Dear Friends:

Our revered Board Member, the late Dr. Oliver Sacks, was a celebrated neurologist and author as well as a devoted enthusiast of ferns and cycads. He paid regular visits to NYBG with colleagues and friends from various fields to view and study the plants that piqued his endless curiosity. A recent tribute published in The New York Review of Books by his friend Roberto Calasso included this wonderful observation:

“The New York Botanical Garden is one of the wonders of the world, for what it is and for how it is. For its visitors and its curators. For the air you breathe there.”

Dr. Sacks will be missed by everyone at the Garden who benefited from his contagious interest in many things, especially plants.

If you have been here lately, you will know that the spectacular vistas across the grounds have transitioned to their autumnal glory, and indoors, we are transitioning from our blockbuster exhibition, FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life, to our seasonal favorite, the Holiday Train Show®. The Kahlo show welcomed more than 525,000 visitors during its run from May 16 to November 1, breaking previous attendance records for our ambitious and innovative program of interpretive exhibitions that have explored the connections between art and nature. We have illuminated the importance of plants and gardens to the lives and work of influential artists and thinkers such as Charles Darwin, Emily Dickinson, Claude Monet, and now we have done Frida!

Thank you for your continued support of this magnificent place. Please bring your family and friends often during the upcoming holiday season to enjoy all of the many new offerings—both indoors and outdoors.

Gregory Long
Chief Executive Officer
The William C. Steere Sr. President

1 Adapted from an essay written for Oliver Sacks on his 80th birthday by Roberto Calasso, "A Garden for Oliver Sacks," The New York Review of Books, September 21, 2015.
Holiday Train Show® Is New and Bigger Than Ever!

Founding Sponsors
Victoria and Robert Zoeller

Sponsors
Karen Katen Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Schwarzman
Brooks Brothers
Now in its 24th year, the Holiday Train Show® has become New York City's most beloved holiday pastime, an adventure of tradition for children, parents, and train lovers alike who flock to the Garden for a holiday experience unlike anything else in the city. Nearly a half-mile of track winds its way through the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory come November, when a twinkling expanse of model trains and cityscapes in miniature returns to The New York Botanical Garden for another winter season.

In 2015 the exhibition builds on its reputation as NYC's greatest holiday tradition by including 3,000 square feet of additional display space, making room for dozens of new trains, tracks, and bridges for visitors to enjoy. Look for locomotives chugging along overhead and zipping among 150 replicas of well-known landmark crafted from bark, leaves, and other natural materials, each one hand-made by Paul Busse and his skilled team of artists at Applied Imagination.

Among the many buildings on display, including the Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, and Rockefeller Center, this year's exhibition offers a brand-new re-creation of The New York Public Library Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, joining the Garden's recent reimagining of the Haupt Conservatory as one of the show's latest landmarks.

Visitors to the Holiday Train Show will be greeted by another new feature in the form of a captivating short film. This behind-the-scenes glimpse into the making of the show reveals the magic that goes into each year's production, from the creation of the iconic replicas in Paul Busse's Kentucky workshop to the colorful selection of freight trains, trolleys, and commuter rail trains that animate the scenery. After nearly a quarter-century of annual display, the history of the exhibition is a rich one, and the film provides an enlightening look into the inspiration behind each piece and the work that goes into maintaining the experience.

Having strolled through the Haupt Conservatory's sprawling display of trains and replicas, visitors view a stunning new finale in the Reflecting Pool, where a multisensory display of sound and light serves as a centerpiece beneath the 90-foot dome of the Palms of the World Gallery. Surrounded by replicas from the 1964 World's Fair, including the iconic Unisphere, it is a fitting homage to the architectural history of New York that has served as the show's foundation since it began.

Beyond the Conservatory doors, the Garden's 250 famed acres of winter landscapes host a wide variety of festive programming, new dining options, and children's activities, offering something for visitors of any age. And with evening events and live music performances planned throughout the run of the exhibition, 2015 is sure to be another memorable year of the Holiday Train Show.

With the arrival of the Holiday Train Show® and its many exciting new features comes an equally rich selection of dining venues for visitors to enjoy, from signature New American cuisine to classic holiday-themed options for warming up outdoors.

The MasterCard® Gingerbread Café, a family-oriented venue located near the Haupt Conservatory, features two NYBG food trucks offering tacos and hamburgers, a menu of kid-friendly favorites, and a gingerbread play house, coloring station, and cookie-decorating booth to keep little ones entertained. Visitors leaving the Holiday Train Show exhibition are invited to purchase refreshments and relax before heading out to explore the Garden's season-long schedule of exciting winter programming.

In the Leon Levy Visitor Center, the colorful sight of Frosty's Schnapps Haus is another welcome addition to this year's lineup, providing Bavarian-themed treats to keep visitors warm while strolling the Garden. A menu of seasonal classics such as roasted chestnuts, soft pretzels from an authentic pretzel cart, and several spiked hot beverages can be enjoyed on the heated patio. Those attending Bar Car Nights throughout November and December will find the Schnapps Haus a central part of the evenings' festivities, mixing signature drinks to enjoy while viewing the exhibition as well as wide-ranging outdoor entertainment.

Elsewhere in the Visitor Center, the colorful sight of Frosty's Schnapps Haus is another welcome addition to this year's lineup, providing Bavarian-themed treats to keep visitors warm while strolling the Garden. A menu of seasonal classics such as roasted chestnuts, soft pretzels from an authentic pretzel cart, and several spiked hot beverages can be enjoyed on the heated patio. Those attending Bar Car Nights throughout November and December will find the Schnapps Haus a central part of the evenings' festivities, mixing signature drinks to enjoy while viewing the exhibition as well as wide-ranging outdoor entertainment.

The newly opened Hudson Garden Grill offers a full-service dining room and a seasonal menu of New American cuisine inspired by locally sourced, sustainably harvested ingredients.

With the Garden's welcoming venues and the flavorful new additions coming this holiday season, dining at NYBG has never been a more satisfying—and delicious—experience.
Susan E. Lynch has been involved with the Garden for more than 20 years. An active participant in the Special Events Program, she became a Garden Patron in 1995, a Member of the Corporation in 2007, and a Member of the Board of Advisors in 2008.

