The U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) presents "Discover the World of Orchids" from February 28 through May 3, 2020. The exhibit continues the Garden's celebration of its 200th anniversary, showcasing its largest specialty plant collection that dates back to the 1800s. The 25th annual orchid exhibit is in partnership with Smithsonian Gardens, and this year shares stories of the history of orchids and how technology advances their conservation.

From transporting orchids across the ocean in Wardian cases during the 18th century to growing orchids from tissue cultures today, technology has changed our relationship with orchids over time. This year's spectacular display is possible thanks, in part, to years of technological advancement. Come explore how technology contributes to how we conserve, grow, and understand orchids.

The Garden Court features shipping crates, barrels, and docks overflowing with orchids plus a special rope sculpture cradling orchids by artist Susan Beallor-Snyder, titled "Weaving Narratives." The sculpture uses 10,000 feet of natural manila rope (made from Musa textilis in the banana family) of varying widths from 1/4" to 2" and weighs over 300 pounds.

Visitors will find large, 8-foot-high curtains made from colorful Vanda orchids in the Plant Adaptations and Rare and Endangered houses. In the Tropics house, hundreds of orchids are on display, including an arch of epiphytic orchids that will be a favorite photo opportunity. In South Transition, discover stories on the conservation of rare orchids, modern orchid growing techniques, how the Garden cares for a diverse orchid collection, and more.

The Garden will offer orchid-themed programs and activities for adults and children, including an Orchid Family Day Festival, orchid care demonstrations and workshops, art and photography workshops, lectures on orchid diversity, conservation, and more.

The Friends of the U.S. Botanic Garden (Friends) will offer a gift shop with items such as live orchid plants, post cards, chocolates, books, and other educational items, and will be open Friday through Sunday each week of the orchid exhibit. The Friends' beverage stand will be run by local coffee roaster Zeke's Coffee, weekends through Memorial Day weekend. Proceeds from the gift shop and beverage stand will benefit education programs at the USBG. Learn more at www.USBG.gov.
About the U.S. Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is the oldest continuously operating public Garden in the United States. The Garden informs visitors about the fundamental value and diversity of plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological significance. With over a million visitors annually, the USBG strives to demonstrate and promote sustainable practices. The U.S. Botanic Garden is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and Conservation International. www.USBG.gov

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