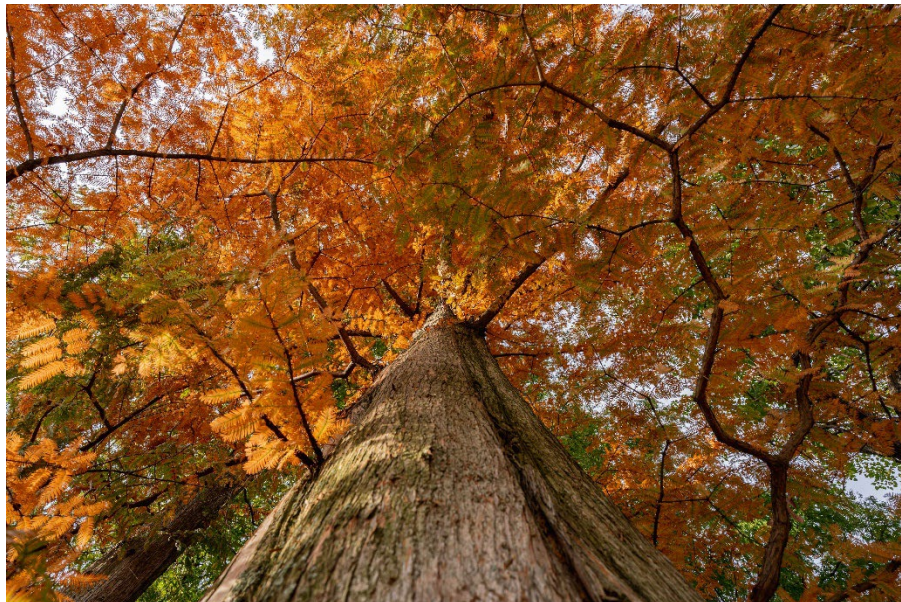


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2024

Fall Forest Weekends Return to The New York Botanical Garden—the Region’s Fall Foliage Headquarters—on Saturdays and Sundays, November 2–3 and 9–10, 2024

Enjoy Vibrant Foliage, Hands-on Activities, and Expert-led Tours in and Around N.Y.C.'s Largest Expanse of Uncut Old-Growth Woodland



Bronx, NY—The hues of autumn are on vibrant display during Fall Forest Weekends at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), the region’s fall foliage headquarters, on Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024. The 50-acre Thain Family Forest at NYBG, the largest remaining uncut tract of New York City's original wooded landscape, offers a front row seat to the best views of the season’s magnificent fall foliage, as well as a wide array of hands-on crafts and demonstrations that explore the vital research, conservation, and care that goes into NYBG’s mission to advocate for the plant world. Embark on expert-led tours or self-guided exploration. Head to the Activity Hub at the main entrance to the Thain Forest for a sweetgum or sugar maple seedling giveaway; take little ones to craft their own tree cookie necklace and leaf rubbing art; and create your own upcycled flower pot. Meet NYBG

scientists. View plant specimen mounting demonstrations by staff from the Botanical Garden's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium; discover some of the fall-themed jewels of its LuEsther T. Mertz Library; and so much more.

Fall Forest Weekends programs include:

Activity Hub

Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024; 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Main Entrance to the Thain Family Forest

Enjoy hands-on activities and demonstrations with local experts and go behind the scenes with NYBG staff to learn more about the research, conservation, and care that goes into our mission to advocate for the plant world.

Seedling Giveaway and Meet & Greet with NYBG Forest Staff

Saturdays & Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024

Meet the team that cares for the Thain Family Forest, and pick up a sweetgum or sugar maple seedling to grow at home. (Availability of seedlings is on a first-come, first-served basis.)

