



BULB LOG 45.....6th November 2013



I have just arrived back home, tired but happy after nearly four weeks of touring eastern North America on a NARGS lecture tour. All my hosts and guides did everything they could to make sure that I was looked after and had the opportunity to see as many of the places that interested me as was possible – no expense or effort were spared. I visited many private gardens, as well as Botanic Gardens, Arboretums, wild areas, Galleries and Museums. Above I am holding not a giant daffodil but *Paramongaia weberbaueri* a beautiful member of the *Amaryllis* family from Peru. This week's bulb log is a photo essay of some of the things that took my eye in the many places that I visited.



Paramongaia weberbaueri



New York is such a fascinating city especially when you come from a small country like Scotland. The tall buildings, old and new, rub shoulders with each other as they soar skywards - developers competing for the precious air space.



Beautiful tranquil moments in wild areas.



Native plant garden near the Capitol building



Smoking kills! This still-life, photographed on the streets of Washington DC, attracted my attention.



A detail from a Jackson Pollock painting – a child could do it? – I don't think so.



Lavender Mist: Number 1, 1950 in the [Washington National Gallery](#) is considered to be his greatest work.



Compare the Pollock with these next two pictures taken in Chanticleer garden, Philadelphia.



Red mist: Number 1- JIY, 2013



I was delighted to stand in front of so many of the world's great masterpieces of art that I love and know so well from illustrations and on this trip I got to see the actual works. Above are some details of one of the world's most iconic works painted in 1907 – do you know what it is and who painted it?

We are all fascinated by faces and that is why they appear so often in all kinds of art form those above to the pictures on the next page showing Halloween masks and a stunning bronze by Constance Brancusi.





