

# NYBG

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## **Climate Week 2022 at The New York Botanical Garden Features Thought-Provoking Programs, Installations, Self-Guided Tour Opportunities, and More, Emphasizing the Importance of Plants in Helping Solve the Climate and Biodiversity Crises**

Highlights Include a Symposium about the Role of Forests in Mitigating Climate Change, an Artful Data Visualization Installation, a Black Poetry and Performance Project, and Engaging Online Offerings, Beginning September 17, 2022



NYBG's Climate Week 2022 programming includes a symposium about the importance of forests such as the Amazon rain forest (left, NYBG photo) in addressing climate change, the data visualization installation *Around the World's Table* (center, NYBG photo), and the Black poetry and performance project *The Bond of Live Things Everywhere*, created by poet Joshua Bennett, Ph.D. (right, photo by Rog Walker).

**Bronx, NY**—For Climate Week 2022 in September, The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) will offer a series of thought-provoking programs, tours, installations, and online content, emphasizing the importance of plants in helping to solve the climate and biodiversity crises. Programming begins Saturday, September 17, 2022.

On Thursday, September 22, 2022, NYBG will present its ***Climate Week 2022 Symposium***, investigating new trends in climate science, the crucial role of forests in mitigating climate change, and how individuals can make a difference. The symposium will feature a keynote address by renowned climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, Ph.D., and a panel discussion with five distinguished forest experts.

Self-guided tour opportunities include a Bloomberg Connects app highlighting cultivated plants in NYBG's Native Plant Garden that once grew wild and calming, meditative exploration of the Thain Family Forest. In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, ***Around the World's Table***, an artful data visualization installation, conveys the global impact of food production and consumption on the planet. Beginning Saturday, September 17, 2022, ***The Bond of Live Things Everywhere*** will feature the work of Black poets and a sound installation that speak to our relationship with the natural world.

Online content ranges from a guide for viewers to make their own herbarium specimens to webinars about the plant extinction crisis, the potential for traditional farming practices to help make our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change, and the fascinating field of plant communication.

“At this moment in human history, one of the primary roles of a botanical garden—to teach people about plants and their foundational importance to all life on Earth—has never been more crucial,” said Jennifer Bernstein, CEO and The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden. “With our Climate Week 2022 programming, we want to be a resource for people who are seeking a deeper connection with the natural world as well as inspire them to take action to protect it.”

NYBG's Climate Week 2022 is held in conjunction with Climate Week NYC, an annual series of events focusing on accelerating climate action that is organized by Climate Group, an international not-for-profit organization, in coordination with the United Nations and the City of New York. Climate Week NYC 2022 runs from Monday, September 19 through Sunday, September 25, 2022.

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

### ***Climate Week 2022 Symposium***

*Thursday, September 22, 2022; 9–11:30 a.m.*

*Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall*

*\$32 Garden Member; \$35 Non-Member*

As leaders from around the world convene in New York City for Climate Week NYC 2022, NYBG will host a symposium to investigate new trends in climate science, why forests are crucial in mitigating climate change, and what individuals can do to make a difference. The keynote address, *Why Climate Change Matters to You and What You Can Do About It*, will be given by renowned climate scientist **Katharine Hayhoe**, Ph.D., followed by *Forests: A Force for Change*, a panel discussion with five distinguished experts including advocates, scientists, and forest managers. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., coffee will be available in Ross Gallery, hosted by the Garden Patrons Program. Jennifer Bernstein, CEO and The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden, will then welcome symposium guests. After the symposium, audience members can explore the Thain Family Forest, NYBG's 50-acre, old-growth forest—the largest remaining tract of New York City's original woodland.

- **Remarks**

**Jennifer Bernstein**, CEO and The William C. Steere Sr. President, The New York Botanical Garden

- ***Why Climate Change Matters to You and What You Can Do About It***

Keynote Address by **Katharine Hayhoe**, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, and Distinguished Professor and Chair, Texas Tech University  
*9–9:45 a.m.*

Climate change affects us all, but it does not affect us all equally. Marginalized communities and threatened species are already experiencing the effects of global warming. Dr. Hayhoe, author of the 2021 best-selling book *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, will share current solutions that help to mitigate climate change while improving air quality, providing clean water, and protecting coastlines. She will also

discuss how we can use our voices to advocate for change and make a difference where we live, study, or work.

