



NOVEMBER BEGINNER'S MEETING

November 5th, 2002- 6:30 PM - Casa Del Prado - Room 104

By Ivan Harrison, 2nd VP

Thanks to all the Novice Class members who brought in a plant for judging at last month's meeting. What an incredible display of well-grown orchids! Our President, Gary Pierwola, made the comment that the quality of flowers on the Novice table would be a credit to ANY orchid show. Keep up the good work! There will also be a Novice table at the November meeting, so bring in your blooming plants! The only requirement is that you have never won a ribbon at any of the orchid shows - winning last month does NOT disqualify you from entering a plant each month until you DO win a ribbon at a Mini Show!

Our guest this month will be Forrest Robinson, who, as most of you know, is the member who brings in all those superbly-grown plants to each and every monthly meeting that sit on the table to the left of the stage. Mr. Robinson is the one who (inadvertently) intimidates all of the new members into thinking that they don't have a chance of winning a ribbon at the shows "if Forrest Robinson is entering"!!

Whilst the reality is that Mr. Robinson is one of the best growers, if not the best grower, in our Society, he takes great pains to encourage all of us to grow orchids, to experiment with media and growing conditions, and to bring our plants in for judging. At the November meeting, he is going to share his philosophy on growing Cattleya in San Diego County and the techniques he uses to produce the huge flowering plants that we see each month; "Cattleya Culture for the Novice".

We will miss you all at the next meeting, as we will be down in southern Florida on an orchid excursion. The only down side to our trip is that we will miss Forrest Robinson's lecture, but there will be other occasions. Instead we will be tromping through the Everglades and wandering around some of the more famous orchid growers with hygrometer and light meter in hand! We hope to take plenty of photos and to share them with the Novice Group early in 2003.

Have a wonderful November meeting, and we will see you all at the December party and plant exchange.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

November 5th, 2002- 7:30 PM - Casa Del Prado - Room 101

By Ben Machado, 1st VP

We have another someone special this month as our guest speaker. Our society is cooperating with two other societies to bring Lourens Grobler of South Africa to the Southwest for a brief speaking tour. While Lourens is in the US for the New York Orchid Society Speaker's Day event over the first weekend of November, we get to benefit by adding a few days to his trip.

Lourens has a presentation for us titled "Angraecoids." This will cover the Angrecoids of Africa and Madagascar. The talk will include description and culture of Angraecum, Aerangis, Aeranthes, Lemurorchis, Plectrelminthus and Solenangis.

Lourens is no stranger to the Southwest; he has spent a considerable amount of time in the Santa Barbara area. Here is what Lourens provided for his biography:

"I have been growing and photographing orchids for 17 years now, since the age of 10. My father got interested in 1975 and our collection of mainly species has been build up since then. Together with my wife and father, we own Afri Orchids, a retail orchid nursery specialising in African Orchids.

My special interest is species from around the world, but in particular African orchids, Stanhopeainae and Pleurothallids. I'm also actively involved in the conservation of the indigenous orchids of our region, especially the terrestrial species which are threatened by habitat destruction.

I am an accredited orchid judge of the South African Orchid Council and have given lectures around our country as well as at our triennial National Show. In 1994 and 1998 I had the wonderful experience of staying with James & Lauris Rose of Cal-Orchid and helping them in their nursery. This also gave me the opportunity to attend and judge shows like Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, San Diego Orchid Show, Pacific Orchid Exposition, Miami International Orchid Show and the Greater New York Orchid Show."

Complimenting his presentation on Angraecoids, Lourens is also providing the plants for our Plant Opportunity Table. He is promising a selection of his African Orchids.

Members and Advertisers

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, or announcements related to orchids, **to be considered for publication in the upcoming December issue, please contact the editors by November 8th.**

You are encouraged to contact the editor by either email or phone from 12 pm to 6 pm only, Michael Orser at **619.269.3445** or at editor@sorchids.com

Advertisers: please contact Marjorie Kuhlmann at **858.675.0885** or kuhlmann@utm.net under the same deadline as in bold above.

The San Diego County Orchid Society BOARD MEMBERS

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

OUR PURPOSE: *To promote interest in orchids and their cultivation, to educate by exchanging information and experiences related to successful orchid culture, and to support the conservation of orchids in the wild.*

SDCOS meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park. We invite you to join the society to receive the monthly newsletter and many other benefits.

