



ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 51: Number 6  June 2003

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President's Message

By Joe Dixler

It's hard to believe my year as President is almost completed. It has been a challenging one right from the start. In the first month, the Botanic Garden announced their new and very restrictive policies for societies, and we immediately began looking for a new home. This was quite a daunting undertaking to tackle as my first problem. Changing from CBG to OCC required a great deal of effort and planning. With the positive attitude and enthusiasm of the Board, as well as the membership, this traumatic change went very smoothly. We have had record turnouts at our meetings at OCC, and, in spite of the winter cold weather, you brought more plants for judging than ever before. In the past year, 81 new members have joined our society, and 63 of those became members since our move to OCC. You have generously volunteered to be plant movers and help with hospitality, and so many of you contributed goodies for the refreshment table. Arranging the first show at OCC was a real test of the society's resources in new, uncharted surroundings. Many of you volunteered to work at the Brookfield Zoo Extravaganza and at Hausermann's Open House, so that we were able to reach much of our former audience and alert them to our new venue. Again, most of you helped distribute our publicity, resulting in attendance that impressed OCC and made us proud. You contributed wonderful plants and beautiful exhibits, as well as an exceptional behind-the-scenes organization that made the show

work. Plus we made a respectable profit on our very first attempt.

In the past year we have utilized the Internet for sending newsletters and meeting notices, and will use it for an e-mail list of the people who attended the show for future announcements. A new Mentor program was initiated, an auction for the fall show is being organized, and a student membership program has begun. Our newsletter is better than ever. These innovative ideas were made realities at the same time that we were getting accustomed to our new home. We have good reasons to be very proud of ourselves. We have made outstanding progress in this past challenging year. I owe a great many thanks to all of you for your wonderful support and assistance. We are moving forward with great momentum and that momentum should continue in the coming year with our new officers. Our nominating committee - Barry Lubin, Martin Taylor and Allen Moore - have done an outstanding job of presenting a very competent slate that you voted to accept at the May 18th meeting. Several changes have occurred in the coming year's officers, and I am sure those elected to their new jobs will do them as efficiently as those who are departing. I want to thank the outgoing officers for their outstanding work. Anne Kotowski, Martin Taylor, and Linda Schubert, have been great assets to the Society's leadership. Anne will continue as a Board member and no doubt will assist Lois Cinert, who will be the new show chairman, although she is by no means new to this job. Thanks go to Steve Lipson and Jim Spatzek for taking on more responsibility as officers, moving from their previous positions as directors. Welcome back to Sue Golan as a director and to Sandy Fuller as a new Board member.

The annual ribbon judging awards, traditionally given out at the June meeting, will be announced at Natt's Orchids, our July meeting place, since there will be no June meeting. I hope to see you all in July.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

The 2003-04 Membership Directory is going to press late June. If you moved, changed your phone number, or changed your e-mail address, you should immediately notify Allen Morr at 847-501-2532 or amorr@ozonology.com. We have a particularly hard time deciphering e-mail addresses, so be precise - especially if you use a dash or underscore! We plan to mail the new directory with the August newsletter, which will go to press in mid-July. You'll be stuck with incorrect information until this time next year if you fail to make corrections. In order to be certain any needed corrections are made, **please take care of this matter right away!**

Allen Morr
Membership Chair

Report from the Ohio Chapter

May is probably the best month to go in search of native orchids in flower. On the 10th, Leo Schordje and I drove down to Hocking Hills, Ohio in hopes of finding several species blooming. On the 8th there was hail there; on the 9th most of Hocking County was under a flood watch; but on the 10th we were headed south from Columbus early, if not bright.

Our hosts were Ken & Dawn Mettler, on whose 20 acres of woodland a part of our search would take place. They have identified some six or more species on their property and a like number more on neighbors' land or in a nearby state park. In fact, if you look at our website, you'll note that most of the pictures we have of native species were taken by Ken.

It was still morning when what would be our party of 9 began our trek. The first leg was to be a "bunny slope," with the strenuous hike coming later. We were going to be pleased with anything we found that survived the hail, but I was most hoping that we would find some *Aplectrum* in flower. Within five minutes we were tripping over *Goodyera pubescens*. It was too early to be blooming, but, like the jewel orchids, this one can be enjoyed for its foliage alone. Likewise we encountered *Liparis lilifolia* just emerging from the ground. The *Goodyera* was everywhere we went, but finally we spotted our first flowering specimens: *Galearis spectabilis*. This is a very showy species, as its name would suggest. The flowers were somewhat damaged, most likely by the recent hail, but we were gratified by the plants that we found.

