



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
April 9, 2008

Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure

April 25–June 15, 2008

During the *Darwin's Garden* exhibition, an Evolutionary Tour will allow visitors to literally walk through the tree of life using living plants in the Garden's collections. In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and surrounding outdoor plantings, this approximately 40-minute self-guided walking tour with some 30 stops will highlight representative plants along the evolutionary tree of life. It will be accompanied by commentary accessible via visitors' cell phones.

Charles Darwin's great idea—what the world now calls **evolution**—was that all species are related through a common ancestry and that species *change over time*. One stop on the Evolutionary Tour will show a reproduction of Darwin's original notebook, where he famously drew a crude but unmistakable **evolutionary tree** to express his great idea.

Another stop on the Evolutionary Tour will depict how plant scientists view the evolutionary **Tree of Life** today. In the nearly 150 years since Darwin drew his famous evolutionary tree, the world's plant scientists have worked to understand relationships among various plant groups, both alive and extinct. Some of this important work to understand plant relationships goes on at the Botanical Garden.

Other stops on the Evolutionary Tour will highlight selected groups of plants on the modern tree of life. In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, visitors will see living representatives of some of the earliest forms of plant life such as algae, mosses, ferns, and cycads. In the surrounding outdoor plantings, the Evolutionary Tour will visit some of the great diversity of flowering plants that have evolved on Earth in the past 140 million years. The stops on the tour will explore our understanding about plants on Earth and their relationships to each other since Darwin's great idea pointed the way. Additional commentary about Darwin, evolution, and the tree of life will be accessible via visitors' cell phones.

Jennifer Rothman, Associate Vice President for Children's and Public Education, comments, "The Evolutionary Tour will bring to life Darwin's insights on evolutionary botany. It will allow visitors to engage in a scavenger hunt: finding a living plant and locating it on the evolutionary tree of life, while learning how its form and its habits relate to its closest evolutionary relatives. Our goal is to provide visitors with a unique way to understand more about the plant kingdom and in turn gain an appreciation for, and a new way of looking at, the world around them."

Major Sponsors

National Endowment for the Humanities:
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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

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

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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