Beginner's Class: 6:30 pm, Room 104
General Meeting: 7:30 pm, Room 101

If you would like to join the society, please send your check for \$10* for individual, \$12.50 for Dual membership, payable to SDCOS, to: **Vivian Folmer**, SDCOS Membership, 13127 Roundup, San Diego, CA 92129. Telephone: **858.538.6187**, email: vivianfolmer@hotmail.com

*1/2 price January first through June thirtieth

UPCOMING CALIFORNIA EVENTS

November 2nd-3rd

UCI Arboretum Fall Orchid Festival, UCI Arboretum, Irvine, CA. Contact: Laura Lyons, (949) 824-5833.

November 2nd-3rd

Saturday 8-4:30 & Sunday 9-4:30, SANTA BARBARA ORCHID ESTATE FALL OPEN HOUSE AND AUCTION, 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, California 93111, sboe@sborchid.com

November 9th-10th

Riverside/San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society, Redlands Mall, 100 Redlands Blvd., Redlands, CA. Contact: Sandy Smith, 125 Auburn Ct., Redlands, CA 92374.

November 16th-17th

Orchid Society of California Show, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA. Contact: Francisco Baptista, 375 Warwick Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577; (510) 635-2845.

November 30th-Dec. 1st

Santa Barbara Orchid Show, Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, CA, AOS Judging Chair: Jim Sloniker, Show Chair: Tom Ball 805.967.3503

January 3rd-5th

Peninsula Orchid Society Show, Community Activity Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA. Contact: Mary E. Gerritsen, 541 Parrott Dr., San Mateo, CA 94402; (650) 348-6492; meg570@attbi.com

January 4th-5th

Peninsula Orchid Society Show, Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA. Contact: Mary Gerritsen, 541 Parrott Dr., San Mateo, CA 94402; (650) 348-6492.

January 25th

San Diego County Branch Cymbidium Society Orchid Auction, Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA. Contact: John Wade Bogren, 2102 Concours Ct., El Cajon, CA 92019; (760) 212-7905; wadebogren@cox.net

The San Diego Cymbidium Society will hold its annual orchid auction on Saturday, January 25th, 2003. The auction will begin at 12 noon and last until the plants are gone (about 4 pm). The auction will be held at the Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad, CA. For information contact Wade Bogren, 2102 Concours Court, El Cajon, CA 92019. 760.212.7905 days; 619.444.3233 nights; or e-mail wadebogren@cox.net There will be plants from local southern California growers and from our members' collections. Everyone is welcome!

SDCOS Board of Directors Meeting

Submitted by Romy Reyes
Oct. 8, 2002: Meeting called to order at 7:01PM

Present: Gary Pierwola, Ben Machado, Ivan Harrison, Charlie Fouquette, Genie Hammond, Bob Clark, Sam DeMaria, Romy Reyes, Ro Harrison and Candy Kalman

Reports

Minutes of the September meeting was read and approved by motion. Treasurer Barbie Mays- No reports presented. First Vice-President Ben Machado- Lourens Grobler(from South Africa) will be the speaker at the November general meeting. TOPIC: ANGRAECIDS. Second Vice-President Ivan Harrison- Forrest Robinson will be the presenter at the Beginners Class. TOPIC: Cattleya Culture for Novice Growers.

Old Business

Board members decided to keep the same day for the board meeting, which is the Tuesday following the general meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Miscellaneous

On Sept. 25, 2002, members of the Board heard two(2) presentations regarding advertising/public relations for the 2003 Spring show. The companies, Media Mix and JWalcher Communications, made their presentations and the Board selected Media Mix to do the ads/public relations responsibilities for the 2003 show. The proposal to change the amount from \$400 to \$750 on Section 7, item d, of the By-Laws, was approved by the general membership on Oct. 1, 2002. The proposal to have the Christmas party catered was approved by the general membership on Oct. 1, 2002. There will be entertainment and plant exchange. The party will be on December 3, 2002. There was a discussion to increase the ticket price for the 2003 show. The Board decided against it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

The November meeting is your last chance to subscribe or renew your subscription to the Orchid Digest before the rates rise on January 1. Please see Allen Clark, your Orchid Digest Representative, who will be set up in the vicinity of the door to the kitchen at the meeting. And please remember.....the Orchid Digest makes a very thoughtful holiday gift, one which keeps giving throughout the upcoming year!

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Submitted by Ro Harrison

As orchid enthusiasts, we are always looking for small ways to help with conservation. Here is something everyone with a computer and email can do EACH DAY!

