

# NYBG

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## With Spring Around the Corner, NYBG Offers a New Season of Renowned Speakers and Compelling Topics in Lectures, Presentations, and a Symposium

A Documentary about Pioneering Landscape Designer Beatrix Farrand Will Have Its World Premiere, and Writers Richard Powers, Peter Wohlleben, and Andrea Wulf Are among the Featured Speakers in Programs from March through June 2019



**Bronx, NY**—As winter loosens its grip and spring prepares to return, The New York Botanical Garden begins a new season of lectures, presentations, and a special exhibition-related symposium, with renowned authors and experts from a wide range of disciplines, including botany, horticulture, the humanities, and more.

The **19th Annual Winter Lecture Series**, which began in January, continues in February and March with landscape designer Jinny Blom and podcast host Margaret Roach. March brings the first lectures in **The Tree Dialogues**, a series of compelling conversations about the many ways we can learn from, protect, and live with trees and the natural world. Featured speakers include Richard Powers, whose best-seller *The Overstory* has been called the “Great American Eco-Novel,” and Peter Wohlleben, author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*. Also in March, the Humanities Institute of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library presents the premiere of ***Beatrix Farrand’s American Landscapes***, a documentary about the influential early 20th Century landscape designer, followed by a conversation with the filmmakers.

To kick off Earth Day Weekend in April, Andrea Wulf, author of the best-selling *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World*, will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of that revolutionary naturalist and explorer, and in June, a symposium devoted to the

Brazilian modernist master Roberto Burle Marx will mark the opening of the Garden's major exhibition *The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx*, celebrating his work as an innovative artist, landscape architect, and conservationist.

The late Winter–Spring 2019 lineup of lectures and presentations is part of **#plantlove**, NYBG's theme for 2019—a year of exhibitions, programs, and projects exploring the essential connections between plants, people, and the environment. We invite everyone to **see** plants, get to **know** plants, help **save** plants.

The full schedule of lectures and presentations follows.

### **19th Annual Winter Lecture Series**

#### ***The Education of a Gardener***

*Two remaining Thursdays, February 28 & March 28, 2019; 10–11:30 a.m., Ross Hall*

*Each lecture: Garden Member \$32/Non-Member \$35*

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

- 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 Tree Dialogues**

*Three lectures: Thursday, March 7; Wednesday, March 13; & Tuesday, May 21, 2019; 10:30–11:30 a.m., Ross Hall*

*Each lecture: Garden Member \$25/Non-Member \$29. The series: Member \$69/\$75 Non-Member*

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.

- March 7: ***The Overstory: A Conversation with Richard Powers***  
**Richard Powers** has authored 12 novels, received a MacArthur Fellowship and the National Book Award, and is a Pulitzer Prize and four-time National Book Critics Circle Award finalist. His latest work, *The Overstory*, is a sweeping, passionate novel of activism and resistance that is also a song of praise to the natural world. In a series of interlocking stories ranging from antebellum New York to the late-20th-century Pacific Northwest timber wars, trees bring small lives together into larger acts of war, love, loyalty, and betrayal. Following the lecture, he will be in conversation with **Todd Forrest**, NYBG Arthur Ross Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections.
- March 13: ***The Secret Wisdom of Nature: A Conversation with Peter Wohlleben***  
**Peter Wohlleben**, a career forester in his native Germany, is best known as author of the international bestsellers *The Hidden Life of Trees* and *The Inner Life of Animals*. *The Secret Wisdom of Nature* completes the trilogy, exploring the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible. Describing the interplay between animals and plants, highlighting new scientific discoveries and sharing insights from his decades of observing nature, Wohlleben helps us recapture our sense of awe and see our world with new eyes. Following the lecture, he will be in conversation with **Maria Popova**, founder/editor of *Brain Pickings*, MIT Futures of Entertainment Fellow, and author of the newly-released *Figuring*.
- May 21: ***Sprout Lands: A Conversation with William Bryant Logan***  
**William Bryant Logan** is an arborist on the faculty at NYBG and the award-winning author of four books. His most recent, *Sprout Lands: Tending the Endless Gift of Trees*, is a poetic and practical global journey to rediscover and celebrate the lost traditions of tree pruning that sustained human life and culture for millennia, a time when the responsible, reciprocal relationship between humans and trees created the healthiest, most sustainable, most diverse woodlands we have ever known. Following the lecture, he will be in conversation with **Robin Wall Kimmerer**, Ph.D., SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

### **Humanities Institute Presents**

*Three Fridays, March 15, April 19, & June 7, 2019; 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. (June 7: 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.), Ross Hall*

*Each program: Garden Member \$10/Non-Member \$20*

The Humanities Institute, a division within the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, promotes innovative thinking at the intersection of science and the humanities. The Institute engages a lively

community of fellows and visiting scholars, who use the historical collections of the Mertz Library and William and Lynda Steere Herbarium to further their interdisciplinary studies. Through seminars, lecture programs and workshops, the Institute stimulates public discourse about society's relationship with the natural environment, past, present and future.

- March 15: **World Premiere Documentary: *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes***

*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.

- April 19: **250th Anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt with Andrea Wulf**

Andrea Wulf's 2015 bestseller *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* was a *New York Times* 2015 Top Ten Book and won literary honors around the world. To mark the 250th anniversary of the revolutionary naturalist-explorer-author's birth, Wulf returns to the Garden with artist Lillian Melcher to introduce *The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt*—a brilliantly evocative graphic novel the two women developed together. Focusing on Humboldt's five-year expedition in South America, Wulf and Melcher incorporate pages of his own diaries, sketches, drawings, and maps to create an intimate portrait of the radical ecologist who predicted human-induced climate change, fashioned poetic narrative out of scientific observation, and influenced iconic figures such as Bolívar, Jefferson, Darwin, and Muir. This captivating talk kicks off Earth Day Weekend at NYBG.

- June 7: **Exhibition Symposium: Roberto Burle Marx—A Total Work of Art**

To mark the opening of the Garden's major exhibition *The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx*, this symposium explores the breadth and genre-spanning creativity of the Brazilian modernist master, celebrating his work as an innovative artist, landscape architect, and conservationist.

Moderator:

- **Edward J. Sullivan**, Ph.D., Exhibition Curator; Professor of the History of Art and Deputy Director, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

Speakers:

- **Raymond Jungles**, FASLA, Founder and Principal of Raymond Jungles, Inc.

- **Catherine Seavitt Nordenson**, ASLA, AIA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at CUNY's City College; Principal, Catherine Seavitt Studio
- **Isabela Ono**, Executive Director, Burle Marx Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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

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

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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 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](http://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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