



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
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***Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure***

*April 25–June 15, 2008*

**Spring Flower Show Re-creates Darwin's Garden in England**

The spring 2008 exhibition in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory evokes Down House, Charles Darwin's estate 16 miles outside of London, and its surrounding gardens, allowing visitors to see plants as Charles Darwin did. His wife Emma's flower garden, bursting with primroses and other seasonal favorites, lies just outside a set piece that echoes the characteristic architecture of Down House. Darwin's greenhouse benches, lined with carnivorous plants, are nearby, not too far from the kitchen garden where Darwin grew food for his table and flowers for his experiments. Off in the distance is the orchard where he created a "Weed Garden"—a plot of earth that Darwin cleared and allowed to regenerate on its own so that he could observe natural selection in action. *Darwin's Garden* in the Haupt Conservatory will run April 25–June 15, 2008.

According to Todd Forrest, Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections, "There is something both comforting and inspiring about the intimate and domestic nature of Darwin's study of plants at Down House. Darwin's work with the plants in his own garden proves that great ideas can come from careful observation of that which is most familiar. *Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure* celebrates the spirit of simple curiosity about the natural world that inspired and informed Darwin's groundbreaking work."

Darwin conducted ingenious **botanical research** on the life processes of many different plants, both domesticated and wild. Primroses, insectivorous plants, orchids, and climbing plants, all subjects of Darwin's research and writings (he wrote six books on plants), are featured in the exhibition. A colorful display of primroses shows **cross-pollination** and Darwin's analysis of "pin and thrum" flower shapes. A selection of plants with wide variation illustrates domestication of plants and breeding for desirable traits. A bench of insectivorous plants reveals Darwin's studies of how plants deal with **nutrient-poor environments**. Another bench filled with beautiful orchids highlights the wide range of adaptations among flowers and the **coevolution** between flowers and their pollinators. Two further displays represent Darwin's studies of the **movement of plants**, from their reactions to the sun, to their daily rhythms of sleep, to the many adaptations that enable them to climb.

These and other plants illustrate explain the role botany played in the evolution of Darwin's ideas and bring to life the famous "sandwalk" where Darwin made careful observation of nature and plants, which became the basis for much of his breakthrough thinking.

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*Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.*

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. During *Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure*, the Botanical Garden will be open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

The best way to enjoy *Darwin's Garden* is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to the exhibitions, Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock and Native Plant Gardens, Tram Tour, and Evolutionary Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$7 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Order tickets for *Darwin's Garden* in advance at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

Admission to the two-part evening symposium, *Darwin: 21st-Century Perspectives*, on May 6 and 8 is separate: \$10 for a single session or \$16 for both. Registration is required; please call 800.322.6924 to order tickets for the symposium.

A *Grounds-Only Pass* to the Botanical Garden is also 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.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 25–June 15, 4–6 p.m., admission to The New York Botanical Garden is complimentary, courtesy of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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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