

NYBG

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NYBG Celebrates Native American Heritage Month throughout November

On-Site Programming and Digital Offerings Highlight Native American Plant-based Traditions



Fall foliage in the native forest at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG Photo)

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) celebrates Native American Heritage Month throughout November with a rich array of on-site programming in and around the 50-acre, old-growth native 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.

On-site programs include:

Indigenous Perspectives with Moskehtu Consulting

Sunday, November 12, 2023; 2 p.m.

This tour will begin with an overview of the history and traditional culture of Indigenous peoples, guide participants through areas of the native forest at NYBG, and explain how particular plants are identified and harvested in traditional and modern times. This tour is curated by Moskehtu Consulting and will be led by Rodrick Bell of Moskehtu Consulting.

- **Rodrick Bell of Moskehtu Consulting**

In this insightful talk and tour, Rodrick Bell, a knowledgeable guide and descendant of the Powhatan people, will delve into the rich cultural lifeways of the Powhatan people,

highlighting how these ancient traditions continue to be practiced today. As you explore the stunning Botanical Garden grounds, you'll learn about the deep connection between nature and the Powhatan community, gaining a deeper appreciation for their sustainable practices, herbal remedies, and traditional knowledge. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain a fresh perspective on Indigenous cultures and their ongoing contributions to our world.

Native Forest Walk with Chenae Bullock

Ongoing; Self-guided

Join Indigenous perspective historian and entrepreneur Chenae Bullock on a self-guided tour of the Thain Family Forest at NYBG. Bullock's writing features some of the useful and edible plants utilized by the Indigenous inhabitants of the Northeast. Bullock is an enrolled Tribal Member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and descendant of the Montauk Tribe in Long Island, New York. Bullock lends her extensive knowledge of Northeastern native plant life to explore contemporary and historic perspectives on some of the forests' most important plants.

Digital programs include:

- **Special Lecture: Seeds of Resilience**

<https://www.nybg.org/event/seeds-of-resilience-with-rowen-white/>

Join Mohawk Seedkeeper Rowen White to explore stories from the Indigenous Land and Seed Sovereignty movement, which embodies the vision of sustainable relational agriculture and shares the depth of the cultural dimension of plant biodiversity in North America. Mohawk Seedkeeper Rowen White will share insight into the collective vision of intercultural healing that emerges when we center Indigenous leadership, ecological knowledge, cultural memory, and sovereignty of living in relationship with the inheritance of land, seeds, and other non-human kin. She'll share her personal experience at the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance to paint an uplifting picture of cultural and climate sanity for the regenerative land stewardship movement in these times of great transformation.

- **Plantways of the Lenape People**

<https://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/the-hand-lens/explore/narratives-details/?irn=7660>

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/>

NYBG scientists and the Shinnecock Cultural Resources and Environmental Departments, University of Waterloo, are launching two new initiatives to support the preservation of biological diversity and cultural knowledge. 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**

<https://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/the-hand-lens/explore/narratives-details/?irn=7426>

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.

Media Contacts: Patricia Sullivan at psullivan@nybg.org
Nick Leshi at nleshi@nybg.org;