Click on to a site called www.therainforestsitesite.com. Funding generated by The Rainforest Site goes to pay for rainforest acquisition and management, ensuring the protection of Earth's biological diversity. Some background to this site is listed below:

The Rainforest Site is proud to introduce its new owners, Tim Kunin and Greg Hesterberg, co-owners of EcologyFund.com. Long-time friends and activists, they bought The Rainforest Site in mid-August of 2001. Greg and Tim are dedicated to restoring and maintaining the site's position as a leader in online activism and a dynamic force in the race to preserve the earth's endangered rainforests and other imperiled habitats.

Originally launched in May 2000, The Rainforest Site focuses the power of the Internet on a specific ecological need -- the preservation of the world's rainforests. Individuals from around the world visit the site each day to click the "Save Our Rainforests" button and help rescue imperiled land. In just its first year of operation, The Rainforest Site generated funds to purchase and preserve over 5,650 acres of endangered land.

Land preservation, made possible by funds raised at The Rainforest Site, is paid for by site sponsors and carried out by The Nature Conservancy, The Rainforest Conservation Fund, The World Parks Endowment and The Friends of Calakmul. These organizations work to preserve rainforest land in Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay and other locations worldwide.

You will also find links on this page to The Hunger Site, The Breast Cancer Site and The Animal Rescue Site, where you can support other good causes at no cost to you, except a moment or two of your time.

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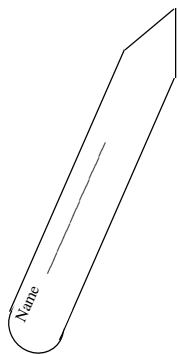
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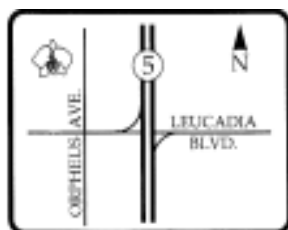
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from www.orchidculture.com

Charles & Margaret Baker cmbaker@orchidculture.com

This culture sheet was provided by Charles and Margaret Baker. Please visit their web site to find out about their Orchid Species Culture books, Pollination Database, and culture sheet subscription service.

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Ecuador. Plants have been found in only one cloudforest area in one remote valley in southeast Ecuador between Loja and Zamora. They grow in bright light in tree tops and on fence posts at about 4600 ft. (1400 m).

CLIMATE: Station #84265, Loja, Ecuador, Lat. 4.0S, Long. 79.4W, at 4062 ft. (1238 m). Temperatures are calculated for an elevation of 4600 ft. (1400 m), resulting in probable extremes of F (C) and F (C).

Cultural Recommendations:

LIGHT: 1200-2000 fc. Rather bright conditions are required. Light should be filtered or diffused, and plants should not be exposed to direct sun. Strong air movement should be provided at all times.

TEMPERATURES: Throughout the year, days average 81-85F (27-29C), and nights average 61-64F (16-18C), with a diurnal range of 18-23F (10-13C).

HUMIDITY: Probably more than 80% year-round in the cloudforest habitat.

WATER: Rainfall at the weather station is light throughout the year. Moisture in the cloudforest habitat is much greater than indicated, however, and additional moisture is available from heavy dew, fog and mist. Cultivated plants should be kept evenly moist all year. They should never be allowed to dry out completely.

FERTILIZER: A balanced fertilizer mixed at 1/4-1/2 recommended strength should be applied every 3-4 weeks if plants are grown in sphagnum moss, tree-fern fiber, or osmunda. If grown in fir bark, the applications should be made every 1-2 weeks. Many growers prefer to switch from the normal balanced formula and make an application of high nitrogen fertilizer early in the year when plants are actively growing. They may then make an application of a high phosphate or "bloom booster" formula in late summer or autumn in order to promote flowering.

REST PERIOD: Growing conditions should be maintained all year. Water may be reduced somewhat for cultivated plants in winter, especially those grown in the

darker, short-day conditions common in temperate latitudes. They should never be allowed to dry out completely, however. Fertilizer should also be reduced somewhat when light is low, days are short, or water is reduced.

GROWING MEDIA: Plants may be mounted on tree-fern or cork slabs if humidity is high and plants are watered at least once daily in summer. Several waterings a day may be necessary for mounted plants during very hot, dry periods. Because most growers find it difficult to keep mounted plants moist enough, they are usually grown in pots using an open, fast draining medium which contains materials that retain some moisture such as chopped sphagnum or perlite. Charcoal is often added to help keep the medium open and prevent it from becoming sour. Most growers recommend that plants be repotted every year. Repotting is usually done in late winter or early spring, but it may be done anytime between autumn and spring that does not interfere with flowering.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES: The bloom season shown in the climate table is based on cultivation records.