As we continued our hike, someone spotted a gaudy, gold-striped millipede in the detritus. Ken picked it up, reminding us that conspicuous bugs are frequently poisonous, and that this one was exuding a weak dose of poison on his hands.

After returning Millie to her milieu, Ken told us to take a whiff of his hands. They smelled strongly of almonds. **So, from that clue, and for 5 bonus points, can you identify the poison that the millipede exuded?**



In short order, we came upon a jungle of *Cypripedium acaule*. It was really a matter of "watch where you step", there were so many. No *Aplectrum* where we had hoped to find them, but who could complain after



encountering a hundred *Cyp. acaule* in bloom?

Thunder, lightning and a downpour cut short the climb (mercifully ... the easy hike had about done me in) to find yellow ladyslippers. So, soaking wet, we retreated to our hosts' home for bambi burgers, (an effective orchid conservation method at which Ken has some skill), and a taste of Dawn's homemade wines.

These photos and others were thanks to Leo's pretty good digital camera. Do check the website for additional pictures, especially some great shots of *Galearis spectabilis* taken last year.

Tom Franczek

Cypripedium acaule
Photo courtesy of Leo Schordje



2002-2003 IOS Officers -- Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30

President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.com)
1st Vice President (Meetings/speakers)	Wendy Holtzman	773-395-1771	(wendyholtzman@netzero.net)
2nd Vice (Home show chair)	Anne Kotowski	630-833-8042	(phrag207@aol.com)
3rd Vice President (Away show chair)	Martin Taylor	630-682-0464	(dmtatcenca@aol.com)
Secretary (Recorder)	Linda Schubert	847-835-0799	(lshoobert@juno.com)
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter editor)	Jerry Garner	847-864-8417	(garnerjl@attbi.com)
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Diana Nielsen	630-894-9486	(dnielsen3@msn.com)
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Allen Morr	847-501-2532-	(ozone03@ameritech.net)
Immediate Past President	John Stubbings	847-480-1532	(jstubbings@peoplepc.com)

Board Members -- Terms of office expire June 30 of the year shown.

Steve Lipson	2003	847-328-1837	(stevenlipson@attbi.com)
Nancy Jean Schoo	2003	630-837-3153	(nancyjean@earthlink.net)
Joel Edwards	2004	847-564-9537	
Allison Tribble	2004	773-728-4874	(allisont@rcn.com)
Ed Gamson	2005	847-432-7825	(epgamson@welshkatz.com)
Barry Lubin	2005	847-432-5698	(BRLNo1@aol.com)
Jim Spatzek	2006	847-498-4638	(jamcam@avenew.com)
Rich Unger	2006	773-685-2677	(aroma_imp@hotmail.com)



Brassia maculata – Photo courtesy of Rick's Tropica

IOS MEMBERS IMPORT HIGH QUALITY ORCHID POTS

Mary Seyfarth

We at Purple Clay Imports hope that many of you are enjoying the ceramic planters that we exhibited at several meetings and at the Spring Show and Sale in April. The three of us who own Purple Clay are IOS members and local artists who traveled to China on a potter's tour in 2000. We visited Yixing, a site on the Yangtze River that we knew was famous for its local stoneware clay. The prized teapots, famous since the Ming Dynasty, are produced at this pottery production center of China. We were not prepared, however, to discover the variety and beauty of the "purple clay wares" also produced at this site. Being potters, we appreciate good pots and as soon as we saw these pots the three of us had the same idea: lets bring a sampling of these planters home and show them off. Purple Clay Imports was born and our fourth shipment arrived earlier

this month!

During our trips we visited with several artisans and we were impressed with their skill. Their movements, either applying clay to clay or carving the clay, was as graceful as a dancer's



movements. The images on the outside of the pots are traditional subjects like dragons, phoenix, fish and lotus. The planters engraved with an

orchid leaf and a line of poetry are designed specifically for orchids. These pots "breathe" well and additional drainage holes are provided in many designs. As the Chinese have known for years, the orchid and the planter become one and together, make a beautiful presentation. Take notice of several stamps on the underside of each planter. These are called "chops" and they are the marks of individual artisans who worked on the pot. In keeping with Chinese traditions, beautiful purple clay unites the designer, the artist and the poet.

For additional information please visit our website: www.purpleclay-usa.com. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Mary Seyfarth, Christopher Campbell and Xiao Sheng Bi.