Mrs. Lynch is a Trustee Emerita of Connecticut College, her alma mater, where she has established a Professorship and other Funds, and of the Asia Society. She was the first President of the Bruce Museum and serves as Honorary Chair of the Board. She is a council member of the Greenwich Land Trust, former chair of the Council of the National Trust, and a Patron Fellow of the National Tropical Botanical Garden.

She is a Presidential Councillor at Cornell University and is vice-chair of the Museum Council. She and her late husband, Ronald, are Foremost Benefactors of the University where they established the Deanship of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, a Professorship at the Johnson Graduate School of Business, and the Lynch Fund for Athletics. Susan established a Professorship in Science and Business at the College.

Mrs. Lynch resides in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Michael A. Zarcone is Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs for MetLife, where he oversees Global Communications, Global Government Relations, and Corporate Contributions and Community Relations, and manages MetLife’s engagement with internal and external audiences in the 47 countries where the company does business. He is also the Chief of Staff to the CEO and Chair of the MetLife Foundation.

Mr. Zarcone holds a Juris Doctor degree from Catholic University of America School of Law and a bachelor’s degree in English from Siena College, where he is a member of the Associate Board of Trustees. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar, and the Bar of the District of Columbia, as well as the Board of the Life Insurance Council of New York. He is currently a Trustee of the Citizens Budget Commission.

MetLife Foundation has been a strong partner with the Garden for many decades, most recently presenting MetLife Healthy Families Program and serving as Sponsor of the Spring Season at the Garden. In addition, MetLife provided generous support this year for FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life as Presenting Sponsor.
Native Plants Summit Draws Standing-Room-Only Audience

Leading experts from academia, conservation groups, and private consulting practices discussed the current status, conservation, and outlook for the native plants of the Northeast at NYBG's Native Plants Summit on September 18 in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall.

“We’re at a crossroads in the conservation of native plants,” said Robert F.C. Naczi, Ph.D., Arthur J. Cronquist Curator of North American Botany, who organized the Summit. “This is a critical time in history. We can still make a difference.”

Addressing a standing-room-only audience, Dr. Naczi noted that some species—mainly invasive plants such as the tree of heaven and purple loosestrife—are becoming much more common now in the region, while invasive pests, overharvesting, and habitat destruction have taken a toll on many native species.

Two examples from his own work document that disturbing trend. In a survey of the native plants that have adapted to the daily cycle of high and low tides along the banks of the tidal Hudson River, he found that 65 percent of the species are imperiled and 16 percent of previously documented species have apparently disappeared. Only 19 percent can be considered secure.

That is a fairly specialized habitat, but Dr. Naczi also examined herbarium specimens of 76 common native plants. Comparing two 20-year periods (1930–49 and 1990–2009), he found that 21 species had experienced significant declines over the course of 60 years, ranging from 61 to 88 percent.

Many speakers had similarly sobering messages. Mary Klein, president and CEO of NatureServe, a not-for-profit conservation organization, pointed out that 60 percent of the species listed as endangered in the United States are plants yet they receive only five percent of the federal funding for endangered-species conservation.

There are some hopeful signs, however. Not the least of these is the fact that awareness of the importance of native plants is growing, and many new local botanical and native plant societies have been founded in the last 30 years, according to David Werier, a botanist with a private consulting practice in the Ithaca area and recent past president of the New York Flora Association.

And even individual gardeners can play a role in conserving native plants.

“Conservation of these species may come down, in the long term, to those individual gardeners who know about and grow these plants,” said Ms. Klein.

Generous support for the Summit was provided by two NYBG Board Members.
Native plants of northeastern North America, chosen for their visual impact, sustainability, and adaptability, are the defining features of the Native Plant Garden, a gift of the Leon Levy Foundation, which opened in spring 2013. Taking full advantage of a varied natural landscape in the heart of NYBG, the Native Plant Garden is an outdoor classroom, a sanctuary for birds and butterflies, and a captivating horticultural display year-round.

Now in its third year, the 3.5-acre site continues to develop as curators carefully monitor its growth throughout the seasons. In particular, the Meadow has matured in interesting and rewarding ways. It was designed to be viewed from multiple locations, with plantings laid out to take advantage of the area’s natural topography, to showcase multiple assemblages of grasses and forbs skillfully combined to present the impression of an expansive, prairie-like vista. However, as curators have spent time both caring for and observing this unique space within the garden they have become cognizant of small, intimate vignettes that reward the visitor who chooses to linger for close study, contemplation, or simply take pleasure in the sense of place.

Since the Meadow’s initial planting, curators have been busy recording the flux and changes in plant combinations and conditions. For instance, in the shallower, rocky, and well-drained upland soil of the Dry Meadow, we have noticed the gradual diminishment of Ontario blazing star and Bicknell’s sedge and a welcome, yet unexpected, flourishing of black-eyed Susan, and hairy white oldfield aster. A certain amount of redundancy was designed intentionally in the original plant selection, and even by the most discerning standards, the remaining combinations of primarily little bluestem, flowering spurge, slender goldentop, and hoary skullcap suffer from no lack of beauty or sophistication of composition.

While we were concerned that the sweep of the Mesic Meadow, which is divided into almost jigsaw-like planting blocks, would prove to be consumed entirely by overly vigorous flat-top goldentop, this summer it was still richly punctuated by rattlesnake-master, prairie blazing star, sand lovegrass, and brilliant red flashes of royal catchfly. Simultaneously broad swathes of lavender-flowered wild bergamot and yellow heads of pinnate prairie-coneflower jostled for dominance among the patches of Indian grass and big bluestem. Even with this
region’s unexpectedly dry summer, these now well-established prairie grasses and forbs were able to thrive without irrigation and continued to look healthy and luxurious into the fall.

In the Meadow and indeed throughout the Native Plant Garden, we continue to enhance and improve the plantings in response to how the garden is maturing. To fill a gap in the Wet Meadow where Culver’s root has not grown as vigorously as we were expecting we added white doll’s daisy as well as smooth blue aster for increased color and late-season nectar for pollinators. This is all part of NYBG’s ongoing effort to test, study, and display the best selections for each of the microclimates found in the Native Plant Garden.

