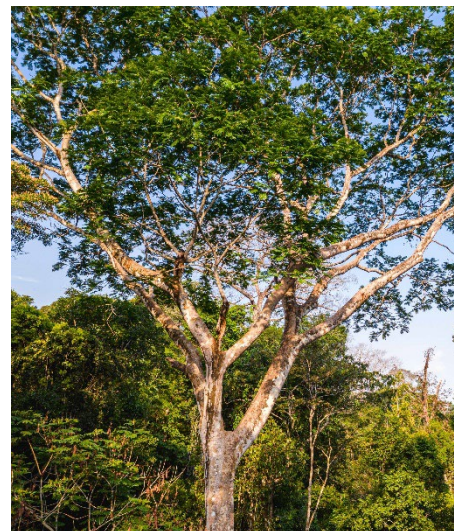
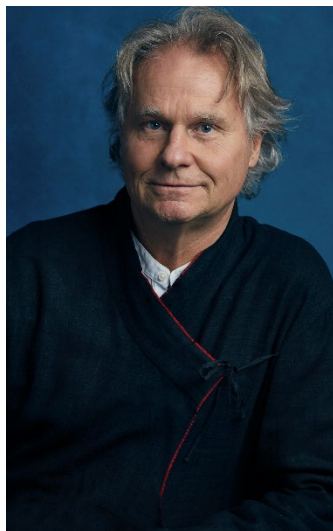


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2024

During Climate Week NYC 2024, NYBG Will Host a Daylong Conference Featuring Leading Environmental Experts Who Will Explore the Potential for Biodiversity to Improve Earth’s Resilience in the Face of Climate Change

***Nature’s Shield: Harnessing Biodiversity for Climate Resilience* Takes Place Thursday, September 26, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**



Nature’s Shield: Harnessing Biodiversity for Climate Resilience, a daylong conference at The New York Botanical Garden on Thursday, September 26, 2024, will include (left to right) a keynote address by anthropologist Wade Davis, Ph.D.; a screening of the environmental documentary *Blue Carbon*, and a panel discussion about the power of native trees to bring environmental goals within reach.

Bronx, NY—During Climate Week NYC 2024, The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) will host *Nature’s Shield: Harnessing Biodiversity for Climate Resilience*, a daylong conference on Thursday, September 26, 2024, that will include a keynote address about the threats facing both the Amazon rain forest and the Indigenous people who live there, compelling panel discussions with leading environmental experts, and a special film screening. This year’s conference explores the potential for biodiversity to improve Earth’s resilience in the face of climate change.

The keynote address will be given by anthropologist, ethnobotanist, and author Wade Davis, Ph.D., followed by the panel discussion *Nurturing Nature Through Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation* with prominent scientists and practitioners. In the afternoon, there will be a special screening of *Blue Carbon: Nature's Hidden Power*—an immersive documentary that combines the universal languages of music and science into a vibrant call to action to protect the planet. The conference concludes with *Supertrees for a Sustainable Future*, a special panel held in partnership with the Bezos Earth Fund, focusing on the power and potential of native trees to bring global climate, biodiversity, and ecological restoration goals within reach.

NYBG's Climate Week 2024 conference is held in conjunction with Climate Week NYC, an annual series of events focusing on accelerating climate action that is organized by Climate Group, an international not-for-profit organization, in coordination with the United Nations and the City of New York. Climate Week NYC 2024 runs from Sunday, September 22 through Sunday, September 29, 2024.

This fall, the world is coming together during Climate Week and two international conferences, on biodiversity in October and on climate change in November, to tackle these dual crises confronting humanity and threatening thousands of plant and animal species with extinction. An NYBG delegation will join world leaders at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), taking place in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1, 2024, with the aim of advancing plant diversity as the key to conserving biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience.

To learn more about these events and how NYBG Science looks to plants for answers to advance real-world solutions in conservation, restoration, land use, regenerative agriculture, and more, go to:

<https://www.nybg.org/event/biodiversityandclimate/>

Nature's Shield: Harnessing Biodiversity for Climate Resilience

Thursday, September 26, 2024; 9:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall

Free for Garden Members; \$35 Non-Members

As leaders from around the world convene in New York City for this year's Climate Week NYC, NYBG will hold its annual Climate Week conference, focusing this year on how harnessing biodiversity can improve climate resilience.

- **Welcome**
Jennifer Bernstein, CEO and The William C. Steere Sr. President, The New York Botanical Garden

- ***Peoples of the Anaconda***

Keynote Address by **Wade Davis, Ph.D.**, Professor of Anthropology and the BC Leadership Chair in Cultures and Ecosystems at Risk at the University of British Columbia.

