



U.S. Botanic Garden Celebrates 200th Anniversary



The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) announces a year

th anniversary with the launch of a new exhibit. The Garden will continue the theme throughout the year with a program of exhibits, events, historic colla trips, and activities. The Garden invites visitors to be a part of the celebration and come engage with its distinctive plant collection, unique place in Ameri of the Garden today and into the future.

Rooted in history, the Garden was a vision of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. These Founding Fathers wished for the new botanic garden to demonstrate and promote the importance of plants to the young nation. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1820 and open to the pub the U.S. Botanic Garden is the oldest continuously operating botanic garden in the United States.

"As we celebrate 200 years of history at the U.S. Botanic Garden, I am excited to explore new ways of helping people make meaningful connections to p Chapotin, executive director. "Whether it's to spend a quiet moment in our beautiful conservatory and gardens, to discover the tastes and textures of nev about how plants contribute to a more sustainable planet, I want every visitor to the Garden to feel welcome here and to come away with a greater appre

"We want to continue the Garden's legacy of showcasing the wide variety of useful plants and to expand our work in keeping the planet healthy for the n forward to welcoming visitors from diverse communities across the United States and around the world to join us in another 200 years of plant exploratio celebration."

Bicentennial Exhibit

The major exhibition of the bicentennial is "**The U.S. Botanic Garden at 200: Deeply Rooted, Branching Outward,**" on display Feb. 20 - Oct. 15, 2020

and West Galleries. Visitors can explore historic images of the Garden, learn about plant exploration through the years, and discover how the Garden wo

the *original* 3D images through historic 1800s stereoscope photos of the Garden, test your detective skills with botanical challenges in a set evoking a so exploration ship, and see what notes you can identify in a recreation of the infamous corpse flower smell. Visitors will also see a life-size bronze sculpture especially for the Garden.



Other 2020 Exhibits

The celebration of plant exploration continues with this year's orchid show "**Discover the World of Orchids**" on display in the Conservatory Feb. 28 - M

with Smithsonian Gardens. Orchids have been in the Garden's collection since the 1800s and now form the Garden's largest specialty plant collection. A by artist Susan Beallor-Snyder will debut in the Garden Court during the orchid show.

The Garden will present additional exhibits this year continuing the historic celebration theme. This summer, a special outdoor display on the Terrace will garden design has changed over the course of the USBG's 200 years. The Garden's annual holiday show will also celebrate the Garden's bicentennial.

The outdoor **stickwork art installation "O Say Can You See"** by Patrick Dougherty, created to kick off the bicentennial celebration last fall, will stand th invited to see, touch, and explore this unique creation made from locally harvested invasive plants and willow.

Featured Plants

The Garden celebrates its historic ties to Founding Fathers George Washington and Thomas Jefferson in a **collaboration in the Kitchen Garden with**

Monticello. In spring through fall, the Kitchen Garden will showcase the plants these historic figures were growing on their estates when they wrote letters

to create the garden to be created. Representatives from the two estates will also present special programs here this summer.

The Garden returns to its roots of wild plant collecting, after more than 150 years since previous collection trips. Visitors are invited to come see recently

on display this year for the first time, alongside plants dating back to historical 1840s expeditions. Planned collection trips this year include **native cacti i**

native orchids and mycorrhizae in Palau. Today, the Garden collaborates with and supports local researchers through collecting trips. Recently, local

a new species of corpse flower (*Amorphophallus yaoi*) collected during a 2017 collaborative trip.

Special Educational Programs

The Garden will present hundreds of **special educational programs throughout the year.** The Garden has commissioned a site-specific dance by local dance company Project ChArma for this spring.

Presentations by notable authors of books related to the Garden and gardening history will include Nathaniel Philbrick ("Sea of Glory"), Daniel Stone (

Fairchild"), Victoria Johnson ("American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic"), and Marta McDowell ("All the

Special workshops, programs, and demonstrations throughout the year will connect to the Garden's bicentennial and plant exploration theme, including s using a camera lucida, a summer concert series, and cooking with historic recipes.

Celebratory Events

Garden employees and volunteers will lead a large **Festival event in the fall**, plus special tours throughout the year to spotlight important plant collection programs will be announced throughout the year.

In the fall, the Friends of the U.S. Botanic Garden will host a **celebratory event October 13** with food, live music, and a special guest speaker to be named.

The nonprofit Friends organization raises money to support education programs at the Garden.

Learn more:

- Photos of the U.S. Botanic Garden (historic and modern)
- Brief History of the U.S. Botanic Garden