Meet the Scientists

Saturdays & Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024

Learn about research and conservation work from NYBG scientists:

- Arthur J. Cronquist Curator of North American Botany Robert Naczi
- Assistant Curator Aleca Borsuk
- Associate Curator Ken Karol
- Curator of Bioinformatics Damon Little
- Abess Curator of Tropical Botany and Director of the Institute of Systematic Botany Fabian Michelangeli
- Assistant Curator JianJun Jin

Meet LuEsther T. Mertz Library Staff

Saturdays, November 2 and 9, 2024

Enjoy a selection of fall-themed collections and new acquisitions from NYBG's LuEsther T. Mertz Library. While you are there, get temporarily tattooed by a librarian as you learn more about the Mertz Library. Afterwards browse a selection of deaccessioned books to take home.

Leaf Peeping & Mounting Demonstrations with NYBG Herbarium Staff

Sundays, November 3 and 10, 2024

Join staff from NYBG's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium in viewing preserved plants and fungi from our collection of 7.8 million specimens from around the world,

collected by scientists over the last 300 years. Learn how these scientific specimens are created and mount one yourself to take home.

Tree Cookies & Leaf Rubbing Art with NYBG Everett Children's Adventure Garden

Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024

Explore the trees that live here in the Thain Family Forest and throughout the Bronx. Learn how the Lenape people used these plants to help sustain their lives and ecosystems. Get creative by making your own tree cookie necklace and leaf rubbing art, all while learning how we can protect the trees that protect us.

Make Your Own Flower Pot with NYBG Bronx Green-Up Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 2024

Join Bronx Green-Up for a fun, hands-on workshop where you can create your very own upcycled flower pot. Learn about sustainable gardening practices and how to care for your plants in an urban environment. Participants will leave with their own potted plant, ready to nurture and grow.

During this activity, you will:

- Make a small DIY flower pot using recycled materials
- Take home a seedling
- Get tips on planting and caring for your plants in small spaces
- Explore different ways to connect with and volunteer at community gardens in the Bronx

Bronx Green-Up is the community outreach program of The New York Botanical Garden, focusing on supporting urban gardening and sustainable practices in the Bronx. The program holds workshops and events to engage the community in greening efforts, improving public spaces, and promoting urban agriculture.

Foraged Flavors with Holistic Health Practitioner Journei Bimwala Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024; 11 a.m. –3 p.m.

Main Entrance to the Thain Family Forest

While the Thain Family Forest does not permit active foraging, holistic health practitioner Journei Bimwala presents an interactive display of pre-foraged fall bounty found in forests like ours. Sample a seasonal beverage and test your taste buds by identifying the foraged tasting notes within the drink.

Meet Moskehtu Consulting

Saturday, November 9, and Sundays, November 3 and 10, 2024; 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Learn about indigenous perspectives presented by representatives from Moskehtu Consulting, a Native American-owned cultural and heritage preservation firm led by Chenae Bullock.

Corn Husk Doll-Making Activity with Lauren Peters

Sunday, November 3, 2024

Lauren Peters is passionate about preserving the traditional practicing of gardening in her Tribal community. In her engaging talk, she delves into the rich heritage of the Wampanoag people, specifically focusing on the traditional methods of growing corn. Peter brings to life the deep connection between the Mashpee Wampanoag culture and the sacred corn crop.

Learn about Indigenous Perspectives with Chenae Bullock

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Chenae Bullock will share her knowledge and experiences on the continued practices of environmental sustainability within Tribal communities, particularly in the Shinnecock and Montauk cultures. Join her for an engaging discussion that explores the deep connection between Indigenous cultures and the preservation of our natural world.

Learn About Local Tribal History with Shane Weeks

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Join Shane Weeks for a captivating exploration of local Tribal history with insights into the rich traditions of local Tribes, highlighting their historical and contemporary uses of native plants.

Volunteer-Led Tree Planting

Sunday, November 3, 2024; 1–3 p.m.

Meet at the Main Entrance to the Thain Family Forest

Join the NYBG Forest staff in their conservation efforts to plant more native trees and fill in the canopy. Volunteers at this event will help plant young trees or shrubs in forested areas of the Garden. Participation is recommended for ages 10 and older. Group size is limited to 15 people, registration is required, and participation will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Instructions will be communicated via email prior to the event. Please dress for the weather, wear comfortable footwear, and note that the Forest terrain can be rocky or uneven.

