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NYBG Announces a Year of #plantlove

2019 Exhibitions, Programs, and Projects Explore the Essential Connections Between Plants, People, and the Environment

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden has announced 2019 as its year of #plantlove. Exhibitions, programs, and projects will explore the essential connections between plants, people, and the environment. Without plants, life on Earth would be impossible. They provide oxygen, food, shelter, and medicine. Plants lift spirits and inspire, but they are often overlooked in a phenomenon known as plant blindness—even as threats to their existence have never been greater. NYBG is building awareness by inviting the public to see plants, get to know plants, help save plants, and join in spreading #plantlove. Following are program highlights of NYBG's year of #plantlove. Visit www.nybg.org/plantlove for the complete lineup and for additional listings throughout the year.

Biophilia: Sharing Our #plantlove

Opens February 2

Discover the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory's permanent collection anew—palms, cycads, *Monstera*, ferns, cacti, and so many more—through the lens of the curators and gardeners who help it thrive. Explore their love for plants and the fascinating stories they reveal about nature, adaptation, and human culture.

#plantlove: The Weekend

February 16–18

The root of our love for plants is an innate force of nature known as biophilia. Explore this fundamental attraction through special offerings—including *Biophilia: Sharing Our #plantlove* in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory; curator-selected viewings of the treasured collections of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium and LuEsther T. Mertz Library; performances by Composer-in-Residence Angélica Negrón; Rain Forest Gallery tours; a propagation workshop; and a #plantlove Happy Hour co-hosted by The Sill, ihavethisthingwithurbanjungles, and ApartmentBotanist—each designed to help foster a deeper connection with the natural world.

The Orchid Show: Singapore

February 23–April 28

The 17th annual Orchid Show is a dazzling tribute to Singapore—one of the world's greatest orchid cultures—where these storied flowers are an integral part of the life of this vibrant “City in a Garden.” Developed in partnership with Singapore Botanic Gardens and Gardens by the Bay, the horticultural spectacle set in the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory featuring thousands of orchids pays homage to Singapore’s rich legacy of innovative garden design, spectacular floral display, and achievements in orchid cultivation as well as one of the premier showcases for sustainable development and commitment to a greener planet.

The Tree Dialogues

With the world’s forests under increasing threat, this series invites award-winning and best-selling authors for compelling conversations on critical environmental issues, eco-activism, indigenous practices, plant intelligence, and more. Join us for fascinating insights into the many ways we can learn from, protect, and live with trees and the natural world:

- *The Overstory*: Richard Powers in conversation with Todd Forrest March 7; 10:30–11:30 a.m.
- *The Secret Wisdom of Nature*: Peter Wohlleben in conversation with Maria Popova March 13; 10:30–11:30 a.m.
- *Sprout Lands*: William Bryant Logan in conversation with Robin Wall Kimmerer May 21; 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Citizen Science Day

April 13 (Kick-off Symposium on April 12)

Join us for the Fourth Annual Citizen Science Day, a nationally organized event to increase awareness of citizen science and help volunteers easily discover and engage in local citizen science projects. We’re kicking it off a day early with a special symposium revealing how amateur naturalists throughout history have been indispensable to the study and documentation of Earth’s biodiversity. On Citizen Science Day, participate in a wide range of activities, from bird, phenology, and naturalist tours; NYC EcoFlora project’s EcoQuest Challenge; a teen-led documentation project for young budding botanists; to a clean-up and tree planting for Members in the Thain Family Forest.

Earth Day Weekend

April 20–22 (Kick-off Talk on April 19)

On one of the most significant weekends of the year to share your #plantlove, join NYBG to celebrate the natural world and learn how we work to preserve and protect our planet's biodiversity. Deepen your connection with the environment and appreciate its wonders with an interactive musical performance by Composer-in Residence Angélica Negrón, a parade, and behind-the-scenes tours and programs highlighting NYBG's mission-driven commitment to saving the plants of the world. The weekend begins with a Friday talk by historian and author Andrea Wulf, celebrating the 250th anniversary of pioneering explorer/environmentalist Alexander von Humboldt, presented by the Humanities Institute.

Brazilian Modern: The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx

June 8–September 29

Discover the fascinating life of Roberto Burle Marx (1909–94), a principal figure in the modernist art and garden movement in Latin America during the second half of the 20th century. Explore how his immersive garden designs were fully integrated with his artistic work, his passion for botany and plant exploration, and his longtime leadership in plant conservation. This is the first ever exhibition to combine a large-scale horticultural tribute to Burle Marx's influential garden designs, and a curated gallery of his paintings, prints, drawings, and textiles and will reveal deep connections between his artistic practice and his commitment to environmental conservation. The exhibition will highlight his boldly modern landscape designs, executed in vibrant color and fluid geometric forms; his dynamic and genre-spanning works of art; and his celebrated contributions to horticultural exploration and plant conservation in his native Brazil.

