



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
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**Kids Discover Orchid Origins of Vanilla and More
During *The Orchid Show's* Complementary Children's Program
*Chocolate and Vanilla Adventures***

February 28–April 19, 2009

During *Chocolate and Vanilla Adventures* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, children learn the plant origins of two sweet treats. This interactive program is a family favorite and a wonderful accompaniment to *The Orchid Show: Brazilian Modern*, which opens to the public on February 28 at The New York Botanical Garden.

Through the activities of *Chocolate and Vanilla Adventures*, children discover that vanilla comes from the seedpod of an orchid plant called *Vanilla planifolia*. They also learn that this plant relies on a tiny bee for pollination. Youngsters examine vanilla beans with hand lenses and microscopes and observe live vanilla orchids. Ultimately, their senses are rewarded as they enjoy the heavenly scent of fresh vanilla and taste vanilla-flavored products.

The whole family can explore the fascinating origins of chocolate and the great cacao tree, *Theobroma cacao*, or "food of the gods." As kids tickle their taste buds with hot chocolate made from a Mayan recipe, they discover that the ancient beverage is quite different from the hot chocolate of today. Children grind and taste real chocolate seeds and add spices like chili powder, cinnamon, and vanilla to make a special recipe. They also learn Mayan hieroglyphs for "chocolate" and "vanilla" and record all their findings in field notebooks. Large images of cacao trees are displayed as is a mural depicting the Mayan marketplace and an exhibit on the history of chocolate and vanilla.

Chocolate and Vanilla Adventures will be open to the public on Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:30–5:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. from February 28 to April 19. On weekdays during the spring break for New York City, Long Island, and Connecticut schools (April 9–19), the program will run 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The Everett Children's Adventure Garden is a 12-acre indoor/outdoor museum where children discover plant science through fun, hands-on, and engaging educational programs. Interactive exhibits convey different plant science concepts. Playful elements such as topiaries and mazes capture children's imaginations and create an atmosphere of exploration and fun.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. During *The Orchid Show* the Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden during *The Orchid Show* is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock and Native Plant Gardens, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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