



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POWELL GARDENS OPENS NEW SEASON WITH BRAND NEW EXHIBITION

Orchid Delirium draws inspiration from the Victorian-era flower frenzy that took the world by storm

KINGSVILLE, Missouri – Orchid Delirium, inspired by the Victorian-era fascination that led to a collecting hysteria appropriately named Orchidelirium, showcases select blooms from Powell Gardens’ 600-piece orchid collection. Garden-goers will enjoy an indoor tropical oasis where the vibrant colors of the collection collide with rich history to put the awe in education. This spring-awakening exhibit opens to the public on March 9 and runs until March 27, Wednesday-Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

While the planning for this exhibition has been over a year in the making, Brent Tucker, Lead Horticulturist for the Visitor Center, is excited to see his idea come to light.

“Personally, I am looking forward to sharing my passion for orchids as I’ve been growing orchids for over 35 years,” said Tucker. “The complexity of some of the flowers and pollination mechanisms are amazing to me. We have such a diverse collection with a variety of plant shapes and sizes from micro-miniatures that are only a centimeter or so tall with even tinier flowers that you need a magnifying glass to see to orchids with six-foot-long leaves.”

Visitors can expect to learn about one of the most numerous flowering plant species through educational programs, interpretation, and curated tours. Come for the stunning display and leave with a deeper understanding of why the beauty of this plant has enamored humankind for centuries. For tickets or more information, please visit powellgardens.org/orchid.

Orchid Delirium Special Events

Orchid Symposium

March 19 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | \$75

Spend the day learning about orchids. Enjoy several presentations about a variety of topics including the history of Orchidelirium with Education Manager, Caitlin Eckard; Top 10 Orchids for the Home with Master Gardener Carol Gravens via Zoom; and Paphiopedilum: An Introduction and Culture with Lead Horticulturalist Brent Tucker. A boxed lunch and non-alcoholic beverage are included with ticket purchase. Attendees will also take home their very own moth orchid. Registration cutoff is March 15. Tickets available at powellgardens.org/orchid.

Experience Delirium

March 24 | 8 p.m. - Midnight | \$30, \$20 for designated drivers

Powell Gardens is teaming up with the University of Central Missouri for a collaborative learning opportunity. Experience Delirium, an exclusive neon nightclub event, was an idea created by event management students and will be brought to life on March 24. Assistant Professor, School of Business Strategy, Keira Solon, shared “the experience these students are receiving, by planning this event, is something I could never accomplish through a textbook.”

This one-night rave will include all access to Orchid Delirium, a street taco food truck, and a dance floor filled with neon lights and jungle-themed decor. Don't miss the *wild* photo opportunities, too! Tickets available at bit.ly/ExperienceDelirium2022. One complimentary alcohol beverage is included with each ticket purchase. Bar will also be available. Cards only. Climb into the black-lit jungle and leave with memories that will last you a lifetime!

***The Orchid Thief* Book Club**

March 26 | 10-11 a.m. | \$25

Join Education Manager, Caitlin Eckard, to discuss Susan Orlean's book, *The Orchid Thief*. This fascinating first-hand account explores the eccentric world of orchid fanatics in Florida. Immerse yourself in the text and discuss with other readers before viewing Orchid Delirium at Powell Gardens. Book club attendees will enjoy light snacks and drinks and can view the Orchid Delirium exhibition after the session. Tickets available at powellgardens.org/orchid.

Photographer Only Hours

March 12, 19 & 26 | 8-9 a.m. | \$15

Are you a photographer or member of a local photography club interested in visiting and photographing the amazing variety of blooming plants featured in Orchid Delirium when the exhibition is closed to the public? Those with special tickets will gain early access prior to the exhibit opening to the public, allowing you to enjoy the exhibition in near solitude. Photographing the orchids and their companion plants is the perfect way to sharpen and flex those macro skills. Get up close and personal to this special collection that boasts of color and fun textures. Tickets available at powellgardens.org/orchid.

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About Powell Gardens

As Kansas City's Botanical Garden, Powell Gardens plays a vital role in the community as a space for release, rejuvenation, and the celebration of the fleeting nature of nature itself. Visitors enjoy eight themed display gardens, a three-mile nature trail, seasonal festivals, rotating exhibitions, exceptional architecture, and dining options featuring ingredients grown in our Heartland Harvest Garden, one of the nation's premier edible landscapes. Established in 1988, Powell Gardens is a non-profit, public garden, maintaining 970 acres of lush, rolling hills and windswept meadows, with more than 175 acres and a large collection of plants open to the public for education, exploration, and recreation. Many of the plants in the Gardens are regionally native, and all highlight the changing seasons and Midwest spirit of place.