



## Preparators: Getting the Conservatory ready for Business

### Getting Started:

*3 things must happen for the Conservatory to open for the public – it is best to do these items first.*

- ☐ Turn on Exhibits!  
-Switches located behind info desk
- ☐ Turn on Carnivorous Plant Videos!  
-Controls located in Head House
- ☐ Remove covers!  
-Acrylic microscope covers (6 in Plant Lab, 1 in Cloud Forest)  
-Vinyl covers on "Scents of the Rainforest"

### Getting down to Work:

*The next tasks listed are additional items that help the Conservatory be at its best. Aside from having all exhibits clean and shiny, these items are the core of what makes the exhibits special.*

- ☐ Fresh Flowers  
-Nectar Exhibit  
-Pollinator Scent Exhibit  
-Pollen Exhibit  
-Info Desk
- ☐ Make Fresh Slides  
-Algae Exhibit  
-Stomata Exhibit
- ☐ Check Germinating Seeds  
-Root Hair Exhibit
- ☐ Check Pitcher Juice and Calibrate Meters  
-Collect new if needed
- ☐ Check Nectar  
-Replace with new bottle/s if needed





## Getting Down to the details in the...

### Plant Lab

#### Seeds:

- ☐ Replace seeds if necessary
  - Touch-tables
  - Fur
  - Wind tubes (replace or un-clump)



#### Attention - Messy spots:

- ☐ Floor under small tables tends to get dirt build-up, sweep.
- ☐ Hitchhiking seeds (with furs) fall out all over the floor, sweep.

#### Flowers:

- ☐ Replace Cut flowers
  - Nectar exhibit
  - Pollinator Scent exhibit
  - Searching for Pollen exhibit
- ☐ Nectar bottles
  - Replacement nectar bottle in Headhouse refrigerator
  - Mix new nectar solution and refill bottle sets
- ☐ Kimwipes
  - Refill if needed – refills at info desk

#### Attention - Messy spots:

- ☐ Nectar table—sticky goop and tissues.

#### Roots:

- ☐ Nutrient meter
  - Check meter to make sure batteries are working
  - Check nutrient levels in each box
  - Add R/O water to hydroponic boxes if liquid levels are low
  - Clean tip of nutrient meter with Soft Scrub & rinse well
  - Wipe down inside of plexi boxes to remove condensation
- ☐ Root hairs
  - Wipe off condensation inside petri dish lids
  - Change specimens if expired or moldy
  - Start new radish seeds at Info Desk
- ☐ Root-view boxes
  - Check that soil is moist and roots are in good condition – add water with watering can at info desk if needed

#### Attention - Messy spots:

- ☐ Nutrient meter table (wet)



## **Plant Lab, con't.**

### **Stems:**

- ☐ Tree Rings:
  - Check microscope
  - Make sure wood samples (under scope and on table) are in good condition
- ☐ Video screen by bench:
  - Clean if screen is dirty or smudges
  - Verify video is playing and image quality OK

### **Spores:**

- ☐ Algae:
  - Check microscope
  - Decide if each algae sample looks good or needs to be changed
  - Prepare any new algae slides needed
- ☐ Fern spores:
  - Check microscope
  - Make sure specimens are holding up under scope

### **Attention - Messy spots:**

- ☐ Sweep dirt off ramp

### **Leaves:**

- ☐ Hanging leaf specimens:
  - Take most of the laminated leaves down and put them in baskets
  - Leave a few up to show people the concept
- ☐ Leaf textures:
  - Make sure videoscope is working (image on monitor, post bends well, focus knob moves well)
  - Make sure monitor is working (image on screen, image quality good)
- ☐ Stomata
  - Check microscope parts
  - Prepare new slide if needed
  - Adjust slide so it shows well on monitor
  - Make sure monitor is working (image on screen, image quality good)

