



TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2008 edition



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Preview February 2008 Speaker: Alex Challis

To all who helped with our show, many thanks and welcome back all members who went to the World Orchid Congress in Miami. If you haven't had the chance visit our website (www.triadorchidsociety.org) for some spectacular pictures from Ben Belton. The next meeting for the Triad Orchid Society will be on February 10th, 2008 when we will be hosting Alex Challis of New world Orchid and Little Frog Orchid Farm.

Alex was born and raised in Ann Arbor , MI . He began growing houseplants in grade school and bought his first orchids on a trip to San Francisco at Rod McClellan's in 1981. He received his BS & MS Degrees in Botany at the University of Michigan in 1983 & 1986. He became an AOS Life Member in 1986 and started in the AOS judging program in 1991. He is an accredited AOS judge. Alex started visiting Great Lakes Orchids, and soon started working part-time there in 1985. (continued next page)



Triad Orchid Society

Meetings the Second Sunday of Every Month

Location: The Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., 4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC. , 27455

Setup at noon / Potluck Lunch at 1:00 pm / Meeting at 2:00pm.

New members always welcome!

Officers of Triad Orchid Society:

President: Dr. Donald Richman,
(276) 632-5728

bogierichman@earthlink.net

Vice President: Paul Rohlfing
(336) 545-8854, rohlfing@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Dennis LaJeunesse, PhD
(336) 540-8150, dr1ajeun@uncg.edu

Treasurer: Shirley Anglin,

Alex Challis biography continued from the previous page

They grew a wide variety of orchid species and hybrids from cool to warm growing. For example, they grew all sorts of *Masdevallias* and *Pleurothallids*, *Angraecoids*, and many other genera. He then helped with the construction of Hoosier Orchids in 1989 and worked there for 4 years. Hoosier also grew a wide variety of orchid species. While at Hoosier, he did almost all of their lab work. He made a number of unusual hybrids while at these nurseries, including *Masdevallia* Tangerine Dragon, and Orange Ice which later won an AOS Award of Distinction.

He came back home to Michigan in 1993, and after a brief stint in a hobby shop, he started working with Glenn Lehr. Together they founded New World Orchids. To get started, they bought a couple of orchid collections. Then they started to grow Ecuadorian and Costa Rican orchids. As their suppliers were starting to sell at the same shows that they were going to, they decided not to try and compete with them. They had been bringing *Neofinetia* varieties into the US, and they were getting popular. So they turned our focus on these and a few other Japanese orchids.

Alex also shares greenhouse space with Rob Halgren of Littlefrog Farm, where he grows a number of species from around the world. He is trying to stay with smaller growing and unusual orchids. Alex may be reached at: New World Orchids, 19220 Sanborn, Manchester, MI 48158 USA, Phone: (734) 428-8182, Fax: (734) 428-0681, email: icepengwyn@aol.com
Websites: www.newworldorchids.com, or www.littlefrogfarm.com





Synopsis of January's Meeting:
Alfredo Manrique and the Orchids of San Martin.

On January 13th 2008, Alfredo Manrique presented an excellent and informative seminar on the orchids of the San Martin. Alfredo Manrique is perhaps best known as one of the first to cultivate the awesome new South American ladyslipper, *Phragmipedium kovachii* and has along with Glen Decker gone to produce some of the first hybrids of this spectacular newly discovered species. Alfredo Manrique owns and operates Centro de Jardineria Manrique, a nursery in Lima, where he propagates *Phragmidpedium kovachii* and the other orchids of the Peruvian Amazonian cloud forest. Alfredo Manrique was the first person to be legally certified to propagate and grow this new ladyslipper.

