

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bedford Garden Club and John Jay Homestead host November 18th lecture
by award-winning landscape expert and Huffington Post contributor
Charles Birnbaum**

"BLOOM OR BUST:
SAFEGUARDING AMERICA'S GLORIOUS GARDEN HERITAGE"

(Bedford, New York) On Wednesday, November 18th, the Bedford Garden Club and John Jay Homestead are pleased to host a lecture by Charles A. Birnbaum, President and CEO of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF). Mr. Birnbaum's talk will focus on raising awareness and appreciation of designed landscapes as an important part of America's cultural legacy-on a par with historic buildings and other elements. A major goal, Birnbaum says, is to "make visible, instill value and engage the public in our shared landscape legacy."

TCLF, based in Washington, DC, is a non-profit foundation that provides people with the ability to see, understand and value landscape architecture and its practitioners, in the way many people have learned to do with buildings and their designers. TCLF has created What's Out There, a free, profusely illustrated online guide to more than 1,800 designed landscapes in the United States and Canada; organizes conferences, lectures, symposia and tours; issues books and other publications about our shared landscape legacy; has created a dozen video oral histories about significant practitioners; and, through its Landslide program focused on threatened and at-risk landscapes, organizes and curates traveling exhibitions - the most recent one, The New American Garden: The Landscape Architecture of Oehme, van Sweden, is currently on view at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC through May 1, 2016.

Birnbaum is also a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Academy in Rome. Along with creating TCLF, Charles spent fifteen years as the coordinator of the National Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative (HLI) and a decade in private practice in New York City with a focus on historic designed landscapes and urban design. In his role as a Huffington Post contributor Birnbaum has provided national exposure for the importance of cultural landscapes: he made the potential destruction of the Russell Page-designed viewing garden at the Frick Collection the central issue in the museum's proposed expansion (the museum shelved its plans); he wrote an open letter to President and Mrs. Obama urging them not to appropriate more than twenty acres of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.-designed parkland in Chicago for use as the site of the Obama Presidential Library; and he is building support for an effort to prevent Pershing Park in Washington, DC (designed by M. Paul Friedberg with a

planting plan by Oehme, van Sweden) from being demolished to make way for a national World War I memorial.

The lecture will examine salient issues facing America's extraordinary designed landscapes, and the importance of informed stewardship.

The Homestead is the ideal place to host Birnbaum's talk, as it is an historic landscape in its own right, dating to Revolutionary times. It was developed as Founding Father John Jay's family plantation and through subsequent generations has added several landscaped gardens, which have been restored and re-imagined through the years for all to enjoy.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Refreshments will begin at 6:30pm followed by the lecture at 7:00pm.