

Orchid Research Newsletter No. 57

The Best Ever

Normally, when someone tells you that an upcoming event in a series promises to be 'the best ever', you might nod your head in assent (genuine or not) or else invoke nostalgic (and often filtered) memories of an earlier event to argue otherwise. Those who have attended several World Orchid Conferences would probably agree that some were memorable and some were not -- in different ways and for a variety of reasons. However, knowing how well the citizens of Singapore do absolutely everything (especially Conference Chairmen Dr. Kiat W. Tan and Dr. John Elliott), and equipped with the information imparted below, I can honestly predict that the 20th World Orchid Conference to be held 13-20 November 2011 will be the best ever.

The Conference website (<http://www.20woc.com.sg/site/>) promises eight world-class plenary speakers from around the world over the course of the four-day lecture programme: Prof. Mark Chase, Prof. Chen Wen Hui, Dr. Phillip Cribb, Prof. Kingsley Dixon, Dr. John Elliott, Prof. Steve Johnson, Prof. Michio Tanaka, and Prof. Wong Sek Man. In addition, there will be 22 invited speakers representing 10 countries at this writing, along with many other submitted papers in parallel sessions. There will also be four symposia, covering mainland Asian orchids, computer resources for orchidologists, orchid conservation, and medicinal uses of orchids.

Most impressive of all is the venue for the Conference, the Sands Expo and Convention Centre in the Marina Bay area. With more than 120,000 square metres, it can house 2,000 exhibition booths, 250 meeting rooms, and 45,000 delegates. The amazing Marina Bay Sands Hotel – three towers 200 metres high joined at the top by the Sands SkyPark – is surely one of the world's most dramatic architectural wonders, complemented by the 101-hectare Gardens by the Bay. The first phase of the Gardens, opening in conjunction with the Conference, includes a cool, dry conservatory underneath a grove of baobab trees where some functions of the Conference will be held.

On the website you can register for the Conference, book a room in one of the many hotels available, and apply for judging. The closing date for poster abstracts was 31 December 2010.

As always, there will be several pre-Conference and post-Conference tours available from different vendors, but those who cannot spare the time to sightsee in Malaysia, Thailand, and other countries should at least make an effort to explore the Singapore Botanical Gardens and Singapore Zoo.

We hope to see you all there because only you can be the judge of whether the 20th WOC was the best ever.

Alec Pridgeon

Joyce Stewart MBE VMH (1936-2011)



Joyce Stewart dances with Brian White at the AOS Members Meetings in Oklahoma City, April 2010, where she was the keynote speaker.
Photo by Greg Allikas.

Readers will be shocked to hear of the death on 7 January of Joyce Stewart, one of the best-known figures in the orchid world. Joyce studied botany at the University of Reading where she met her future husband, Don, who was reading zoology. They married in 1960. Following a short spell in Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia), Don was offered a post in Kenya, and Joyce followed him to Nairobi, where she worked in the Coryndon Museum herbarium. It was in Kenya that she developed her passion for orchids and quickly became an authority on native species. Her earliest book, with photographs by her great friend from Nairobi, Bob Campbell, was

Orchids of Tropical Africa (W. H. Allen, London, 1970). Another of her early orchid publications was the contribution of the orchid part for Andrew and Sheila Agnew's *Upland Kenya Wild Flowers* (Oxford University Press, 1974; 2nd ed. East African Natural History Society, 1994). She also began to grow the native species and became particularly fond of the epiphytic angraecoid species, the eventual subject of many of her scientific papers and books. Her interest in Kenyan orchids continued throughout her life and culminated in the publication of her and Bob Campbell's fine *Orchids of Kenya* (Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 1996).

Don was then offered a senior post in the South African Wildlife Service in Natal where, *inter alia*, he was in charge of the Hluhluwe National Park and its famous white rhinos. Joyce taught botany at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg while also completing a M.Phil. She joined the local orchid society and became active in South African orchid politics. This led to her joining the committee that successfully bid for the 10th World Orchid Conference to be held in Durban in 1981. She then helped organize the successful Conference and co-edited the *Proceedings*, even while she was writing the critically acclaimed *Wild Orchids of Southern Africa* with Ted Schelpe, Peter Linder, and Tony Hall (Macmillan South Africa, 1982).

Joyce and Don retired to England in 1982, and she soon became active in British orchid circles. She joined the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1983 and in 1985 became the first Sainsbury Orchid Fellow at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Her main roles were to run the Sainsbury Endangered Orchid Project, co-edit the *Orchid Research Newsletter*, and promote orchid cultivation and research at Kew. One of the consequences was the publication of *Orchids at Kew* (RBG Kew, 1992), which she compiled and edited. She was also an active member of IUCN's (The World Conservation Union) Species Survival Commission's Orchid Specialist group and a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

During her ten years at Kew her profile in the orchid world in the UK and abroad rose dramatically. She took an increasingly active role in the British Orchid Council, European Orchid Committee, and International Orchid Commission. The IOC meets at World Orchid Conferences, its remit including nomenclatural matters, registration of orchid hybrids, and orchid conservation. Joyce became its chairman in the early 1990s, a role she continued until her death. Joyce was the Chairman of the World Orchid Conference Organizing Committee when the event was held in Glasgow in 1993. Following that, she was invited to join the World Orchid Conference Trust as one of its four trustees. The Trust selects organizers and supports them in preparing and running each triennial World Orchid Conference and Show.

