



The Cape and Islands Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest Corp.

**Next meeting: Sunday September 11, 2011 at 1:30 PM at
THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE BARNSTABLE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1220 Nathan Ellis Hwy, (Rt. 151) East Falmouth MA 02536 (White fences on North side of Hwy.)**

Jean Stefanik presents: "Alluring Angraecums"

Historically, Angraecums have been tagged with several different common names. "Star of Bethlehem Orchid" due to its' star like shape is one such name, and "Darwin's Orchid" another. Charles Darwin predicted the existence of a moth (then not yet discovered) with a very long proboscis, since the nectar was at the end of a very long spur. The moth was later identified as *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, a hawk moth.

Many Angraecums were originally found as epiphytes in Madagascar and tropical Africa. These orchids can also be found on the Comoros, the Seychelles, and the Mascarenes (Mauritius, Reunion). They occur between sea level and 2,000 meters in humid regions. The long-lasting flowers are mostly white, but a few are yellow, green or ochre. They all have a long spur at the back of the labellum (lip). (Wikipedia and Angraecum Encyclopedia)

Jean is a long time friend of CAIOS and a recognized expert in tropical and New England orchid species. She lives in New Hampshire, a state with endangered species in "secret" places that she only knows. Jean is a traveler especially to Ecuador. She is a provisional Judge of the American Orchid Society. