

NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden's *Black History Month at Home* Honors Black Contributions to Art, Culture, and Science

Monday, February 1, Through Sunday, February 28, 2021

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden's annual celebration of Black History Month takes place online this year with engaging digital programs accessible at <https://www.nybg.org/event/black-history-month-at-home/> that can be enjoyed at home. Throughout the month, *Black History Month at Home* showcases cultural traditions of the African diaspora and explores the influential contributions of Black people to botany, horticulture, ecology, and our collective understanding of the natural world. Discover captivating dance, creative and inspirational children's programs, important historical narratives, and fascinating plant stories.

NYBG's *Black History Month at Home* includes:

- **Welcome Message from New York State Senator Jamaal T. Bailey**, District 36
- **Harambee Dance Company Performance**
NYBG and Harambee Dance Company celebrate Black History Month with a high-energy performance that reflects the majesty of the African diaspora through movement, modern dance forms, live percussion, and original music. In Swahili *harambee* means "let us pull together." Artistic Director and resident choreographer Sandella Malloy pulls together the essence of African and African-American dance, presenting it from an innovative and contemporary perspective.

Programs for Kids and Families

- **Art Activity: Create Leaf Rubbings**
Arvolyn Hill, Coordinator of Family Programs for the Everett Children's Adventure Garden at NYBG, helps kids discover the beauty of nature in a single leaf and explore their creativity as they learn about the Pan-African flag.
- **Mamma Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya**
Beginning February 16, kids ages 4–8 can join NYBG's Explainers for an activity inspired by Donna Jo Napoli's beautifully illustrated true story of Wangari Maathai, who founded Kenya's Green Belt movement and was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Plus, participants will learn how to adopt a street tree in their own neighborhood.

Programs for Adults

- ***The Hand Lens: Focus on Black Botanists***

A series of blog posts highlights Black botanists and their many contributions to the field of science, past and present, including:

- **Thomas Gaither**, Activist and Biologist
Behind each collection is the life of the collector, often lost to history. We're excited to celebrate the contributions of Dr. Gaither, both of his fungal collections, and to advancements in the fight for civil rights.
- **Lafayette Frederick**, Fungal Systematist
See a type specimen of fungal species described by Dr. Lafayette Frederick, a mycologist who followed in George Washington Carver's footsteps to understand and document all manner of plant pathogens.

- **NYBG Beyond Books Club: Black History Month**

Sign up for the NYBG Beyond Books Club on Facebook for a group discussion of published digital articles from prominent Black mycologists Dr. Thomas Gaither and Dr. Lafayette Frederick, as well as *Plant Talk* blog posts. Special discussion questions will be curated by staff from the Botanical Garden's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium.

- **Inside *Black Botany: A Conversation with the Curators***

February 23; 6 p.m.

Registration required.

Join us for a conversation with Rashad Bell and Nuala Caomhánach, curators of NYBG's online exhibit [Black Botany: The Nature of Black Experience](#) that seeks to acknowledge the complex relationship between enslaved Black people, nature, and the colonial environment—and reconsider the conscious omission of Black knowledge of the natural world.

Rashad Bell, MLIS, is the Collection Maintenance Associate at the Mertz Library, and Nuala Caomhánach is a former Humanities Institute Andrew W. Mellon Fellow and a Ph.D. candidate at New York University.

Recent NYBG Lectures

- **Carolyn Finney**

Black Faces, White Spaces: Christian Cooper, John Muir, & (Re)Claiming a Green World

In her recent NYBG lecture, storyteller, author, and cultural geographer Dr. Carolyn Finney explores the complexities and contradictions of our past, the realities of our present, and the possibilities of our future as it relates to green space, race, and our power to shape the places we live.

- **Walter Hood**
Landscape and Community: A Commemoration

Widely published, and known internationally as a lecturer, Walter Hood is a professor of landscape architecture at UC Berkeley and the founder and creative director of Hood Design Studio. Discover how he makes urban spaces that resonate with and enrich the lives of current residents while also honoring communal histories in this recent lecture.

The New York Botanical Garden's *Black History Month at Home* is available at [NYBG at Home](#), the Garden's content hub with videos, plant guides, virtual events, recipes for kids, and much more.

Sponsors:

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit [nybg.org](#)

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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