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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

# The New York Botanical Garden

Volume 14, Number 1 / Spring, 1981 Bronx, N.Y. 10458 (212) 220-8700 or (212) 220-8777 for weekly information.

## Rhododendrons Will Bloom Where Cars Once Parked

A major restoration project that will significantly alter the Garden's appearance will begin in April with the planting of the Rhododendron Valley, a three-acre site east of the Watson Building. Here, several hundred rhododendrons will be planted over a five-year period in an area that was once dominated by a roadway and parking spaces.

In the words of Carlton B. Lees, Senior Vice President, "We're returning the garden to the Garden."

While the Garden's Master Plan for physical improvement called for elimination of autos from the interior, and the concept of establishing the Rhododendron Valley was a natural result, catalyst for the planting came from the Eberstadt Foundation. The Foundation is not only underwriting the project, but has arranged for moving to the Garden very large specimen rhododendrons from a site which once belonged to the Eberstadt family. These are related to the Dexter hybrids already existing on the Garden site and will provide the mass and scale necessary for immediate impact and background for newer named cultivars.

There is also an historic reason for this planting. Back in the 1920's, when Charles O. Dexter, the well-known retired Massachusetts textile manufacturer and breeder of rhododendrons sent off unnamed seedling plants in great numbers to gardens, arboreta and nurseries, some came to the NYBG. Years later, a committee of rhododendron experts toured the many plantings of these seedlings and selected the outstanding specimens for naming, propagation and cultivation. At the Garden was found an extraordinary pink specimen which was selected for these honors. Today it is

known as Dexter's 'Scintillation,' and is generally considered by rhododendron enthusiasts to be one of the best, if not the best, of all the Dexter hybrids.

Lees envisions the Valley as more than just a place of beauty, though it will certainly be that when the 100-odd rhododendron cultivars bloom each May. The Valley will become a focal point for teaching and interpretation of the rhododendron family, one of the most widespread and largest of woody plant genera.

It will take about five years for the total planting to be completed. By the end of that time all vestiges should have completely disappeared of the roadway and parking areas that once occupied this graceful slope.

## Japan Honors Dr. Hester

President James M. Hester has been accorded one of the highest honors of the Japanese government, the First Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, in recognition of his five-year tenure as Rector of the United Nations University. Dr. Hester served in that position in Tokyo from September 1975 until August 1980, when he resigned to take over his present post as President of the Garden.

The decoration was conferred on Dr. Hester by Emperor Hirohito, and was presented in His Majesty's behalf by Ambassador Masahiro Nisibori, in a ceremony at the Ambassador's residence in New York. The citation recognizes Dr. Hester's "perceptive and dedicated leadership in developing the University as an important international institution for studying many of the problems with which the United Nations is engaged."



President James M. Hester accepts Order of the Sacred Treasure, First Class from Japan's Ambassador Masahiro Nisibori in ceremony in New York. Mrs. Hester shared occasion with her husband.

## Berry, Balick Join Staff

Two major appointments have been announced by President Hester in recent weeks: Robert G. Berry has joined as Vice President for Development and Public Relations, and Michael J. Balick has come aboard as Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant Curator.

Bob Berry, who will be responsible for fund raising, public relations, membership and special events, joins after a highly successful stint with the U.S. Olympic Committee, where he was national Director of Fund Raising, 1977-1979, then Assistant to the Executive Director. In his first two years as chief fund raiser, he raised more money than the committee had ever generated before in a full four-year period. Prior to his association with USOC, Berry had a business career which included management consulting with Booz, Allen & Hamilton; advertising with J. Walter Thompson and pharmaceutical marketing with Sterling Drug, where he was a division vice president.

Mike Balick received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1980. He was associated with Harvard's Botanical Museum for five years, and attended Harvard Business School and Harvard's Introduction to Business Program for Ph.D.'s. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Delaware School of Agriculture, and received his Masters in biology from Harvard. As a doctoral candidate he carried out research and exploration in the Amazon Valley of South America, and has specialized in economic uses of palms. He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards. Along with his administrative role at the Garden, he will continue an active research program on Neotropical palms and economic botany.



