



BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

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"Homes for Birds" New Spring Exhibition Unveiled at Berkshire Botanical Garden Season Open May 3 Through Labor Day 2008 - First Exhibition of Nurturing Garden Theme

June 9, 2008--Stockbridge, Massachusetts--Bird condos, community living, penthouses and row houses. Come experience "Homes for Birds" a visually beautiful, bounty of one-of-a-kind bird houses created by regional and international artists and craftsmen and curated by fine art dealer Joyce Nereaux. "Homes for Birds" is on view through September 1, 2008 at the Berkshire Botanical Garden's in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, open daily from 10am to 5pm.

The first exhibition in the Berkshire Botanical Garden 2008 series, "The Nurturing Garden for Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Best Friends," focuses on birdhouses; those intriguing structures that not only provide a nesting place for birds but also delight the eye and the imagination of the garden visitor. A large selection of nesting structures will be placed throughout the Berkshire Botanical Garden's flourishing paths and lanes. Some are highly imaginative; some basically practical, some whimsical - yet all inviting to one of several species of birds native to the Northeast. Birdhouse artist Karl Goldsmith of Rochester, NY, has offered on loan his hand-crafted birdhouses, architectural reproductions of historic buildings made of reclaimed lumber. Vintage bird houses are also on loan from Hedstrom & Judd and The Secret Garden, in Hudson, NY and artist designed bird homes created Tom Dukich, in Washington State, and Larry Hellenberg, Brooklyn, New York, are on display.

The exhibition provides nesting places for Purple Martins, Doves, Blue Birds, Wrens and other species that use houses to hatch their young. "We value the birdhouses as decorative elements in the garden, as well as nurturing elements," says Joyce Nereaux. "These special structures range in material from copper to wood, and in style from rustic to interpretations of various architectural forms and periods." An avid gardener herself, Joyce maintains six creative birdhouses at her home near Hudson, New York. For over 35 years, Joyce has been a gallery owner and fine arts dealer working on shows for Rauschenberg, Dine, Morris, Nauman and many other major artists.

"Homes for Birds" both inspires and educates," says Berkshire Botanical Garden Executive Director, John Parker. "This season our Nurturing Garden theme illustrates the importance of our connection to nature and help visitors find successful ways to nurture the environment and themselves."

The Garden is also unveiling "Cultivate" an exhibition of site specific works of contemporary art created exclusively for the Berkshire Botanical Garden. "Cultivate" is a season-long exhibition and a companion to MASS MoCA's new spring show "Badlands," both will be curated by Denise Markonish.

"Homes for Birds" is free with Garden admission of \$7.00 for adults, \$5 for seniors and free to members and children under 18. Select birdhouses will be available for purchase. For further information and photos contact: 413-298-3926 or visit www.berkshirebotanical.org. Additional photo Link: <http://www.studiotwo.com/gallery/BBG08Birdhouse>