is first-come, first-served in Ross Hall.
- Celebrate the holidays with **Holiday A Cappella**, a mix of holiday music, both familiar and new, and alternative music performed by a *cappella* musicians, including the Columbia University Glee Club, Fordham Satin Dolls, Broadway Carolers, and Barnard Bacchantae. Opening Day, November 22; Opening Weekend, November 24–26; Saturdays and Sundays, December 2–31, plus daily December 26–January 1; 1, 2, & 3 p.m.
- Watch holiday short films during the **Holiday Film Festival**, December 23 & 24 and December 26–28. Films include *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas*, *Shrek the Halls*, and *How to Train Your Dragon: Gift of the Night Fury*. For a full listing, visit nybg.org.
- Children join Thomas and Driver Sam on a fun-filled, sing-along, mini-performance adventure in ***All Aboard with Thomas & Friends™***. In “Thomas’ Budding Adventure,” kids will help Thomas discover the steps to growing a beautiful garden. Be sure to have a professional photo

taken with the Really Useful Engine to capture the special day. Select dates, December 30–January 21. Visit nybg.org for the full performance schedule.

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Visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org, to check dates and times for all of the holiday offerings and to purchase advance timed tickets.

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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, bus, or subway.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:

During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 22, 2017–January 15, 2018, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Sunday, and Monday, December 11 & 18 and January 1 & 15, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Saturdays, November 25–January 13; Friday, November 24 (day after Thanksgiving); and December 26–December 30. The Garden is closed all day on November 23 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 2 p.m. on November 29 and 3 p.m. on December 15 and 24 (Christmas Eve).

PRICING:

***All-Garden Pass* tickets start at \$23 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 2–12) and differ during certain peak times and weekends. Members and children under 2 are free. Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at nybg.org. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at nybg.org**

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Images and b-roll available.