Carlton B. Lees surveys area where Rhododendron Valley will rise. Watson Building is behind him.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

# The New York Botanical Garden

Newsletter Volume 12, Number 2 Feb./March 1978 Bronx, N.Y. 10458 (212) 220-8700 — the information line, 220-8777

## Editor's Note:

The heavy snow storm of January 20 left The New York Botanical Garden a winter wonderland. The Garden that in the spring, summer and fall is a botanical paradise was in the depth of winter no less a place of beauty. This snow scene was taken right after the storm.

Those who saw the Garden the weekend after the blizzard found snow piled high on branches of trees, sparkling in the sunlight; in the midst of all that beauty it wasn't just the cold that took one's breath away! Four days after the storm, her beauty almost intact, the Garden still held attractions for those who took the time to look — among them, squirrels, and picture-takers. —ED.



## Two Special Events for Members

All eyes will be on a 90-foot-high glass dome and its aesthetically complementary structures when the Conservatory is reopened to the public in a gala celebration Saturday, March 18. Following the rededication, the Conservatory and its horticultural and botanical exhibits will be open to the public free through 4 p.m. Members are cordially invited to come and join in the festivities. But even while deciding to be on hand for the rebirth of one of the world's most attractive cultural landmarks, those closest to the Garden will want to mark their calendars for Monday, May 1, 5-9 p.m. This is the date set aside for members and their friends. Already far along in the planning stage, this preview of a special spring showing promises to be a beautiful event. And for those unable to make it on May 1, a second members' evening is scheduled for Monday, June 5, again from 5 to 9.

## Looking for a Word — Glorious

If we had to pick one word to describe the restoration of the Conservatory, it would be "glorious." Another word — magnificent — describes what's to be found inside. The man largely responsible for the content is Senior Vice President Carlton B. Lees.

The opening March 18 and the preview events this spring rank among the top botanical and horticultural attractions of our time. The Conservatory will be a living museum, with changing exhibits, bringing man and plants closer together. One of the highlights will be the collection of palms which will be one of the most outstanding indoor collections to be found anywhere. The eleven

houses of the Conservatory will enable the Garden to create a variety of environments complementary to such different plants as the cacti of the desert, ferns of the jungle and the orangerie of citron, date palm and olive.

There will be a "hanging garden" and fern forest. Visitors examining the fern collection will walk along a "skywalk," and it will seem as though they are looking down into a sunken volcanic crater. In an American desert they'll walk along a simulated arroyo, or stream bed, and look up at the mountains, and southwestern sky. The tropical plant collection includes fruits such as mango and spices — nutmeg and black pepper — and essences, including jasmine, each with a story to tell. And in a tunnel visitors will see mushrooms, mosses, aquatics, house plants and vegetables growing in artificial light. The economic aspects of plants will be clearly defined. And so will their beauty!



Carlton B. Lees

## "Green World" in a "Crystal Palace"

One of the highlights of the modern-day "crystal palace" is "The Greenschool," located in the lower level of the Conservatory's House Number One and dedicated to the education of young people. It has classrooms, with plants used extensively for decoration as well as for instruction. Another feature — below the surface of the earth — is a number of deep window wells recessed in the walls of the house, and exposed to direct and indirect sunlight. The classrooms are complete with benches for work on plants, and provision has been made for audio-visual equipment. On the level above, at ground level, children have their own museum — "The Greenhouse" — in which the first of a series of long-term exhibits is "The Greenworld Grocery Store." It lets children, and adults, get a close look at more than 40 of the major food crops of the world. It's a new experience for those of us used to seeing most of these food sources only in packaged form. Two other vital parts of the "The Green World For Children" are "The Greenpatch" and "The Greenspace," both outdoors and still in the development stage.