In 1995, as she approached her retirement from Kew, Joyce was head-hunted by the Royal Horticultural Society and became its Director of Horticulture and Science based at Wisley. She successfully occupied this position for almost ten years until her retirement in 2007. The onerous nature of this role was emphasized upon her retirement by the appointment of three replacements, each undertaking part of her old job. Following her retirement from the RHS she was awarded an MBE and became one of the 61 holders of the Victoria Medal of Honour, the RHS's premier award.

Her orchid work has been widely appreciated by orchid societies worldwide and, among others, she was awarded the American Orchid Society's Gold Medal of Achievement at the close of the 14th World Orchid Conference in Glasgow.

Joyce continued to publish on orchids until last year. A notable book was *The Orchid Paintings of Franz Bauer*, co-authored with William Stearn and Julia MacKenzie (The Herbert Press and Natural History Museum, London, 1993). She specialized in the Afro-Madagascan orchid floras, particularly the epiphytic angraecoid orchids, such as *Angraecum*, *Aerangis*, *Plectrelminthus*, *Jumellea*, and *Aeranthus*. Her revisions of African and Madagascan *Aerangis* remain the standard works on this genus. Her stint at the RHS interrupted her orchid work, but she, Johan Hermans, and Bob Campbell produced the beautifully illustrated and authoritative *Angraecoid Orchids* (Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2006) to wide acclaim. It is a fitting tribute to a life devoted to the orchids that inspired her when she first went out to Kenya as a young and newly married woman.

Joyce will be sorely missed in orchid circles. She was well known to many orchid lovers for her lectures on various aspects of the orchid world. She was also the focus and dynamo for many organizations and groups, ranging from local orchid societies to world events, and an energetic and very well-connected driving force wherever she worked. Her contributions to orchid cultivation included long-term membership of the RHS's Committee on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration, the work of which underpins orchid hybridizing to this day.

Phillip Cribb
9 January 2011

News from Correspondents

Please submit any news about newly completed research, future research plans and needs, change of address, upcoming or recent fieldwork, etc. to Alec Pridgeon (a.pridgeon@kew.org). Graduate students are especially encouraged to share the subjects of their thesis or dissertation with the international community. We will print submissions in the format below. Many thanks to those who have contributed.

Roberto Gamarra (Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Universidad Autonoma of Madrid, Spain; e-mail: roberto.gamarra@uam.es), his colleagues Pablo Galán and Emma Ortúñez, and his graduate students are studying the micromorphology of seeds in all genera of tribe Orchideae. They would like to obtain mature seeds from field or herbarium specimens, principally from America and Asia. Also, they have finished their research on the labellar epidermis in the Iberian taxa of the genera *Ophrys* and *Serapias* using scanning electron microscopy.

Upcoming Conferences

We welcome any news about future conferences for promotion here. Please send details to Alec Pridgeon (a.pridgeon@kew.org) as far in advance of the event as possible, remembering that the *Orchid Research Newsletter* is published only in January and July of each year.

The 1st International Conference of Orchid Conservation and Management will be held 25-28 February 2011 in the sanctuary of Machu Picchu, Cusco, Peru, to celebrate the Year of Biodiversity. It will coincide with the first centenary of the discovery of Machu Picchu by Hiram Bingham with lectures on February 26 and 27. Additional information is available at www.mapibio.com.

20th World Orchid Conference, 13-20 November 2011, Singapore (see editorial above).

New Icones Published

Icones Orchidacearum (Mexico) volume 13: Epidendrum part 9, Species New and Old was published 10 December 2010. It includes 30 new species from Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, and French Guyana, 2 new combinations and status, and many lectotypifications and neotypes. All 100 species are illustrated with botanical illustrations. It is freely available in searchable pdf at www.herbarioamo.org <<http://www.herbarioamo.org/>> under publicaciones, icones. Printed copies are available by post from Nora Esponda at nesponda@chinoin.com. -- Eric Hágsater, Director del Herbario AMO

Recent Orchid Nomenclature

New orchid names may now be accessed on the IPNI website:

(www.ipni.org/ipni/plantsearch?request_type=search&output_format=query&ret_defaults=on)

Click on "Show additional search items" on the right-hand side of the screen. After the search page appears, type in **Orchidaceae** under family name and (for example) **2005-11-30** under "Record date" and "Added since." This will pull up a list of all names added to the IPNI database since 30 November 2005.

Recent Literature

Anna Lynch provided micromorphological references, and for this we are grateful. We will consult a variety of other sources for recent literature, and you will find a more extensive range of journals from more disciplines than ever before. If you are aware of any recent citations not listed here and henceforth, please send them – **in the exact style below** – to Alec Pridgeon (a.pridgeon@kew.org) for publication in the following issue (January or July). Write "ORN references" in the subject line of the e-mail. Book citations should include author(s), date of publication, title, publisher, and place of publication (in that order).

Anatomy and morphology

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Conservation biology

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Gale, S. W., Yamazaki, J., Hutchings, M. J., Yukawa, T., and Miyoshi, K. 2010. Constraints on establishment in an endangered terrestrial orchid: a comparative study of *in vitro* and *in situ* seed germinability and seedling development in *Nervilia nipponica*. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 163: 166-180.

Garcia, M. B., Goni, D., and Guzman, D. 2010. Living at the edge: local versus positional factors in the long-term population dynamics of an endangered orchid, *Conservation Biology* 24: 1219-1229.

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Pierce, S., Ferrario, A., and Cerabolini, B. 2010. Outbreeding and asymbiotic germination in the conservation of the endangered Italian endemic orchid *Ophrys benacensis*. *Plant Biosystems* 144: 121-127.

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Ecology/Mycorrhiza

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History

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