

NYBG

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Climate Week NYC at NYBG Features an Inspiring Lineup of Programs and Activities to Showcase and Accelerate Global Climate Action

To Kick Off NYBG's Participation in Climate Week NYC's Series of Special Events, *All-Garden Pass* Admission Will Be Free on Friday, September 20, 2019



NYBG scientist Fabián Michelangeli, Ph.D., shown here on expedition in the Amazon Basin, is one of the featured speakers during Climate Week NYC at NYBG.
Photo by Marlon Co/The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, NY—In conjunction with Climate Week NYC later this month, The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) will join together with organizations across New York City to showcase and accelerate global climate action with an inspiring series of special events.

Starting Friday, September 20, 2019, programs and activities include conversations with leading environmentalists and scientists, performances by artist activists, tours of sustainability efforts on the NYBG campus, cooking and composting demonstrations, behind-the-scenes opportunities to get a close-up look at plant research and conservation in action, and community gardening and greening programs.

All-Garden Pass admission to the Botanical Garden will be free on Friday, September 20, the day of the Global Climate Strike, which is scheduled to take place in advance of the United Nations Climate Action Summit on Monday, September 23. NYBG's aim in offering free admission is to serve as a resource for those seeking a deeper connection with the natural world in order to take action to preserve it.

This year's Climate Week NYC takes place from Monday, September 23 through Sunday, September 29. The annual series of events—run by The Climate Group, an international non-profit organization, in coordination with the United Nations and the City of New York—focuses on accelerating climate action. Climate Week NYC at NYBG is intended to inspire people to get involved in protecting Earth's extraordinary biodiversity at a time when plants—which are vital to the health of the planet and humankind—are under threat as never before.

Events are included with *All-Garden Pass* admission except where noted.

The Historical Flora of New York City: Implications for Conservation Action

Second Annual New York City EcoFlora Conference

Friday, September 20, 2019; 10 a.m.–1 p.m.; Ross Hall

RSVP required [here](#)

NYBG's Center for Conservation Strategy staff and other renowned experts will provide an update on the New York City EcoFlora project, now in its third year. Historian **Victoria Johnson**, a 2019 Pulitzer Prize finalist for her 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 through the EcoFlora project, which engages citizen scientists in protecting and preserving the city's native and naturalized flora.

Roots of American Botany & Ecology in an Age of Climate Change

Library Open House

Friday, September 20, 2019; 12–3 p.m.; LuEsther T. Mertz Library

The staff of NYBG's LuEsther T. Mertz Library will show and lead a discussion about important holdings related to ecology, the environment (both natural and human-made), and botanical conservation efforts. Included will be selections from the paper of pioneering American botanist John Torrey (1796–1873), rare and special collections, and recent titles and materials of note concerning current scientific research and conservation projects related to climate change research.

Go Green on Wellness Wednesday

Wednesday, September 25, 2019; 9 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Visitors can learn about NYBG's sustainability efforts underway across our 250-acre campus as part of Wellness Wednesdays, an ongoing program that focuses on healthy choices for mind and body. Wellness Wednesday programs for Climate Week NYC at NYBG include:

- ***Sustain the Planet & Your Health***

NYBG Farmers Market

9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Mosholu Entrance

The NYBG Farmers Market abounds with locally grown produce, fresh baked goods,

and other specialty items every Wednesday throughout summer and into fall, with a wide selection of weekly vendors, rotating artisanal purveyors, and live music.

- ***Reduce Waste & Rebuild Soil***

NYC Compost Project Workshop

11 a.m.–1 p.m.; Mosholu Entrance

Visitors can learn about composting and worm bins from the NYC Compost Project, which works to reduce waste and rebuild New York City's soils by providing New Yorkers with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to make and use compost locally.

- ***Protecting Our City's Environment***

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

12–3 p.m.; Mosholu Entrance

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection will have an information table at the NYBG Farmers Market about how they equitably provide services that promote the health and well-being of all 8.6 million New York City residents and ensure New Yorkers have some of the best drinking water in the world.

- ***Sustainable Infrastructure & Nutrition***

Edible Academy Tour

1:30–2 p.m.; Edible Academy

Visitors can take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Edible Academy, NYBG's three-acre gardening education facility. The tour will feature the site's sustainable infrastructure systems and state-of-the-art green components, which include a LEED Gold-certified classroom building with a green roof, technology lab, demonstration kitchen, and composting toilets; teaching greenhouse and plant nursery; solar pavilion with photovoltaic panels; outdoor gardens; and a terraced amphitheater. The tour will also showcase the Edible Academy's innovative programs, which teach children, families, and educators how to grow and prepare vegetables, fruit, and herbs while encouraging a lifelong interest in nutrition awareness and environmental stewardship.

- ***Climate-Friendly Recipes***

Fresh from the Garden Tastings

2–2:30 p.m.; Edible Academy

Inspiring cooking demonstrations feature family-friendly, plant-based recipes using seasonal vegetables, fruit, and herbs that are healthy for people *and* the planet.