## Ways to Warm Up for Sunnier Times

Education for adults is invigorating during a winter marked by bone-biting cold snow and rainfall. The dozens of courses in the winter program include many that start in late February and in March. With an eye to the warmer months ahead, they include *The Backyard Greenhouse*, *Urban Gardening*, *Advanced House Plants*, *Chinese Vegetables: How to Grow and Use Them*, *Chinese Gardens*, *Rhodo-*



TOUR OF TANZANIA, KENYA AND THE SEYCHELLE ISLANDS

- Nov. 16, 1979  
 Day 01 Fri. Depart U.S.A.  
 Nov. 17  
 Day 02 Sat. Arrive London, dayroom at Excelsior Airport Hotel.  
 Evening departure for Arusha, Tanzania.  
 Nov. 18  
 Day 03 Sun. Morning arrival Kilimanjaro Airport, Arusha.  
 Transfer to New Arusha Hotel. After lunch  
 depart to Arusha National Park, the Momela  
 Lakes and the unique Ngurdoto Crater. Mt. Meru  
 has alpine vegetation at 11,000 feet. There is  
 a road to this point. In addition to the unique  
 flora, the area has an unusual concentration of  
 colobus monkey and spectacular scenery. Dinner  
 and overnight at the New Arusha Hotel. New Arusha Hotel
- Nov. 19  
 Day 04 Mon. Morning at leisure. After lunch, depart for  
 Ngorongoro Crater. Dinner and overnight Crater Lodge
- Nov. 20  
 Day 05 Tue. Full day exploring the crater floor.  
 Dinner and overnight Crater Lodge
- Nov. 21  
 Day 06 Wed. Morning drive through Ngorongoro Conservation  
 Unit to Olduvai Gorge, site of the Leakey  
 excavation, to Ndutu Safari Camp arriving in  
 time for lunch. The lodge provides simple  
 accommodations in both rooms and tents. From  
 mid-November until mid-May the famous Serengeti  
 migration is centered in this area. Afternoon  
 drive in the area, Dinner and overnight Ndutu Lodge
- Nov. 22  
 Day 07 Thu. THANKSGIVING DAY  
 Full day exploring the Serengeti. Picnic lunch.  
 Dinner and overnight Ndutu Lodge
- Nov. 23  
 Day 08 Fri. After breakfast drive to Lake Manyara.  
 Lunch, dinner and overnight Lake Manyara  
Hotel
- Nov. 24  
 Day 09 Sat. After breakfast, drive in Lake Manyara National  
 Park. Continue to Arusha for lunch. Afternoon  
 visits to coffee, banana and sugar plantations  
 Dinner and overnight New Arusha Hotel
- Nov. 25  
 Day 10 Sun. Morning flight from Arusha to Mahe, Seychelle  
 Islands. Early afternoon arrival and transfer  
 to hotel. Afternoon free to explore the beaches of  
 Mahe.. Dinner and overnight at Coral Strands  
(on the beach)

LINDBLAD TRAVEL, INC.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN - Continued

Nov. 26

Day 11 Mon. Morning flight to Praslin Island, second largest of the islands, Praslin shelters the Vallee de Mai, a nature reserve so lovely it has been called the original Garden of Eden. It is the only place on earth where the giant double coconut, known as coco-de-mer, is found. Full day to explore Praslin before returning to Mahe for dinner and overnight Coral Strands

Nov. 27

Day 12 Tue. Visits to the Botanical Gardens and the Marine National Park before flight to Nairobi, Kenya Nairobi Hilton

Nov. 28

Day 13 Wed. Full day sightseeing including visit to National Museum of Kenya, East African Herbarium, the Karura Forest, Peter Greensmith's Nursery and Dr. Bally's Succulent Garden. Lunch not included. Dinner and overnight at Nairobi Hilton

Nov. 29

Day 14 Thu. After breakfast, drive to Mweiga for lunch at the Aberdare Country Club. En route visit the Kakuzi Sisal Plantation. Afternoon transfer to Aberdare National Park and the Ark. Dinner, and evening of game viewing and overnight at The Ark