- Ontario blazing star (*Liatris cylindracea*)
- Bicknell’s sedge (*Carex bicknellii*)
- black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
  - hairy white oldfield aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*)
- little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*)
- slender goldentop (*Euthamia caroliniana*)
- hoary skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*)
- flat-top goldentop (*Euthamia graminifolia*)
- rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
- prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
- sand lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*)
- royal catchfly (*Silene regia*)
- wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- pinnate prairie-coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
- Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- white doll’s daisy (*Boltonia asteroides*)
- Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- smooth blue aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve var. laeve*)
As a red-tailed hawk perched above us looked on, we measured the area for the garden that was steadily taking shape, but had been simmering in the hearts and minds of Co-op City residents for several years. Rivers Run Community Garden, the first community garden in Co-op City, a neighborhood of more than 40,000 people along the Hutchinson River in the Bronx, opened in spring 2015 and has just ushered in its first growing season.

Bronx Green-Up (BGU), NYBG’s long-standing community gardening outreach program, was asked to assist with this exciting endeavor. Committed community members advocated tirelessly for the scenic and underutilized space, owned by the River Bay Corporation. Four of the members had participated in Bronx Green-Up’s Grow More Vegetables Certificate Series, which teaches organic growing techniques to those who will pass on their skills and share with their community. Another resident completed the Master Composter Certificate course of the NYC Compost Project, hosted by The New York Botanical Garden.

BGU worked closely with the growing garden membership, including a landscape designer, Zainab Miller, who contributed her expertise to the space. We led volunteer workdays and horticulture workshops, helped secure donated supplies, and contributed fruit trees as well as native and ornamental shrubs and plants. Rivers Run now features 66 raised beds tended by Co-op City families, a children’s garden, small orchard, and perennial and annual plantings that invite passersby to drop in.

Over the season, while 86 garden members contended with the challenges of watering, weeds, and ground hogs, neighbors who had lived for years in the same building had a chance to chat and meet one another. Describing the impact of the garden on this dense high-rise community, Gail Sharbaan, President of the Rivers Run Community Garden Steering Committee, noted: "We can’t thank Bronx Green-Up enough for teaching us, encouraging us, and showing up (even in the rain) to guide us through the ways of an urban gardener. Instead of a debris-filled lot, Co-op City had an amazing inaugural planting year—the successful growing of a rainbow of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and most importantly—friendships. It is a testament to the gardener within each of us that while faced with a variety of obstacles, we were able to shift, adapt, and grow—just like our harvest!"
Invasive Species Summit: Challenges, Strategies, and Perspectives

Symposium: Growing the Urban Farm

Urban agriculture is growing rapidly in cities across America. Vacant lots, abandoned green spaces, and urban rooftops are being transformed into productive farms that provide fresh produce and opportunities for healthy activity, income, and many other benefits for urban families. Growing the Urban Farm, presented by NYBG’s community gardening program, Bronx Green-Up, attempts to address questions about whether the unprecedented growth of urban agriculture can continue; whether urban farms can produce enough food to feed large numbers of city residents; what new policies must be adopted to improve and promote urban agriculture; what systems, techniques, and innovations we can employ to be better growers; and what benefits beyond food production urban agriculture provides to the community. The Symposium features four distinguished speakers who will address these critical questions and offer inspiration to experienced and aspiring urban farmers alike. Presenters are Mchezaji Axum, Director of the Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education at the University of the District of Columbia; Nevin Cohen, Associate Professor at CUNY School of Public Health; Annie Novak, Manager of the Edible Academy at The New York Botanical Garden; and Karen Washington, community activist, gardener, and farmer.

Wednesday, November 18, 6–8 p.m.
Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall

Learn more and register at nybg.org/adulted

Invasive plant species are a major threat to biodiversity worldwide and are severely impacting regional ecosystems. The Invasive Species Summit, co-presented with the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, addresses the impacts of invasive species from a global to regional level: what is being done to manage them, how restoring ecosystems can help, and implications for the future. Presentation and discussions begin with a morning plenary session, featuring speakers Daniel Simberloff, Professor at the University of Tennessee Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Chris Zimmerman, ecologist at The Nature Conservancy in New York; and Steven Handel, Professor at Rutgers University Department of Ecology and Evolution. Concurrent afternoon sessions consist of short talks followed by moderated discussions with experts from various ecological organizations.

Friday, November 6, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall

Learn more and register at nybg.org/adulted

This project was contracted by the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

New Roots Community Farm was established with the help of Bronx Green-Up in 2012.
A recent gift of several rare folios has been given to the LuEsther T. Mertz Library by Board Member William C. Steere, Jr., and his wife, Lynda. These works add depth to and enhance the Library’s outstanding holdings. The Steeres join a long line of distinguished collectors who have donated their treasures to form the core of the Library’s renowned rare book collection.

Robert Fitzgerald’s *Australian Orchids*, published in parts between 1875 and 1894, is a remarkable work for an amateur botanist. The exquisite hand-colored lithographic plates depict his own minute dissections in great detail. Fitzgerald (1830–92) was so accomplished in the field of botany that he corresponded regarding Australian plants with famed naturalist Charles Darwin, who referred to Fitzgerald several times in his own published works. This is the first work written on the subject.

Karl Ludwig Willdenow (1765–1812) made Berlin into a major center for exotic plants collected in the Americas, Asia and Africa, many of which are depicted in his two-volume folio, *Hortus Berolinensis*, published in parts between 1802 and 1816. Under his Directorship, the Royal Botanic Garden at Berlin was completely redesigned and greatly expanded. The Steeres have donated an extremely fine copy of this work with outstanding hand-colored engraved plates along with a rare copy of Willdenow’s *Enumeratio plantarum* listing the plants grown in the Botanic Garden in 1813.