Plant and Flower Information:

PLANT SIZE AND TYPE: A small epiphyte that grows 2.4-3.5 in. (6-9 cm) tall including the ramicaul at the base of each growth. These slender secondary stems are 0.8-1.2 in. (2-3 cm) long and are enclosed by 2-3 loose tubular sheaths.

LEAVES: 1.6-2.4 in. (4-6 cm) long including a 0.4-0.8 in. (1-2 cm) petiole. A single erect, elliptical, leathery leaf is carried on each growth.

INFLORESCENCE: 1.2-1.8 in. (3.0-4.5 cm) long. The slender, suberect to horizontal peduncle emerges from a node low on the secondary stem. More than one flowering stem can be produced by each growth.

FLOWERS: 1 per inflorescence. Plants often make many new growths and carry a profusion of flowers, however. The sepals are white but are intensely suffused with bright orange on the basal half. Their upper halves are densely covered with small glandular areas which in turn are covered with small hairs. The dorsal sepal is about 0.6 in. (1.6 cm) long and is connected to the lateral sepals for almost its entire length forming a cylindrical sepaline tube. The free tip portion is abruptly contracted into a slender, erect, yellow-orange tail which is 1.2-1.6 in. (3-4 cm) long. The lateral sepals are slightly longer than the dorsal sepal and are connected to each other for most of their length forming an egg-shaped area about 0.7 in. (1.8 cm) long and 0.8 in. (2.0 cm) wide. The rounded tips of the lateral sepals are also abruptly contracted into yellow-orangetails 1.2-1.6 in. (3-4 cm) long. The small, oblong petals are yellow-orange, the lip is white, and the column is yellow-white.

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November/December Orchid Checklist

from orchidweb.org

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. Cymbidium ensifolium can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex This is the season for plants in Oncidium section crispum from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give

plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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Orchid intrigue: Were plants taking illegally or not?

BY GEORGIA TASKER

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A new “slipper orchid” found in Peru could be the most important orchid discovery of the past 100 years, and it’s turning the highly competitive industry into even more of a hothouse.

Some say the orchid is being smuggled into South Florida. Others say they’ve been offered plants for \$10,000 apiece. And the U.S. government is investigating the man whose name the orchid bears.

The peach-and-raspberry-colored flower is at least double the size of the usual slipper orchid.

“This new orchid is so big, it’s like a Rolls-Royce against a Honda,” Andy Easton, education director for the American Orchid Society, said from the group’s international headquarters near Delray Beach. “It’s the real buzz of the orchid world.”

Peru has asked the U.S. government to seize any of the orchids it finds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opened an investigation, and the Peruvian Orchid Society is complaining that scientists at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, site of the Orchid Identification Center, gave an illegal plant its endorsement by giving it an official name: *Phragmipedium kovachii*.

The commercial potential of the plant could be the stuff of dreams. Orchids are the fastest-growing segment of the flower business in the United States. Annual sales of potted orchid plants topped \$100 million three years ago, second only to poinsettias. Internationally, the trade is in the billions.

ROADSIDE STAND

The story begins at a roadside flower stand in North-Central Peru, where Mike Kovach, an orchid grower from Goldvein, Va., discovered an enormous lady-slipper orchid being sold.

“I got to this place on the side of the road in northern Peru where a guy had a little stall,” Kovach said. “We stopped, and they said they’d take me to their property. That’s when I first saw the plant.”

Growing on a cliff some 500 yards from the road was a small colony of the rare orchid. Obsessed, Kovach returned to the area this spring.

He found the orchid but noticed many had been stripped from the cliff. He learned word had been spreading among the Peruvians and had made its way onto the Internet.

“People began to move very fast,” Kovach said. “So I packed one up and headed home.

LEGAL PROBLEMS

But he also stumbled into a thicket of legal prohibitions and set off a lot of international foot-stomping.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), prohibits transporting any endangered orchid from its country of origin. The treaty, which the United States signed in 1973 and Peru signed in 1989, is enforced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The service would not comment on what it called an open investigation.

Because Kovach brought one plant to the United States for identification, he is being investigated for possible violation of CITES. He says a clause in the treaty allows tourists to bring back a few orchids from a nursery that has an export permit and that the roadside farmer collected for a Peruvian nursery.