Nov. 30

Day 15 Full day drive, with a picnic lunch through Aberdare National Park visiting moorelands, rain forest and alpine areas. Walking is permissible in this park. Park closes in heavy rains. We will substitute a visit to Mt. Kenya National Park in the event the Aberdares are closed. Dinner and overnight at The Ark

Dec. 01

Day 16 Sat. After breakfast, continue northward, crossing the equator, to the edge of Kenya's Northern Frontier District, to Samburu Game Reserve. Samburu is semi desert irrigated by the Uaso Nyiro River. It is home to many rare species of game (grevy's zebra, gerenuk, Biesa oryx). After lunch, afternoon drive through the park. Dinner and overnight at Samburu Lodge

Dec. 02

Day 17 Sun. Full day to explore the Samburu and Buffalo Springs area. Walking safaris are allowed just outside the reserve borders. Lunch, dinner and overnight Samburu Lodge

LINDBLAD TRAVEL, INC.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN - Continued

Dec. 03

Day 18 Mon. After breakfast, drive southward to Lewa Downs, an area of savannah, Acacia, and scrubland arriving in time for lunch. Afternoon drive in this private game reserve. Walking is permitted under the watchful eye of Mr. Craig, on his 40,000 acre ranch.

Dinner and overnight at

Lewa Downs

Dec. 04

Day 19 Tue. Full day driving this vast private reserve. Lewa Downs is a luxury tented camp, and the camping experience is one to be remembered.

Dinner and overnight at

Lewa Downs

Dec. 05

Day 20 Wed. After breakfast drive to Lake Nakuru National Park. Lunch at Lion Hill Camp. Afternoon drive in the park. Dinner and overnight at

Lion Hill Camp

Dec. 06

Day 21 Thu. Morning drive from Lake Nakuru to the Lake Hotel at Lake Naivasha for lunch. Afternoon at leisure to walk the grounds, go boating on the papyrus lined lake or take a drive to Hell's Gate, a hot springs where there are wild orchids. The geothermal area also houses the cliff-dwelling bearded vulture. Overnight at

Lake Hotel

Dec. 07

Day 22 Fri. Morning drive to Limuru and Mitchell's Tea Plantation. Stay for lunch. Afternoon return to Nairobi. Afternoon free, dinner not included, overnight

Nairobi Hilton

Dec. 08

Day 23 Sat. Day at leisure. Dayrooms held until 6:00 pm. Farewell cocktail party and dinner at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Coleman, Lindblad Travel's Nairobi Managers. Evening departure for London.

Nairobi Hilton

Dec. 09

Day 24 Sun Connect in London for flight to U.S.A.

Meal plan: No meals in London; all meals in Tanzania; all meals in the Seychelles; full American breakfast in Nairobi, as well as lunch or dinner where stated. All meals on safari in Kenya.

Vehicles: Maximum 5 person per 7-passenger bus.

Leadership: A botanically trained, English/Swahili-speaking naturalist, throughout.

## Safari conditions

**OPERATION OF SAFARIS:** Air schedule changes or events beyond our control may make it necessary to change or modify itineraries.

**CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:** Refund of deposit, less a U.S. \$50.00 handling fee per person, is made if cancellation in writing is received by Lindblad Travel, Inc., more than 60 days prior to departure. Thereafter, Lindblad Travel, Inc., will have to charge 35% of the total cost of the land arrangements, unless the space is resold. Charges for cancellations on any tour received within 10 days of departure are subject to review by Lindblad Travel, Inc. Cancellation must be received in writing within the stated time limits.

**SINGLE BOOKINGS:** Persons traveling alone cannot be guaranteed a share basis booking. Lindblad Travel will do everything possible to secure a roommate if requested, but if it is not possible, the single room supplement will be charged.

