

# PHANTASEA TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

March/April 2015  
 Volumn 1, Issue 2



## Garden News



### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### It's springtime in the garden!

The orchids are blooming now throughout the garden. Several of the large lavender cattleyas are showing off their beauty up in trees. The phalaenopsis orchids are blooming throughout the garden.

The bromeliads are starting to bloom and show off all their strange and unusual shapes and color combinations.

The heliconias are starting to peek out with their new blooms in reds and yellows and the sugar birds and hummingbirds are anxiously awaiting their opening since they love to drink the nectar from their flowers.

New interpretive signage is always being added and installed throughout the garden along with new individual plant name tags.

Our website is now up and running so check back often to: <http://www.stthomasbotanicalgarden.com> for other news and happenings.

You can also "Like Us" on facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/stthomasbotanicalgarden> and keep up with what's in bloom on a continuing basis.

And we are now listed on TripAdvisor. If you have had a chance to visit us, a review is greatly appreciated. [http://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction\\_Review-g147404-d7701018-Reviews-Phan-](http://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g147404-d7701018-Reviews-Phan-)



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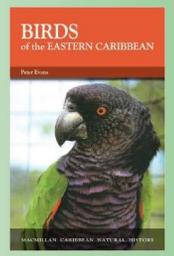
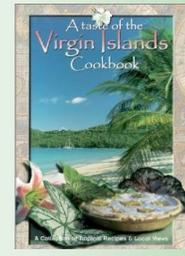
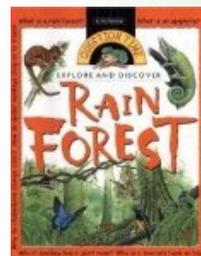
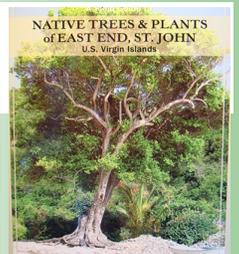
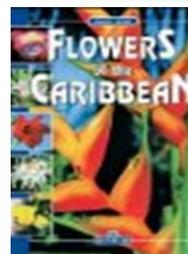
#### WHAT IS A BOTANICAL GARDEN ?

- A garden where a large variety of plants are cultivated for exhibition and scientific purposes.
- Plants in a Botanical Garden are documented and labeled.
- Botanical gardens are open to the public for the purposes of education, and public display of conservation principles.
- Botanical Gardens provide classes and workshops which promote gardening information and education.

#### WHAT'S NEW:

##### BOOKS!

Thanks to Nancy—our resident book finder—we now have a few plant, garden, and bird related books for sale. We also carry a few local cookbooks and plan on adding more titles having more in the near future. For the kids we have 'Question Time—Rainforest' with great fun facts about the forest and brilliant artwork.





Hohenbergia stellata



Ananas comosus (Pineapple) Plot



Hohenbergia Lanata Plot 14

## WHAT'S BLOOMING—BROMELIADS

The genera **Hohenbergia** includes 52 species. They are native to the West Indies, the Yucatan peninsula, and South America (Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia) and range in habitat from dry, sandy areas to cloud forests.

Hohenbergia produce large flower spikes that are typically branching. They can be grown epiphytically or terrestrial.

Hohenbergias grown in sandy soils typically require full sun. Other Hohenbergias can grow in bright dappled light.

Like all bromeliads Hohenbergias bloom once usually with a very long-lived flower and then begins to die. A healthy plant will produce pups before it dies. They can

produce pups (baby plants) before it dies. The pups can be removed from the plant and transplanted on their own or they can be allowed to grow in clumps attached to the mother plant.

Because of their typically large size (3' diameter and up to 8' diameter) they are not typically grown in pots.

## WHAT'S BLOOMING—ORCHIDS

The genera **Maxillaria** is a large group of orchid species. Flowers are typically small but fragrant.

**Maxillaria elatior** is native to the region from Mexico to Costa Rica and found growing in tree branches from 1300 to 5000 foot elevations .

**Maxillaria tenuifolia** is native from Mexico to Nicaragua. It is also known as the "Coconut orchid" due to its fragrance resembling coconuts.

Maxillarias prefer bright light and cool nights in the winter.



Maxillaria tenuifolia



Maxillaria elatior Plot 11



Cattleya hybrids



Phalaenopsis hybrid

## MORE BLOOMING—ELSEWHERE IN THE GARDEN

**Stromanthe lutea 'Pico de Gallo'** (synonym for *Stromanthe jacquini*) is a member of the Marantaceae family – a part of the heliconia family tree.

It is native to the area from Costa Rica to Venezuela. It is low growing (usually about three feet tall) and its leaves resemble those of

the heliconia family . Blooming is in early Spring.

Propagation is by divisions of rhizomes. Plot 13

**Anthurium species**  
Native to Dominica.  
Plot 11



Stromanthe lutea 'Pico de Gallo'

Vanda 'Ruth Bell Graham'

**MORE BLOOMING - ELSEWHERE IN THE GARDEN**

**Alocasia amazonica**  
(African Mask) Plot 3



A member of the Araceae family native to Eastern Australia and tropical SE Asia. Grown in bright shade.

**Bulbophyllum elegans**  
Plot 13



Orchid species native to Sumata, Molluccas, Buru, Ambon and other SE Asian islands.

**Epidendrum radicans**  
Plot 1 Plot 10



A reed-stem member of the orchid family native to Central America. Requires high sunlight to bloom.

**Aechmea mariaereginae**  
Plot 1



Species member of the Bromeliad family native to Central America.

**UPCOMING EVENTS—Puerto Rico**

**April 30-May 3**

Orchid Show -Fajardo, PR  
<https://www.facebook.com/sociedad.deseste>  
Soe\_pr@hotmail.com

Dorado Orchid Fair  
Near Mother's day. No date yet.

**UPCOMING EVENTS - Florida / Caribbean**

**Orchids**

**April 4-5**

Flamingo Gardens Orchid & Bromeliad Show & Sale—Davie, FL  
Contact: 954-473-2955

**April 11-12**

Central Florida Orchid Society Show & Sale  
Contact: 407-884-2950  
macykulit@aol.com

**April 11-12**

Tallahassee Orchid Society Show  
Contact: 850-459-9516  
cfwebproductions@aol.com

**April 25-26**

Vero Beach Orchid Society Show  
Contact: 772-778-6625  
instedof@bellsouth.net

**May 15,16,17**

Redlands Orchid Show  
Fruit & Spice Park  
Contact: 305-247-5727

**Tropical Plants**

**April 11**

Fairchild Garden Spring Plant Festival  
Coral Gables, FL  
Contact: 305-667-1651  
[www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

**May 9**

Tropical Flowering Tree Society  
Show & Sale  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
Contact: 305-667-1651  
[www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

**Bromeliads**

**April 18-19**

Bromeliad Soc. Of South Florida  
Show and Sale—Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

**April 18**

Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society Sale  
Sanford, FL

