

NYBG

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Join NYBG's Celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with On-Site Asian Plant Tours, Displays of Chinese Poetry, Online Japanese Floral Design Lecture, and More

Now through Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Bronx, New York—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in May with on-site tours of Asian plants, a display of Chinese poetry, Asian-themed books on view in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, and a self-guided tour of the Botanical Garden grounds via the Bloomberg Connects App that shows the connection of flowers and trees to Chinese art, painting, and calligraphy. Online offerings include a pre-recorded lecture video on the traditional Japanese floral art of *ikebana* and more.

- **Chinese Poetry in the Conservatory's Aquatic Plants and Vines Gallery**

Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Aquatic Plants and Vines Gallery

In the year 353 CE, the “Sage of Calligraphy” Wang Xizhi and 41 of his friends gathered at the Orchid Pavilion, located in present day Zhejiang Province, to immerse themselves in nature and engage in a poetry competition. The event—and the poetry it produced—became one of the most famous moments in Chinese literary history. Throughout the month of May, discover a selection of some of those Chinese poems paired with details from a hand scroll by Ming dynasty painter Qian Gu (1508–ca. 1578) amid the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory's aquatic plants and hanging vines.

- **Asian Plant Tours**

Enjoy guided and self-guided tours of NYBG's various East Asian living plant collections throughout the Garden's 250 acres, either led by knowledgeable volunteer guides or self-guided through [NYBG PlantTracker](#).

Unusual Asian Plants Tour

This [self-guided tour](#) highlights some of favorite Asian plants in NYBG's collections from around the world.

Trees of Asia Tour

Select Saturdays and Sundays, May 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2023; 12:30 p.m.

Meets at the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden entrance

An NYBG guide leads a tour of the Garden landscape, exploring Japanese maples, Tanyosho pines, and other trees native to Asia. This tour is also accompanied by an American Sign Language interpreter.

- **Flowers on a River: Discovering Plants in Art with the China Institute**

A self-guided tour of the Botanical Garden grounds using the [Bloomberg Connects App](#) explores the Garden's diverse collections and spring blooms through the lens of two of the highest forms of Chinese art—painting and calligraphy—venerating flowers and trees as favored artistic subjects. In partnership with the China Institute, NYBG presents a walking tour highlighting the plants featured in the masterworks of the China Institute's new exhibition *Flowers on a River: The Art of Chinese Flower and Bird Painting, 1311–1911*.

- **Asian-Themed Books at the Mertz Library**

LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Tuesday–Friday; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

In celebration of AAPI Heritage Month, NYBG's LuEsther T. Mertz Library features Asian-themed, family-friendly, and educational titles on display. Visitors can check out a book with their library card or sign up for one at the registration desk. They can also explore the Library's collections either in-person or online at <https://www.nybg.org/learn/mertz-library/>.

- **Floral Design Showcase: The Art of *Ikenobo Ikebana***

Online, pre-recorded lecture video (from October 6, 2022)

[Watch](#) a pre-recorded lecture video from October 6, 2022, and discover the beauty and philosophy of *Ikenobo Ikebana*, an elegant floral art form with roots in 15th-century Japan, that tells stories of the ever-changing beauty of life and nature. *Ikebana* master Professor Joseph Lam—who holds the highest possible *Ikenobo* ranking (*Sokatoku* rank 18)—designs an array of arrangements with fresh flowers and branches to demonstrate how the language of *Ikenobo Ikebana* has evolved from classical to modern times.

- **History of the Mertz Library: Rose Li**

Online

Read about Rose Li, the first Asian-American librarian in charge of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library's Technical Services department. Born in China and raised in Taiwan, Li became an Associate Librarian in 1983. Supervising and training staff, Li also used her knowledge of the Asiatic and French languages to transcribe and create catalog records. Learn more about her inspirational career via the Mertz Library's [online research guides](#).

- **Cultivating Diversity—One Seed at a Time...**

NYBG Shop

Explore NYBG Shop's collection of seeds for sale to discover East Asian fruits, vegetables, herbs, and more that can be grown at home.

For more information about NYBG's programming for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/celebrate-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-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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