

NYBG

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NYBG Celebrates Native American Heritage Month with On-Site Programming and Digital Offerings Highlighting Plant-based Traditions



Fall foliage at the Thain Family Forest in The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG Photo)

Bronx, NY—Through November, The New York Botanical Garden is celebrating Native American Heritage Month with on-site programming in and around the 50-acre, old-growth Thain Family Forest—the largest uncut expanse of New York City’s original wooded landscape—as well as digital offerings highlighting the plant-based traditions of Native Americans from the Northeast and throughout the Americas.

NYBG is located on land that is part of Lenapehoking, the traditional homeland of the Lenni Lenape people, which extends from northern Delaware north to the Hudson Valley, and from eastern Pennsylvania to western Connecticut. The Lenape lived in this territory for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans and still maintain their communities and cultural practices in this area today.

On-site programs include:

- **Forest Tours with Representatives from Moskehtu Consulting**
Fall Forest Weekend, November 12 and 13; 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.
Join representatives from Native American-owned Cultural and Heritage Preservation firm Moskehtu Consulting for guided tours of the Thain Family Forest. These tours reveal the ecology of the forest from an Indigenous perspective, with the goal of protecting and sharing

the culture and history of this region. Founder Chenae Bullock, also known as Netooeusqua, (translating to “Butterfly Woman”) is an enrolled Shinnecock Indian Nation Tribal Member and descendant of the Montauk Tribe in Long Island, New York.

- **Flavors of Fall with Kini Kahauolopua**

Fall Forest Weekend, November 12 and 13; 12–4 p.m.

Chef Kini will showcase the techniques for preparing native Hawaiian foods made from plants such as *kalo* (taro) and other species in celebration of the connection of *kānaka* (humankind) and *mea ‘ai* (food).

- **Nahua Recipes Rediscovered: Native-Mexican Culinary Celebration**

Friday, November 18; 2:30–4 p.m.

Edible Academy; Registration required

<https://www.nybg.org/event/nahua-recipes-rediscovered-native-mexican-culinary-celebration/>

Chef Irwin Sánchez will conduct a culinary demonstration and discussing the close connection between age-old Mexican culinary traditions and the Nahuatl language. The workshop will focus on the importance of Indigenous food and languages as a means of resistance and cultural reclamation. *Soup Milpa* is a dish of peasant origin that is customary in Puebla, Tlaxcala, Federal District, Hidalgo, and, in general, in the center of the country. It uses products harvested in the *milpa* (field): corn kernels, *epazote*, pumpkin flowers, zucchini, poblano peppers, onion, and garlic cooked in water or chicken broth. In addition to these basic ingredients, *cuitlacoche*, green beans, or *nopales* can be added. It is a very old soup, perhaps of pre-Hispanic origin. Currently it is found all year round, but in the past it was typically made in the rainy season, which is when pumpkin flowers and *cuitlacoche* abound and corn is harvested. Small samplings of *Soup Milpa* will be served after the demo.

- **Native Forest Tour with Chenae Bullock**

Ongoing; Throughout the Thain Family Forest

Indigenous perspective historian and entrepreneur Chenae Bullock shares facts and stories about some of the useful and edible plants employed by the Indigenous inhabitants of the American Northeast in a self-guided tour of the Thain Family Forest. Bullock is an enrolled Tribal Member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and descendant of the Montauk Tribe in Long Island, New York; she is also African American. Bullock lends her extensive knowledge of Northeastern native plant life to explore contemporary and historical perspectives on some of the forests’ most important plants.

Digital programs include:

- **Plantways of the Lenape People**

http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/the-hand-lens/explore/narratives-details/?irn=7660&_ga=2.241692230.532618586.1667706190-348610510.1584396138

The New York Botanical Garden is located on land that is part of Lenapehoking, the traditional territory and homeland of the Lenape people. The Lenape use hundreds of plants for food,

medicine, tools, building materials, and other purposes. Discover more about Lenape Plantways on *The Hand Lens*, a digital resource of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium at NYBG, providing a closer look at the collections and the stories they tell.

- **East End Story: Protecting Shinnecock Plant Knowledge and Biodiversity on Long Island**

<https://www.nybg.org/planttalk/east-end-story-protecting-shinnecock-plant-knowledge-and-biodiversity-on-long-island/>

To support the preservation of biological diversity and cultural knowledge, the Shinnecock Cultural Resources and Environmental Departments, University of Waterloo, and NYBG scientists are launching two new initiatives. The Shinnecock Cultural Resources and Environmental Departments, University of Waterloo. The Shinnecock Ethnobotany Project will document local botanical diversity and traditional knowledge about its use and management, and the Shinnecock Indicators of Climate Change Impacts will study ecological processes related to climate change along with community perceptions and adaptations to them.

- **Old Man's Beard: A Medicinal Lichen**

http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/the-hand-lens/explore/narratives-details/?irn=7426&_ga=2.207522647.532618586.1667706190-348610510.1584396138

Usnea, a genus of lichen known as old man's beard, is used in traditional herbal medicine in many cultures worldwide—from ancient Greece to China to Native American groups—to treat respiratory and other conditions. It is known to grow on the north sides of trees, earning it the name *chan wiziye* (“on the north side of the tree” or “spirit of the north wind”) in the Dakota language.

For more information about The New York Botanical Garden's Native American Heritage Month celebration and to access the digital programs, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/native-american-heritage-month/>.

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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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