The Spanish Royal Botanical Expedition to New Granada took place between 1783 and 1816 in the territories of New Granada, comprising most of northern South America. The botanist selected for the expedition was Father José Celestino Mutis (1732–1808). His news about American plants was eagerly awaited by botanists in Europe. Altogether Mutis led the expedition for over 25 years during which they explored some 3,880 square miles and collected some 24,000 specimens, including 6,000 newly discovered species. More than 7,000 drawings were created to illustrate the specimens. The manuscript and illustrations were never published until 1937. To celebrate the bicentennial Mutis’ birth, the governments of Spain and Colombia jointly began to publish *Flora de la Real Expedición Botánica del Nuevo Reino de Granada*. The enormous work, now comprising 50 volumes, is expected to require at least 10 additional volumes. The Steeres donated several volumes of this series.

Another volume given by the Steeres is a souvenir from a visit to Australia. John Gould’s (1804–81) magnificent hand-colored lithographs seen in his 1841–42 publication, *A Monograph of the Macropodidae*, were part of a multivolume set on the mammals of Australia. He quickly realized the commercial appeal of lithography and was an immensely successful publisher. These magnificently colored plates have always been eagerly sought after by collectors.
The LuEsther T. Mertz Library recently completed inventorying and rehousing a large collection of architectural plans for glasshouses designed by the renowned Lord & Burnham Company. This one-year project, funded by a grant from The New York State Archives, enabled the completion of the unprocessed backlog of drawings and plans that were part of the surviving business records of the company, the largest manufacturer of glasshouse structures in 19th- and 20th-century America.

Previous grants beginning in 2003 were received from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation that allowed the Garden to inventory, repair, and rehouse the company's business records. Lord & Burnham was formed in 1872 and headquartered in Irvington, New York, where it became a major employer in the lower Hudson Valley region. Greenhouse construction was just one aspect of Lord & Burnham's operations. Glasshouse structures often required internal heating systems and the manufacture of boilers quickly became an essential part of the company's business. As the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, it built one of its most impressive structures, the Garden's own Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. When the company was dissolved in 1987, its surviving records were transferred to the Garden's Archives.

Processing and inventorying the collection required the identification and care of the many photo reproduction processes used by Lord & Burnham throughout its history. In effect, the company's surviving plans and drawings tell the story of the photo duplication processes used in 19th- and 20th-century architectural design, manufacturing, and construction. Two interns who worked on processing the collection, Eleonore Kissel and Erin Vigneau, were among the first to research and document these processes. In 1999 they published *Architectural Photoreproductions: A Manual for Identification and Care*, a pioneering work illustrated with many examples from the Lord & Burnham collection.

A subject guide documenting the history of the company and offering access to a client inventory database is available for searching from the Library's Web site: libguides.nybg.org/lord_and_burnham. A complete finding guide to Lord & Burnham's historic business records can be viewed online at nybg.org/library/finding_guide/archv/lord_burnhamf.html.

This project is an important example of the Garden's ongoing commitment to preserving and making accessible its many unique collections for research. The Mertz Library and the Archives are home to more than 11 million items documenting horticulture, botany, and landscape design and related fields of study serving the needs of scholars from around the globe.
When the Lorillard family purchased 50 acres of land, a small grist mill, dam, and water rights ten miles north of Manhattan along the Bronx River in 1792 with the intention of manufacturing tobacco products, they succeeded in building an empire. Yet despite being industrial giants, they preserved the area for its beauty and used its trails for recreation, and thereby becoming de facto stewards of what is now the Thain Family Forest.

Recognizing that conservation could not be left to chance in increasingly industrialized environments, when members of the Field Committee of the Torrey Botanical Club, surveyed the same land in 1891 with the intention of forming a botanical garden in New York City, it was the 50-acre native forest that attracted their attention as well. Since then, Garden scientists have been observing the Forest, conducting surveys and transects, and making decisions about how to actively manage a healthy ecosystem based on information collected and recorded over time.

Today, thanks to the generosity of Con Edison STEM Day Out, an initiative especially for middle school students that allows them access to education programs related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in museums throughout the city, classes will have the opportunity on the first Wednesdays over the next seven months to participate in the tradition of stewardship of the Forest through ecological monitoring of the Bronx River. As Citizen Scientists, New York City public school students will collect data about the populations of benthic freshwater macroinvertebrate populations they find in leaf packs set in the river and contribute their findings to a database.

Benthic freshwater macroinvertebrates are animals without backbones that are visible with the naked eye, living on the bottoms of streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. In moving bodies of water, the leaves that fall from trees in a watershed tend to accumulate in packs behind branches, rocks, and other obstructions. Whether naturally occurring packs or mesh bags filled with leaves according to a scientific protocol and anchored to the river bottom, these accumulations serve as excellent homes and breeding grounds for macroinvertebrates, which function as living barometers that indicate water quality when sorted and counted. Assigned a pollution tolerance, their presence, absence, and amounts of various species can indicate whether pollutants are present.
NYBG has been gathering and recording data about these populations in order to make correlations about the level of pollution in the water, environmental factors, and impact of human activities. It is compelling even for city middle school students standing alongside the Bronx River in the Thain Family Forest today—much the way the Lorillards and Torrey Botanical Club did for centuries before them—to recognize the significance of this great Forest, engage as present-day stewards, and understand the need and desire to preserve it for future visitors, scientists, and macroinvertebrates alike.

For more than 20 years, The New York Botanical Garden has participated in energy conservation programs with the NYC Department of Energy Management (DEM) to reduce electrical demand and reduce carbon emission. During this time it became evident that the implementation of these programs created a cost reduction, and the savings could fund the cost of the project. This is known as a “payback period.” As a result NYC DEM created four significant programs that the Garden was able to implement.

The first program, which started in the 1990s, was known as the HELP (High Efficiency Lighting Program). The Garden was able to change existing inefficient lighting and save approximately 50 percent in lighting costs and energy consumption. The next program that became available was called PlaNYC. The Garden conducted “retro-commissioning” of large demand equipment. This program provided funding for new air conditioning equipment for the Watson and Pratt Buildings.

Most recently the city provided two new programs: ACE (Accelerated Conservation and Efficiency) and ExCEL (Expense for Conservation and Efficiency Leadership). Under the ACE program, the Garden will install LED (Light Emitting Diode) exterior lamps site-wide and install a new natural gas condensing boiler in the Operations compound in the upcoming year. Funding from the ExCEL program recently provided new variable frequency drive motors and new coils and balancing for the Pratt Building. ExCEL also provided PermaFrost NMR™, an oil additive for refrigeration oil, and MicroGuard® for coils that improved chiller efficiencies by more than 25 percent.