The San Martin is located in northeastern Peru. It is an remote and sparsely populated area that covers fifty six thousand square kilometers. Located on the eastern edge of the Andes, the landscape is characterized by lush tropical forests, numerous rivers and steep terrain with an altitude ranging from 200 to 3000 meters. From Alfredo's pictures, the San Martin reminds me a little of western North Carolina near Franklin, only on steroids: streams, mist covered mountains, lush forest, and spectacular waterfalls. Being close to the equator the climate is constant with temperature hovering around the 75-80 degrees mark day and dropping into the low sixties at night with temperature dropping as one climbs higher into the mountains, the temperature drop accordingly. Every night mist and clouds bath landscape allowing a rich diversity of plants including orchids to flourish. Over 800 species of orchids grown in Peru and a many of these orchids including *Phramipedium kovachii* are endemic the area and found nowhere else. This fact makes habitat destruction and deforestation the biggest threat to the wild orchids in this area.

Alfredo discussed a few of the San Martin orchids. Four species of Cattelya orchids grow in the San Martin: *C. rex*, *C. iricolor*, *C.luteola* and *C. violacea*. The people in the area decorate their homes and gardens with *C. rex* plants and Manrique showed some spectacular pictures of *C. rex* growing near homes. San Martin is home to several *Stanhopea* (*S. nigripe*, *S. connata*, *S. haseloviana*, *S. greeri*) a number of interesting terrestrials such as *Bletia catulata* (which can be grown as a garden plant in Florida), many different Epidendrum, including the highly variable *E. secundum* with white, yellow, orange or blue flowers, as well as a host of Catasetums, Cynoches and Mormodes.

The stars of San Martin are the *Phragmipediums*: *P. lindenii*, *P. pearci*, *P. caudatum*, *P. besseae*, *P. rechtereii*, and of course *P. kovachii*. The high humidity and regular rainfall accounts for the large number of species in this relatively small area. (Continued next page.)

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Phragmipedium kovachii was discovered in 2002. *P. kovachii* was discovered in part as a consequence of road building and the increase in traffic and accessibility to these remote areas. Peruvian government allowed Alfredo Manrique to collect five wild plants to serve as stock for future hybridization and breeding. *P. kovachii* can be found growing in the wild on steep limestone cliffs often adjacent to seepages or waterfalls. The plant is medium sized with a large flower (up to 8 inches across) that ranges in color from a royal purple to deep burgundy. Although one flower per inflorescence is standard for wild plants, Manrique reported under greenhouse cultivation, as many as four flowers per stem have been observed. As far as cultural needs, *P. kovachii* enjoys intermediate temperature (79°F summer/64°F winter), high humidity (70-80%), moderate light levels, and a slightly basic potting medium (pH 7.5-7.9) – in fact early failure of the deflasked *P. kovachii* seedlings to thrive on sphagnum was due to the acidity of this medium. Special needs for the success of this plant are the addition of boron supplement (in the form of tsp boric acid per 10 liters) once a year and additional magnesium (in the form of Epsom salts/ 200ppm) every two months. To keep the potting medium basic, Manrique recommended the addition of cracked oyster shells or lime stone pellets to the mix.

Along with Glen Decker of Piping Rock orchid, Manrique has hybridized *P. kovachii* with other phragmidpediums results in some spectacular, large flowered, fast growing plants that resemble *P. bessaea* hybrids except much larger. Examples of these hybrids that Manrique showed us include: *Phrag. Suzanne Decker* (*kovachii* X *Cape Sunset*), *Phrag. Alfredo Manrique* (*kavochii* X *Walter Schomburg*), *Phrag. Haley Decker* (*kovachii* X *Saint Quen*). While the Manrique's lab and others are producing healthy viable lab grown plants, the fate of *Phragmipedium kovachii* in the wild remains uncertain. Within the a few years of its discovery *Phragmipedium kovachii*'s existence has become endangered through rampant poaching. Unfortunately, many if not all of these plants, including countless seedlings, probably died. Of the three original areas where the plant grew, one of area was stripped of all plants and another has been seriously disturbed. Only one population remains stable and relatively undisturbed in the wild. It will be interesting to see what this new orchid will bring to future *Phragmidpedium* hybrids especially given the initial results. It is amazing that such an amazing plant could have remained hidden in the jungle for so long. DRL