**PAYMENTS:** A deposit of U.S. \$500.00 per person is required for all safaris. The balance is payable eight weeks prior to departure when the final bill will be sent. Reservations are accepted subject to safari conditions and will be confirmed only if accompanied by a completed reservation form signed by the safari member(s).

**NOT INCLUDED ON ALL SAFARIS:** Air transportation, unless otherwise specified; U.S. exit tax; excess baggage; forwarding of baggage or souvenirs; passport fees; doctors' fees for vaccinations; cost of malaria prevention pills; items of personal nature such as laundry, beverages extra to meals; personal and baggage insurance. Items specifically described as not included in the foregoing Safari Features.

**RATES:** All rates and fares are quoted on the present value of foreign currencies in relation to the United States dollar and on tariffs now in effect (February 15, 1978) and are subject to confirmation or adjustment (either way) when final payment is made.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Lindblad Travel, Inc., New York operator of the tours herein outlined, its subsidiaries and/or its associated agents acts as agents only for all services and disclaim any and all liability for property loss or damage, and/or any and all damages resulting from death or personal injuries, including loss of services, which may be sustained on account of, or rising out of, by reason of, or while engaged on any tour, whether due to the ownership, maintenance, use, operation or control of any aircraft, automobile, cycle, boat, vehicle, inn, common carrier or otherwise or whether caused by failure or delay or by any transportation company due to any cause whatsoever occurring during a tour under its management, sponsorship, procurement or otherwise. All tickets, coupons and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to these terms and conditions and to any and all terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or other services provided thereby are offered or supplied by owners, operators or public carriers for whom LINDBLAD TRAVEL, INC., acts solely as agent. LINDBLAD TRAVEL, INC., New York, reserves the right in its discretion to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change any space, reservation, feature and/or means of conveyance without notice and for any reason whatsoever and without allowance of refund, but the extra costs, if any, resulting therefrom must be paid by the passengers. The Transportation Companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their carriers or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the Transportation Companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passengers.

**LINDBLAD TRAVEL, INC.,** New York, reserves the right to cancel or withdraw any tour prior to departure and decline to accept or retain any person as member of any tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be based on the actual cost of the unfinished portion of the tour.

**COOPERATING CARRIERS:** All IATA and ATC members.



NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN SAFARI  
TO TANZANIA, THE SEYCHELLE ISLANDS & KENYA  
NOVEMBER 16--DECEMBER 9, 1979

RESERVATION FORM

Return reservation form to:  
Lindblad Travel, Inc.  
Lindblad Travel Building  
133 East 55th Street  
New York, New York 10022

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (office) \_\_\_\_\_  
area code & number area code & number

I will be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_

Tour Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tour Price: \$3609

I wish to have a single room where possible and will pay  
the single room supplement of \$250 ☐

I/We wish to travel 14-45 day excursion which allows independent  
stopover privileges in Africa & Europe. Notify Lindblad of routing.  
(\$243 additional) ☐

I/We wish to travel First Class (\$1488 additional) ☐

Enclosed please find deposit check for \_\_\_\_\_ (U.S. \$500 per person)  
Balance is payable upon presentation of final bill, approximately  
8 weeks prior to departure.

To expedite the securing of visas, please complete this section

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Issue \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Issue \_\_\_\_\_

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS--Refund of deposit less a U.S. \$50.00 per person handling fee, is made if cancellation in writing is received by Lindblad Travel, Inc. more than 60 days prior to departure date. Thereafter, Lindblad Travel, Inc., will have to charge 35% of the total cost of the land arrangements unless the space is resold. Charges for cancellations on any safari received within 10 days of departure are subject to review by Lindblad Travel, Inc. Cancellation must be received in writing within the stated time limits.

ITINERARIES AND AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL. Information concerning passport, visa and vaccination, as well as the necessary forms and instructions, will be forwarded upon receipt of the deposit and reservation form. Reservations are accepted subject to tour conditions as outlined in the Lindblad Africa brochure, and will be confirmed only if accompanied by this form and completed and signed by the tour members, with the appropriate deposit.



