

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years

For Immediate Release
March 2, 2012

***The Orchid Show: Patrick Blanc's Vertical Gardens* at The New York Botanical Garden Offers a Full Complement of Programming**

March 3 – April 22, 2012

The Orchid Show: Patrick Blanc's Vertical Gardens presents an unforgettable experience at The New York Botanical Garden. A breathtaking spectacle of thousands of colorful orchids, the 10th annual *Orchid Show* also offers an opportunity to learn all about these magnificent flowers in many ways. Talks, demonstrations, workshops, and *Orchid Evenings* abound during the run of the exhibition, March 3 through April 22.

Weekly Tours, Talks, and More

***The Orchid Show* Cell Phone Tour and Take-Home Tips**

Listen to a cell phone tour of *The Orchid Show: Patrick Blanc's Vertical Garden* which provides a closer look at the extraordinary orchids in the exhibition and hear Blanc's unique perspective on some of the beautiful and unusual plants in the collections throughout the Conservatory. Additional recordings offer advice for caring for particular species of orchids at home. Tip sheets are also available at Shop in the Garden and during Home Gardening Demonstrations.

Tuesday Talks

Tuesdays (and Monday, April 9), 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Meet in the Palms of the World Gallery in the Conservatory

Before entering *The Orchid Show*, get an introduction to the biology of orchids in a brief, informal presentation by a Garden docent.

Docent-led Tours

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 3 p.m.

Meet in the Palms of the World Gallery in the Conservatory

Tour *The Orchid Show* with an expert volunteer guide who provides in-depth looks at rare and extraordinary orchid specimens.

***The Orchid Show* Q&A**

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Throughout the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory

Garden docents highlight parts of the permanent collection and special exhibition to add insight to your experience of *The Orchid Show*.

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Q&A with Orchid Experts

Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

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.

History and Mystery of Orchids

Saturdays and Sundays, 1 & 3 p.m.

In the Ross Hall

With more than 25,000 species growing on six continents, orchids fascinate and touch the lives of people in every country and culture. This series of presentations and demonstrations takes you on a journey around the world of orchids and shows you how to grow and care for them at home. Visit the jungles of Costa Rica, the vanilla farms of Mexico, and other places without the need of a passport.

Weekend of Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4

***The Vertical Garden: From Nature to the City* with Designer Patrick Blanc**

Saturday, March 3, 1 p.m.

French botanist and guest designer of this year's *Orchid Show* Patrick Blanc talks about his travels and projects around the world and discusses the inspirations for his signature "green walls." His characteristic color-rich, textural, living tapestries have been commissioned for cityscapes, interiors, museum exhibitions, and fashion shows worldwide. He will sign copies of his newly revised book, *The Vertical Garden: From Nature to the City*, as well as *Gardening Vertically: 24 Ideas for Creating Your Own Green Walls*

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Know and Grow Orchids*

Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4, 3 p.m.

Celebrate the opening of *The Orchid Show* by joining Sonia Uytterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, to learn the basics of orchid care and how to choose and successfully grow these exotic plants.

Why Native Orchids Grow Where They Do: The Secret is Under Our Feet

Sunday, March 4, 1 p.m.

The vast majority of plants require an association with mycorrhizal fungi to obtain nutrients and grow in natural environments. Orchids are no exception. However, while most mycorrhizal associations are beneficial to both partners, orchids generally parasitize their mycorrhizal fungi, actually digesting them to obtain nutrients. Learn how Melissa McCormick, researcher at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Maryland, has used DNA analysis to find where host fungi grow in the soil in abundance to support orchid growth and how environmental disruptions may affect this important life-sustaining relationship.

Weekend of Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11

Flower Arranging with Orchids

Saturday, March 10, 1 p.m.

Join floral designer Trish O'Sullivan as she demonstrates how to incorporate the beauty and elegance of fresh orchids in home and party design. Learn how to float orchids on leaves in glass, and to create the latest trends in orchid design.

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Orchid Care Demonstration: *Aerial Orchids*

Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11, 3 p.m.

Orchids are the acrobats of the plant world, able to perch on the tips of branches and tumble down the sides of trees. Join Sonia Uyterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, for a view into the lives of orchids and learn how to successfully grow them.

History of the Orchid

Sunday, March 11, 1 p.m.

Since the time of Confucius, orchids have been revered for their beauty. Depicted in Chinese art and obsessed over in the Victorian-era, the legend and lore surrounding orchids is almost as diverse as the plants themselves. Join Marc Hachadourian, Manager of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections, on a journey through the fascinating history of orchids that has made them one of the most popular plants in the world.

Weekend of Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 18

Featured Film: *Vanilla: The Sacred Orchid*

Saturday, March 17, 1 p.m.

Learn the intriguing life process—from flower to pantry—of the world’s favorite flavor. This scenic film examines the full-year cycle of this spice from Veracruz, Mexico. The orchid is still cultivated by the same indigenous people who have been growing it for centuries. The film is directed by Curtis Craven and runs 27 minutes.

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Orchid Sense-ations*

Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 18, 3 p.m.

Join Sonia Uyterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, for a discussion of some of the best orchids to grow for both color and fragrance. Learn basic orchid care and experience the scents of many orchid varieties.