WANTED: Identified slides of orchids & orchid setups for talk to be given in the fall. Will pay for duplication. Contact -garnerjl@attbi.com.

REMEMBER – NO JUNE MEETING
NEXT MEETING JULY 13 AT NATT'S
ORCHIDS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO JULY
NEWSLETTER – JUNE 15th. E-MAIL
ARTICLES, NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PHOTOS, ETC. TO JERRY GARNER,
garnerjl@attbi.com

Welcome New Members

We have one new member to report this month, a grower member: **County Line Orchids, Ron and Rose Poehler**, Fort Wayne, Indiana. When you see Ron and Rose at the meetings and shows be sure to say hello and make them feel welcome to the IOS.

Membership Numbers Stable

At the Board meeting in May, Allen Morr, Membership Chairman, reported our member count was at 266 after purging the list of those who had not paid dues. Seventy-seven people had not renewed. Total membership is now approximately the same as last year at this time.

May Plant of the Month Winners

Barbara Schmitz for her *Brassia rex* (windowsill) and Ed Gamson (greenhouse) for his *Phal.* Aiki Sato x Jenco Arctic Mass "Bryna". The week before Ed received 83 points, AM/AOS, for this plant. If you weren't at the May meeting to see these exquisite orchids, you really missed something. Congratulations to Barbara and Ed.



June 8, 2003 – NO MEETING
July 13, 2003 – Natt's Orchids
August 9, 2003 – Oak Hill Gardens

September 14, 2003 – OCC
October 11-12, 2003 – Fall Mini-Show
November 9, 2003 – OCC
December 14, 2003 – Hausermann's Holiday Party

YOU ASKED FOR IT! THE
TOURS OF ECUADOR!

Rosalie Dixler

THE IN-SITU AND EX-SITU
WORKSHOP AT ECUAGENERA
FEBRUARY 9 TO 12, 2004

The tour will leave at 8:30 AM from the street entry to the Catholic University where the Show is located. Driving to the north of Quito, the first stop is a visit to the Ethnographic Museum at the Equator Monument. You might want to have your picture taken as you stand with one foot in the Southern Hemisphere and the other in the Northern Hemisphere.

The next stop will be to stand at the edge of the Pululahua crater that is now dormant fortunately). It is a stunning view!

Following is a drive through the verdant Andes towards Mindo, where one sees many colorful orchids on the side of the highway and on the mountain road leading to the Bella Vista Inn where lunch, hummingbirds and an orchid walk awaits you.

On the way back to Quito, we will stop at El Pahuma, a conservation environment with a path that winds through orchids and bromeliads up to a beautiful waterfall that feeds a gurgling stream. On the way you might see one of the Cock-of-the-Rocks that live on a cliff-side above the stream.

Then back to Quito in time to get ready (if you have made your reservation) for the Closing Ceremony and Banquet in the remarkable stone monastery of San Francisco, one of the oldest in Latin America that dates back to the mid-sixteenth century.

The cost for this tour, which includes entry to the Equator Monument and Museum, transportation, lunch with beverages, and fees at El Pahuma, is **\$75 per person**, based on a minimum of ten people on the tour.

[FIVE-DAY TOUR TO THE UPPER AMAZON](#)
[JUNGLE BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9,](#)
[2004](#)

Driving to Tena from Quito takes you through spectacular mountains. The scenery is breathtaking and a camera is a must. Although

Quito is on the equator at about 3,800 meters elevation it is wisdom to bring a few warm clothes. As you descend to the Tena area, the temperature rises and you'll know you're in the tropics. So if you decide to take this trip, bring light clothing and boots as well. On this tour, you'll get the first-hand, hands-on feel of a world you've probably only read about or seen on television. Birds, butterflies, monkeys, caimans, turtles, and other tropical fauna and flora abound. The cost for the tour, including transportation, four days and three nights at the Aliñahui Inn, all meals, and field trips, is **\$370 per person**, based on a minimum of ten people. Aliñahui Inn is located on 500 acres of primary jungle. Learn more about the inn by opening www.butterflylodge.org. Offered also is an optional extension beginning February 13 to Tiputini Lakes in the Upper Amazon. *Information about this tour extension is available upon request.*

The Itinerary

Monday, February 9:

Leave Quito in the morning by car, van or bus, depending on the number of people on the tour. The excursion goes to the tropical rain forest to see orchids and tropical plants including those used medicinally, and an explanation of the ecosystem of the rainforest.

