

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 16, 2021

The New York Botanical Garden's 30th Annual *Holiday Train Show*[®] Features More Than 25 Model Trains Zipping through Displays of New York Landmarks Crafted out of Natural Materials

To Mark Its Milestone Year, This Year's Exhibition Showcases NYBG Buildings and Structures, Including a New Replica of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building

Saturday, November 20, 2021–Sunday, January 23, 2022



NYBG's 30th Annual *Holiday Train Show*[®] opens to the public on Saturday, November 20, 2021, and runs through Sunday, January 23, 2022. (NYBG Photo)

Bronx, NY—The *Holiday Train Show*[®]—a favorite holiday tradition—is back at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) for its 30th year. Visitors will marvel as model trains zip through displays of NYBG's collection of more than 190 replicas of New York landmarks, which have been artistically crafted out of natural materials such as leaves, seeds, twigs, bark, acorns, and pine cone scales. To mark its milestone 30th year, the *Holiday Train Show* features a showcase of NYBG's buildings and structures, including a new replica of the majestic LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building, along with the iconic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. The *Holiday Train Show* opens to the public on Saturday, November 20, 2021, and runs through Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Featuring a miniature wonderland in the warmth of the Haupt Conservatory, the *Holiday Train Show* includes such famous New York landmarks as the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, One World Trade Center, Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, and many other favorites, all crafted by the creative team at Applied Imagination in Alexandria, Kentucky.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



©Robert Benson Photography

More than 25 G-scale model trains and trolleys hum along nearly a half-mile of track in the *Holiday Train Show*. American steam engines, streetcars from the late 1800s, and modern freight and passenger trains travel along overhead trestles, through tunnels, and across soaring bridges such as the Brooklyn Bridge and George Washington Bridge.

New LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building Replica Featured in NYBG Showcase

In recognition of the *Holiday Train Show's* 30th year, the artists at Applied Imagination have re-created one of the most significant sites at The New York Botanical Garden: the **LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building**, the **Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life**, and the **John J. Hoffee Tulip Tree Allée**, which were collectively designated a New York City Landmark in 2009.

The Mertz Library Building, the centerpiece of this grandly designed site, houses the most important botanical and horticultural library in the world, with more than 11 million archival items spanning 10 centuries. Designed by architect Robert Gibson, the building was completed in 1901 in a style reminiscent of a Roman Baroque palace and is capped with a green copper dome. The replica's façade is constructed of horse chestnut bark to represent the structure's stone blocks, with accents of mahogany pods, cinnamon pods, and black walnuts, among other natural materials. Creating it took an estimated 900 to 1,000 hours.



To mark its milestone 30th year, the *Holiday Train Show* features a showcase of NYBG's buildings and structures, including new replicas of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building, the Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life, and the John J. Hoffee Tulip Tree Allée. (NYBG Photo)

The Goldman Fountain of Life, a dramatic composition of mythical figures in front of the Library Building, was designed by American Renaissance sculptor Charles E. Tefft in 1905 and was restored in 2005. The replicas of the fountain's Beaux-Arts sculptures, including charging seahorses, a lively nymph, and a startled mermaid and merman, are covered in tobacco leaves, with grape vine tendrils for the figures' hair. The fountain's basin is fashioned from large shelf fungus.

Leading up to the Library Building and fountain is the Hoffee Tulip Tree Allée, four rows of distinguished native trees that were planted beginning in 1903. The Tulip Tree Allée has since become a signature feature of the Garden's landscape and living collections and is represented in the *Holiday Train Show* ensemble by live topiary myrtle trees, whose scale fits in with the overall composition of the display.

This new ensemble complements the botanical renditions of other NYBG structures, notably the **Enid A. Haupt Conservatory**, a New York City Landmark that is considered one of the most superb glasshouses of its time. Constructed by Lord & Burnham Company and completed in 1902, the Haupt Conservatory consists of 11 interconnected galleries that feature different habitats and plant specimens from around the globe as well as seasonal galleries where annual floral displays and special exhibitions are presented. The wide variety of natural materials used to construct the *Holiday Train Show* version in 2014 includes birch bark, cinnamon bark curls, wheat husks, and acorn caps. The signature cupola rests on a ring of large pine cone scales and is topped by a mahogany seedpod and a lotus seedpod.

The replica of the **Lillian and Amy Goldman Stone Mill** dates from the first *Holiday Train Show* in 1992, which comprised just 15 replicas and four model trains. The Goldman Stone Mill, built in 1840, is one of New York City's most picturesque extant pre-Civil War industrial buildings. It was designated a New York City Landmark in 1966 and a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The replica is made of tobacco leaves, cork, alder seeds, grape vine tendrils, and Brazilian and turkey tail fungi.

Rounding out the collection of NYBG replicas is the **Great Garden Clock**, a prominent feature of the Leon Levy Visitor Center that dates from 1997. The compact replica incorporates a surprising diversity of plant material, including pine cone scales, grape vine tendrils, mahogany pods, beech nut seeds, cinnamon bark curls, and elm bark.

An Expanded *NYBG GLOW* Returns, and a New Combination Ticket Is Available

In addition to the *Holiday Train Show*, families and friends can start a new holiday tradition as day turns to night on select dates, exploring the Garden's festively illuminated landscape and enjoying food, beverages, music, and more at *NYBG GLOW*, expanded for its second year. The outdoor 1.5-mile color-and-light experience will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. on 25 nights starting Wednesday, November 24, 2021, and running through Saturday, January 22, 2022. Visitors to *NYBG GLOW* will be able to round out their evening with an after-dark visit to the *Holiday Train Show* by purchasing a special combination ticket. It will be the perfect night out this holiday season.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website at nybg.org

Founding Sponsors:

Victoria and Robert Zoellner

Sponsors:

Alpine Associates Management Inc.

Additional support provided by:

Delta Air Lines

LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust

Providing Leadership Support for Year-Round Programming at NYBG

###

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.

Media Contacts: Stevenson Swanson at sswanson@nybg.org;
Nick Leshi at nleshi@nybg.org