These are just a few of the energy projects that the Garden has undertaken in the past two decades to reduce our carbon output by 50 percent per square foot of interior building space.

Energy Conservation Program Highlights
By Mark Cupkovic,
Vice President for Security and Operations

Students prepare field journals in the GreenSchool before heading to the Forest.
From Visitor to Visitor Services
By Pat Gonzalez,
Visitor Services Attendant

Clockwise from top left: Ruby-throated hummingbird in the Perennial Garden; Italian wall lizard in the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden; Great horned owl in the Thain Family Forest; Painted turtles at Twin Lakes
Although I am a lifelong Bronxite, my association with The New York Botanical Garden began in 2008, when I started visiting during the off-season (January–March) of my job as a licensed New York City tour guide. Unlike most visitors to this 250-acre National Historic Landmark comprising more than one million plants, I came to observe and photograph the wildlife that find refuge here. But I could not have predicted how many different birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects I would encounter up close during my first treks. Imagine my delight seeing owls, hawks, and muskrats, to name just a few. I was in heaven! Within several months I went from casual visitor to regular Member, which entitled me to unlimited visits as well as an early morning grounds pass that allowed access to the Garden before it opened to the public.

In 2010 I decided to share my photos with the world with a Flickr account, joined NYBG’s Flickr Group, and contributed images with other like-minded enthusiasts. In 2011 my first submission to Plant Talk, the official NYBG blog, was posted. I dubbed it “A Bronx Red-tail,” a chronicle of the red-tailed hawks that hunt here. Along with the great-horned owls that live in the Forest, hawks are my favorite photographic subject matter. These winged hunters truly fascinate me. I love filming and photographing them—or rather—the challenge of keeping up with them and trying to get an image that captures their beauty and grace. Later that year, I was asked to participate in a video called “Birding at the Garden” that NYBG was producing and filming in the Forest, where I have enjoyed countless walks and perhaps feel most immersed in the natural world. I continued to submit photographs and articles to Plant Talk as well as the Garden’s Flickr Group.

The feedback was incredibly rewarding and by 2012, I wanted to do more. I joined the Visitor Services Department as a Volunteer Greeter, to give back to a place that I felt was important to all New Yorkers, especially Bronxites. The Garden is not only a haven for local community members, but also living proof that the Borough is much more than bricks and mortar. Every Sunday, during the eight months that I volunteered, I welcomed the public—my favorite post was the Green Booth, which is a small information station strategically located at the beginning of Perennial Garden Way, right across from NYBG Shop just inside the main entrance.

In addition to providing information about all of the day’s activities, I helped plan visits, making suggestions on where to go and what to see and do. For me, this was singularly the best part of being a Greeter. I had so many positive encounters with folks who would come from as far away as New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania for a day trip.

In November 2012, I attended a staff training session for the upcoming annual Holiday Train Show®, hoping to glean additional information that would help me at the Green Booth. Quite unexpectedly I was approached by the Director of Visitor Services, who inquired if I wanted to join the team as a staff member. How could I say no?!

Since 2013 I have had the privilege and many opportunities to share my love of wildlife photography with my colleagues through regular photo and video presentations and continuing articles and photos for Plant Talk; some of my images can also be seen on interpretive signs in the Forest, Native Plant Garden, and along the Mitsubishi Wetland Trail.

November 28, 2015, marks my third year as a Visitor Services Attendant. Although I have gone from visitor to member to volunteer to staff, my NYBG journey is far from over. There is always something new to see and experience at the Garden, and I know I will continue to be inspired by all it offers.

Pat Gonzalez scanning the sky for red-tailed hawks
One of my major research interests is the evolution and classification of the Cycadales (cycads) and their placement in seed plant phylogeny. Recently I experienced an exhilarating moment of discovery as a botanist: after 30 years of exploration in Panama, I found mature seed cones of *Zamia lindleyi*, an endangered cycad. Although this species was first discovered by Polish naturalist and plant collector Józef Warszewicz Ritter von Rawicz in 1851 and described later that year by Albert Gottfried Dietrich, then curator of the Berlin Botanical Garden, its seeds and seed cones were unknown until August 2015.

The species is not uncommon in the mountains of Central Panama near the Continental Divide, and there were many records of specimens with leaves and pollen cones. This particular *Zamia* is among the elegant and beautiful species of *Zamia* that thrive in the cloud forests. Having made many previous trips to locate the seeds and seed cones, my Panamanian colleagues and I finally located not just one but three mature cones with brilliant-red seeds. Moreover, there were many seedlings and juvenile plants growing in the vicinity of the plants bearing the seed cones, thus indicating that there are viable seeds and a healthy demography for the species in the population. This is very important as the species was basically unknown in *ex situ* collections until now.

Fortunately, we have germinated seeds at The New York Botanical Garden and University of Panama as well as the Berlin Botanical Garden, University of Melbourne, and Montgomery Botanical Center in Coral Gables, Florida. All bodes well for the survival of *Zamia lindleyi* as it is reproductive and its habitat is protected.

This expedition was funded in part by the National Science Foundation and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
The preeminence of the Garden’s plant science research programs owes much to Senior Vice Chairman of the Board Lewis B. Cullman’s generosity and vision over more than two decades. The Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Program for Molecular Systematics, founded in 1994, focuses the Garden’s plant molecular research on the global scientific effort to assemble the evolutionary Tree of Life for all plants and fungi. On the applied side, it focuses the Garden’s molecular research effort on DNA barcoding—a technique that uses small, standardized fragments of DNA as a species identity-tag.

The Cullman Program, where scientists work to understand how plants grow, develop, and function, is a world leader in both the depth and breadth of research in plant evolution (phylogenetics.) The expertise of the Cullman Curators is spread across the plant kingdom, from the earliest branches of the green algae and land plants, through the gymnosperms, and to the major branches of the flowering plants. As just one example of current research, Dr. Dennis Stevenson is co-leading large, multi-institutional projects to elucidate all of the major groups of Earth’s gymnosperms (cycads, conifers, etc.) and monocots (lilies, orchids, cereals, etc.) for adding to the Tree of Life.
One of the core scientific missions of The New York Botanical Garden is to disseminate fundamental knowledge about plants and fungi. Continuously, since 1896, NYBG has fulfilled this role through a vigorous scientific publications program, the broad themes of which include exploration, classification and identification, utilization, and conservation. Today NYBG Press is one of the largest publishing programs of any independent botanical garden in the world.