Tuesday, February 10:

Departure to the indigenous community (Capirona or Rio Blanco) is by canoe along the Napo and Puni Rivers. Tour members get first hand exposure to the cultural activities of these people including lunch. Later, there will be an excursion into the primary rainforest. After returning to the Aliñahui Inn for dinner, there will be a tour by night.

Wednesday, February 11:

A canoe trip on the Napo and Puni takes the group to the Native Museum, the AmaZOOnico Animals Rescue & Rehabilitation Center, followed by a short walk in the forest, a picnic lunch, and an optional swim.

Thursday, February 12:

A trek will take the group to the Jatun Sacha Biological Station with a guided tour of its forest. Following will be a visit to the Conservation Center for Amazonian Plants (CCPA) including a section on medicinal plants and a large variety of Heliconias. Finally we will stop in Archidona at the Orchid Paradise Inn for lunch and then return to Quito.

THE ONE-DAY TOUR OF QUITO AND THE BOTANIC GARDEN ORCHID CONSERVATORY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

Quito is considered one of the most beautiful cities in all of South America.

The city is nestled in a long valley in the Andes below Pichincha, a mountain and volcano complex. At more than 2,800 meters (9,200 feet) in elevation, Quito is well over one and a half miles above sea level. Other snow-capped volcanoes are visible from Quito. Known as the "city of eternal spring", day-time temperatures in Quito are mild year-round. The nights are crisp and a sweater is usually all that is needed. In pre-Colombian times, Quito was a prosperous town of the Quitu tribe (hence the city's present-day name). It later became the northern capital of the extensive Inca Empire. Sebastian de Benalcazar founded Modern Quito atop the ruins of the Inca city in 1534. Many of the original colonial buildings survive in the center of the city. In 1978, UNESCO declared Quito one of the world's important cultural heritage sites in recognition of Quito's artistic and architectural traditions.

At 9:30 a.m. the tour will take you from the street entry of the Catholic University to the historical colonial downtown area including: Independence Square, the Carondelet Palace and Cathedral, then to the church and monastery of San Francisco, which was completed in 1535, La Compañía, which dates from 1605, and San Augustin. Afterwards, the tour will go by car to Panecillo Hill for a panoramic view of the city.

Lunch in the garden will be followed by a visit to the Botanic Garden of Quito and the Orchid Conservatory. After returning to the Catholic



University, there will be a visit to the Archeology Museum in the Casa de la Cultura. The cost for the tour is **\$38 per person** (based on a minimum group of 10 persons) and includes lunch and entry to the museum.

THE CUSTOM TOURS, INCLUDING MACHU PICCHU AND GALAPAGOS

It will be possible to design a special tour to fit your interests, your schedule, and your pocketbook, and for any size group, even if the "group" consists of one person. For instance, if you decide to attend the Workshop at Ecuagenera, you can then go the following Monday, February 16, 2004 to the Galapagos, Ecuador's pristine islands in the Pacific, with a four-day mountain and jungle tour in between, of course, with the focus on orchids. The Galapagos tour can span either four or seven days. This is a very popular tour and must be booked a year ahead. Or you may wish to go south to the Baños area where orchids abound, and stay at a mountain inn where you can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, cycling, or just browsing in the field to see orchids and birds. Going north to Otavalo, at the central market you'll find fabulous bargains in beautiful native crafts: weaving, silverwork, and much, much more. The town of Cotacachi features the finest leather products anywhere at very affordable prices. Then you go on to the village of San Antonio de Ibarra where you will find wonderful wood carvings, followed by a visit to the Colonial School of Art.

Other custom tours include visiting haciendas and churches, photo safaris, bird watching tours, ethnic tours, agricultural tours, and Andean tours including flying to Peru to visit the incredible Inca ruins of Machu Picchu with orchids galore, and other Peruvian locations that are rife with orchids: a visit to the Arias greenhouses in Chanchamayo, or trekking in Moyabamba.

It's your decision. We'll create a tour that will fit your individual or group interests.

Email Alexander Hirtz at alex@ahirtz.com or write to: **Asociacion de Orquideologia de Quito, P.O. Box 17-22-20043, Cumbaya, Quito, Ecuador**

THE ONE-DAY TOUR TO BELLAVISTA, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

This tour will leave at 8:30 AM from the street entry to the Catholic University where the Show is located. Driving to the north of Quito, the first stop is a visit to the Ethnographic Museum at the Equator Monument. You might want to have your picture taken as you stand with one

foot in the Southern Hemisphere and the other in the Northern Hemisphere.

