



Bicentennial kicks off with stickwork sculpture installation by renowned artist Patrick Dougherty



To kick off celebration of the 200 anniversary of the U.S. Botanic Garden's

legislation, the Garden is collaborating with renowned stickwork artist Patrick Dougherty to create a custom sculpture to stand throughout the 2020 celebra

Dougherty, who hails from North Carolina, is known around the world for his installations woven from plant materials, which celebrate nature through both flowing lines. Over 30 years, he has built more than 250 stickwork sculptures, from Scotland to Japan to all over the United States. D.C.-area residents may see a similar installation in the popular "Wonder" exhibit at the reopening of Renwick Gallery.

"We are excited to work with Patrick and his team to create a unique piece of art here at the Garden," said Saharah Moon Chapotin, U.S. Botanic Garden's director of public programs. "We hope visitors will explore the installation, think about the many ways we interact with plants throughout each day, and be inspired by both the beauty and the complexity of nature."

For this creation the USBG began by harvesting saplings of invasive plants from area locations - Norway maple from the American Horticultural Society's collection and hybrids of non-native cherry from the U.S. National Arboretum. Willow sustainably harvested from a farm completes the plants used to create the sculpture.

Volunteers and USBG employees are working more than 200 shifts with Dougherty and his team over three weeks to create the unique installation, which will be complete October 25. Once complete, visitors will be able to touch and explore this nature-inspired plant artwork installation.

Through the 2020 bicentennial year, the USBG will present a special exhibit celebrating plant exploration and the Garden's history dating back to founding President George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, as well as unique programs, workshops, lectures, festivals, tours, and more.

The U.S. Botanic Garden is open to the public, free of charge, every day of the year. The Conservatory is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and the outdoor gardens are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with extended hours until 7 p.m. from April 1 to September 15. The Garden is located at 100 Maryland Ave. SW, on the southwest side of the National Mall. Visitors are encouraged to use public transportation. More information is available at www.usbg.gov

- **Media photo folder**
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About the U.S. Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is the oldest botanic garden in North America. The Garden informs visitors about the importance and fundamental plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic and ecological significance. With over a million visitors annually, the USBG strives to develop sustainable practices. The U.S. Botanic Garden is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. www.usbg.gov

About Patrick Dougherty

Born in Oklahoma in 1945, Dougherty was raised in North Carolina. Combining his carpentry skills with his love of nature, Patrick began to experiment with construction material. In 1982 his first work, Maple Body Wrap, was included in the North Carolina Biennial Artists' Exhibition, sponsored by the North Carolina work quickly evolved from single pieces on conventional pedestals to monumental scale environmental works, which required saplings by the truckloads. He has built over 250 of these works, and become internationally acclaimed. He has received numerous awards, including the 2011 Factor Prize for Southern Artist Fellowship Award, Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Henry Moore Foundation Fellowship, Japan-US Creative Arts Fellowship, and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Princeton Architectural Press published a major book about Patrick and his work in 2009. www.stickwork.net

Patrick Dougherty stickwork sculpture at U.S. Botanic Garden in progress:



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