JAPANESE COLLECTION

JAPANESE WHITE PINE
Pinus parviflora 'Miyajima'
宮島五葉松

Gift of Masaru Yamaki, 1976
山木 勝

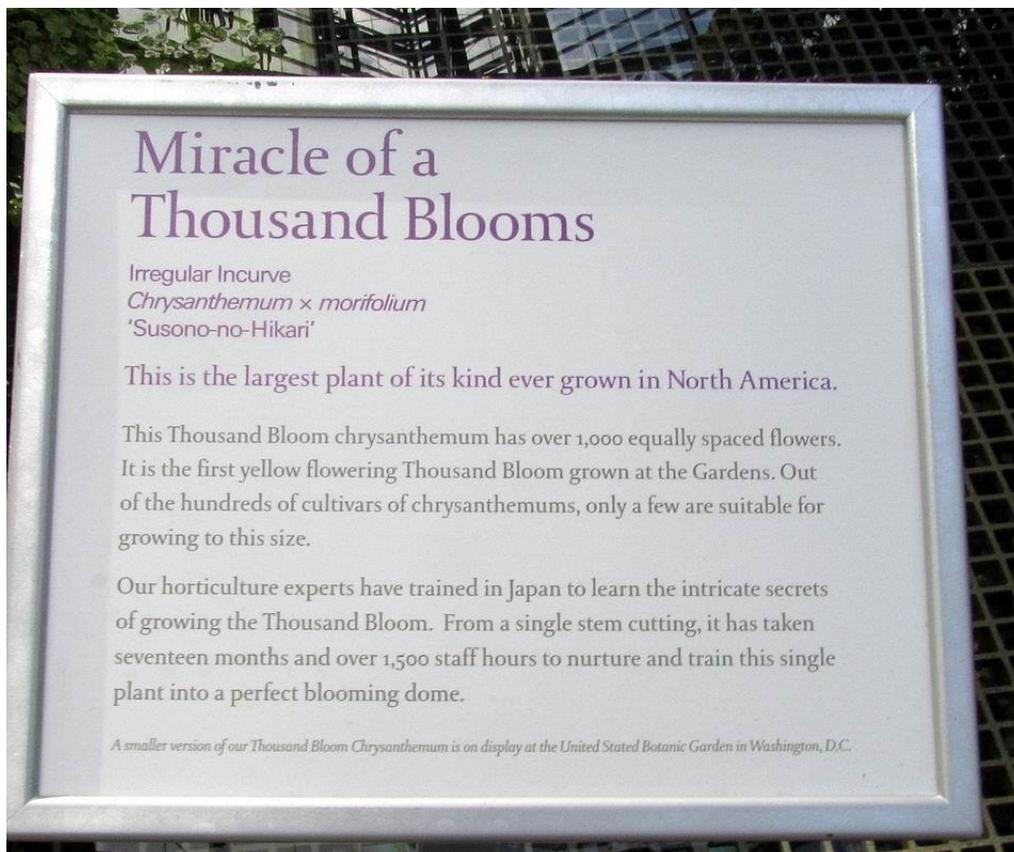
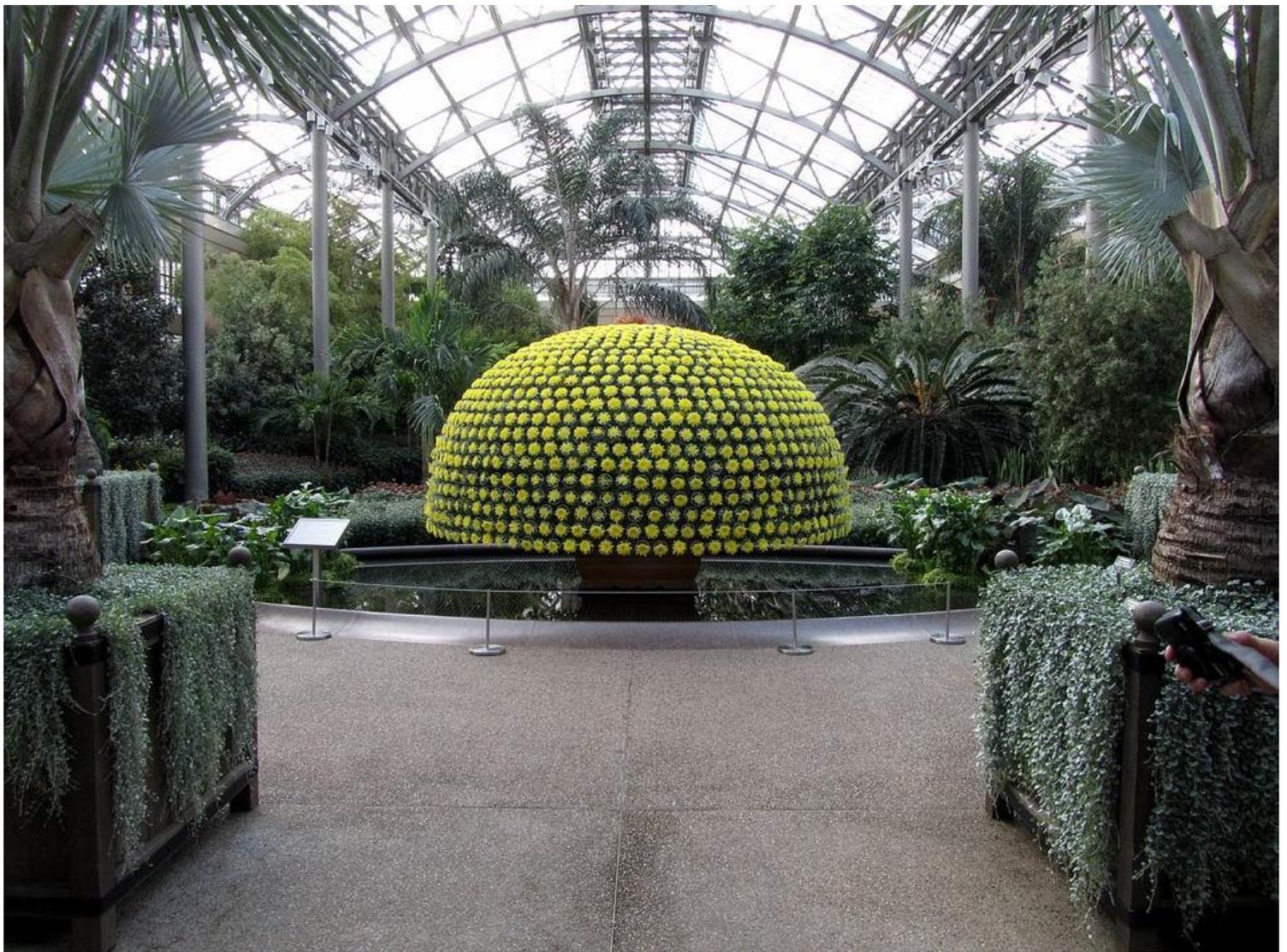
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IN TRAINING
SINCE
1625