NYBG Press publishes books and journals, both, increasingly, in electronic as well as traditional print formats. Some 300 book titles have been published to date, mostly through five series: Contributions from The New York Botanical Garden, Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden, Flora Neotropica, Intermountain Flora, and Advances in Economic Botany. NYBG Press also offers classic botany books such as perennial bestseller Gleason & Cronquist’s Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, which is being fully revised and then published electronically as the floristic treatments are completed.

New titles in 2016 include Agaricus of North America, Manual of the Plants of British Columbia, Intermountain Flora Volume 7, Vanilla Landscapes: Meaning, Memory and the Cultivation of Place in Madagascar, and Des Plantes Remarquables de Vanuatu/The Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu, the latter to be co-published with Biotope, based in Mèze, France.

As of October 2015, NYBG Press’ Web site got a facelift and much-enhanced functionality and content. Please visit nybgpress.org to view the site and to explore its many new features and offerings. To celebrate the site’s launch, NYBG Press is offering a 20 percent discount on all its titles until December 30, 2015. Check back often to discover additional deals by clicking on “Specials Offers” in the site’s navigation bar.

You can also sign up to receive updates on latest releases, upcoming events, and more. Browse the categories of titles or utilize the search functions to read book descriptions, reviews, and authors’ biographical information, as well as to view videos featuring selected recent authors. NYBG Press is the best place for discovering and learning about The Best New Books in Botany™.
As Myanmar emerges from decades of isolation and political upheaval, its rich biodiversity is being opened up to commerce and tourism. In the face of this rapid change, NYBG scientists are working to document Myanmar’s undiscovered plant life, build the country’s capacity to carry out plant research, and promote the sustainable use of its forests. They will report on their recent work in the 2016 Andrew Carnegie Distinguished Lecture, *NYBG Scientists in Myanmar: Tackling 21st-Century Challenges*.

Myanmar is a major biodiversity hotspot, with a wide range of plant species that are likely found nowhere else, yet it has probably the most poorly studied flora in the Northern Hemisphere. The country’s scientific infrastructure—the human and institutional resources needed for significant research—has suffered from decades of neglect.

NYBG’s Myanmar program is tackling three major needs: to create an accurate, accessible baseline of botanical data that will empower informed conservation and management decisions, develop the capacity of Myanmar botanists to document their country’s flora, and engage local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of their forest resources.

In the program’s first phase, which was supported by a grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Garden scientists worked in a protected wildlife sanctuary that is part of Myanmar’s northern forest complex, which contains the largest remaining tracts of virgin forest in mainland Southeast Asia. The next phase, also supported by the Helmsley Charitable Trust, is now underway.

The team is particularly well-suited to undertake the daunting challenges of working in Myanmar’s remote forests. Douglas C. Daly, Ph.D., Director of the Garden’s Institute of Systematic Botany and B. A. Krukoff Curator of Amazonian Botany, has three decades of experience in working to document and conserve the plant species of tropical forests around the world. Charles M. Peters, Ph.D., Kate E. Tode Curator of Botany in the Garden’s Institute of Economic Botany, is a plant ecologist and a leading authority on the sustainable management of tropical forests. Garden postdoctoral fellow Kate Armstrong, Ph.D., specializes in the flora of Southeast Asia and has trained local botanists there in field and herbarium techniques.

Tuesday, January 12, 6 p.m.
Christie’s, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City

Learn more and register at nybg.org/adulted
Held annually since 1912, the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show is the world’s most famous of its kind, attracting distinguished garden designers and more than 150,000 visitors from all over the world. Gold Medals are awarded to designers meeting the highest standards of originality, beauty, and design endeavor, as well as the quality, range, and relevance of plants on display. Three recent Gold Medal winners—Ulf Nordfjell, Sarah Price, and Luciano Giubbilei—comprise this year’s lineup of speakers for the Garden’s 16th Annual Winter Lecture Series.

The series begins January 28, with acclaimed botanist and landscape architect Ulf Nordfjell. His cool, elegant designs combine clean lines, native materials, and subtle, sustainable plantings. Raised in northern Sweden, Nordfjell’s commitment to ecology and the environment is apparent. His presentation will draw on examples of his award-winning work—characterized by his ability to set contemporary buildings in public outdoor spaces, and a desire to chose plants based on their provenience. Nordfjell earned a Gold Medal in 2007 at the Chelsea Flower Show for his garden, “A Tribute to Linnaeus.”
Sarah Price, one of Britain’s rising stars in garden design, is known for her airy and ethereal plantings and quietly impressive design impact. Price, whose presentation is February 25, achieved worldwide recognition for her work as co-designer of the 2012 Gardens at London’s Olympic Park, where plants give visitors an immersive journey through the United Kingdom’s botanical history. Price’s fine-art training and her love of wild and natural environments are reflected in her gardens, often called “painterly.” She describes her work as “gardening in the round”—inviting active engagement and exploration, hardscaping kept to a minimum, and plant forms used for the underlying structure essential to establishing each garden’s distinct atmosphere. Her designs have collected numerous awards, including at the 2012 Chelsea Flower Show, where her Daily Telegraph Garden earned a Gold Medal.

Drawing on classical Italian proportion and balance, the final speaker, Luciano Giubbilei, presenting March 24, designs gardens defined by light and known for their understated elegance and serenity. Born in Italy and based in London, Giubbilei creates landscapes that show how spacing, rhythm, and the repetition of single elements create multilayered environments where culture and nature combine to forge an emotional connection between people and place. Giubbilei has earned many industry honors, including Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2009, 2011, and 2014—when his Laurent-Perrier Garden also garnered the event’s most prestigious accolade, the Best Show Garden. His book, The Art of Making Gardens, is due in early 2016.