# The New York Botanical Garden

Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 8  
December/January 1978/1979

Bronx, N.Y. 10458  
212-220-8700  
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212-220-8777

## In This Issue

Christmas in the Conservatory  
Live Trees in the Christmas Sale  
Winter Tune-Up Time  
Robbins' Memorial Fund Established

News and Notes  
African Exhibit  
International Problem Solving  
Sunflowers and Children

## Christmas in the Conservatory

Move over, mums, it's almost Christmas! The beautiful mums that brought a dazzling display of yellow and gold autumn sunshine to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in recent weeks are being replaced by poinsettias and kalanchoes for a spectacular NYBG Christmas exhibition.

The staff of the Propagating Range has been busy for months making certain the thousands of Christmas plants will be ready.

It's no easy matter, getting the timing just right. The mums were at their peak in late October while the poinsettias were standing, off center stage, in the prop houses not yet ready to make their Conservatory debut.

The holiday season cast includes 1,500 kalanchoes, 1,000 single-stem (one flower) poinsettias, 300 of the small bush type, 20 large tree forms, 20 large bush forms and 25 *Iboza riparia*.

In the case of mums, Bob Russo and his staff "trained" them to develop in a manner that best displays their individual characteristics. Cascades, for example, were forced to take shape in flowering fashion over a framework of wire mesh. Standards, bushes and hanging baskets were "taught" to assume those forms almost from "birth."

The "Christmas cast" also has undergone a lengthy period of training, leading up to one important date, Friday, Dec. 15, a Members'

Preview. Before that day, they will be carefully placed aboard trucks and taken to the world-renowned glass-enclosed showplace.

There, Marvin Olinsky, Assistant Director of Horticulture, and his team of assistants, including student horticulturists, take a direct hand in preparation of the program.

Besides the kalanchoe (pronounced kal-an-koh-ee) and poinsettia, the Christmas show will feature lily of the valley. A "star" attraction will be poinsettia almost eight feet tall! Other highlights of the preview, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., will be a candle-light display, festive music and a plant sale. Sunday, Dec. 17, the show "goes public."

## Live Trees Brighten Christmas Plant Sale

The NYBG Christmas Plant Sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 16 and 17, with a special preview sale for Garden members Friday, Dec. 15, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A special attraction in the Rotunda of the Museum Building will be a spectacular Christmas display featuring at least five live Christmas trees, each decorated by a different group or individual in distinctive

fashion. The trees, six to seven feet tall, will later be planted outside.

Whether it's a stereo microscope, botanical prints, a book on plant care or a pre-designed tulip garden, you'll find them all—just in time for Christmas—at the Shop-in-the-Garden.

These are just a few of the hundreds of gift

ideas which, of course, include live plants, seeds and bulbs.

It's difficult to find so many quality items—all garden related—under one roof. Whether you have in mind note paper, coloring books, porcelain dessert plates, botanical print pillows, scented candles, or Christmas cards, stop by and "pack up your sleigh" with NYBG specials. The Shop is in the Museum Building, near Moshulu Gate.

## Winter Tune-Up Time

Rhododendrons, Landscaping with Native Plants, Watercolor Landscape Painting and Commercial Flower Arranging are among the dozens of courses you can sign up for during the winter months.

The winter course line-up announced by the

Education Department offers hundreds of hours of enjoyment for those who would like to try Getting Friendly with Ferns, or learn about Uncommonly Delicious Plants. One can even become a Botanical Gourmet!

January, February and March are months

to tune up old skills, or develop new ones. Whether you want to try your hand at Nature Photography, learn to Color Up Your Garden, or Work with Perfumes, give the Registrar a call: (212) 220-8748. Many courses lead to an NYBG Certificate, others to college equivalency credits.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation



# The New York Botanical Garden NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 3/July-Aug., 1975

Bronx, N.Y. 10458/212-933-9400 or 933-1422 for Weekly Information

## PERSPECTIVES

by Howard S. Irwin

**Restrictions on Eden.** The Perils of Pauline besetting New York City's public purse have quickly filtered down to the Garden and the 14 other city-aided cultural institutions. As one director put it, the spirit of the Medici has been superseded by an experiment in vivisection. The first stages of a 25% cut in public support went into effect in June.

