



**Media Contact:** Ellen Bruzelius, 718-885-1461  
[ebruzelius@bpmm.org](mailto:ebruzelius@bpmm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM OPENS ANTIQUE GARDEN TOOLS EXHIBIT**

*Bronx, NY, March 20, 2012*—From cucumber straighteners and wasp catchers to trowels and watering cans, a fascinating array of antique garden tools — both the unusual and the ordinary — awaits the visitor at *Dibbles and Daisy Grubbers: The Art of the Garden Tool*, an exhibition to be held at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum from April 1 through July 1. Featuring more than 100 objects from the collection of landscape architect Mark Morrison, RLA, FASLA, GRP, the display contains tools made in Europe and North America over the past three centuries, some handmade by blacksmiths and other craftsmen, and others made by machine. Primarily composed of wood and metals, many of these tools can still be used today.

Morrison, who has been collecting garden tools for 35 years, says, “I love to tell the story of how the tools evolved. The older tools are much better weighted and much sturdier. They were built to last for centuries, if cared for properly. The antique tools are beautiful — true pieces of art.”

The tools are presented in sections according to their function: prepping the soil, planting, cultivating, pruning, controlling pests, harvesting, and watering. City Island resident and BPMM board member Barbara Burn Dolensek, who curated the exhibit, says, “Many fabulous gardens have not saved their old tools. Until recently, they were not considered important or valuable, and people didn’t collect them. Mark Morrison has done a huge service to the history of gardening.”

There will be an opening reception on April 6, which coincides with Bartow-Pell’s first *First Friday!* of 2012. There will also be two lectures related to the exhibit. On Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m., Mark Morrison will give a talk on *The History and Evolution of Garden Tools*. On Sunday, April 29, at 4:30 p.m., Florence Boogaerts, a professional landscape designer who teaches at The New York Botanical Garden, will discuss *Gardens of the World*.

The exhibit can be viewed when the mansion is open to the public on Wednesday, Saturday

## BPMM ANTIQUE GARDEN TOOLS EXHIBIT – PAGE 2

and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. Mansion admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students, and free for children under six. For directions and information about Bartow-Pell and upcoming programs, visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org) or call 718-885-1461. For more information about Mark Morrison, visit [www.markkmorrison.com](http://www.markkmorrison.com).

Bartow-Pell, an 1840s Greek Revival mansion and a National Historic Landmark, is owned by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, operated by the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City.



*Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org). The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.*

895 Shore Road Bronx, NY 10464 | 718.885.1461 | [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org) | [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org)