▪ ***Forests: A Force for Change***

**Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., and Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., Panel**

*10–11:30 a.m.*

This engaging panel discussion will explore why forests are crucial to solving the climate crisis. The panelists will discuss which global policies hold the most promise, why understanding species diversity is key to protecting forests, how NYBG works with local communities from the Amazon to New York City to preserve forests, and what all of us can do to help. The panel is named in honor of the late Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., and Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., world-renowned biologists and conservation advocates who were longtime members of NYBG's Board of Trustees.

○ Panelists:

- **Josefina Braña Varela**, Vice President and Deputy Lead of Forests, World Wildlife Fund
- **Lúcia Lohmann**, Ph.D., Professor, University of São Paulo, and Executive Director, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation
- **Douglas C. Daly**, Ph.D., B.A. Krukoff Curator of Amazonian Botany, Institute of Systematic Botany, NYBG
- **Eliot Nagele**, Director of the Thain Family Forest, NYBG

○ Panel Moderator:

- **Cristián Samper**, newly named Managing Director and Leader of Climate Solutions, Bezos Earth Fund

Tickets for *Climate Week 2022 Symposium* are available at the following link:

<https://www.nybg.org/event/climate-week-2022-symposium/>

### **Disappearing Plants**

*(This app guide will be live by Tuesday, September 20, 2022)*

*Native Plant Garden*

Using the Bloomberg Connects app, visitors can take a self-guided tour of the Native Plant Garden to learn about plants that have been extirpated from the adjacent Thain Family Forest—meaning they no longer grow in the Forest spontaneously due to the encroachment of invasive species and human disturbance.

### ***Around the World's Table***

*Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Palms of the World Gallery*

*Around the World's Table*, an artful data visualization installation created by information designer

**Giorgia Lupi** and leading design firm Pentagram, conveys the global impact of food production and consumption on the planet. The installation, on display in the reflecting pool of the Haupt Conservatory's Palms of the World Gallery, comprises 100 sculptures representing the major food groups we consume, their share in the global diet, and their relative carbon footprint. Using the basin

of the pool as a metaphor for the world, the size of the installation reflects the percentage of the world's habitable land used for agriculture—roughly 50 percent. The color, height, placement, and features of the sculptures visually represent 2019 data on global food production and consumption from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and Our World in Data—an open-source, knowledge-sharing platform for scholars and researchers.

### ***The Bond of Live Things Everywhere***

*Saturday, September 17–Sunday, November 6, 2022*

*Mitsubishi Wild Wetland Trail*

Curated by poet and scholar **Joshua Bennett**, Ph.D., in partnership with the Poetry Society of America, *The Bond of Live Things Everywhere* stages Black poetry and performance in the open air, inspired in part by “The Clearing”—a green space cut deep in the woods where a free Black community finds grace in Toni Morrison’s novel *Beloved*. Exploring the bond between Black freedom dreams and stewardship of the Earth, it will feature 12 to 15 poems by classic and contemporary Black poets, including Robert Hayden, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, Terrance Hayes, and others, as well as a sound installation that will combine recordings of poets reading their work with songs by Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and others that speak to our relationship with the natural world.

- Professor Joshua Bennett teaches English and creative writing at Dartmouth College. He is the author of *The Sobbing School* (Penguin, 2016), which was a National Poetry Series winner and a finalist for an NAACP Image Award; *Being Property Once Myself: Blackness and the End of Man* (Harvard University Press, 2020); *Owed* (Penguin, 2020); and *The Study of Human Life* (Penguin, 2022). In 2021, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Whiting Award in Poetry and Nonfiction. He has also received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Ford Foundation, and the Society of Fellows at Harvard University.

### **How to Make a Herbarium Specimen**

*Online video*

Creating a herbarium specimen has not changed much in centuries. This engaging video teaches viewers how to make a specimen from a favorite houseplant or a plant collected on an outing, similar to the 7.8 million specimens found in NYBG’s William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the second-largest plant research collection in the world. Herbarium specimens document the diversity of life through time and across geographic space, directly impacting conservation and biodiversity research. These specimens are used to describe and name new species and devise conservation solutions for endangered species.

### **Ongoing Programs at the Garden and Online**

During Climate Week 2022 and beyond, visitors can find calm and connect with nature by taking a forest bathing tour and find locally grown produce and other specialty items at the NYBG Farmers Market. Online research projects give volunteers a chance to contribute to NYBG’s plant research and conservation efforts.

- **Forest Bathing**  
*Thain Family Forest*

### *Self-guided audio tour*

Visitors can bathe their senses in the sights, smells, sounds, and sensations of NYBG's 50-acre, old-growth Thain Family Forest with forest bathing experiences, known as *shinrin-yoku* in Japan. In Japanese *shinrin* means forest, and *yoku* means bath. An audio guide focuses on slowing down and experiencing the sensory connections that help calm the mind and deepen reflection under a glorious forest canopy. The full experience takes about one hour, or visitors can choose to engage in a shorter 20-minute session.