Three Thursdays: January 28, February 25, & March 24
10−11:30 a.m.
Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall

Learn more and register at nybg.org/adulted
The influx of a lively crop of Fellows and Visiting Scholars in the second year of the Humanities Institute, generously supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has contributed to a convivial atmosphere in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. In addition to conducting their own studies—ranging from urban greening to plant history and the philosophy of botany—these scholars actively participate in the Institute’s academic programs.

Mellon Fellow Theodore Eisenman, Ph.D., Department of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania, is converting his dissertation, Making Meaning of Urban Greening in the Anthropocene, into a book.

Mellon Fellow Ryan Feigenbaum, Ph.D. Candidate, Villanova University, Department of Philosophy, is focusing his research on a late-18th-century “poetic-botany” movement fueled by Erasmus Darwin’s The Botanic Garden, a Poem (1791) while completing his dissertation entitled The Epistemic Foundations of German Biology, 1790–1802.

The Program also provides research stipends to senior scholars. The first recipient of the Visiting Scholarship awards is Daniel Kevles, Ph.D., Stanley Woodward Professor of History, History of Medicine and American Studies, Yale University. Dr. Kevles is working on a manuscript entitled Vital Properties (to be published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.), describing the innovation, commerce, and intellectual property protection in living organisms since the colonial era, and discovered important new information while working in the Mertz Library and Archives, which will be incorporated into his book.

The second Visiting Scholar, Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis, Ph.D., University of Florida, Gainesville, Biology Department and History Department, is focused on the history of evolutionary biology, genetics, and systematics. The title of her project is American Botanists and the “Cinchona Missions” in Latin America, 1942–1945; she will be concentrating her efforts on examination of the rich archival collections, especially the papers of William Campbell Steere, Ph.D. (1907–1989), who was Director of The New York Botanical Garden from 1958 to 1972.

The Humanities Institute was able to build on its programming by offering three Junior Fellowships for emerging scholars, supported by The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. The selected Junior Fellows are: Elaine Ayers, Graduate Student, Program in the History of Science, Princeton University, whose project is entitled Unfurling Fronds: Cryptograms, Women Botanizers, and Cultures of Victorian Gardening; Claire Sabel, MPhil, History and Philosophy of Science, Darwin College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, with a project entitled The Influence of Hans Sloane’s A Voyage to the Islands (1707–1725) on the Botanical Study of Jamaica; and David Smigen-Rothkopf, Masters Student, Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, whose project is entitled The Herbs in Mertz Library, Circa Instans: Platearius’ Descriptions and Medieval Food Culture. While studying at the Garden, the Junior Fellows have been actively involved with programs campus-wide, and in doing so have made meaningful connections with scientists and other experts in their fields of study.

The presence of these Fellows as well as senior and emerging scholars, selected from a large pool of strong candidates, has significantly enhanced the creation and development of an intellectual community at the Garden concerned with innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to the environmental humanities.
Over the past several years, local governments across the country have enacted laws that restrict the use of both fertilizers and pesticides on turf in an effort to reduce the impacts of turf care products on human and environmental health. These new regulations have led to significant changes to best management practices for lawn care. Fortunately NYBG began the transition to more sustainable turf management practices a decade ago.

The Garden's lawns are exposed to myriad environmental and physical stresses. As we strive for exceptional turf quality throughout the site, we must continually look at how our management decisions and practices affect the soil microorganisms that sustain both the turf and the historic tree collections. Research has shown that these microorganisms are sensitive to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By reducing use of turf chemicals, we support the life in the soil that helps keep turf healthy and reduce disease, insect, and weed problems.

It is not enough to simply reduce the use of chemicals; we must also feed the soil microorganisms that promote healthy turf. Our soil fertility program includes regular applications of natural products such as molasses, kelp, fish hydrolysate, humic acids, and other bio-stimulants containing essential minerals and vitamins that stimulate life in the soil. Over time, regular application of these products has led to deeper-rooted turf with increased resistance to pests and disease and greater tolerance of heat and drought stress.

Sometimes Garden visitors notice a “fishy” smell as they stroll through the landscape. This odor comes from fish hydrolysate, also known as fish emulsion, which is a key component of our efforts to grow healthy turf. Fish emulsion is both a well-balanced fertilizer that provides essential plant macro- and micro-nutrients as well as a bio-stimulant that feeds soil microorganisms. While the fishy smell dissipates after a few hours, the benefits of healthy soil are long lasting.

Fish emulsion is not the only natural product we use to promote healthy soil and vigorous turf. Kelp and humic acid are also important ingredients in our turf care program. Kelp contains various hormones, vitamins, amino acids, and minerals that increase antioxidant levels in turf grass, stimulate root growth, and increase drought tolerance. Humic acid improves water and nutrient uptake. In combination with fish emulsion, kelp and humic acid allow us to grow healthy turf while reducing the need for irrigation and nitrogen-rich fertilizers.

There are two other key elements of our turf care program: cutting to the proper height of three inches and leaving grass clippings on the lawn. Cutting high preserves more leaf area for photosynthesis and helps shade out annual weeds. Leaving clippings on the lawn returns nutrients and organic matter to the soil. In combination with our efforts to improve the health of our soil, these common-sense techniques have made our grass “greener” in every way.
Recent Grants Support NYBG’s Wide-Ranging Work

The New York Botanical Garden is excited to announce receipt of several very important grants to support work in science, education, exhibition programming, and horticulture. Such transformational awards will help NYBG continue to serve as a community anchor in the Bronx and as a leader in STEM education and plant science and conservation the world over.

- In fiscal year 2016, NYBG was awarded $7 million from the New York City Council, with support from Councilmembers Melissa Mark-Viverito, Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, and Ritchie Torres, and $1 million from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. for repairs and upgrades of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. This funding will not only preserve this historic living classroom for future generations, but also create a national model in sustainable and energy efficient operations for a landmark building.

- In fiscal year 2015, NYBG received awards in the amounts of $2 million each from Mayor Bill de Blasio and the New York City Council, resulting in a $4 million investment in capital improvements to the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden. These funds will increase significantly our ability to provide out-of-school time programming and increase the quality of our science curriculum by improving exhibitions, classroom space, and other infrastructure within the 12-acre Children’s Adventure Garden.

