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## **PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM STATE HISTORIC PARK VOTED BEST PUBLIC GARDEN OF 2011 BY LONG ISLAND PRESS**

Planting Fields Arboretum State Park was voted by Long Islanders as the best public garden on Long Island for 2011. LongIslandPress.com conducts a survey every year of the "Best of Long Island" in a variety of categories, ranging from restaurants, going green and family attractions.

Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, Long Island's premier public arboretum and historic site is located in Oyster Bay. A former Gold Coast estate of the Coe family, the arboretum is over 400 acres of greenhouses, gardens, woodland paths, and outstanding plant collections. The original historic estate buildings which remain include Coe Hall, which is open for tours spring through fall. The park is open every day, except for Christmas Day. Group tours are available year round for both the house and the gardens, by appointment.

Also located on the grounds are numerous activities for our visitors. The Main Greenhouse, while open all year, has seasonal exhibits. The Camellia Greenhouse holds the largest number of Camellias in the Northeast. Both houses are open daily from 10am-4pm.

Join Planting Fields in celebrating the blooming of the camellias at Camellia House Weekend on February 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm. The greenhouse and Coe Hall will be open for lectures, a flautist, arts and crafts and Mad Hatter Tea Party for the whole family to enjoy. Five dollar admission for Coe Hall includes all activities and refreshments. Call 516-922-8682 or email [mbernes@plantingfields.org](mailto:mbernes@plantingfields.org) for further information.

This spring, Planting Fields will also host two new exhibitions. On April 1, 2011, "Buffalo Bill, Wyoming and the Coe Family" will open. This exhibition will examine the relationship between Buffalo Bill and William Robertson Coe, the original owner of Planting Fields, who bought Buffalo Bill's Wyoming ranch of over 200,000 acres. In June, a second exhibition will open, "Robert Moses on Long Island: 1925-1975". This exhibition traces the development of Long Island in the context of the American Dream. In particular, the exhibition examines the lengthy career of master builder Robert Moses, (1888-1981), whose engineering of bridges, roadways, parks, and beaches made Long Island the truly modern place that it is today.

The weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1, 2011, Planting Fields will celebrate our annual Arbor Day Family Festival. Since 1987 Planting Fields has commemorated national Arbor Day with a festival of fun-filled educational activities and entertainment. Arbor Day celebrates the importance of trees and the preservation of our environment. The Festival features crafts activities, tree climbing, puppet shows, and musical performances. Coe Hall will be open to view the Buffalo Bill exhibition, along with self-guided tours. The Arbor Day Family Festival is rain or shine from 10am-5pm.

The Visitor's Center, located in the refurbished haybarn, houses the Garden gift shop and café, as well as the Garden Library, for further investigation after a visit to Planting Fields. There is also a second-hand bookstore in the old Carriage House with numerous volumes on Long Island and horticulture.

Please visit our website, [www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org) for all further information on hours, prices and upcoming events at Planting Fields. Visit <http://bestof.longislandpress.com/li/> for further information on the Best Of Long Island series and other local winners. For further information about other Planting Fields events, please contact Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or [jlavella@plantingfields.org](mailto:jlavella@plantingfields.org)