He also said a small number of personal orchids are exempted, although Roddy Gable, chief of the Division of Scientific Authority for Fish and Wildlife, said those exemptions don't apply to endangered species, including all South American slipper orchids.

WAVED THROUGH

Kovach landed at Miami International Airport, declared plants and was waved through agricultural inspection, he said. He went next to Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, left the live orchid and a dried flower and went home to Virginia. Before leaving, he asked for one thing: Name the orchid for him. The scientists did.

Selby's orchid specialists published an official description of the orchid in their journal, *Selbyana*, on June 12. They had worked with a scientist in Lima and sent the plant to him in Peru.

In the orchid world, the person or institution that first publishes a written description gains the prestige of being associated with that orchid forever.

As unlikely as it seems, another taxonomist was working in the same city to publish his own description of this orchid. Eric Christenson of Sarasota published his paper in the July issue of *Orchids*, the monthly magazine of the American Orchid Society. He named it *Phragmipedium peruvianum*.

He said he had not seen the actual plant but that Peruvian friends put photos and measurements on the Internet.

NAME RESCINDED

Christenson and the American Orchid Society were too late. They had to rescind their name and adopt the Selby name, as set forth in international plant-naming rules.

An angry Christenson called Selby "a rogue institution involved in an illegal act."

CITES rules say it's illegal to "possess" a smuggled plant. Selby scientists said they did not possess the plant.

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by Allen Clark

SDCOS Orchid Digest Representative

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"If we looked at a plant, held it in our hands and sent it back, is that possession?" asked John Beckner, orchid specialist there.

Selby director Meg Lowman called CITES "antiquated and nonproductive." The treaty started with good intentions, she said, but "what we're seeing here is that it's just blocking the progress of science. The bigger issue is how come the hillside was denuded."

Growers in South Florida and California say they got calls from people offering to sell them the orchid. Terry Glancy, who runs a wholesale orchid business in South Miami-Dade, said customers were approached about buying the illicit orchids, with an asking price of a whopping \$10,000 for two. Glancy said he was offered two for \$5,000.

A California commercial grower, who doesn't want his name used, said, "It has been offered to me . . . at \$5,000." He didn't bite, saying the orchid was a "political hot cake."

ILLEGAL IMPORTS

Last year, six people in California were charged with importing endangered cycads and orchids in a Fish and Wildlife sting called Operation Botany. Fines ranging from \$100 to \$25,000 were negotiated.

Said Easton: "It's here. There's no doubt about that. There are plants recently collected [from the wild] being tossed around at \$250 each. The asking price was \$1,000, then it was \$500, and then \$250."

South Florida orchid expert Martin Motes received a call from Lee Moore, a Kendall importer who legally brought in Peruvian bromeliads and orchids before Peru's signing the CITES treaty in 1989. He owns a home and property in Peru, is married to a Peruvian woman and has orchids and bromeliads named after him.

Motes said Moore called him to ask him "where he could best market the orchid."

GROWING PLANTS

Moore said he called Motes because he is growing *Phragmipedium kovachii* plants at his Peruvian nursery and was seeking advice on potential buyers and the right price.

Moore's wife, Chady, went back to Peru in June.

"I went to the original roadside stand, and the farmer sold me 73" seedlings for roughly \$1.50 each, she said.

But when Moore examined the seedlings, he noticed purple marks on the roots, indicating many were a different lady-slipper.

Moore said he was later able to buy 20 or so of the *Phragmipedium kovachii* seedlings. He said he's banking on someone's propagating the orchid artificially and selling it legally.

Orchids grown in laboratory flasks could be shipped with permits if the parent was legally obtained without harming the wild population, Fish and Wildlife's Gable said.

"It doesn't seed prolifically," he said. "If it did, it would have

been all over the place."

Moore is growing the lady-slipper seedlings and says another Peruvian nursery is growing 200. Moore and Kovach recently reached a business agreement. Kovach, who has been advised to hire a lawyer, said he has hired Moore to be his Peruvian contract grower.

"When it's all over," Kovach said, "this will make the best book you've ever seen."

For the rest of the story, please visit <http://www.miami.com/mld/miami/3834854.htm>

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DATES TO REMEMBER...

