

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 18, 2018

NYBG Kicks Off a New Season of Renowned Speakers and Compelling Topics in Fall and Winter Lecture Series, Special Presentations, and Symposia

Martha Stewart, Novelist Richard Powers, and the Floral Duo of Putnam and Putnam are among the Featured Speakers in Programs from October 2018 through March 2019



Bronx, NY—Starting in October, The New York Botanical Garden kicks off a new season of lectures and symposia in which outstanding landscape architects and designers present their signature works and insights and internationally recognized speakers address topics of global interest related to the study, preservation, and appreciation of the plant kingdom.

In addition to the Botanical Garden's two annual series—the Landscape Design Portfolios Lecture Series and the Winter Lecture Series—the lineup for 2018-2019 features National Book Award winner Richard Powers, whose best-seller *The Overstory* is already being called the “Great American Eco-Novel,” and historian Virginia Johnson, whose National Book Award-nominated *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*, tells the captivating story of David Hosack, founder of American's first public garden.

In October, the celebrated floral design duo of Putnam and Putnam presents a large-scale floral demonstration in NYBG's Ross Hall. November brings conservation into the backyard at the *Cultivating a New Garden Ethic* symposium. In January, entrepreneur, author and television host Martha Stewart will be the first speaker in the 19th Annual Winter Lecture Series.

Those are only some of the highlights of the Fall 2018–Winter 2019 season of lectures and symposia at The New York Botanical Garden. The full schedule follows.

20th Annual Landscape Design Portfolios Lecture Series

Time, Place, & Story: Design at the Crossroads

Three Mondays, October 1, October 15, & November 5, 2018; 6:30–7:30 p.m.;

Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue (at 38th Street), New York, New York

Each lecture: Garden Member \$23/Non-Member \$26; the series: Member \$62/

Non-Member \$69

The 20th year of this series features three innovative leaders in the field of contemporary landscape design. From the tireless advocacy of The Cultural Landscape Foundation to the timeless designs of Reed Hilderbrand and Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, the collective work of this year's speakers demonstrates a steadfast dedication to ensuring that the public has access to beautiful landscapes that heal the land, tell powerful stories, and celebrate history, culture, and ecology.

- October 1: **Charles Birnbaum**, FASLA, FAAR, Founder and CEO, The Cultural Landscape Foundation
Change and Continuity
As urban growth continues at a relentless pace, Charles Birnbaum believes it is crucial for landscape architects to weave a site's history into new designs, but not in ways that are nostalgic or staid.
- October 15: **Beka Sturges**, ASLA, LEED AP, Principal, Reed Hilderbrand
Giving Voice to the Land
“We gave the landscape voice...and turned the museum toward the land.” This is how Beka Sturges describes her firm's award-winning expansion of The Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts, for which she served as landscape architect and manager.
- November 5: **Thomas Woltz**, FASLA, CLARB, NZILA, Owner/Principal, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects
At the Interface of Ecology and Culture
For 20 years, Thomas Woltz has been on the cutting edge of ecological restoration. He has called his landscapes “living paintings” that regenerate the land and honor local traditions with arresting beauty.

Andrew Carnegie Distinguished Lecture 2018

American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic

Thursday, October 18, 2018; 6–8 p.m.; Christies, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York

Garden Member \$25/Non-Member \$29

When Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr fought their famous duel in 1804, they chose the same attending physician, their mutual friend David Hosack. Historian **Victoria Johnson**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at Hunter College, will discuss her acclaimed new book, *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of*

the Early Republic, which tells the story of the founder of America's first public garden on the site of today's Rockefeller Center. The spectacular plant collection he assembled drew praise from Thomas Jefferson, Alexander von Humboldt, and others. Prof. Johnson will be in conversation with writer **Marta McDowell**, author of many books, including *All the Presidents' Gardens*.

Landscape Design Students & Alumni Series 2018-2019

Select Tuesdays from October 23, 2018, to March 19, 2019; 1-3 p.m.; Ross Hall

Each class: Garden Member \$29/Non-Member \$35; register for three or more over the phone (718.817.8747) and receive a 10 percent discount.

