



Wave Hill
Public Garden & Cultural Center

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Press Release

Wave Hill Celebrates 60 Years with Gardeners' Party Honoring Marco Polo Stufano, Lecture by Dan Hinkley, and Public Plant Sale

Bronx, NY, August 28, 2025 — Wave Hill, the Bronx's beloved public garden and cultural center, celebrates its 60th anniversary with a weekend of horticultural celebration and inspiration. On **Thursday, September 18**, the annual Gardeners' Party honors Marco Polo Stufano, Wave Hill's Founding Director of Horticulture, whose visionary leadership transformed the estate into one of the most admired gardens in the country.

The evening begins at 5:30PM with cocktails in the gardens, a curated Silent Auction on the Great Lawn, and an exclusive Plant Sale specially curated by Wave Hill's talented gardeners. As the sun sets, a seated al fresco dinner follows, along with a spirited Live Auction hosted by Christie's. Proceeds support Wave Hill's gardens and the John Nally Internship, which trains the next generation of horticulturists.

Stufano began his tenure in 1967, just after the property was donated to the City of New York. Over the next 34 years, he reimagined the landscape with a bold and artistic vision, pioneering techniques that have influenced public gardens across the country. His approach emphasized seasonal change, unexpected plant combinations, and a deep respect for the visitor's experience.

"Wave Hill is a place of beauty for the people of the city," Stufano once said, "where they can come to experience the diversity and fascination of the world of plants."

His legacy includes numerous accolades, such as the Scott Medal from Swarthmore College Arboretum and the Distinguished Achievement Medal from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. But perhaps his greatest contribution is the community of gardeners, designers, and plant lovers he inspired—many of whom will gather to celebrate him.

The celebration continues on **Friday, September 19**, with a lecture by legendary plantsman Dan Hinkley at 2:30PM. In *My Life in Plants*, Hinkley will share stories from a lifetime of gardening, plant exploration, and mentorship. "Looking at a plant in the wild has been the most informative process for me as a gardener," Hinkley says. "Immediately I know where that plant wants to grow in a home garden and what its rightful place might be." Tickets are \$35, including garden admission; Wave Hill members receive a discount.



That same day, Wave Hill's renowned **Plant Sale** opens to the public from 12PM to 5PM, featuring rare and unusual selections from specialty nurseries **issima** and **The Bunker Farm**, alongside Wave Hill-grown favorites. Garden staff will be on hand to offer guidance and expertise.

Event Details:

Gardeners' Party

Thursday, September 18, 2025

5:30PM Cocktails, Plant Sale & Silent Auction

7:00PM Dinner, Honoree Presentation & Live Auction

Attire: Fuchsia-Forward Garden Party

RSVP by September 4 | Limited seating

Wave Hill, West 249th Street & Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY

gardenersparty@wavehill.org | 718.549.3200 x216

Dan Hinkley Lecture: My Life in Plants

Friday, September 19, 2025 | 2:30PM–3:30PM

\$35 | Wave Hill members save 10%

Reception with light refreshments to follow

Wave Hill Public Plant Sale

Friday, September 19, 2025 | 12PM–5PM

Open to all

The Gardeners' Party and lecture are hosted by Wave Hill's Friends of Horticulture Committee, a group of ardent gardeners and Wave Hill enthusiasts.

Press Contact

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John Nally Internships are generously supported by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and Wave Hill's Friends of Horticulture Committee.

Wave Hill Incorporated is an independent non-profit cultural institution governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The City of New York owns the buildings and grounds of Wave Hill. With the assistance of the Bronx Borough President and Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature, Wave Hill's operations are supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



About Wave Hill

A 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill's mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

HOURS: Open all year, Tuesday–Sunday, 10AM–5:30PM. Marco Polo Stufano Conservatory 10AM–4PM. Gallery 10:30AM–4:30PM.

ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS: \$10 adults, \$6 students and seniors 65+, \$4 children 6-18. Free Thursdays.

Free to Wave Hill Members, children under 6.

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