

# NYBG/125



## WeDigBio 2016: Crowdsourcing for Conservation & Climate Change Research @ NYBG!

*Charles Zimmerman is Herbarium Collections and Outreach Administrator for NYBG's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium*

CALLING ALL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS AND CITIZEN SCIENCE ACTIVISTS!

For centuries, biologists have explored and documented the natural world, collecting the billions of specimens lodged in museums, universities, and field stations worldwide. In past years, The New York Botanical Garden and other institutions across the globe have made tremendous strides towards unleashing the treasure trove of information stored in these collections for researchers and the general public.

And now, finally there is a way **YOU** can help!

On **Saturday, October 22nd** from **10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, The New York Botanical Garden's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium will partner with Fordham University to host a community-based **Natural History Collection Bioblitz** as part of WeDigBio 2016, a global 4-day volunteering event focused on mobilizing biodiversity data from preserved museum specimens to advance scientific research.

**All members of the public** are invited to join, and no prior experience with museum specimens necessary! Come meet and collaborate with NYBG staff, garden volunteers, community participants, and students at the **Fordham University Rose Hill campus** to share in this collaborative effort to make a massive impact on the advancement of knowledge about our natural world!

All attendees will be trained to utilize the widely-accessible online software platform [Notes From Nature](#) to read and transcribe critical temporal and geographic information about museum specimens from captured images of pressed plants and their collection labels stored in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium. Participants can work individually or in small-groups at computer terminals provided on-site. Volunteers are welcome to stay and work for as long as they wish to produce as many accurate transcriptions of museum specimens as possible during the course of the event. Small prizes (including **20 free all-garden passes** to the **New York Botanical Garden**) will be awarded to our highest achievers and winners of friendly activity-based competitions. All attendees can track their personal progress through the Notes from Nature digital Fieldbook, and see in real-time the cumulative achievement of the many thousands of amateur naturalists expected to participate in WeDigBio 2016 events across the globe!

That's right! You need not to worry if you can't make it to the Bronx on **October 22nd**, because you can participate in WeDigBio 2016 from anywhere! Simply check out [www.WeDigBio.org](http://www.WeDigBio.org) to learn more and sign up for another in-person event, or log in as a [virtual volunteer](#), and teach yourself to transcribe!

Following this year's unique research objective, "**Mobilizing New England Vascular Plant Specimen Data to Track Environmental Changes**", The New York Botanical Garden asks its volunteers to help decode the ecological effects of climate on natural landscapes through modeling temporal shifts in geographic distributions and plant phenology (flowering & fruiting cycles). To accomplish this, participants will strategically target historical plant specimens from Northeastern temperate forests in the United States and Canada, including some collected right in the New York City area. Check out the Official New England Vascular Plants [website](http://www.NEVP.org) (www.NEVP.org) for more details on the future direction of this research!

To **R.S.V.P.** for the event on Fordham Campus, please send an email with "**WeDigBio 2016**" in the subject line to [Czimmerman@nybg.org](mailto:Czimmerman@nybg.org) or follow the link to our [online sign up](#) sheet!

**Event Location:**

Fordham University - Rose Hill Campus

[Hughes Hall - Room 104](#)

2691 Southern Boulevard

Bronx, NY, 10458, USA