The Garden was begun eight decades ago in partnership with the City and has pursued a simple policy over the years: grounds, roads, buildings, fences and other physical facilities would be provided, owned, maintained, and improved by the City for the public; professional staff, research programs, educational activities, such facilities as the library, herbarium, and laboratories would be taken care of by the private resources of the Garden. It was a good formula. The Garden grew rapidly and became a preeminent institution. Public use of the Garden increased. Support for both the public and professional aspects increased. In time, and especially with the upsurge of scientific work in the '60's, and the expansion of the educational programs in the '70's, federal, and most recently state, money have augmented private resources. City support increased also but latterly began to fall behind, and in the last several years City allocations have not even kept pace with inflation.

A year ago, partly in anticipation of the City's inevitable financial crunch, organizational changes were made in the Garden's principal City-supported functions: maintenance, horticulture, security, and custodial service. All of these operations are far more efficiently managed now than a year ago. Capital improvements, also jointly supported, have made other operating efficiencies possible.

Although we cannot rail about the need for the City to put its financial affairs in order, or complain that such a policy must necessarily lead to cuts in City support to the Garden, we do dispute the hasty Draconian steps the Garden and other cultural institutions have been forced to take. As City support reaches the Garden in forms other than City-funded salary lines, it would have been in the better interest of the City, the Garden, and the public, had a dollar target been given us along with the discretion to take the least harmful steps to meet it within a specified time. As it is, and quite apart from the broader question whether pruning support for operations at New York City's cultural institutions is fiscally productive, the City is playing doctor, stipulating not only how much medicine must be taken but also how—and this without benefit of one whit of counsel with the professionals who run the Garden.

The Garden will, of course, recover from the shock, survive, and prosper because it is loved, respected, and needed. At the same time the Garden needs your help both in the form of membership support and as an advocate in the arena of public opinion, arguing for a coherent public policy for cultural affairs in the City of New York, something long overdue.

## THE PHILHARMONIC AT NYBG

Saturday, August 9th, shortly after sundown the welkin will well and truly ring with the glorious sound of one of the world's greatest orchestras, the New York Philharmonic. Under the direction of **Lorin Maazel**, the program will include von Weber's *Der Freischütz Overture*, Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony*, the *Karelia Suite* of Jan Sibelius, and Debussy's *La Mer*. Over three and a half million people have attended similar free concerts in the parks over the past decade, which means that there are more music lovers

in our town than you would believe—so come early! Even the band shell is a spectacular when you find out that it is made of four huge trailers that are combined into a 60 ton stage, making it possible to move freely about from borough to borough. The free concerts this year are under the sponsorship of the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co., the N.Y.C. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Administration, and the Philharmonic Society, aided by grants from the N.Y. State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Beginning on July 1st, as an economy measure, the Moshulu Gate, lying between 200th Street and Moshulu Parkway directly across from the Penn Central station, will be completely closed to all vehicular traffic. Visitors using cars are requested to use the Kennedy Gate opposite the entrance to Fordham University on Southern Boulevard.

## CONSERVATORY AREA CLOSED

To ease construction problems in the Conservatory area where long-awaited restoration work will soon begin, the adjacent grounds will be fenced off. All Visitors are asked to observe this restriction with more than the usual cooperation to avoid any possibility of accident. It is particularly necessary to use caution in the vicinity, for workmen will be removing thousands of pieces of glass during the summer season and the Garden is anxious to prevent any kind of mishap whether caused by flying glass or fragments lying about on the ground. Please do not try, under any circumstances, to penetrate behind the fenced area.