I was guided round the superb collection of [Bonsai at the National Arboretum in Washington](#) by the Curator. What a responsibility it is to maintain a collection of such ancient trees - they were all in superb condition.



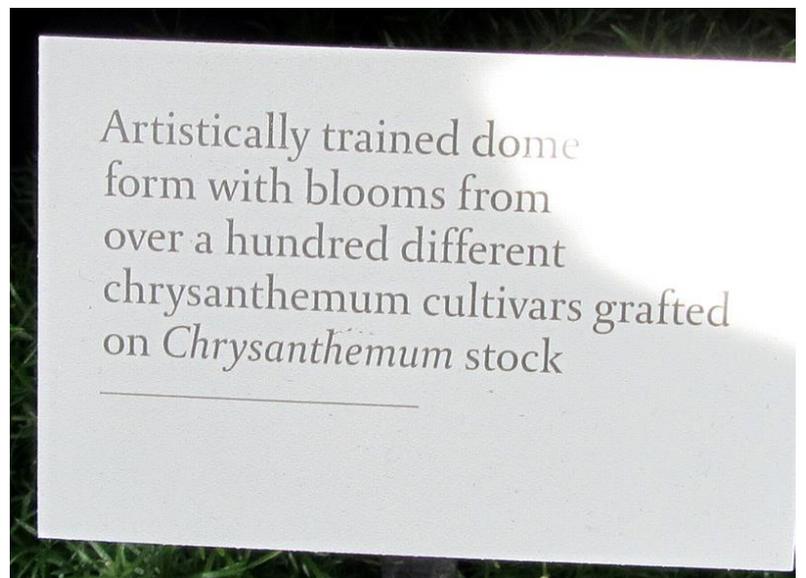
Giant potted Datura



I was completely blown away by the horticultural skills displayed at Longwood garden in Philadelphia and nowhere was that more evident than in the above display of 1000 chrysanthemum blooms on a single stem.



Yet more stunning examples of this level of skill were displayed throughout the chrysanthemum exhibits.



As if the thousand blossoms was not enough of a display of supreme horticultural technique what about over 100 different cultivars grafted on to a single stem and all flowering at the same time.

I was very pleased and honoured to be shown around this exhibit and behind the scenes at [Longwood Gardens](#) by Horticultural Technical Specialist Yoko Arakawa who was responsible for bring this level of technique to the display. Here I am pictured with Yoko and Arle Kruckeberg one of my hosts.



Longwood garden



Matisse room at [MOMA](https://www.moma.org/) New York featuring 'The Dance'



Pole dancing!!

An interesting scene at the National Galleries of Washington – it could have been an Art Exhibit.



