



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
November 20, 2014

THE ORCHID SHOW: CHANDELIERS

High Style Hits The New York Botanical Garden's 13th Annual *Orchid Show* with “Living” Chandeliers

Saturday, February 28 through Sunday, April 19, 2015

Beginning February 28, *The Orchid Show: Chandeliers* dramatically transforms The New York Botanical Garden's landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory into the country's largest curated show featuring orchids. Eye-catching baskets and cylinders filled with the stunning tropical flowers decorate the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries* in the Garden's Victorian-style glasshouse—the largest of its kind in the country—with a giant star-shaped chandelier overflowing with hundreds of orchids as the centerpiece of this year's visual extravaganza. The exhibition runs through April 19, 2015.

Cylinders with a kaleidoscopic array of orchids and baskets with spikes of different orchids, such as *Cattleya* and *Phalaenopsis*, are interspersed throughout the show, framed by the magnificent architecture of the crystal palace Conservatory. The largest of the “living” chandeliers will stretch across the four beams of the Conservatory's corner house. Pools of water reflect the spectacle of orchids in the containers that hang above, while beds of *Cymbidium* and other orchid species delight the senses below.

For the first time ever, the design theme will run throughout the Conservatory, beyond the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries* and into the *Tropical Rain Forest Galleries* and other galleries. Each year this eagerly anticipated exhibition displays thousands of orchids, captivating New Yorkers and visitors from across the country and around the world. This year the exhibition is designed by the Botanical Garden's own Francisca Coelho, Vivian and Edward Merrin Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions, who has been called “the best female head gardener at present working under glass.”



Photo: Dana Meilijson

The Orchid Show Revealed

Through exhibition interpretation, *The Orchid Show* will explain the extraordinary history and conservation stories of rare and endangered orchids in the rain forests of the world, while also offering visitors ideas on how to display their own orchids in creative ways, teaching them how these awe-inspiring chandelier creations are made.

– more –

The Orchid Experience Continues Throughout the Garden

In venues throughout the Garden's 250 acres, *The Orchid Show: Chandeliers* offers visitors opportunities to learn about orchids through tours and orchid care demonstrations. Visitors can also enjoy romantic evenings on select nights in the Conservatory.

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. *The Orchid Show: Chandeliers* spotlights the shapes and textures of these spectacular and exotic flowers from around the world. 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 6,085 orchids representing 2,261 taxa (different types) in The New York Botanical Garden's permanent collection, representing 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, Director 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.

– more –

About Designer Francisca Coelho

Francisca Coelho graduated from the Garden's School of Professional Horticulture and began her career at the Garden three decades 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 major restoration of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory from 1993 to 1997 and continues to take the lead in the 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 well 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 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 the recent 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.

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 as well as 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.

About The New York Botanical Garden

An unforgettable departure from the everyday, The New York Botanical Garden is America's premier urban garden. Its special exhibitions, seasonal programs, and engaging activities inspire visitors of every age and interest. The Botanical Garden is an ever-changing living museum, and a showplace of natural beauty and wonder. For more information, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

Founding Sponsor: The Tiffany & Co. Foundation

Major Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Royce

Sponsors: Karen Katen Foundation and Guerlain

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 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 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, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 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.

Media Contact: Nick Leshi at 718.817.8658 or nleshi@nybg.org—Images available