To register, visit: <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/fall-forest-weekends/>

Mini Hike

Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024

Self-guided

This mini loop of the Thain Family Forest is estimated to last about 5–10 minutes, depending on the mini hiker's pace. NYBG staff will be waiting to award a stamp upon the hike's completion.

Tours & Walks

Throughout the weekend; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Meet at the Main Entrance to the Thain Family Forest

From the historic landscape to the birds that call it home to the largest herbarium in the Western Hemisphere, explore the NYBG's collections and beyond with expert guides. Tours meet at the Main Entrance to the Thain Family Forest. Comfortable footwear and appropriate weather attire are recommended.

Introduction to Tree Identification with NYBG Forest Staff

Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024; 12:30 p.m.

Learn to identify common trees in the Thain Family Forest using almost all of our senses.

The State of the Forest with NYBG Forest Staff

Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024; 2:30 p.m.

Join John Zeiger, Manager of NYBG's Thain Family Forest, for a walking tour and discussion of the ecological threats in our region. Learn more about climate change, tree diseases, invasive species, and NYBG's conservation and research efforts.

Plant ID Bingo with Journei Bimwala

Saturdays and Sundays, November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024; 3:30 p.m.

On this 45-minute guided walk with holistic health practitioner Journei Bimwala, test your knowledge with a Plant Identification Bingo card.

Forestbathing with Treebath, Inc.

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, 2024; 11 a.m.

Allow yourself to be fully present as you bathe your senses in the sights, smells, sounds, and sensations of the Thain Family Forest with forest bathing experiences, known as *shinrin-yoku* in Japan. In Japanese, *shinrin* means forest, and *yoku* means bath.

Birding 101 with NYC Bird Alliance

Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 2024; 11 a.m.

Join an expert bird guide from NYC Bird Alliance for a tour of NYBG's diverse landscape to learn why this unique green space is such a vital haven for a great variety of species year-round. NYC Bird Alliance is a grassroots community that works for the protection of wild birds and habitat in the five boroughs, improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Expert Naturalist Tour with Gabriel Willow

Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 2024, 2024; 1:30 p.m.

Join naturalist and expert bird guide Gabriel Willow for a guided tour of the wildlife and feathered friends that call the Thain Family Forest their home.

Pre-History of NYBG with Landscape Ecologist Dr. Eric Sanderson

Saturdays, November 2 and 9, 2024; 11:30 a.m.

What was here before the Botanical Garden was here? Dr. Eric Sanderson, the best-selling author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*, will take us back in time to the Bronx's landscape before Bronck, immediately prior to European contact. Discuss matters relating to geology, ecology, nature, and culture as you stroll the NYBG grounds, and preview some themes that relate to the next 400 years of the remarkable landscape we call New York City.

Herbarium Tour

Sundays, November 3 and 10, 2024; 1 p.m.

Get a behind-the-scenes look at NYBG's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, a collection of 7.8 million preserved plant and fungi specimens. View historical specimens collected by luminaries such as Charles Darwin, learn how the collection is used for scientific research, and see how we create our Virtual Herbarium in the Digital Imaging Lab.

Explore the beauty of fall at NYBG in the Bronx, where seasonal highlights abound. Discover what's in bloom on our [Gardens & Collections](#) page, and don't miss tours of the *kiku* [collection](#) on display at the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections, featuring Japanese chrysanthemums that have been expertly trained over the past 11 months into modern and ancient styles. Refuel with seasonal treats, like apple cider or hot chocolate, at the Pine Tree Café, Spruce Bar, or Hudson Garden Grill as you wander through the Thain Family Forest and other living collections. Fall Forest Weekends offer something for everyone, providing a unique opportunity to connect with nature and culture in a stunning setting. Follow the changing colors with NYBG's [Fall Foliage Cam](#) for an up-to-date view of the season's beauty.

For more information about The New York Botanical Garden's Fall Forest Weekends and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/fall-forest-weekends/>.

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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](https://www.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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