Halloween is a big celebration in the USA





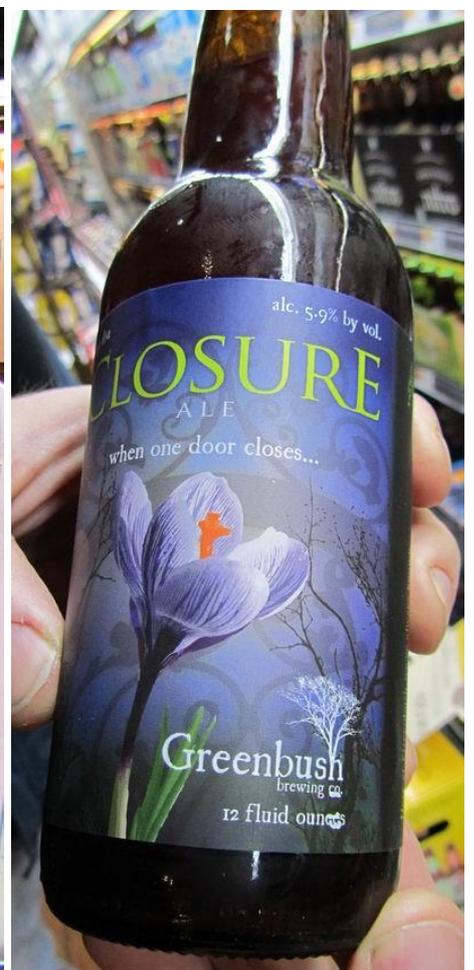
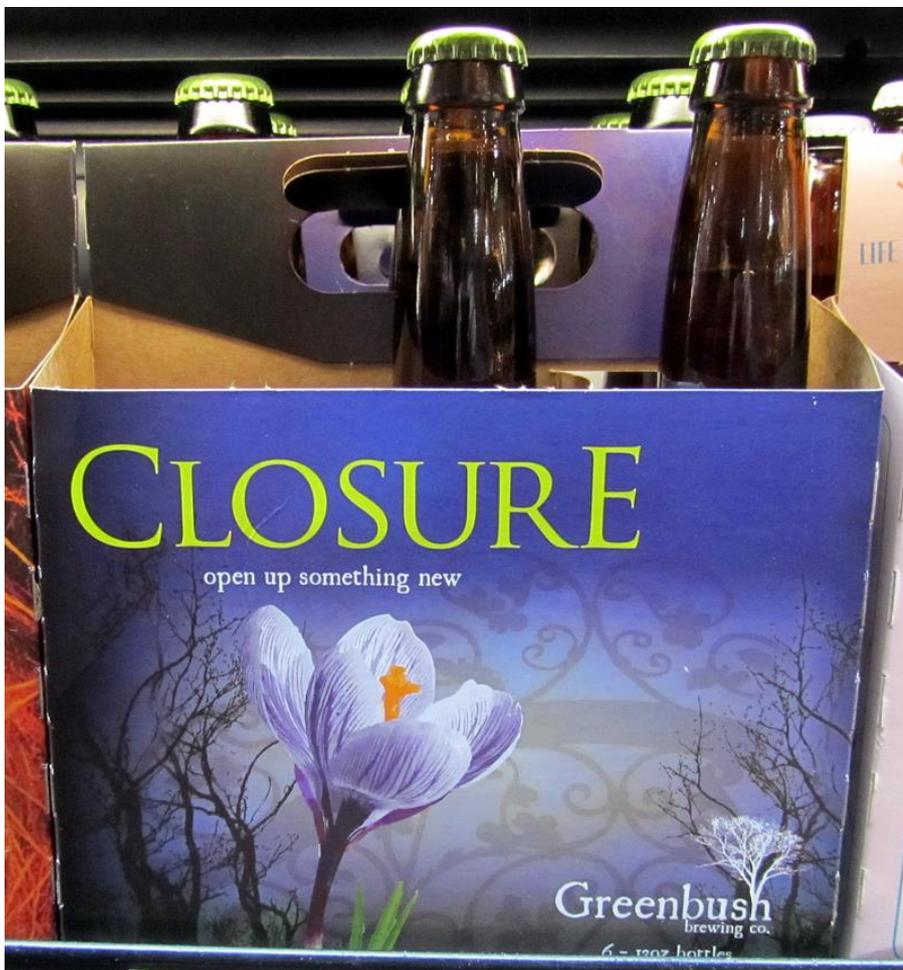
Hamamelis virginiana growing in a wood.



Autumn, or I should say, Fall colour.



I got to choose the beer and not surprisingly this one, showing *Crocus vernus*, called out to me.



It tasted pretty good too!



I got as far north as Halifax in Nova Scotia where the heathland colour was stunning.



Much of the bright red colour was displayed by the leaves of *Rosa virginiana*.



Fall colour was everywhere I went both on the trees and the ground.



A huge thank you to NARGS, all my hosts, guides and everyone who turned out to my Lectures.
I hope to be fully rested and back into my normal schedule by next week.....