



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release

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THE ORCHID SHOW

A Rain Forest Filled with Exotic, Colorful Orchids Set to Astound at The New York Botanical Garden's 11th Annual *Orchid Show*

**Hurricane Sandy Storm-Damaged Trees from the Botanical Garden's Grounds
Also Incorporated Into Design of Celebrated Exhibition**

Saturday, March 2 through Monday, April 22, 2013



Beginning March 2, *The Orchid Show* dramatically transforms The New York Botanical Garden's landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory into a lush rain forest. Each year, the eagerly anticipated exhibition displays thousands of orchids in the country's largest curated show featuring orchids. This year, the exhibition is designed by the Botanical Garden's own Francisca Coelho, Vivian and Edward Merrin Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions.

In a local nod to how many orchids grow in the wild, Hurricane Sandy storm-damaged trees from the Garden's grounds will be incorporated into the show as a design element. Nearly 300 of the Garden's specimen trees were either uprooted or otherwise destroyed. Some will be recycled to be used as replicas for tropical rain forest trees that will be laden with epiphytic orchids and other tree-dwelling plants. (Epiphytic plants grow upon other plants, using the stems and branches of these plants solely for support.)

Upon entering the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries* in the Garden's Victorian-style glasshouse—the largest of its kind in the country—visitors first encounter a stand of giant bamboos immersed in a sea of mist that camouflages the entrance to this exotic world. Tall canopy palms, ferns, and tropical trees support woody vines that crisscross from trunk to trunk, arching downward with their precious burden of fascinating flora. Orchids, aroids, ferns, bromeliads, and epiphytic cacti are among the species that hang nonchalantly overhead. *Costus*, *Calathea* (prayer plants), *Cymbidium* (Asian corsage orchids), *Philodendron*, and bananas, with their impressive foliage and inflorescences, grapple across the forest floor competing for every available inch of space.

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In the main feature of the display, rocky outcroppings dominate, large palms protrude, and orchids thrive alongside ferns and aroids. A large pool in the center is fed by waterfalls. Two large canopy trees barren of leaves, dripping with Spanish moss and full of epiphytes, hang over the pool. Natural arbors saturated with vandas (rainbow orchids) and dendrobiums (cane orchids) nestled between *Davallia* and *Asplenium* ferns line the far path. The most lasting impression is one of astonishing greenery interspersed with strong bursts of vivid color.

Through exhibition interpretation, *The Orchid Show* will also explain the extraordinary history and conservation stories of rare and endangered orchids in the rain forests of the world.

A Few Facts About Orchids

Orchids represent the height of evolutionary success in the plant kingdom. With more than 30,000 naturally occurring species, they are the largest family of flowering plants. Orchids are adaptable, diverse, and grow in almost every habitat—from semi-desert to Arctic tundra—on every continent except Antarctica. They come in a dazzling range of sizes, from miniatures with tiny flowers less than 1/16 of an inch in diameter to giants more than 25 feet tall with flower spikes up to 10 feet long. Orchids also come in an amazing array of colors and shapes. Some mimic bees, wasps, butterflies, and moths; others have unusual buckets, traps, and trigger mechanisms. These adaptations help ensure that insect pollinators visit the flowers. Because orchid flowers have specialized reproductive parts and their pollen is a single mass, individual grains of pollen cannot disperse as with other flowers. As a result, each orchid flower has only one chance to transfer pollen to another flower.

Orchids at the Garden

There are more than 7,000 orchids representing 3,075 taxa (different types) in the Garden's permanent collection. The New York Botanical Garden has orchids from all of the floristic regions of the world, including Australia, Africa, South America, and Madagascar. Because the Garden is committed to orchid research and conservation, its scientists study the botany and ecology of orchids; what they discover is useful to conservation work that will ensure the future of these extraordinary plants in nature. The Garden's resident orchid expert is Marc Hachadourian, Manager of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections. With more than 15 years of commercial and specialized horticultural experience, he supervises the care of the botanical collections, including the extensive orchid collection and exhibition plants in the Nolen Greenhouses.