Weekend of Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25

Flower Arranging with Orchids

Saturday, March 24, 1 p.m.

Join floral designer Trish O’Sullivan as she demonstrates how to incorporate the beauty and elegance of fresh orchids in home and party design. Learn how to float orchids on leaves in glass, and to create the latest trends in orchid design.

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Potting and Dividing Orchids*

Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, 3 p.m.

Orchids need to be repotted periodically. Join Sonia Uyterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, to learn how to divide and repot your orchids. Explore different potting mediums and some basic techniques.

Featured Film: *Vanilla: The Sacred Orchid*

Sunday, March 25, 1 p.m.

Learn the intriguing life process—from flower to pantry—of the world’s favorite flavor. This scenic film examines the full year-cycle of this spice from Veracruz, Mexico. The orchid is still cultivated by the same indigenous people who have been growing it for centuries. The film is directed by Curtis Craven and runs 27 minutes.

Weekend of Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1

Orchids in Ecuador

Saturday, March 31, 1 p.m.

Hear stories of adventure and travel in Ecuador and learn about 50 orchid taxa from its southern region. View photographs of the orchids and other Andean alpine wildflowers in their natural habitats through the lens of orchid enthusiast Leon Glicenstein

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Orchid Sense-ations*

Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, 3 p.m.

Join Sonia Uytterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, for a discussion of some of the best orchids to grow for both color and fragrance. Learn basic orchid care and experience the scents of many orchid varieties.

A Costa Rican Odyssey, Sunday, April 1, 1 p.m.

Take a photographic journey through orchid-rich Costa Rica. This Central American country is a naturalist’s paradise and a must-see for orchid lovers. More than 1,500 species of orchids have been recorded in this country that is the size of West Virginia—by comparison, the entire United States has only approximately 200 species! Presenter Leon Glicenstein lived and worked in Costa Rica as a plant breeder for a major international company. As he explored the country’s jungles and coasts, he collected photographs and stories of plants, animals, scenery, and especially the native orchids in their natural habitat.

Weekend of Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Easy Orchids*

Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m.

Join Sonia Uytterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, for a discussion of some of the easiest orchids to grow at home. Learn basic maintenance routines that will enable your orchids to thrive and flower for years.

Taming Enticing Epiphytes from Exotic Locales, Sunday, April 8, 1 p.m.

Many of the most popular orchids are epiphytes, plants that grow on other plants. Ellen Zachos, author and certified commercial horticulturist from the Botanical Garden, will discuss the intrepid explorers who first carried these tropical beauties out of the rain forests, and how to grow epiphytic orchids in your home. Many make excellent, low maintenance houseplants that simply require a little specialized care.

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Weekend of Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Troubleshooting Orchids*

Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15, 3 p.m.

Is your orchid distressed? Join Sonia Uyterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, for a lesson on basic orchid care and a list of do's and don'ts that will keep your plants thriving. Discuss some of the most common mistakes and maladies and gain tips on how to rescue ailing orchids.

Featured Film: *Vanilla: The Sacred Orchid*

Sunday, April 15, 1 p.m.

Learn the intriguing life process—from flower to pantry—of the world's favorite flavor. This scenic film examines the full-year cycle of this spice from Veracruz, Mexico. The orchid is still cultivated by the same indigenous people who have been growing it for centuries. The film is directed by Curtis Craven and runs 27 minutes.

Weekend of Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22

Vanilla Orchids: Natural History & Cultivation

Saturday, April 21, and Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m.

Learn about the ancient and modern history of the world's number one flavor and fragrance—vanilla. A leading expert on the subject, Dr. Ken Cameron, presents the fascinating story of vanilla, from domestication to production. He will also sign copies of his book, *Vanilla Orchids: Natural History & Cultivation*, and offer taste tests and tips on cooking with vanilla.

Orchid Care Demonstration: *Know and Grow Orchids*

Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m.

Join Sonia Uyterhoeven, Gardener for Public Education, during the final weekend of the *The Orchid Show* to learn the basics of orchid care and how to choose and successfully grow these exotic plants.

Adult Education Orchid Classes

Photography Workshop: *Capturing the Beauty of Orchids*

Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The Garden's renowned *Orchid Show* is ideal for photographing the beauty of these highly prized flowers. Hone your skills of composition, background control, close-up angles, and capturing natural light. Complete the day with a presentation and critique of your photographs. *Non-Member \$158/Member \$142*. Visit www.nybg.org for more information.

Orchids in Ice!

Sunday, March 25, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Create your own show-stopping orchid arrangement in a container filled with faux ice after gaining creative inspiration from the beautiful orchids in *The Orchid Show*. *Non-Member \$96/Member \$86*. Visit www.nybg.org for more information.

Orchid Evenings

Enjoy a cocktail while viewing *The Orchid Show* and its thousands of spectacular flowers in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Music and unforgettable beauty make 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. Saturdays throughout *The Orchid Show* plus Friday, April 20, 6:30 – 9 p.m. *Non-Member \$30/Member \$20 (Adults 21 and over)*

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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 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 Garden, 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. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more. Contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687. 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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