- ***Greening Site Operations with Zero-Emission Vehicles***

All-Electric Trucks Q & A

2–2:30 p.m.; Edible Academy

In 2018 NYBG was one of four institutions in New York to receive an all-electric truck (and now has two) as part of a competitive program initiated by the New York State Attorney General. Visitors can see and learn how these zero-emission vehicles help keep the Garden green by being environmentally and economically efficient.

Falter: A Conversation with Bill McKibben

Thursday, September 26, 2019; 10–11 a.m.; Ross Hall
Garden Member \$10/Non-Member \$20

The groundbreaking 1989 classic *The End of Nature* by **Bill McKibben** first brought the idea of global warming to public consciousness. Now the stakes are even higher as climate change shrinks the spaces where civilization can exist and technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics threaten the nature of human experience. McKibben has responded with *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?*, a powerful and sobering look at these converging trends, the ideological passions that prevent us from controlling them, and some possible ways out of the trap. Audience Q & A and booksigning to follow.

Nurturing Nature's Resilience

Thain Family Forest Tour

Thursday, September 26, 2019; 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; tour begins at the Native Plant Garden entrance

Jessica Arcate Schuler, Director of the Thain Family Forest, will lead a one-hour walking tour of the Garden's 50-acre, old-growth forest. Today, the Forest is the largest uncut expanse of New York City's original wooded landscape. It is a magnificent reminder of the beauty and resilience of nature in the face of complex human-caused disturbances. To preserve the Forest for future generations, the Garden manages invasive species, plants native plants, and performs research. Visitors will learn about the trees, history, geology, and ecology of the forest and how it protects biodiversity and mitigates the impacts of climate change.

Brazilian Biodiversity: Assessing Threats to Plants & Ecosystems

A Conversation with Garden Scientist Fabián Michelangeli, Ph.D., including an update from the current Amazon firestorm

Friday, September 27, 2019; 11 a.m.–12 p.m.; LuEsther T. Mertz Library Reading Room

Brazil is home to some of the richest biomes on Earth, including the hotspots of the Amazon rain forest, the cerrado, and the Atlantic coastal forest. Nearly half of the plants growing in the country are found nowhere else—and many of them are in danger of extinction, primarily from human activities. NYBG scientist Fabián Michelangeli, Ph.D., discusses the Garden's more than 130-year history of research in Brazil and how our extensive scientific collections and long-term research efforts are used to understand the relationships among climate, geography, and plant diversity in the region and to relate the data to broader patterns of plant diversity in South America. He will also share an update from NYBG scientist Douglas Daly, Ph.D., in Rondônia, the eye of the current Amazon firestorm.

Survival Instincts: Living Fossils & Other Extreme Plants

Plant Research Lab Tours

Friday, September 27, 2019; 12–3 p.m.; Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory

Visitors can get a rare behind-the-scenes look at NYBG's state-of-the-art laboratory and meet

some of the scientists who lead teams studying DNA to understand plant diversity at the most fundamental level. Highlighted research projects include *Living Fossils*, aimed at understanding plant lineages that have survived for hundreds of millions of years, and *EvoNet*, which seeks to explain how plants survive in extreme climates.

Pressed for Time: Plants & Climate Change

Herbarium Open House

Friday–Sunday, September 27–29, 2019; 12–3 p.m.; William and Lynda Steere Herbarium

Visitors can learn about the many ways that scientists use preserved plant specimens to study climate change during a behind-the-scenes visit to the Steere Herbarium, one of the largest collections of specimens that are a record of plant life on our planet for the past 300 years. Among the specimens on display will be mosses and lichens from the changing landscapes of the Arctic, wild relatives of crops that could be studied to develop more sustainable agriculture, and species that no longer grow on Earth. Visitors can try their hands at some of the methods scientists use to study these plants and learn about NYBG's citizen science projects, which help us digitize our collections and make them an online resource for climate researchers around the world.

Artists Inspiring Action

Climate Change Arts Exchange

Saturday, September 28, 2019; 2–4 p.m.; Ross Hall

Baba Brinkman, rap artist and science communicator, will host an afternoon of multimedia performances addressing climate change by the Brooklyn-based Human Impacts Institute, television and podcast host Chuck Nice, dance troupe SpectorDance, and data visualization artist Brian Foo. The afternoon culminates with ***Interpreting Nature***, a conversation between NYBG's first composer-in-residence, Angélica Negrón, and Pulitzer Prize-nominated author and scientist David Haskell.

Brazilian Modern: The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx

Exhibition on view through Sunday, September 29, 2019; 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Only a few weeks remain to see NYBG's largest botanical exhibition ever, celebrating influential Brazilian modernist artist, landscape architect, and plant explorer and conservationist Roberto Burle Marx (1909–94). The popular exhibition runs through September 29, combining a horticultural tribute to Burle Marx's design work, featuring lush gardens, with a curated gallery of his vibrant paintings, drawings, and textiles, revealing deep connections between his artistic practice and his commitment to environmental conservation.

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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

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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