### **Attention - Messy spots:**

- ☐ Check for dirt or gravel on stairs



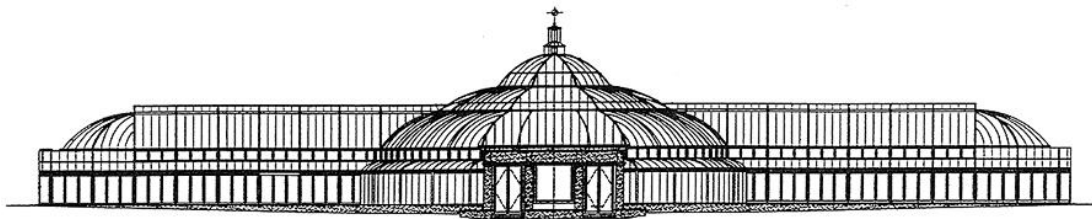
## Getting Down to the Details with the...

### Rain Forest

- ☐ Smell jars
  - Spices, *Victoria* water lily, *Amorphophallus*, and *Frankincense* & *Myrrh*
  - Make sure smell jars are still properly attached to table
  - Make sure jars are still fragrant
- ☐ Videos (along rim)
  - Check that video is playing and image quality is OK
  - Clean if screen is dirty or smudged
- ☐ Small temp/humidity meters
  - Located on habitat intro panels for Rain Forest and Dry Forest
  - Check if still working, notify staff if missing or dead battery
- ☐ Shades of green
  - Check cards:
    - Erase anything inappropriate
    - If all cards are written on, erase most of them and put them back in baskets. Choose 3-4 to leave up as examples.
  - Check pencils – sharpen if needed

### Attention - Messy spots:

- ☐ Sweep loose gravel off of steps
- ☐ Sweep up any fallen fruits or petals that are getting trampled into concrete.

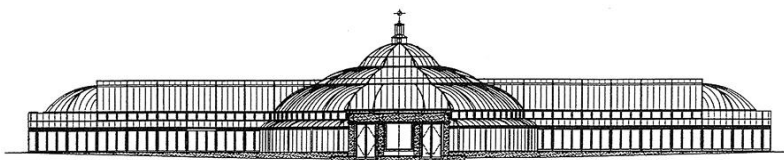




## Getting Down to the Details with the...

### Cloud Forest

- ☐ General cleaning:
  - Lots of squeegee action!
  - Check for algae or mold on labels – notify staff if signage should be replaced
- ☐ Nepenthes digestion
  - Collect pitcher plant goop if needed
  - Refill pitcher plant goop – kept in blue “collection kit” bucket at Info Desk
  - Refill holder vase with 7.0 pH water
  - Checking pH meters
    - Recalibrate
- ☐ Carnivorous plant Flipbooks
  - Hand lenses: make sure they are attached and unbroken. Dry off lenses.
  - Flip-panels: make sure handles are attached and surface is undamaged. Squeegee off
  - Plant specimens: make sure we have one to match each flip-panel. Notify staff if missing or damaged
- ☐ Gotcha! Flipbooks
  - Check pages of flipbooks for excessive dirt build up, wipe off with damp towel
- ☐ Orchids that look like insects
  - Wipe down the exhibit surface and the flip cards
  - Make sure there are magnifying lenses in small basket
- ☐ Wood cross-section
  - Check that ruler is present and undamaged
  - Check that wood specimen holding up OK
- ☐ Bromeliad microscope
  - Focus scope
  - Check soil moisture of potted plant – take to Head House to water if needed





## Getting Down to the Details with the...

### Bog

- ☐ Videos: Turn on
- ☐ Carnivorous plant Flipbooks
  - Check that knobs are attached and surface undamaged
  - Check that we have a plant for each book; notify staff if need to replace or swap
- ☐ Count the Corpses
  - Make sure all lids on small plastic bug boxes
  - Dust inside of big box if messy or wet (OK to remove specimens)
  - Replace specimens if needed
- ☐ Sphagnum soak
  - Verify scale working (turn on)  
Check that sphagnum baskets are in good shape, notify staff if they need replacements

### Attention - Messy spots:

- ☐ Sweep gravel off ramp (slip hazard)— brooms inside Headhouse door