Award-winning and nationally renowned professionals will share their expertise in these popular afternoon lectures, which coincide with monthly morning meetings of the Landscape Design Students and Alumni Association. All are welcome to register.

- October 23: **Matthew Urbanski**, Principal, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
Designing for Delight
Matthew Urbanski will describe his approach to highlighting delight as a design imperative and how this translates into creating memorable environments for play.
- November 27: **William Kenny**, Owner, William Kenny Associates and NATIVE, a native plant nursery
Extraordinary Wetland Management
William Kenny, PWS, RLA, an expert in ecological planning and design, will examine a variety of factors that are essential to extraordinary wetland management.
- December 18: **Yoko Kawai**, Ph.D., Principal, Penguin Environmental Design
Mindfulness & Japanese Spatial Concepts
Yoko Kawai, lecturer at the Yale School of Architecture, will examine how Japanese spatial concepts create the mind-body-space relationship that is instrumental to mindfulness.
- January 22: **Lynden B. Miller**, landscape designer and author (*Parks, Plants and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape*)
The Designer's Eye
Drawing on experiences designing more than 45 New York City public spaces and a lifetime of challenges in her own garden, Lynden B. Miller will share practical ideas for successful gardens that look good in every season.
- February 19: **Travis Beck**, Director of Horticulture at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware
Planting for a Changing Landscape
Landscape architect, plantsman, and author Travis Beck will discuss how to create dynamic and resilient plant communities that will thrive in today's conditions as well as tomorrow's.

- March 19: **John Gwynne**, former head of design, Wildlife Conservation Society
Sakonnet Garden: Current Design Experiments
Sakonnet Garden in coastal Rhode Island is a long-term personal experiment with plants and planting design. Gwynne will share the outside-the-box design and horticultural objectives behind what he calls his “eccentric labor of love.”

Floral Design Showcase with Putnam & Putnam

Friday, October 26, 2018; 10–11:30 a.m.; Ross Hall

Garden Member \$25/Non-Member \$29

With their romantic and artfully chaotic approach to floral design, **Michael and Darroch Putnam** have become the toast of New York’s fashion world and wedding scene. They count Bergdorf Goodman, Cartier, and Dior among their many A-list clients. To mark the publication of their new book *Flower Color Guide*—a lavishly illustrated reference book—the Putnams will take the audience through their vision and process in a large-scale, in-depth floral demonstration. Audience Q&A and booksigning to follow.

Picturesque: Celebrating Sublime Nature

Two Fridays, November 16 & December 7, 2018; 10–11:30 a.m.; Ross Hall

Each lecture: Garden Member \$25/Non-Member \$29

European ideas of beauty expanded in the 18th century, giving rise to a landscape design form that became known as Picturesque, an aesthetic quality inspired by majestic, awe-inspiring scenes in rugged nature. In this pair of talks, noted garden historians will explore how the Picturesque ideal impacted the work of Englishman Humphry Repton and the designs of Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted.

- November 16: **John Phibbs**, *The Unlikely Genius of Humphry Repton*
After famed English gardener Capability Brown died, Humphry Repton took over his business, hoping to make an easy living. Yet the magnificent works of his last years—Endsleigh, Ashridge, and Woburn Abbey are among the survivors—are comparable to the best of Brown’s achievements and directly influenced the great American gardens.
- December 7: **Linda Chisholm**, *Designing for Democracy*
The author of the newly published *The History of Landscape Design in 100 Gardens*, Linda A. Chisholm will show how the Picturesque style was the ideal expression of Andrew Jackson Downing’s and Frederick Law Olmsted’s values, interests, and commitments. Book signing to follow.

Cultivating a New Garden Ethic

Wednesday, November 28, 2018; 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; Ross Hall

Garden Member \$25/Non-Member \$29

Gardens are places of beauty, sources of food, and expressions of our creativity. They are also windows into the magic of nature and are inextricably connected to the natural world that

sustains us. But can they help clean our air and water, sustain wild plants and animals, and restore ecosystem health? In this symposium, three distinguished speakers explore how our gardening practices can satisfy our desire to create bountiful beauty while helping to heal the larger environment, followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A with the audience.

