

Options at a Glance

- Participating schools earning more than 500 points receive the 2008 USBG Fairchild Challenge Award and \$200.
- The 3 top-scoring schools receive \$500 to \$1,000.

U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges for 2008	Max points	Points Per Entry	Max entries per school	Due at USBG by 4:30 p.m.
1. USBG FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE T-SHIRT DESIGN	150	50	3	November 2, 2007
2. GREEN YOUR SCHOOL: ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING OR 3D MODEL	200	50	4	December 7, 2007
3. ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE COMPETITION	400	200	2	Schools are strongly encouraged to notify USBG that they wish to participate no later than September 21, 2007 . Free debate training is available. Debate is scheduled for February 9, 2008 .
4. CREATIVE WRITING: YOUR LIFE AS A WILKES PLANT	300	75	4	February 22, 2008
5. ART OF ORCHIDS	300	50	6	March 7, 2008¹
6. RAPPING FOR THE ANACOSTIA: ITS HISTORY/ITS FUTURE	200	100	2	Rap pieces due May 16, 2008 Performances to be held on May 22, 2008 .

Prizes will be awarded on **June 5, 2008** at the Awards Ceremony at the United States Botanic Garden.

¹ The USBG is offering the Art of Orchids Workshop on **February 9** and **February 16, 2008**. Schools interested in participating need to notify the USBG no later than **January 19, 2008**. The workshop is **free** and art supplies will be provided. Please see Option Five for more details on how to register.

Specific Requirements: Challenge Options for Participating Schools

U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges 2008

OPTION ONE: USBG FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE T-SHIRT DESIGN

Maximum Points: 150 Points

- Design a 1-color image that represents the USBG Fairchild Challenge 2008, to be printed on the back of a t-shirt.
- Design must be presented on 8½" x 11" white paper.
- Original, hand-rendered or computer-generated work accepted.
- Design must include the words "USBG Fairchild Challenge 2008."
- On a separate sheet, write a 1-paragraph explanation of your design.
- Winning design will be printed on t-shirts to be given to Challenge participants.
- Designs will be judged on artistry, creativity, originality, technical ability, explanation of design/relevance to theme, and appeal to peers.

School submits: Option One entry form; up to 3 t-shirt designs with a 1-paragraph explanation for each design.

Due at USBG: 4:30 p.m., **Friday November 2, 2007.**

Links:

www.usbg.gov

www.fairchildgarden.org

**Specific Requirements:
Challenge Options for Participating Schools
U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges 2008**

OPTION TWO: GREEN YOUR SCHOOL

Maximum Points: 200

- “Green” schools set an example for future generations that environmental quality is essential to our long-term well-being.
- Learn what it means to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified.
- Look at your school and select an area (an existing room, a system, a fixture, a structure etc.) and identify ways that you could make it “GREEN.”
- Students must then create to scale an architectural drawing or a 3-D model of their design. Drawings and 3-D models may be no larger than 11” x 17” (18” in height if a model).
- Students must describe in writing (one page or less) their project and how their selection and design would make their school more environmentally friendly.
- Projects will be judged on research, accuracy, technical ability, presentation, and clarity of explanation.

School submits: Option Two entry form; up to 4 entries

Due at USBG: 4:30 pm, **December 7, 2007.**

www.greenschools.net

www.usgbc.org

globalgreen.org

www.yesworld.org

Specific Requirements: Challenge Options for Participating Schools

U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges 2008

OPTION THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE COMPETITION

Maximum Points: 400 Points

- Topics for the environmental debate will be announced in January 2008.
- Schools interested in participating are encouraged to notify the USBG no later than **September 21, 2007**. The names of the students are not required until schools have assembled their debate team, but no later than **November 16, 2007**.
- **Free** debate training workshops are available to interested staff (facilitated by, and resources available from, the DC Urban Debate League, www.dcdebate.org).
- Students research the given environmental topics and participate in the debate.
- The Debate Competition (open to the public) is scheduled to take place on Saturday, **February 9, 2008**.
- Observers are welcome at the debate.
- Participants will be judged on debating skills, knowledge of subject, preparation, stage presence, composure, creativity, effective use of language and respect for fellow debaters.

School submits: Option Three entry form; names of three students for each team.
Due at USBG: 4:30 PM, **November 16, 2007**.

