

# NYBG

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## **The New York Botanical Garden's *Earth Month Celebration* Features Online Programs about Science and Nature, Activities for Families and Citizen Scientists, and More**

**Through Friday, April 30, 2021**

**Bronx, NY**—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is celebrating Earth Month 2021 with a variety of virtual events, activities, and classes focused on ways to engage with and help protect the natural world. Throughout April, NYBG's *Earth Month Celebration* is featuring online citizen science activities, informative videos about how to prepare gardens and the importance of compost, the premiere of a documentary about NYBG scientists' work with the plants and people of Vanuatu, and much more.

NYBG's *Earth Month Celebration* includes the following current and upcoming features. The full lineup is available at <https://www.nybg.org/event/earth-month-celebration-2021/>

- **A Poetry Reading: *Happily ever after, The End***  
Meera Dasgupta, the National Youth Poet Laureate for 2020, performs her original work *Happily ever after, The End*, about humanity's responsibility to respond to environmental challenges such as climate change and pollution; she was recorded on the Mitsubishi Wild Wetland Trail at NYBG in September 2020.
- **NYBG Beyond Books Club: Earth Month**  
This month's online discussion features *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Drawing from her life experiences as an indigenous scientist and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how hearing the voices of other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offers us gifts and lessons for understanding the generosity of the earth and giving back in return. Join the NYBG Beyond Books Club Facebook group to share book discussion questions and links to NYBG lectures, recent articles, and podcasts featuring the author.
- **Importance of Compost Sites**  
In this video, Pamela Alvarez, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the NYC Compost Project, highlights the importance of food scrap drop-off sites, showcasing various Bronx community compost locations and demonstrating how people can participate to turn food waste into a beneficial soil amendment.
- **NYBG Science Around the World**  
Learn more about NYBG's conservation work through this blog post that will highlight scientists, their research, and their relationships with communities around the globe.

- **Project Rondônia: An Update**

In 2019, NYBG scientist and Amazonian expert Douglas Daly, Ph.D., was on the ground with local collaborators in Rondônia, the eye of the firestorm in the Brazilian Amazon that caused devastating forest loss, displaced countless people, and reduced the planet's capacity to remove carbon from the atmosphere. In this video, Dr. Daly will provide an update, two years later.

- **Explainer Story Hour: *In a Garden***

NYBG Teen Explainers read the book *In a Garden* by Tim McCanna. An activity follows the story, showing how to make a recycled seed container and start seeds for Earth Day.

- **Reduce, Reuse, Revitalize!**

Tiffany Gomez, a Bronx-based sustainable artist, designer and founder of [Gomez Design Studio](#), believes everything we need or want already exists somewhere; we just have to change how we look at the objects around us. In her South Bronx studio, Tiffany creates sculptural furniture and functional art made entirely of salvaged and recycled materials. In this video, she will guide viewers through a DIY garden-related craft project, creating a small planter pot using recycled paper and reclaimed materials.

- **Engaging Classes for Nature Lovers**

Connect with the natural world through NYBG's Adult Education classes and courses. April offerings include classes about medicinal mushrooms, spring-blooming native plants, the science of tree communication, forest ecology, bird songs, and more.

- **How To Get Your Garden Ready**

Learn the basics of sowing seeds, turning in cover crops, incorporating compost, and transplanting in a series of videos shot at one of NYBG's partner community farms in the Bronx, Tawqa Farm.

- **Earth Day Documentary Premiere: Plants & People of Vanuatu**

*Thursday, April 22; 5 p.m.*

An inspiring new documentary focuses on the plants, people and culture of the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu. Produced in partnership with the Vanuatu Department of Forestry, it highlights the shared conservation mission of a diverse group of plant scientists, ethnobotanists, mycologists, cultural specialists, and linguists working to preserve Pacific Island plants, fungi, ethnobotanical knowledge, cultural practices, and language. The screening will be followed by a conversation and audience Q&A with two NYBG scientists who are co-leaders of the project, Gregory Plunkett, Ph.D., Director and Curator of the Cullman Program in Molecular Systematics, and Michael Balick, Ph.D., Vice President for Botanical Science and Director and Philecology Curator of the Institute of Economic Botany. Register [here](#).

*Supported by Con Edison*

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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](http://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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