The next stop will be to stand at the edge of the Pululahua crater that is now dormant (fortunately). It is a stunning view. Following is a drive through the verdant Andes towards Mindo, where one sees many colorful orchids on the side of the highway and on the mountain road leading to the Bella Vista Inn where lunch, hummingbirds and an orchid walk await you. On the way back to Quito, we will stop at El Pahuma, a conservation environment with a path that winds through orchids and bromeliads up to a beautiful waterfall that feeds a gurgling stream. On the way you might see one of the Cock-of-the-Rocks that live on a cliff-side above the stream.

Then it's back to Quito in time to get ready (if you have made your reservation) for the Closing Ceremony and Banquet in the remarkable stone monastery of San Francisco, one of the oldest in Latin America, the church dates back to the mid-sixteenth century. The cost for this tour, which includes entry to the Equator Monument and Museum, transportation, lunch with beverages, and fees at El Pahuma, is **\$75 per person**, based on a minimum of ten people on the tour.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE IN U.S. DOLLARS TO: ASOCIACION DE ORQUIDEOLOGIA DE QUITO P.O. BOX 17-22-20043 QUITO, ECUADOR

For more detail and additional information, contact Rosalie Dixler

2003 Board Meetings

The IOS Board meets the second Tuesday of odd months at 7:30 p.m. Any IOS member may attend. Please notify Joe Dixler if you wish to attend out of courtesy to the person hosting the meeting.

July 8, 2003 – Ed Gamson will host the July Board meeting at his home at 2823 Summit Avenue, Highland Park, IL.

September 9, 2003 – Jim Spatzek, 2137 Center Avenue, Northbrook, IL.

November 11, 2003 – Diana Nielsen, 57 Salt Creek Road, Roselle, IL.



Photo by Helena Fierlinger, Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Dendrobium sp.

FALL MINI-SHOW

Don't forget the upcoming fall mini-show, October 11th and 12th (set-up the 10th). Although not the same extravaganza as the spring show and sale, this year's show should be an exciting challenge. Although there are no vendors at the fall show, attendees can still walk away with an unusual orchid in hand. Barry Lubin has agreed to head up the Rare Plant Auction, a trial event with the cooperation of the Chicago Judging Center. Barry, with the help of Rich Unger, will solicit donations of rare and valuable orchids from a variety of vendors. This sounds like it should be a fun and profitable event.

Other than the auction, this is a display only show. The Board would like to increase the number of displays beyond the usual fourteen and reduce the admission charge below the five dollars charged at the spring show. Start thinking now about putting together a display for the show. Even if you can't do a display alone, get together with some other members and combine your plants and your talents. The Board is



considering inviting vendors to display without selling. This has worked at other shows and may be a way to "beef up" the fall show. Our spring show was such a success we don't want to drop the ball now.

Plans are already being made for advertising (bookmarks and posters, media attention), and it isn't too early for you to volunteer to help in some way before the show, during the show, and after the show. Everyone can do something, and if we all contribute, the show will be successful. More details will follow in later newsletters and at IOS meetings.

Spring Show Report

As stated above, the spring show was a success, thanks to everyone's hard work, thanks to the vendors, and thanks to the attendees. Anne Kotowski reported that there were 1615 paying attendees (remember members and spouses got in at no charge) and the Society made a profit of approximately \$3,000. Oakton was pleased with the event, and the vendors were happy, especially considering the new venue and the economic slump. Of course there were a few minor challenges and concerns but nothing we can't deal with at subsequent shows. Everyone, especially Anne and her legion of volunteers, deserves a big "thank you".

Member Wins Joe Koss Award

The Joe Koss Award for the highest point count given an orchid at the Chicago Judging Center or at an IOS Show was awarded to Joe Dixler for his *Barbosella porshii* Little Fingers. The plant had received 92 points, and a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE). A CCE is the FCC of species orchids and requires 90 points or more. This orchid is a New World Plant and a member of the Pleurathallis Alliance. According to Joe, the plant is "tiny", covered in hundreds of flowers and buds, growing 360 degrees around a piece of tree fern. The orchid is suspended from the upper level of Joe's greenhouse where it receives dappled light, frequent watering, and fogging. "This is definitely not a windowsill plant," says Joe, "and I wouldn't recommend it to anyone without a greenhouse." This sounds like a fascinating little plant, well worth the effort required to grow it. Congratulations to Joe on his award and a job well done!

