



MAY 5, 2018

## NYBG's 2018 Garden Art & Antiques Fair

Spring is a popular time for fairs and sales of all kinds, and when my busy schedule allows, I always try to attend a few of my favorites. If you're in the New York City area this weekend, please try to stop at the annual [Garden Art & Antiques Fair at the New York Botanical Garden](#). It features a variety of wonderful plants, trees, hard-to-find perennials, herbs, and annuals from some of the finest growers, as well as decorative art and fine garden antiques.

Earlier this week, I attended the event's [Benefit Preview Party and Collectors' Plant Sale](#). This year, nearly 30 of the country's leading exhibitors showcased their garden antiques for purchase. Kevin Sharkey and I also signed copies of our book, "[Martha's Flowers: A Practical Guide to Growing, Gathering, and Enjoying](#)".

It's a splendid time of year to be at the [New York Botanical Garden](#) - not only to enjoy its many fun and interesting events, but to see its stunning gardens and horticultural displays. Enjoy these photos.



The event was held just outside the NYBG's landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Here is a view of the Conservatory with the blooming cherry trees in front. The Conservatory is the nation's largest Victorian glasshouse. The Palm Court, with its spectacular 90-foot dome and dramatic reflecting pool, is often used for receptions and other gatherings.



The NYBG is amazing this time of year. Here are some of the tulips and other plants in the Perennial Garden near the Conservatory building.



Here is another view of the Perennial Garden – everything is so meticulously maintained. In fact, all proceeds from this event benefit NYBG's Fund for Horticulture, directly supporting curators and gardeners who work tirelessly to make The New York Botanical Garden one of the most important horticultural showplaces in the world.



The Collectors' Plant Sale attracted many buyers and a flurry of activity. NYBG experts were on hand to help guests make their selections. The Garden is the ideal venue for learning about plants and expanding personal botanical collections.



The Garden Art & Antiques Fair includes a variety of 18th, 19th and early 20th century garden antiques, architectural elements, bold and unusual lighting as well as eclectic furniture and accessories from both Europe and America.



I saw these stone toad stools right away – I have very similar ones back home at my Bedford farm just waiting for the perfect location, where my grandchildren can enjoy them. They will love hopping from one to the other.



I was really drawn to these stone planters. Multiples of a kind are very useful in decorating and were actually available in several booths this year. It's always a surprise to find sets of four or more of anything.



There were also many casual and whimsical pieces, such as these smaller stone garden animal ornaments – displayed in complimentary pairs.



Here is a porcelain elephant displayed by Bob Withington & Company. Bob Withington has been a fine source of garden and other antiques for years. His shop used to be in York, Maine, but now he is located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I wrote about him on my blog several years ago.



Here is a cast iron frog also in the Bob Withington & Company booth.



This was a familiar piece – I have four of these at the farm. This is one of a pair. They were purchased for two-thousand dollars each.



This is one of a pair of planters, which I also liked.



They were displayed on top of these tall pillars for all to see.



Here is a table filled with all kinds of flower frogs. Flower frogs are made of lead, pottery, glass, or bronze and sit at the bottom of a bowl or a vase to hold flower arrangements firmly in place.



I always have my camera with me, especially when I go to special events. I take hundreds of photos a week – most of them to share with you on this blog.



I thought these metal garden seats were very charming – I loved the unique legs.



I also saw these seats – look at the handsome and unique legs on these.



There were many animal figures at the Fair – this cast iron bunny would make a wonderful decoration for Easter.



Here is a collection of lovely botanical plates.





This garden piece drew lots of looks with its faux bois branch posts and large stone roof. This would look great at the center of a parterre.



Here is a stone basket planter – many of the planters were already filled with lovely specimens.



Here I am at our book signing with Kevin and the new President of The New York Botanical Garden, Carrie Rebora Barratt. (Photo by Angela Pham/BFA.com)



After the event, the NYBG hosted an intimate dinner. The tables were so beautifully dressed.



Everyone had a lovely evening. There was so much to see at the NYBG Antique Garden Art & Antiques Fair. I hope you get to visit the NYBG the next time you are in New York City. <https://www.nybg.org>