

A big thanks to Martin Joffe for organizing a terrific weekend to Longwood Gardens.

Although the grounds were covered in snow, the conservatory was awash in color. What a treat to see such a wide variety of flowers... and the smells... it convinced me that spring truly is just around the corner!

Longwood Gardens, unlike the NY Botanical Gardens, allows the use of tripods. Marty had it organized in advance, so all we had to do is arrive just before opening, register our tripods, and we had the conservatory practically to ourselves for almost three hours. We took a break around noon to have lunch and compared notes about the morning shoot. After lunch, we went our separate ways - some stayed on to photograph more flowers, others went to nearby museums or to other shooting locations.

The hotel was perfect; just one mile from Longwood and in the center of lots of nearby attractions. The staff was courteous and the included breakfast was hearty. Having only been to the NY Botanical Gardens in the Bronx, I was pleasantly surprised that we had the ability to roam free among the floral displays. The staff never asked us to move along, even the other patrons didn't mind our tripods.

Marty also chose two very nice restaurants for our Friday and Saturday dinners - we definitely ate well.

This is my first visit to Longwood Gardens but certainly won't be my last. Thanks, Marty for organizing an excellent field trip. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Lynn Ronan