Classifieds

For Sale: Three-tier orchid cart, including trays and light set up. Purchased from Hausermann's. Excellent condition. Price negotiable – make a reasonable offer. Contact Eugenia Juracic, 847/647-0974.

**Check out the IOS Website at www.iosoc.com
You won't be disappointed**

Election Results

2003 elections were held at the May members' meeting and the slate of officers and board members as presented was accepted unanimously by those members present.

2003-2004 Officers

President	Joe Dixler
1st Vice-President	Wendy Holtzman
2nd Vice-President	Lois Cinert
3rd Vice-President	Diana Nielsen
Secretary	Jim Spatzek
Asst. Secretary	Jerry Garner
Treasurer	Steve Lipson
Asst. Treasurer	Allen Morr
Past President	John Stubbings

Directors

Joel Edwards	2004*
Allison Tribble	2004
Ed Gamson	2005
Barry Lubin	2005
Anne Kotowski	2006
Rich Unger	2006
Sandy Fuller	2007
Sue Golan	2007

* Indicates year term on board expires

Terms for new board members and officers begin July 1, 2003.



Ascda. Princess Mikasa "Sapphire". Photo courtesy of www.alohaorchids.com

2004 IOS Show Dates

April 3 & 4, 2004 (April 2nd set up date)

October 2 & 3 (October 1st set up date)

Carpool Anyone?

Recently some members have expressed an interest in carpooling for meetings. This idea might be especially helpful for our July, August, and December meetings not held at OCC but at growers' sites where parking can be limited and the location a bit out of the way for some members. If you are interested in carpooling or acting as a carpool captain now or in the future, just e-mail me (garnerjl@attbi.com) with your name, location, and contact information and I'll publish it in the next newsletter. This could be a great way for members to get to know each other better, save money on gas, and help the environment a little.

Monthly Member Plant Sales Guidelines

Barry Lubin

Members are encouraged to bring plants for sale to each of our monthly meetings, except those hosted by a commercial grower. Plants **must** be insect and disease free, and in good overall condition. The steps for putting a plant on the sales table are very simple. For each plant, complete a short form (available at the sales table) with the plant name, as much description as you care to write e.g. parentage, color, fragrance, growing conditions, and the selling price. One copy of the form is taped to the plant, one carbon is used by the IOS for accounting, and the seller retains the second carbon copy. Shortly after the meeting the treasurer will mail you a check with the net proceeds for all of the plants you sold at that meeting. Net is your asking price less 25% retained by the IOS. First-time sellers are often concerned about setting a selling price. Look at similar plants on the sales table and talk to more experienced sellers to determine a "market" value. The size, condition, rarity, flowering vs. not flowering and the urgency to sell will all affect the price being asked.

Bringing plants to the sales table is a great way to clear space in your growing area for new acquisitions; it makes affordable plants available to fellow IOS members; and it contributes a little monetary support to the IOS treasury.

Please try to have plants ready on the sales table no later than 12:30 before the meeting begins and be sure to check on your sales before leaving the meeting.

I've picked up some really wonderful and unusual plants this way and I encourage you to participate in this great service offered by your IOS.

From the Editor

Hopefully you enjoyed last month's expanded twelve-page newsletter. We are trying to add more news and information, plus more photos to enhance the quality of the publication.

To more fully enjoy the new format, consider switching to the e-mail version of the newsletter. It has so many advantages over the printed version! You get it faster. You get those beautiful color photos. It's easier to store on your hard drive than in a file drawer. (You can always print a paper version, with color photos, if you have to have something to hold in your hands while you read.) You save trees. You reduce pollution. You save the IOS a lot of money it could be using for better programs. You hold down the cost of dues. Honestly, the cost of printing has increased drastically over the past year and our dues barely cover the newsletter printing costs. We don't want to raise dues. We don't want to "force" members to get the newsletter electronically. And we don't want to reduce the information in or quality of the print newsletter vs. the e-newsletter.

I have been communicating with other newsletter editors about this issue and the board has been discussing the problem for many months. (See the article in this month's *Orchids* for some thoughts on this matter). I should have more information for you in the next few months. But in the meantime, help us out. Opt for the e-version for a few months. If you don't like it, at least you tried it. We want this to be voluntary, but that means more of you need to volunteer.

