

The Mertz Library promotes the intelligent stewardship of the natural world by collecting and preserving works of merit in botany, horticulture and landscape design. For more information on the Mertz and its extensive collections go to; <https://www.nybg.org/learn/mertz-library/about/>

Tour 1 – Conservation Lab – Guide: Olga Marder; Mertz Conservation Librarian/Conservator

The Conservation Department at the Mertz Library is responsible for the care and preservation of books, manuscripts, art on paper and other materials in the collection. On this behind-the-scenes tour, you will have the opportunity to visit the Conservation Lab facilities, see our current projects, meet the conservators and ask questions about their work.

Tour 2 - The Rare Book & Folio and the Botanical Artwork and Illustration Collections, Guide: Stephen Sinon; William B O'Connor Curator of Special Collections, Research and Archives

On this tour you will view the earliest manuscripts and printed books as well as some of the most beautiful botanical and horticultural volumes ever produced. Stephen Sinon, our Curator, will show us a collection of beautiful centuries-old botanical works from sumptuous plate books from the 18th and 19th Century which feature many fine botanical engravings and outstanding hand-colored illustrations.

Tour 3 – The Steele Herbarium Guide; Nicole Tarnowsky (A tour of the Herbarium will only run on Friday)

An Herbarium is defined as a systematically arranged collection of dried plants. As the largest herbarium in the Western Hemisphere, the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium is a priceless resource for researchers from around the world who are documenting earth's biodiversity of plants and fungi. The NYBG focuses on building collections in all groups and regions and in large scale digitization and rapid data entry.

Currently, the herbarium holds 7,800,000 Species of plants and fungi of which 4,225,000 species or 54% are digitized so they can be viewed on a database. Nicole Tarnowsky will show us a fascinating collection of plant specimens, some with significant historical relevance.

For more information on the Steere Herbarium go to <http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/>