Alfredo Manrique and
Phragmepidium kovachii

Orchids in Art from the American Orchid Society

The AOS has recently endorsed an ambitious artistic project (The Orchid Alliance Project) designed to stimulate awareness and conversations about evolution, biodiversity and conservation. The project, developed by Evolution Art Group, LLC and Patricia Laspino combines historical art processes and contemporary technologies and is supported by several high profile organizations. The first exhibition "Orchids: Real & Imagined" will open February 8, 2008 in the Chasen Gallery in Richmond, Virginia and run through to March 7, 2008. In addition to great art, Chadwick Orchids will be providing orchids for sale as well. A portion of the proceeds from this exhibition will be donated to the American Orchid Society. For full details of the project and the exhibition go to <http://www.aos.org/aos/events/OAP.aspx>><http://www.aos.org/aos/events/OAP.aspx>.

AOS members special package offer

From now through March 31st, new members can join for \$49.95/yr or \$99.95 for two years. Current members may extend their membership at the \$99.95/2 year rate. While the \$5 rebate to the sponsoring society has been suspended during this promotion, two year extensions or sign ups still receive the \$30 coupon. The website has been updated to reflect these prices so people can sign up through the secure website (<http://orchidweb.org/aos/membership/page01.aspx>) call membership at AOS (561-404-2060) or one of the current membership brochures can be used. If using one of the current brochures, just cross out the \$60 and enter the new price. In addition to the obvious benefits of membership like *Orchids* Magazine, membership in AOS gives our members privileges at over 200 American Horticultural Society member Gardens and Arboreta. This is a great deal with many perks including discounts on orchid purchases at dozen's of orchid nurseries and entry into many botanical gardens across the country. This is a great deal.

Triad Orchid Society Meeting Schedule, 2008

TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY 2008 SPEAKERS						
Month	Name	Company	Address	e-mail	Phone	Subject
January	Alfredo Manrique	Peru Orchids		cimgard@terra.com.pe		Orchids of Peru/Paphs, Stanhopeas, Cattleyas
February	Alex Challis	New World Orchids	4104 Thornoaks Ann Arbor MI 48104	icepengwyn@aol.com	734/971-6186	Miniature Orchid Gems
March	Mac Riverbank	Mac's Orchids	1400 South West 32nd Court Fort Lauderdale FL 33315		954/410-8580	Orchids of the Philippines
April	Mario Blanco	University of Florida Department of Botany	220 Bartram Hall Gainesville FL 32611-8526	mblanco@fmrh.ufl.edu	352/392-1721 x 210	Orchids and their pollinators
May	Ron Parsons	Photography	104 Claremont Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080	flowershots@hotmail.com	650/873-2495	Rarities and Oddities
June	Steve Frowine	Orchids for Dummies		stevefrow@aol.com	011 52 376 766 5270	Orchids for Dummies
July	Norito Hasegawa	Multiflora Paphs		norito1@hotmail.com	714/826-8432 714/639-1387(H)	What's new in Paphs
August	Max Thompson			maxt@cox.net	620/221-1856	Angraceums and other Madagascar Species
September (not Triad)	Joseph Arditi			iarditi@uci.edu		How orchids survive in nature
October	Carson Whitlow	Cypripedium Heaven	22957 280th Street Adel IA	slipperguy@aol.com	515/390-2302	The World of Cypripediums
November	Glen Decker	Piping Rock Orchids		pipingrock@aol.com		Phragmapediums
December	No Speaker to be scheduled for this month					

Treasurer's report for January 2008

Beginning balance: \$12,632.50

Deposits: \$2,886.00

Debits: \$4,328.42

Year to Date:

Deposits: \$2,886.00

Debits: \$4,328.42

Our show received \$1794.00 which half (\$897.00) went to the garden club. Thank you to all that helped with our show.

Lost Orchid: A White Cattleya was left after the show. It is at the garden Council center and waiting to be pick up.