Send me an e-mail today (garnerjl@attbi.com) saying you are willing to try the e-newsletter. That's all you have to do to get a better newsletter, help the environment, and save your IOS money. **The first 10 (and there must be at least 10) members to convert will be eligible for a drawing for a new orchid related book!!!**



Cattleya maxima

www.rickstropica.com

Next month I'll be adding a new feature to the newsletter: a list of my and your favorite orchid web sites (other than www.iosoc.com). I have a long list ready to go, but I need to hear from you. E-mail me those web sites today!

Read any good orchid books or articles lately? Send me titles of books that have caught your attention lately, and e-mail or snail me articles you think other IOS members might learn from or enjoy reading in the newsletter. I am always looking for more interesting material for the newsletter and I'll try to work in everything submitted to me.

Finally, another new feature will be a monthly interview with an IOS member, either new or a continuing member. Do you have some special knowledge about orchids or interesting anecdote about your hobby or business? Do you know another member you think has something to share with our members? E-mail or call me and I'll be happy to contact the person for an interview. We have a lot of talented and interesting orchid growers in the IOS and their contributions to our enjoying orchids should not be missed.

Culture Notes

Cattleya sp.



Cattleyas are among the most popular orchids. Their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids. Cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors, shapes, forms and sizes. Culture varies only slightly among most of these. This sheet is a general guide to basic *Cattleya* culture. Like many other cultivated orchids, Cattleyas are epiphytes, or air plants. They have developed water-storage organs, called

pseudobulbs, and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They are accustomed to being dry at the roots between waterings, and therefore should be potted in free-draining media.

Light is the most important factor in growing and flowering Cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse or in the home. Bright light to some sun should be given to the plants, with no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means an east, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain) or west window in the home, and 50 to 70 percent full sun in a greenhouse (3,000 to 5,000 foot-candles). Leaves should be a medium-green color, pseudobulbs erect and requiring no staking.

Temperatures should be 55 to 60 F at night and 70 to 85 F during the day. Seedlings should have night temperatures five to 10 degrees higher. A 15- to 20 degree differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95 F), if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

Water should be provided in two ways: in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the container is dictated by many criteria: size and type of the vessel, temperature, light, etc. Mature Cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of mix; it can indicate if a plant needs water by the relative weight - light means dry, heavy means wet. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that are resting. Water below 50 F may injure plants, as will water softened by the addition of salts.

Fertilize on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high-nitrogen (such as 30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. Otherwise, use a balanced fertilizer. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer at least every two weeks, and when not actively growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at one-quarter the recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent the buildup of fertilizer salts.

Potting is necessary when the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot or the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after two to three years). It is best to repot just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, after flowering or in the spring.

Mature Cattleyas are usually potted in coarser potting material than are seedlings. Until a plant has at least six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, three to five pseudobulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for approximately two years of growth before crowding the pot. Pile mix against one side of the pot and cut off any dead roots. Spread firm, live roots over the pile, with the cut rhizome against the side of the pot. Fill the pot with medium, working around the roots. Pack firmly and stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots until new root growth is seen.

Orchid Conservation

By Joseph Dougherty

The Need for a Balanced and Rational Approach

No matter what your level of involvement in the orchid growing community, whether a preeminent scientist or a beginning hobbyist, one of the most crucial topics you should be concerned about is orchid conservation. This is an issue in which we all have a lot at stake; consequently, we must all make a concerted effort to promote orchid preservation around the world.



A rainforest clearing in Tena, Ecuador shows the scars of burning and deforestation. Without salvage efforts, all epiphytes in these areas are destroyed. (Photo by Joseph Dougherty)

Orchid protection takes primarily two forms, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. Both must be employed to ensure the survival of as much biodiversity as possible, both in the orchid family and among other endangered species.

Parks and Refuges in Areas of High Biodiversity are Essential

In situ (meaning "in place") conservation involves protecting the natural habitat where a species occurs in nature. We strongly support *in situ* conservation efforts, particularly in regions whose heightened biodiversity index

makes them a nexus of orchid speciation. New Guinea in the Indo-Pacific and the northwestern corner of South America are prime examples of regions with very high biodiversity and endemism (species that occur nowhere else). Setting aside permanent parks and other kinds of protected habitat in these regions pays huge dividends in terms of the numbers of species protected and the diversity of genetic material conserved for the future.

Unfortunately, *in situ* conservation is not always a viable option. Habitats may be too fragmented to be sustainable, pollinators or other components of a species' lifecycle may no longer be present due to indiscriminate pesticide use or other modifications of the biome, private land owners may be unsympathetic and uncooperative with conservation initiatives, or the species may simply have been grossly over-collected by unscrupulous orchid fanciers (this is a particular threat for large, showy species like *Phragmipediums* and *Paphiopedilums*). In these cases, the species' only hope for survival may be in the botanical collections of institutions and private individuals around the world.