Edible Academy Weekends

June–October

The new Edible Academy (opened in 2018) is a state-of-the-art educational facility—with a 5,300-sq.-ft. Classroom Building recently certified LEED Gold by the U.S. Green Buildings Council—featuring hands-on activities and innovative programs that help children, families, teachers, and the general public learn about growing and preparing vegetables, fruit, and herbs while encouraging a lifelong interest in gardening, nutrition awareness, and environmental stewardship.

The Edible Academy spotlights special themed weekends:

- Summer Solstice, June 22–23
- Totally Tomatoes, August 10–11
- Honey & Harvest, October 12–14

Kids Camps

NYBG is cultivating #plantlove in the next generation of environmental stewards. Kids can start a lifelong love of nature through outdoor explorations, science investigations, and behind-the-scenes tours in the Garden's 250-acre landscape. Take full advantage of the vast plant collections and unique habitats such as the Thain Family Forest and Native Plant Garden with careful observation and state-of-the-art technology. Highlights include:

Forest Adventure Camp, to develop a love of nature through forest hikes, nature explorations, and scavenger hunts, Session 1: July 15–19; Session 2: August 12–16; and **Earth Avengers Camp**, to learn about native and exotic plant and animal species, and advocate for natural habitat restoration by creating seed “bombs,” bird and bat houses, and insect hotels, August 19–23.

Second Annual New York City EcoFlora Conference

September 20; 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join NYBG's Center for Conservation Strategy staff and other renowned experts for an update on the New York City EcoFlora project, now in its second year. Dr. Victoria Johnson, author of the acclaimed new book *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*, will deliver the keynote address centered on the conference theme, *The Historical Flora of New York City: Implications for Conservation Action*. She and other speakers will explore the precursors of #plantlove in New York City history and how this theme is manifested today by citizen scientists through the EcoFlora project, which engages New Yorkers in protecting and preserving the City's native and naturalized flora. The project also assembles new, original observations and data on the City's plants and their ecological traits to better inform policy decisions about sustainable management and conservation of the City's natural resources.

“Chorus of the Forest” World Premiere

November 2–3

This original, commissioned piece by Composer-in-Residence Angélica Negrón, site-specific to the Thain Family Forest, will “give voice to the trees.” A live choral group situated in the Forest will be accompanied by a recorded musical “soundscape” or audio environment—a sonic tapestry woven from acoustic/electric/electronic/robotic instruments and found sounds.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition

November 2–17

The chrysanthemum—*kiku* in Japanese—is the most celebrated of all Japanese fall-flowering plants. For the past 15 years, NYBG horticulturists have nurtured, carefully tended, and meticulously trained chrysanthemums—for 11 months of each year—in both modern and ancient styles, including the striking, sculpted designs of plants in the bonsai style; the tumbling flowers of *Kengai* (“Cascade”); and the monumental *Ozukuri* (“Thousand Bloom”) form. On view in the Nolen Greenhouses' Bourke-Sullivan Display House.

NYBG Launches New Residencies During 2019

Composer-in-Residence Angélica Negrón

Angélica Negrón is a Puerto Rican-born composer and multi-instrumentalist who writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics as well as chamber ensembles and orchestras. She has been commissioned by the Albany Symphony, Bang on a Can All-Stars, A Far Cry, MATA Festival, loadbang, The Playground Ensemble and the American Composers Orchestra, among others. Her music has been performed at the Kennedy Center, the Ecstatic Music Festival, EMPAC, and the 2016 New York Philharmonic Biennial, and her film scores have been heard numerous times at the Tribeca Film Festival. She has collaborated with artists such as Sō Percussion, The Knights, Face the Music and NOVUS NY, among others and is a founding member of the electronic indie band Balún.

At NYBG, Negrón will explore musical techniques through interactive performances that give voice to the natural world, culminating in a world-premiere composition showcasing the sounds of the Thain Family Forest.

Artist-in-Residence Michele Oka Doner

Michele Oka Doner is an internationally renowned American artist and author whose work is fueled by a lifelong study and appreciation of the natural world, from which she derives her formal vocabulary. Her artistic production encompasses sculpture, prints, found objects, drawings, poetry and language, books, costumes, video and other media. She has created over 40 public and private permanent art installations, including “A Walk on the Beach,” composed of more than 9,000 bronzes embedded in terrazzo with mother-of-pearl on the concourse of Miami International Airport. At one and on-quarter linear miles, it is one of the largest artworks in the world. Other recent works include SoulCatchers, approximately 400 shamanistic sculptures in the kiln room at the Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory, Munich, Germany; “How I Caught a Swallow in Mid-Air,” at the Pérez Art Museum Miami; and “Feasting on Bark,” Marlborough Gallery, New York.

At NYBG, Oka Doner’s explorations of nature, science, and art will manifest in site-specific work and programs, allowing visitors to see myriad Garden vistas anew through her unique lens.

Visit www.nybg.org/plantlove for more information about #plantlove throughout the year.

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. 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.

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Images available.