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SIMPLY SUBLIME: ORCHIDS IN AN ART DECO GARDEN
12TH ANNUAL ORCHID EXHIBIT OPENS JANUARY 21, 2006

December 13, 2005 - Washington, DC - The orchid exhibit cosponsored each year by the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) and the Smithsonian Institution's Horticulture Services Division will open at the USBG Conservatory on January 21 and run through April 2, 2006. Titled *Simply Sublime: Orchids in an Art Deco Garden*, the exhibit will feature hundreds of beautiful orchids -- including many rare and endangered species -- from the collections of both institutions.

Visitors to the orchid exhibit will journey back to the high style and simple elegance of the 1930s as they enter the Conservatory's Garden Court. Here, they can immerse themselves in a fantasy garden of orchids set among sleek, geometric, art deco obelisks and other structures that provide the perfect foil for these extravagant flowers. Winter into spring, the orchid garden will bloom in a continuous unfolding pageant of color, showcasing the diversity and beauty of these fantastic flowers.

Also featured in the orchid exhibit, in collaboration with the National Capital Orchid Society (NCOS), will be a display of orchids typically grown by the home gardener. NCOS experts will explain and demonstrate how to grow diverse types of orchids in your own home; it's really not as difficult as you might think, in spite of orchids' reputation for being finicky! Finally, a variety of lectures, workshops, and other programs for the public will be presented at the U.S. Botanic Garden throughout the course of the orchid exhibit (visit www.usbg.gov or call 202-225-8333 for information on programs).

The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory is open to the public, free of charge, every day of the year from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Conservatory is located at 100 Maryland Avenue, SW, at the foot of the U.S. Capitol. Visitors are encouraged to take Metrobus and Metrorail. Further information is available by calling 202-225-8333 or visiting our website at www.usbg.gov.

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