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Named by the National Geographic Society as one of the Explorers for the Millennium, Wade Davis has been described as “a rare combination of scientist, scholar, poet and passionate defender of all of life’s diversity.” Prof. Davis’ work in anthropology and ethnobotany has taken him all over the world—from the Amazon to Tibet, from Africa to Australia, and from Polynesia to the Arctic. In *Peoples of the Anaconda*, he shares his investigations from the Amazon region, his collaboration with the Indigenous communities he traveled with, the ecologically rich zones found deep within the rain forest, and the threats they both face.

- ***Nurturing Nature Through Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation***

The 3rd Annual Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., and Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., Panel
10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

A panel of distinguished scientists and practitioners will discuss what can be done to halt biodiversity loss and enhance climate resilience through ecological restoration and conservation. The panel is named in honor of the late Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., and Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., world-renowned biologists and conservation advocates who were longtime members of NYBG’s Board of Trustees.

- Panelists:

- **Paula Caballero**, Regional Managing Director for Latin America, The Nature Conservancy
- **Ashleigh McGovern**, Senior Vice President, Center for Oceans, Conservation International
- **Cristián Samper, Ph.D.**, Managing Director and Leader for Nature Solutions, Bezos Earth Fund
- **Paul Smith, Ph.D.**, Secretary General, Botanic Gardens Conservation International

- Panel Moderator:

- **Mauricio Diazgranados, Ph.D.**, Chief Science Officer and Dean of NYBG Science, The New York Botanical Garden

- ***Film Screening of Blue Carbon: Nature’s Hidden Power***

2–4 p.m.

Blue Carbon is an environmentally focused film directed by the Emmy®– and BAFTA–winning director Nicolas Brown and narrated by Grammy®–nominated DJ and marine toxicologist Jayda G, with music from Wu-Tang leader RZA and Brazilian

artist Seu Jorge. *Blue Carbon*, a MAKE Waves co-production with HHMI/Tangled Bank Studios, takes viewers on a global expedition, exploring the latest scientific discoveries surrounding the ocean's astonishing capacity to absorb carbon from the atmosphere. The documentary includes remarkable encounters with marine life and introduces the unsung heroes at the forefront of conservation efforts, offering a ray of hope in challenging times. A question-and-answer session will follow the screening.

- Moderator:
 - **Eric Sanderson, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Urban Conservation, The New York Botanical Garden

- ***Supertrees for a Sustainable Future***
5-6:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Bezos Earth Fund, NYBG presents a panel celebrating the power and potential of native “supertrees.” This dialogue will explore the critical role that native trees play in bringing global climate, biodiversity, and restoration goals within reach. Drawing on experience from Brazil, panelists will highlight innovation and research happening right now to close the investment gap in native tree species, secure the long-term supply of native species, and use these native “supertrees” to restore degraded land and build Brazil’s bioeconomy. RSVP for this complimentary event here: <https://www.nybg.org/event/climate-week-2024-supertrees-rsvp/>

- Panelists:
 - **Emily Aversa**, Associate Director, Landscape Restoration, Bezos Earth Fund
 - **Miguel Calmon, Ph.D.**, Senior Director of Programs, Conservation International Brazil
 - **Daniel Piotto, Ph.D.**, Professor of Forestry, Federal University of Southern Bahia
 - **Fernando Visser**, Director of Technology and Innovation, re.green
- Panel Moderator:
 - **Mauricio Diazgranados, Ph.D.**, Chief Science Officer and Dean of NYBG Science, The New York Botanical Garden

For more conference information and to register, go to:

<https://www.nybg.org/event/climate-week-2024-conference-natures-shield/>

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has been a connective hub among people, plants, and the shared planet since 1891. For more than 130 years, NYBG has been rooted in the cultural fabric of New York City, in the heart of the Bronx, its greenest borough. NYBG has invited millions of visitors to make the Garden a part of their lives, exploring the joy, beauty, and respite of nature. NYBG's 250 acres are home to renowned exhibitions, immersive botanical experiences, art and music, and events with some of the most influential figures in plant and fungal science, horticulture, and the humanities. NYBG is also a steward of globally significant research collections, from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library collection to the plant and fungal specimens in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest such collection in the Western Hemisphere.

The plant people of NYBG—dedicated horticulturists, enthusiastic educators, and scientific adventurers—are committed to helping nature thrive so that humanity can thrive. They believe in their ability to make things better, teaching tens of thousands of kids and families each year about the importance of safeguarding the environment and healthy eating. Expert scientists work across the city, the nation, and the globe to document the plants and fungi of the world—and find actionable, nature-based solutions to the planet's dual climate and biodiversity crises. With eyes always looking forward, they train the next generation of botanists, gardeners, landscape designers, and environmental stewards, ensuring a green future for all. At NYBG, it's nature—or nowhere.

The 3rd Annual Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., and Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., Panel was made possible thanks in part to the generous support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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