Cultivation of Orchid Species Helps Ensure Their Survival

Ex situ ("outside its place") conservation is an important tool in the world of orchid conservation. Some orchid species are entirely extinct in their natural habitats — if not for the efforts of orchid breeders to propagate these species in captivity, they would be lost forever. For example, *Epidendrum ilense*, a beautiful epiphytic orchid from the lowlands of western Ecuador, is entirely extinct in the wild due to deforestation and rampant modification of its natural range to accommodate agricultural interests (primarily banana and palm plantations). Fortunately, a few plants were collected and distributed into the hands of orchid fanciers before the wild population was eliminated. Today we can enjoy *Epidendrum ilense*, and its genetic information can continue to be a part of the Earth's biodiversity catalog, because prudent people foresaw the need to preserve this species in their collections.

In vitro conservation is a crucial link in the chain of orchid species preservation. If you have the right growing conditions, consider helping with this distributed task of maintaining species by purchasing species seedlings from reputable breeders and conservation-minded growers. Hundreds (maybe even thousands) of orchid species disappear every year as natural habitats around the world are slashed and

burned in the name of "progress" and development. Both habitat protection and responsible salvage operations are needed to protect these species.

CITES: A Mixed Blessing

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), an international treaty that restricts world trafficking in endangered animals and plants, also strictly controls orchids. Most nations of the world, including the United States and the European Union countries, are signatories. Among orchid scientists, preservationists and conscientious environmentalists, CITES is a mixed blessing and often a source of disagreement. While the CITES treaty has helped to save the rhino and the elephant, CITES restrictions often make it difficult to save endangered orchid species which would otherwise find their way into public botanical gardens and private collections.



In Tortuguero, Costa Rica, Joe Dougherty works to salvage orchids from the crushed crown of a rainforest tree felled by loggers to feed a plywood mill in Moin, north of Limon. The orchids pulled from the mud now reside on garden trees on the grounds of El Manati resort, but the hotel's trees are full... so where will the next batch of salvaged orchids go? CITES modifications are needed to allow plants that would otherwise rot in the mud to be brought into botanical collections.

CITES currently prohibits the export of plants "salvaged" from an area destined to be burned, bulldozed, or drowned behind a new dam. Without the financial incentive of the money to be recouped by selling the salvaged plants, it is very difficult to organize local efforts to collect orchids and other epiphytes prior to a forest's cutting or the construction of a hydroelectric project. Small numbers of plants can be relocated locally, but most suitable relocation sites already host their own flora. When an entire hillside is cut down or an entire valley flooded, the only real recourse for relocation is to move the salvaged stock into cultivation. CITES forbids this, however, and that is why

many people in the orchid world have mixed feelings about this international treaty. CITES is great for protecting animals, and does help to protect plants from unjustified collecting and overzealous exportation, but it does not tend to do a very good job of protecting plants whose habitats are being destroyed. The regulations that govern the salvaging and relocation of orchids, as well as the movement of plants into cultivation, need to be redrafted to facilitate improved conservation of plants that are otherwise destined to disappear under the floodwaters or beneath the chain saws of developing nations.

(Adapted from the "OrchidMania" website – www.orchidmania.com)

The opinions expressed above are those of the author and not necessarily those of the IOS officers, Board, or membership.



Photo courtesy of Francisco Miranda

Orchid Record Keeping

An article titled "Orchid Collection Records" by Ken Slump in the "Growing With Orchid" section of the June 2003 issue of *Orchids* related why and how to keep records of our orchid collections. Slump indicated that records could be minimal (a list of plant names) to elaborate (accession numbering with purchase date, source, flowering records, cultural data, pest problems, and much more). These records can be kept in a spiral notebook or by using fairly expensive computer software specifically designed for orchid inventories. The article is very informative and Slump has a lot of good ideas on record keeping you might find helpful.

How do you maintain your records of your orchid collection? What factors do you find most important and useful to record and least important? Do you keep an "obituary" section (with cause of death) or do you just erase the plant from your records? Do you use a lined notebook, note cards, the computer? Or do not keep any records at all?

Share your record keeping techniques (or lack thereof) with other IOS members. Write to me at garnerjl@attbi.com with your comments and ideas for sharing in an upcoming newsletter.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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