



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **CHAIRMAN OF GREENWOOD GARDENS, PETER P. BLANCHARD III, PASSES AWAY**

Short Hill, NJ, August 10, 2022 - Greenwood Gardens has announced that Peter P. Blanchard III, the organization's Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, passed away on August 7. He died peacefully at his home in Manhattan, with his wife, Sofia, and son, Theo, by his side. Mr. Blanchard was 70 years of age.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Peter. He was an extraordinary individual, a keen steward of the environment, a naturalist and conservationist who ensured that the estate he grew up on would be maintained for future generations as a public garden. He will be missed by all," said Louise Moos, Vice President of Greenwood's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Blanchard, the son of Peter P. Blanchard Jr. and Adelaide Childs Frick Blanchard, was born in Manhattan, and grew up in Short Hills on the estate that he and his wife eventually converted into the 28-acre public garden located on Old Short Hills Road. He attended Pingry School, and later earned a B.A. at Princeton University, and master's degrees from the Yale School of Forestry and Columbia University's Teachers College. Early in his career, Mr. Blanchard taught biology at The Chapin School, The Masters School, and Hardwood Island. Always civically active, Mr. Blanchard served for many years on the boards of The Frick Collection and the Helen Clay Frick Foundation, as well as a Council member of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and a lifetime steward of Maine coastal islands in Blue Hill Bay.

A man of letters, Mr. Blanchard authored three long-range land conservation studies published by the Trust for Public Land and New York City Audubon: *Buffer the Bay Revisited* (a review of unprotected open space fringing Jamaica Bay (1992); *The Century Plan* (presenting 100 conservation sites on Barnegat Bay, (1994); and *An Islanded Nature* (a study of remaining natural areas in Western Staten Island (2001). He also wrote *We Were an Island; the Maine Life of Art and Nan Kellam* (University Press of New England, 2010); and *Greenwood; A Garden Path to Nature and the Past* (Greenwood Gardens Publications, 2016).

Since opening to the public in 2013, Mr. Blanchard was a regular and hospitable presence during open days at Greenwood Gardens, intent on ensuring that every visitor would enjoy a high-quality experience. He spent countless hours interacting with visitors and sharing insights about the history of the property and its natural and structural features, as well as leading tours of the barnyard and conducting workshops on art and nature journaling. In a 2016 op-ed piece for the *Star-Ledger* entitled [5 Reasons Why My Family Donated 28 Acres to New Jersey](#), he wrote, "We view Greenwood, the landscape where I grew up, as a place worthy of our investments in time and other resources. We gain great fulfillment from protecting this place for ourselves and for others," as a



means of gaining the public's understanding of the efforts undertaken by his family and supporters to preserve the property for public enjoyment.

"Peter created a profound sense of purpose and family among the staff, Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, volunteers, members, and donors that will be sustained and carried on by us all for generations to come. We are privileged to have worked aside such a unique individual who cared so deeply about nature, the environment, and quality of life," said Abby O'Neill, Executive Director of Greenwood Gardens.

A memorial service will be held on a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mr. Blanchard's memory can be made to Greenwood Gardens, located at 274 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07830.

#### **ABOUT GREENWOOD GARDENS**

Greenwood Gardens is a non-profit 28-acre public garden and historic site located at 274 Old Short Hills Road in Short Hills, New Jersey. A former private estate owned by the Day and Blanchard families, today Greenwood is a peaceful haven graced by terraced gardens, stately fountains, woodlands, grottoes, Arts and Crafts follies, and winding paths. To accomplish its mission of *connecting people with nature in a historic garden oasis*, Greenwood offers the visiting public self-guided tours and programs at the nexus of nature, beauty, and history. Greenwood Gardens is supported by gifts, membership, and volunteers. For further information, visit [www.greenwoodgardens.org](http://www.greenwoodgardens.org) or call 973-258-4026. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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