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Spring Comes Early At Greenhouse Open House March 27 - 28

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March 5, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - New Hampshire gardeners might be weeks - or months - away from digging in the dirt, but they can jump-start the planting season with a trip to the University of New Hampshire's annual Greenhouse Open House March 27 - 28, 2009. Coinciding with the popular Seacoast Flower, Home and Garden Show at the nearby Whittemore Center, the Greenhouse Open House runs 9 a.m. 4 p.m. both days.

"This year's Open House promises lots of interesting displays and plenty of information to help chase away those winter blues and welcome spring," says Becky Grube, extension associate professor of sustainable horticulture production.

At the Open House, UNH staff and students will present colorful displays and educational lectures of interest to home gardeners and landscapers. Visitors can attend seminars on topics like how to cope with home and garden insects, cooking with herbs and what to grow this year. A photo tour of remarkable botanical gardens will offer inspiration, and experts will be on hand to answer questions on encouraging native pollinators, ecologically friendly landscaping and carnivorous plants. Additional displays include information on the New Hampshire Master Gardener program, Snackseed pumpkins, sustainable greenhouse production and much more. Publications by UNH authors will also be available for sale.

Other Open House activities include greenhouse tours, plant sales, and a coloring contest that aims to "nurture young sprouts," says Grube.

The UNH Greenhouse Open House is free and open to the general public. The UNH greenhouses are located off Main Street on the west end of Durham. Lectures will take place in Putnam Hall across the parking lot from the greenhouses. For more information, including a schedule of lectures, go to <http://www.thompsonschoo.unh.edu/pdf/ghohnewflierfeb20.pdf> or call 603-862-3200.

The Greenhouse Open House is sponsored by the UNH plant biology and horticulture academic programs, Thompson School of Applied Sciences, the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Life Sciences & Agriculture and UNH Cooperative Extension.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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Photographs available to download:

http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2009/mar/peopletouring2.jpg

Caption: Visitors enjoy an early spring at the UNH Greenhouse Open House, March 27 - 28, 2009.

Credit: Faye Cragin.

http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2009/mar/TSASdisplay1.JPG

Caption: UNH students and staff create colorful displays for this year's Greenhouse Open House, March 27 - 28, 2009.

Credit: David Goudreault.

http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2009/mar/pitcherplant.JPG

Caption: Plants both common and exotic, like this pitcher plant, will be on display at the UNH Greenhouse Open House, March 27 - 28, 2009.

Credit: David Goudreault.

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