Links:

www.dcdebate.org

middleschooldebate.com

www.idebate.org

Specific Requirements: Challenge Options for Participating Schools

U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges 2008

OPTION FOUR: CREATIVE WRITING: YOUR LIFE AS A WILKES PLANT

Maximum Points: 300

- Familiarize yourself with the United States Exploring Expedition, often referred to as the "Wilkes Expedition" (1838-1842).
- Select a plant from the **attached list** of Wilkes plants.
- Include your plant's common and scientific names and determine where the plant is native.
- Imagine yourself as this plant from the time the Wilkes expedition first spotted you, to where and what you are today. In 400 to 500 words (approximately two typed pages), describe:
 1. what you were doing before the discovery
 2. why you think the Expedition was interested in you
 3. whether the Expedition scientists took you in entirety or just a part of you
 4. what your journey was like to New York Harbor
 5. what happened to you after 1842
 6. where are you today
- Be sure to paint a vivid picture with your words. Write from a personal perspective and give your own observations about life as that plant. Leave the reader with the impression that he or she really knows what you experienced.
- Consider such factors as environment, weather, growing conditions, your interaction with people, and the importance of collections.
- Excerpts from the best stories may be submitted for publication.
- Essays will be judged on creativity, relevance to the theme, accuracy of information (plant structure and biology), writing skills (spelling and grammar), research, and personal observations.
- Typed or legible, handwritten entries are acceptable.

School submits: Option Four entry form; up to 4 essays.

Due at USBG: 4:30 p.m., **Friday February 22, 2008**

Links:

www.usbg.gov/contact-us/upload/Wilkes%202005%20Press%20Release

www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/usexex.resources.cfm

plants.usda.gov

en.wikipedia.org

www.historylink.org

Plant List for Option Four: Creative Writing: Your Life as a Wilkes Plant

Cycas circinalis

Common Name: Sago Palm

November 1841, Indonesia

Araucaria heterophylla

Common Name: Norfolk Island pine

December 1839, New Zealand

Encephalartos horridus

Common Name: Ferocious Blue Cycad

April 1842, South Africa

Angiopteris evecta

Common Name: Vessel Fern

September 1839, Tahiti

Strelitzia reginae

Common Name: Bird of Paradise

April 1842, South Africa

Hibiscus brackenridgei

Common Name: Native Yellow Hibiscus

February 1841, Hawaii, Maui

Darlingtonia californica

Common Name: California pitcher plant

October 1841, California

Strongylodon macrobotrys

Common Name: Jade vine

January 1842, Philippines

Wilkesia gymnoxiphium

Common Name: Hawaiian Iliau

October 1840, Hawaii, Kauai

Gossypium barbadense

Common Name: Sea Island cotton

June-July 1840, Fiji

Specific Requirements: Challenge Options for Participating Schools

U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges 2008

OPTION FIVE: ART OF ORCHIDS

Maximum Points: 300 points

- Capture the beauty of an orchid by creating an original work of art and/or sculpture.
 - Feel free to use the United States Botanic Garden as a resource, the Garden has over 1,700 different kinds of orchids in its collections.
 - Note: Students entering this option may apply to attend a **free workshop** with professional artists and orchid experts at the USBG on Saturdays, **February 9** or **February 16, 2008**, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Teachers may recommend up to 5 students per school for this workshop. The deadline to register your school for this option is **January 19, 2008**. We will contact schools by January 24, 2008 to confirm acceptance into the workshop.
 - Artwork may portray a single orchid, multiple blooms, or a section of an orchid.
 - Maximum drawing size: 16" x 20". Do not frame. Any medium will be accepted except pastels and oils.
 - Maximum sculpture size: 12" x 12" x 12". Sculptures may be created in any medium but must include a secure mounting.
 - On an index card to accompany the art, write both the common (if known) and scientific names for the orchid species portrayed, as well as its native region.
 - Artwork will be judged on creativity, artistry, relevance to theme, accuracy of botanic information, and technical ability.
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- **School submits:** Option Five entry form; up to 3 drawings and 3 sculptures.
 - **Due at USBG:** 4:30 pm, **Friday March 7, 2008**

Links:

usbq.gov

plants.usda.gov

orchidweb.org

Specific Requirements: Challenge Options for Participating Schools

U.S. Botanic Garden's Fairchild Challenges 2008

[OPTION SIX: RAPPING FOR THE ANACOSTIA- ITS HISTORY / ITS FUTURE](#)

Maximum Points: 250

- Write an original rap inspired by the Anacostia River. The piece should include information about the natural and social history of the river, the challenges the river faces and the river's potential.
- Perform rap at the USBG on **Thursday, May 22, 2008**, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Finalists will be asked to perform their song at the Awards Ceremony on **June 5, 2008, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**
- Performer(s) need not be the composer(s), but the composer(s) must be present.
- Language deemed inappropriate for a family audience will be disqualified.
- Time limit: 2 minutes.
- Rap will be judged on relevance to theme, accuracy of information, impact, creativity, and quality of performance.

School submits: Option Six entry form; lyrics for up to 2 songs with the name(s) of performer(s) and composer(s). On the entry form please specify any musical instruments and audio equipment you plan to use, for approval by USBG staff.

Due at USBG: 4:30 pm, **Friday, May 16, 2008.**

Links:

www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/fanacost

en.wikipedia.org

www.anacostia.net

www.anacostiaws.org

www.epa.gov/

www.nps.gov

www.chesapeakebay.net