- **Wellness Wednesdays**

*Wednesdays through October 26, 2022; 10 a.m.–6 p.m.*

Take part in activities that focus on healthy choices for mind and body, including local food options at the NYBG Farmers Market and guided forest bathing tours.

- **NYBG Farmers Market**

*10 a.m.–3 p.m.*

*Near the Mosholu Entrance*

The NYBG Farmers Market features locally grown produce, fresh baked goods, and other specialty items.

- **Forest Bathing**

*1 p.m.*

*Meet at the main Thain Family Forest entrance on Azalea Way*

On this guided tour, visitors can experience the ancient Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku* ("forest bath"), which enhances tranquility and connectedness through sensory immersion. Self-guided audio tours are also available.

- **Virtual Herbarium Expeditions**

In a virtual herbarium expedition, volunteers contribute to scientific research from anywhere by helping botanists interpret herbarium specimens. Online training resources show people how participate. Active volunteers are eligible to receive NYBG volunteer benefits. Current projects focus on plants and fungi of Malaysia, lichens of the West Indies, and South American ferns.

### **Engaging Online Science Content**

The plant extinction crisis, the potential for traditional farming practices to help make our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change, and the fascinating field of plant communication are featured in recent NYBG webinars available on its [Climate Week 2022](#) content hub.

- ***Here Today, Gone Forever:***

- ***Plant Extinction Now and Conservation Strategies for Tomorrow***

Plants are essential to all human existence, yet the topic of plant extinction has received little comprehensive study and analysis until recently. In this two-part online symposium, a group of international experts in biodiversity, conservation, and extinction present the current state of knowledge about the plant extinction crisis, including trends, causes, and consequences.

- ***Traditional Farming and Crop Diversity for a More Resilient Future***

Agriculture is on the front lines of climate change because of shifts in temperature and precipitation, extreme weather events, and a changing array of crop pests. **Alex McAlvay**, Ph.D., the Kate E. Tode Assistant Curator in NYBG's Institute for Economic Botany, shares his work documenting and conserving traditional farming practices and crop diversity in Mexico, Ethiopia, and Central Asia—and how these strategies can make our food supply more resilient to climate change.

- ***Finding the Mother Tree: A Conversation with Suzanne Simard***

As a pioneer in the field of plant communication, ecologist **Suzanne Simard**, Ph.D., has spent a lifetime rigorously documenting the forests of North America and the Arctic. Rather than simple collections of individual plants, these forests are complex communities of interdependent species that share resources and rely on one another for survival. In this presentation, Dr. Simard provides fascinating insights into these arboreal systems.

### **Opportunities to Get Involved with NYBG**

NYBG offers many ways for those who think globally to act locally such as by documenting local plant biodiversity, improving Bronx communities through greening initiatives, and participating in community science projects.

- **EcoQuest Challenge**

EcoQuests, part of the NYBG's New York City EcoFlora Project, challenge New Yorkers to become community scientists by observing, studying, and helping to conserve the native plants and animals of the city, using iNaturalist, an easy-to-use mobile app. Each month, the EcoFlora Project announces a new challenge to document a wild plant or animal species by taking and sharing photos via iNaturalist. The EcoQuest Challenges can be found here:

[EcoQuest Challenge » New York Botanical Garden \(nybg.org\)](https://www.nybg.org/ecoquest)

- **Bronx Green-Up**

As NYBG's community gardening outreach program, Bronx Green-Up provides horticulture education, training, and technical assistance to Bronx residents, community gardeners, urban farmers, local schools, and community organizations. The program is the visible presence of the Botanical Garden beyond its gates, inspiring New York City residents to get involved in improving their communities through greening projects.

- **Community Science**

Volunteers participating in community science projects make important contributions to data collection and analysis. At NYBG, community science volunteers are part of several ongoing research, data collection, and herbarium specimen transcription and digitization projects critical to NYBG's mission. Experts train participants in the proper procedures to ensure accuracy, and along with contributing to science, volunteers have the opportunity to learn aspects of plant biology, ecology, and collections management.

For more information about The New York Botanical Garden's Climate Week 2022 events and programs, please visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/climate-week-2022/>

*Digital experience provided by: Bloomberg Philanthropies*

Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.

Exhibitions in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery are made possible by the Arthur and Janet Ross Fund.

Wellness Wednesdays are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York City Council.

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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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