

Field Trips

March 21, 2009 . Saturday. NY (Bronx) Botanical Garden / Orchid Show

Trip Leader: Warren Rosenberg

This field trip provides an opportunity for WPS photographers to spend a late morning and early afternoon enjoying and photographing the Garden's current special exhibit, the 8th Annual Orchid Show. Housed within the Garden's historic Enid Haupt Conservatory, the Orchid Show has thousands of colorful and exotic orchids on display. *(By the way, the historic Haupt Conservatory building presents many interesting photographic opportunities itself and is a frequent subject in many WPS competitions.)*

The Orchid Show exhibit requires a separate entry fee in addition to the Garden's regular entry fee of \$6 although there is no charge for members of the Garden. For non-members, there is a \$20 admission fee that will provide you with regular entry into the Garden plus access to the Orchid Show exhibit. For seniors and students, this fee will be \$18. There may be an additional charge for parking so carpooling is recommended.

If we can gather a group of 15 or more, we may qualify for a discounted admission fee and a private guide.

While photography is allowed in the exhibit, tripods and monopods are not as they impede the movement of other visitors on the walkways. You will find that a variety of equipment may be used but I plan on bringing my DSLR along with a macro lens (50mm f/2.5) and a 17-55mm f/2.8 zoom. Wide aperture lenses will allow for easily throwing the background out of focus and will accommodate the less than ideal lighting you may find on some of the lower, or foliage covered blossoms. Bring a flash if you have one although at very close ranges, I'm not sure how useful they will be. Provided on the WPS Field Trip website is a link for a nice and simple article on photographing flowers provided by the New York Institute of Photography (thanks, Dean Stecker-Orel).

Please let me know of your interest in participating no later than Tuesday, March 17th so that I can see if we might qualify for the group rate. I want to also call ahead and make sure that our group can be accommodated at the time of our preference.

If you will be attending, let me know via email to: wrosenberg@iona.edu by Tuesday evening.

We should plan on meeting at the Garden between 10:00am and 10:15am so that we can enter the exhibit at about 10:30. We will meet at the main entrance (it is covered in case of rain) between 10:00-10:15 or just outside the entrance of the Enid Haupt Conservatory at 10:25. If you cannot find the group, call my cellphone at (914) 557-6939.

Although we scheduled this as our March field trip (the heated environment of the conservatory ensured a comfortable experience during this otherwise unpredictable month) the Orchid Show runs through April 12th. For those who are interested, or those who cannot attend the March 21 trip, the Garden is running a special program on Saturday, April 4th, "Photographing Orchids", from 1-4 pm. This is usually a very crowded event however and takes you through only selected parts of the exhibit for photography.

Update:

As it stands now, our participants include Frank, Sherm, MJ, Sherri, Matt, and me.

Since we are coming from such different areas, carpooling may be a challenge but we'll see if any arrangements can be set up at tonight's meeting.

MJ informs us that there is a separate orchid display "off the beaten path" at the Watson building and that tripods are allowed there so pack one up and bring it along. Just keep it "stowed" in the special exhibit.

Let's plan on meeting just outside the entrance gate at 10:15 am so that members can exchange guest passes with non-members. I think the easiest parking will probably be just across Southern Boulevard from the main entrance in the Fordham University parking lot area set aside for the NYBG. A map can be obtained on the NYBG website. http://www.nybg.org/visit_the_garden/directions.php

Warren