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Paul or Ann Tuskes 858.274.5829

November 5th, 6:30 pm
Beginner's Class
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

November 5th, 7:30 pm
General Meeting
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

November 6th, 7:00 pm
SDCOS Board Meeting
First Wednesday each month
Balboa Park
Romy Reyes 619.447.7597

November 8th, 7:30 pm
Palomar Orchid Society Meeting
Second Friday each month
Vista Community Center
Dave or Vera Stankey 959.498.7122

November 15th, 10 am - 2 pm
San Diego Zoo
Orchid Greenhouses Open House
Third Friday each month
Janette Gerrity 619.231.1515 ext. 4306

November 20th, 7:00 pm
Cymbidium Society Meeting
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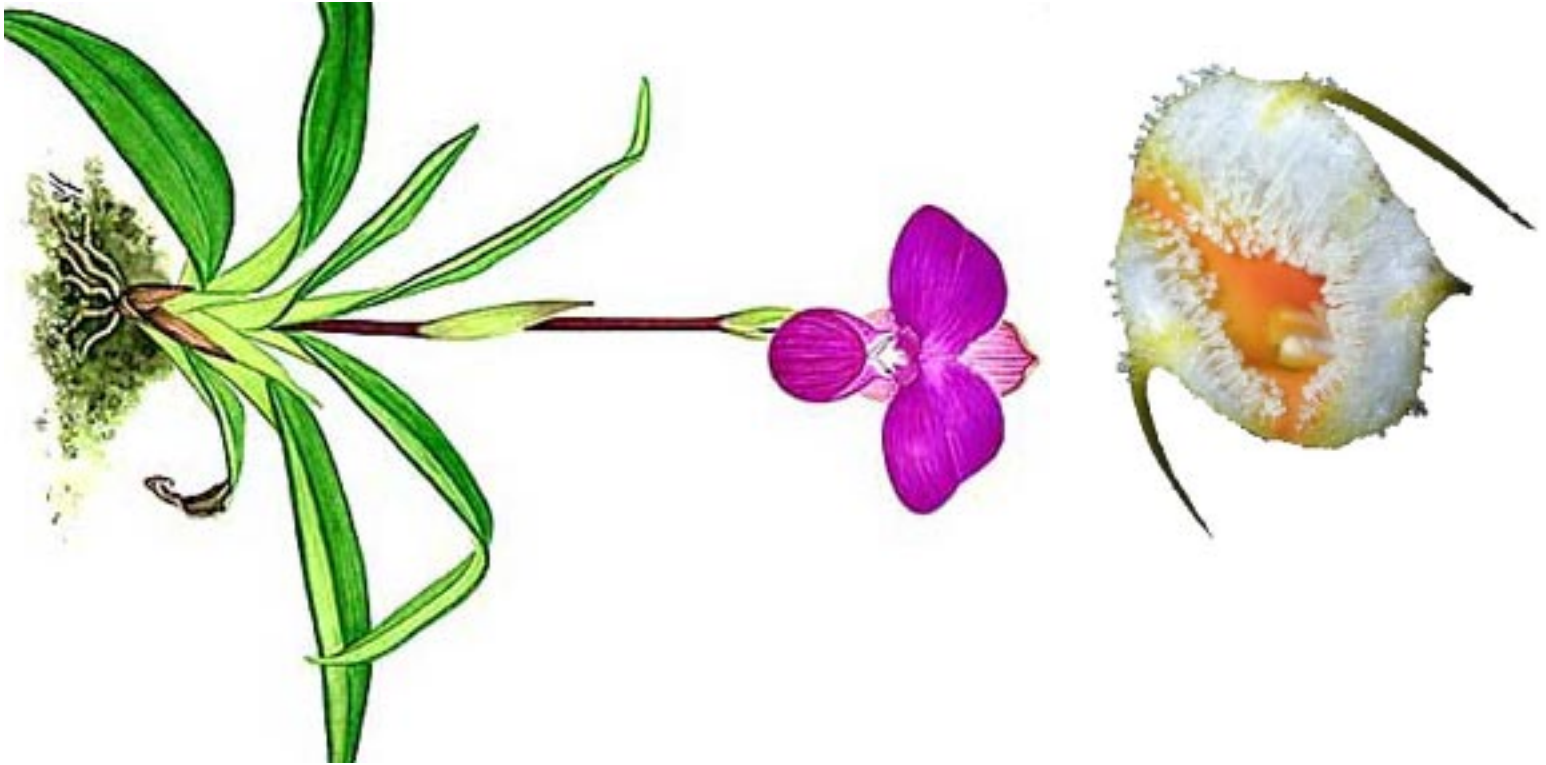
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STIG DALSTROM / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A botanical illustration of the *Phragmipedium kovachii*.



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