About Designer Francisca Coelho

Francisca Coelho graduated from the Garden's School of Professional Horticulture and began her career at the Garden 30 years ago, rising through the ranks to her current position of Vivian and Edward Merrin Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions. Tropical plants and aquatics are her areas of horticultural expertise. Coelho was deeply involved in the restoration of the Conservatory from 1993 to 1997 and continues to take the lead in the restoration and preservation of this landmark structure and the development and display of its Living Collections. She leads Conservatory exhibition-related planning and implementation for the Garden and is known for her plantsmanship and design skills in developing, planting, and maintaining the permanent plant galleries and the high-profile seasonal shows. These diverse, blockbuster horticultural exhibitions

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Transform the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries* of the Conservatory with themes as wide-ranging as the orchid gardens and habitats of Singapore, Brazil, and Cuba, and last year's critically acclaimed exhibition, *Monet's Garden*, a seasonally changing interpretation of the garden that inspired the Impressionist master's art, to name just a few.

The Orchid Experience Continues Throughout the Garden

In venues across the Garden's 250 acres, *The Orchid Show* offers visitors opportunities to learn about orchids through tours, lectures, and Home Gardening Demonstrations; enjoy romantic evenings in the Conservatory; and listen to live music in a series of concerts:

- **Music from the World of Orchids**
Saturdays and Sundays, March 2–April 21 (and Mondays, April 1 & 22), 1 & 3 p.m.
In the Ross Hall
Orchids fascinate and touch the lives of people in every country and culture. Enjoy a wide variety of music from around the world—different artists play popular tunes from a featured country each weekend—to complement your visit. Cuba, India, Brazil, and Portugal are among the countries included.
- **Q&A with Orchid Experts**
Saturdays and Sundays, March 2–April 21 (and Mondays, April 1 & 22), 2–5 p.m.
At Shop in the Garden
Gardening and orchid experts share their best secrets and explain the simple steps to healthy plants as they help you choose the right plant for your home.
- **Home Gardening Demonstrations: Caring for Orchids**
Saturdays and Sundays, March 2–April 21 (and Mondays, April 1 & 22), 2 & 3 p.m.
In the Conservatory GreenSchool
This series of hands-on demonstrations shows you how to grow and care for orchids at home. Topics vary each weekend and will cover popular inquiries such as Potting and Dividing Orchids, Basic Orchid Care, and Fragrant Orchids.
- **Lecture: *Adders' Mouths and Ladies' Tresses: The Colorful World of Native Orchids***
Sunday, March 3, 4 p.m.
In the Ross Hall
The Torrey Botanical Society presents David Taft, Chair of Conservation Committee of the Greater New York Orchid Society and Supervisor of National Park Service Gateway National Recreation Area, as speaker at its first talk of the year. Find out what makes an orchid an orchid, what the “orchid mystique” is all about, and why we should care about the preservation of plants and wild spaces in and near our cities.

- **Orchid Evenings**
Saturdays, March 9, 23, April 6, 13, 20, 6:30–9 p.m.

In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory

Enjoy a cocktail while viewing *The Orchid Show* and its thousands of spectacular flowers. The unforgettable beauty of the setting makes for one of New York City's most romantic date destinations. Your ticket includes a complimentary cocktail and special dinner offers at some of Arthur Avenue's outstanding restaurants. Advance tickets are recommended and are available for purchase at nybg.org.
Non-Member \$30/Member \$20 (Adults 21 and over)

Orchids at Shop in the Garden

Located in the Garden's Leon Levy Visitor Center, Shop in the Garden is a not-to-be-missed destination during *The Orchid Show*. Thousands of top-quality orchids, from exotic, hard-to-find specimens for connoisseurs to elegant yet easy-to-grow varieties for beginners, are available for purchase, along with orchid products for properly caring for new acquisitions and hundreds of orchid books.

During *The Orchid Show*'s run, cell phone tour stops at Shop in the Garden provide answers to frequently asked orchid questions and allow visitors to dial up care tips on watering and feeding, reblooming, and repotting for several specific types of orchids for sale at the Shop.

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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. and also open on Monday, April 1 (Easter Monday) and Monday, April 22 (Earth Day). 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 Garden, and Tram Tour. Weekends: \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and students with ID, \$10 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. Weekdays: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students with ID, \$2 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458.

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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