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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September is Three-for-Free-Month at Bartow-Pell

The International Garden Club's "working" library – books from 1870 to 1946

Bronx, NY, September 12, 2013 - An Urban Park Ranger hike, a talk by preservation landscape architect and guest curator Joseph Disponzio, and the Smithsonian's *Museum Day Live!*, makes September a showcase for the heritage of Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and the glorious Bronx countryside that surrounds this historic jewel in Pelham Bay Park.

Historic New York: The Estates of Pelham Bay Park

Once one of many mansions on the shores of Pelham Bay, Bartow-Pell now stands alone as an example of the Bronx country estates of the 19th century. On Sunday **September 22** at 1 p.m. Bartow-Pell will host an **Urban Park Ranger Hike** focused on the Estates of Pelham Bay Park. Attendees will meet at the Bartow-Pell parking lot to go on an Urban Park Ranger-guided walk through Pelham Bay Park, learning about Bartow-Pell and the grand country estates that were its neighbors. Comfortable shoes or boots, water, and a light snack recommended.

Exhibition Talk on *A Gardener's Library*

On Thursday, **September 26**, 7:30 p.m. guest curator **Joseph Disponzio**, Ph.D.—noted author, scholar of garden history, and a preservation landscape architect with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation—discusses Bartow-Pell's fall exhibit, ***A Gardener's Library: Vintage Books from the Bartow-Pell Collection***, the garden book collection assembled by the International Garden Club in the first quarter of the 20th century. From Frank J. Scott's *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* (1870) to Vita Sackville-West's *The Garden* (1946), the collection reflects the evolution of American gardening from the late 19th century to just after World War II. Disponzio will discuss the collection as a whole and the fascinating insights that he gained while curating the show.

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

On Saturday, September 28 from 12–4 p.m., Bartow-Pell is participating in *Museum Day Live!*, an annual event hosted by Smithsonian magazine in which museums across the country open their doors for free. This is a great opportunity take a relaxed look at ***A Gardener's Library*** and then stroll the grounds—and the newly restored formal garden. Free guided tours of the mansion are given at a quarter past the hour. See www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday for details.

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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. 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.