



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2008

**Wildly Popular, *The Orchid Show* Returns to the Botanical Garden
For Six Weeks, Celebrating Sixth Year**

**Riotous Display of Floral Color in Warmth of Landmark Greenhouse
is Surefire Remedy for Winter Blues**

February 23–April 6, 2008, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

The sixth annual rendition of *The Orchid Show* returns to The New York Botanical Garden on Saturday, February 23. Running for six weeks, the eagerly anticipated exhibition and sale of fine orchids, the Botanical Garden's first flower show since its fall chrysanthemum blockbuster, will arrive in the nick of time to lift winter-weary spirits and herald the perennial promise of spring.

The Orchid Show at The New York Botanical Garden will be the only place in the northeastern United States this winter to see thousands of orchids—*Cymbidium* (Asian corsage), *Epidendrum* (reed), *Oncidium* (dancing lady), *Phaius* (nun's cap), and many other types—in a curated and designed, museum-quality exhibition. It is also *the* place to gather information about orchids and to purchase fine specimens and the materials to nurture them.

The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory is the central site for the Botanical Garden's comprehensive orchid experience. *The Orchid Show's* location in America's largest Victorian-style glasshouse offers a prime opportunity for visitors to gain insights on orchid biology as they meander through balmy galleries, temporarily forgetting that it is still winter in New York. Interpretative signs, pictures, and diagrams complementing orchid specimens in various stages from the Botanical Garden's collection of more than 8,000 will offer easy-to-understand explanations about what makes an orchid an orchid.

Under the 90-foot dome of the *Palms of the Americas Gallery*, which houses the largest collection of New World palm trees under glass, the reflecting pool will feature a spiral planter filled with a rainbow of "floating" orchids.

In the *Lowland Tropical Rain Forest Gallery*, exotic trees arch overhead to invite discovery of orchids as they would grow in nature: clinging to branches and twining around massive trunks. Here, visitors will encounter fragrant pansy orchids, extravagantly ruffled corsage orchids, and perchance a butterfly orchid, said to be the flower greatly responsible for the "orchid-mania" that took hold of 19th-century England.

During *The Orchid Show*, the terrarium in the Conservatory's *Upland Tropical Rain Forest Gallery* will showcase beautiful and often strange miniature orchids, allowing close-up views of these plants, which have tiny flowers as small as less than 1/16th-inch wide and feature colors that span the spectrum.

-more-

Sixth Year Brings New Designer to Cast a Spotlight on Singapore

To a first-timer, the scene of orchids in the *Palms* and *Rain Forest Galleries* might seem an exhibition in itself. However, aficionados of *The Orchid Show* know that an even more mesmerizing display awaits in the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*. From the ruins of an ancient Mayan temple to a hastily abandoned orchid collector's hut, each year an astounding new design element has wowed visitors. For 2008, get set to be transported to Singapore without enduring a 20-hour flight.

In a beautiful and deferential nod to the tiny island nation—which with a \$20 million annual orchid industry happens to be one of the great orchid centers of the world—visitors will be awestruck by a southeast Asian-style pavilion, bursting with a multitude of spectacular tropical orchids such as *Vanda* and *Dendrobium*, which are grown in great quantities in Singapore.

Designer Thomas Noel worked with the late Philip Baloun, the original designer *The Orchid Show* who died in 2007. Mr. Noel and his team at Event Design Incorporated are gearing up to continue this exhibition's tradition of Broadway-worthy set design through the creation of the façade of the two-story pavilion as well as a series of planting arches reminiscent of many formal gardens in Singapore.

Orchid Displays and Education Continue in the Library Building

As if the spellbinding arrays in the Conservatory wouldn't be enough, the Orchid Rotunda on the first floor of the Library building will be filled with *Dendrobium* orchids, including many specimens of this orchid genus that have been recovered by The New York Botanical Garden in its role as a Plant Rescue Center. *Dendrobiums*, commonly known as cane orchids, are epiphytic—they grow wholly upon another plant, but are not parasitic and depend on the host plant for support rather than nourishment—and have canelike stems with many joints.

See vanilla orchids unveiled in the ongoing exhibition on the fourth floor, *Plants and Fungi: Ten Current Research Stories*. Here, displays of photographs, diagrams, unusual plant specimens, artifacts from explorations in remote locales, and an audiovisual presentation offer a look at some of the plant mysteries of the world being unraveled by our scientists and show there's a lot more to the Botanical Garden than its beauty.

On the sixth floor, large, rare folios published in the 18th and 19th centuries, which contain beautiful orchid illustrations, will be exhibited in the Rare Book and Folio Room of the Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library.

Wealth of Complementary Programming and Audio Tour Enrich the Exhibition

Exhibition tours, informative signs, home gardening demonstrations, expert Q&A sessions and presentations, Continuing Education classes for adults, and an Everett Children's Adventure Garden program that reveals to youngsters the secrets of vanilla, which comes from an orchid, make a visit to *The Orchid Show* a rich experience. Program topics that change for each of the seven weekends of the exhibition make repeat visits almost too tempting to resist.

An audio tour that is accessible by free wands available on the Garden grounds or via cell phone on site and off site makes it easy to learn all about these intriguing plants.

-more-

Stop in the Shop for All Things Orchid

Located in the Garden's Leon Levy Visitor Center, Shop in the Garden is a destination not to be missed 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, will be available for purchase in the Shop.

The Shop will also offer orchid products for properly caring for new acquisitions and hundreds of orchid books, from profusely illustrated how-to titles to the more scholarly new release from NYBG Press, *Orchid Biology: Reviews and Perspectives, IX*, which includes a chapter on the origins of Singapore's national flower, the well-known hybrid *Vanda* 'Miss Joaquim', first described in 1893.

Audio tour stops in Shop in the Garden will 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 on sale in the Shop during the length of the exhibition.

About *The Orchid Show* Curators

Francisca Coelho, Senior Curator and Associate Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions, is responsible for the creation, implementation, and management of the exhibitions that have solidified the Botanical Garden's reputation as an international leader in horticultural display. Ms. Coelho first came to the Garden to be a student in the School of Professional Horticulture and joined the staff in 1981. She was deeply involved in the restoration of America's largest Victorian-style glasshouse, the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, which was completed in 1997. As Associate Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions, Ms. Coelho leads all exhibition-related planning and implementation for the Horticulture division and oversees all glasshouse activities, including display as well as propagation houses.

Marc Hachadourian, Curator of Glasshouse Collections, is preparing a dazzling assortment of thousands of orchids, everything from rare miniature species to the newest and most extravagant hybrids, which will be on view during the six-week exhibition. He will also make presentations at the Garden about orchid history and conservation on certain weekends during *The Orchid Show*. A graduate of Cornell University, Mr. Hachadourian has over 20 years experience in horticulture, specializing in orchids, aquatics, bulbs, and alpines. He has studied and observed orchids in their native habitats in South America, Australia, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. He has lectured throughout North America and is an instructor in the Botanical Garden's Continuing Education program and School of Professional Horticulture.

###

*Founding Sponsor, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation
Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.*

-more-

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, \$7 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.

Media Contact: Melinda Manning 718.817.8659/8616 or mmanning@nybg.org; **Images available**