- The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded NYBG two major grants: a two-year $846,457 National Leadership Grant for Libraries for BHL Expanding Access to Biodiversity Literature, a collaborative project with Missouri Botanical Garden, Harvard’s Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and Smithsonian Institution Libraries, as part of the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL); and a $150,000 Museums for America grant for Nature’s Artifacts: Secrets of the Steere Herbarium, a new exhibition designed for the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery that will explore herbarium specimens as museum pieces, scientific data, and historical artifacts.

- The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust awarded NYBG a three-year $688,208 grant to support the establishment of a plant conservation and forest resource management program in Myanmar. Building upon a successful pilot project, also funded by the Helmsley Charitable Trust, to lay the groundwork for such a program, NYBG will scale up its efforts to document the country’s highly diverse flora, strengthen its botanical research capacity, and develop forest management plans at the community level. This work will be carried out in collaboration with partners at several regional and national science and conservation institutions in Myanmar.

- NYBG received a two-year $460,000 Implementation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the 2016 Garden-wide exhibition Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas. Funding will support all components of this landmark exhibition, enable NYBG to travel the LuEsther T. Mertz Library’s Art Gallery show to the Taubman Museum of Art (Roanoke, VA), and provide funding for a new, two-year, full-time Digital Interpretive Specialist.

- NYBG was one of 18 New York City cultural institutions to receive a $200,000 Presidential Discretionary Grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Funding will be used to support existing programs in the arts and sciences for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

- Cigna Foundation has awarded a $130,000 “World of Difference” grant to NYBG for the project, Improving Healthcare for Underserved Immigrant Latino and Caribbean Communities in New York City. This marks the second year Cigna awarded a major gift to this innovative, one-of-a-kind project. Led by Dr. Ina Vandebroek, Matthew Calbraith Perry Assistant Curator of Economic Botany and Caribbean Program Director in NYBG’s Institute of Economic Botany, the project improves health care for underserved immigrant Latino and Caribbean communities by bridging the gap between health care professionals and the immigrant communities they serve.

- The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust renewed and increased their essential operating support with a three-year commitment that will strengthen NYBG’s plant research and conservation activities, audience development and visitor services initiatives, and horticultural endeavors.

- NYBG Board Member Diane Katzin has pledged to create the Jerome and Miriam Katzin Endowment for Seasonal Plantings. This new endowment will ensure that visitors will always be welcomed at the Conservatory, Bedford Park, and Mosholu Gates and the Leon Levy Visitor Center with beautiful, luxuriantly planted pots and planters.

- NYBG Board Member Caroline A. Wamsler, Ph.D., and DeWayne N. Phillips have made a commitment toward the Propagation Nursery of the expanded Edible Academy. With its cold frames, shade structures, and tables, the Nursery will be the center of the site’s horticultural operations and play an important role in extending the growing season.
Ernest (Ernie) Cavallo, former schoolteacher and attorney, has been a Member of the Garden for more than 20 years. Passionate about gardening from a young age, he even considered becoming a farmer. Today Ernie’s passion is the propagation of snowdrops. He is extremely proud of his personal collection that comprises 150 different varieties—some of which are extremely rare in the United States.

Since his first visit at age 22, Ernie has watched the Garden transform into the urban oasis that it is today. During the past four years, he has been a Horticulture volunteer, dedicating his time to caring for NYBG’s snowdrop collection by assisting with the planting of bulbs in the Perennial Garden and Azalea Garden in fall and tending the hardy early blooms in late winter, which always serve as a pleasant reminder that spring is on its way.

Recently Ernie joined the Perennial Society. “I don’t believe in giving large amounts of money to individuals—just small gifts to family. I want to leave a legacy. I want to support the future of NYBG.” As such Ernie has included a gift to the Garden in his will.

To learn more about how you can support the future of the Garden, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at 718.817.8545, e-mail plannedgiving@nybg.org, or visit nybgplannedgiving.org.
On September 27, more than 300 guests enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon of outdoor discovery with special guest Chef Carla Hall, co-host of ABC’s *The Chew*, and chefs from Mario Batali’s acclaimed restaurants—Andy Nusser and Anthony Sasso—with cooking demonstrations, workshops, and a delicious picnic. Families took part in kitchen crafts, organic vegetable gardening activities, live music, tree climbing, and much more.

Proceeds from the annual event underwrite the NYBG’s Edible Academy, hub of the children’s organic vegetable gardening program. The Edible Academy and its planned state-of-the-art facility will significantly expand the edible gardening program opportunities, so that twice as many children, parents, and teachers (from 50,000 to 100,000 annually) can learn how to grow organic fruits and vegetables, as well as make the important connections among plants, gardening, nutrition, and the benefits of a healthful lifestyle.
At the 25th Anniversary of the Rose Garden Dinner on October 8, beloved stage, screen, and television star, and avid rose enthusiast Julie Andrews was honored alongside the Garden’s own Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator Stephen Scanniello for their shared passion for roses. More than 300 of the Garden’s family and friends gathered in the renowned Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden during its spectacular second annual bloom for cocktails and exclusive tours. Guests then enjoyed an elegant dinner and dancing in the beautifully decorated Garden Terrace Room. The evening also featured a special presentation on stunning disease-resistant rose varieties and sustainable rose gardening practices by Mr. Scanniello.

Proceeds directly support the Fund for Horticulture and the continued preservation and development of the historic Rockefeller Rose Garden.
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The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum. Approaching the 125th Anniversary in 2016, we celebrate its role as an oasis in this busy metropolis since its founding in 1891, and look forward to the Garden's continued leadership as a dynamic New York City cultural institution.

A National Historic Landmark, this 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. During the past year, more than one million visitors enjoyed the Garden not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora, but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Haupt Conservatory to festivals on Daffodil Hill.

The Garden is also a major educational institution. More than 300,000 people annually—among them Bronx families, schoolchildren, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG’s hands-on, curriculum-based programming. Nearly 90,000 of those visitors are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are teachers from New York City’s public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels.

NYBG operates one of the world’s largest plant research and conservation programs, with nearly 200 staff members—including 80 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden’s state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 18 countries.