Featured speakers and their topics:

- **Larry Weaner**, *Integrating Restoration Techniques and Garden Design*
Award-winning landscape designer Larry Weaner will discuss techniques for gracefully integrating native plants and ecological processes to create diverse, low-maintenance gardens.
- **Scott Freeman**, *Saving Tarboo Creek: A Case Study in Ecological Restoration*
Scott Freeman, a lecturer at the University of Washington and author of biology and ecology textbooks, will share lessons he has learned on the massive restoration project he and his wife, Susan, lead in Washington, where they are transforming a badly damaged creek into a meandering stream that supports abundant wildlife again.
- **Jan Merryweather**, *PlantRight: Growing Healthier Landscapes Starts in Our Gardens*
Jan Merryweather, Program Director at Sustainable Conservation, will talk about how the organization's PlantRight initiative has built a network of volunteers, retailers, horticultural and landscape leaders, and state agencies—all working together to keep invasive plants out of California nurseries, gardens, and wildlands.

19th Annual Winter Lecture Series

The Education of a Gardener

Three Thursdays, January 31, February 28 & March 28, 2019; 10–11:30 a.m., Ross Hall

Each lecture: Garden Member \$32/Non-Member \$35; the series: Member \$85/

Non-Member \$95

There are many points of entry into the gardening life. For some it begins in childhood; some come to it through other disciplines. Three distinguished and passionate practitioners share their philosophies, their stories, and the lessons they have learned along the way.

- January 31: **Martha Stewart**, entrepreneur, best-selling author, and Emmy Award-winning television host
A Life in Gardening
Martha Stewart's lifelong love of gardening began as she planted alongside her father in their backyard family plots. Her wide-ranging, thoughtful approach to design, planting, sustainability, and landscape can be seen in the spectacular yet diverse gardens she has created.
- February 28: **Jinny Blom**, landscape designer and author
The Thoughtful Gardener
Jinny Blom launched her landscape design practice in 2000 after 20 years as a psychologist. Today, she is one of the U.K.'s leading landscape gardeners,

celebrated for her skill with plants, her spatial understanding, and an ability to create gardens that respond to the history of a site and its wider landscape.

- March 28: **Margaret Roach**, author and podcast host

A Way to Garden

After stints as garden editor at *Martha Stewart Living* and *Newsday*, Margaret Roach now creates the critically acclaimed Web site *A Way to Garden* and its companion public radio show/podcast. She lives fulltime in the Hudson Valley, where her 2.3-acre property juxtaposes habitat-style and collector plantings, the latter emphasizing foliage, including much that is large or gold.

The Overstory: A Conversation with Richard Powers

Thursday, March 7, 2019; 10:30 a.m.; Ross Hall

Garden Member \$25/Non-Member \$29

Critics are raving about *The Overstory* by **Richard Powers**, a sweeping, passionate novel about trees, people, and our planet's existential struggle between humans and non-humans. In a series of concentric and interlocking stories ranging from antebellum New York to the late 20th century timber wars of the Pacific Northwest, trees bring small lives together into larger acts of war, love, loyalty, and betrayal. The writer whom *The New York Times Book Review* calls one of America's most "prodigiously talented" novelists is bound to provide a compelling conversation—with audience Q&A and bookplate signing to follow.

The World Premiere of a New Documentary Film

Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes

Friday, March 15, 2019; 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.; Ross Hall

Garden Member \$10/Non-Member \$20

Presented by NYBG's Humanities Institute, *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes* is a new film about one of the most influential and innovative garden designers of the early 20th century. Over a 50-year career, she completed design commissions at the White House, Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D. C., and NYBG's Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, among many other projects. By director **Stephen Ives** and horticulturist **Anne Cleves Semmes** and hosted by landscape designer **Lynden B. Miller**, the documentary explores the groundbreaking ideas of an artist who created a distinctively American style in landscape design. Following the screening, a conversation about Farrand and the film will be moderated by **Sir Peter Crane**, President of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation.

For more information, visit NYBG's [Lectures and Symposia Web page](#).

To register, visit nybg.org/adulted or call 800.322.NYBG (6924).

###

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, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

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.

Media Contact: Stevenson Swanson, 718.817.8512, sswanson@nybg.org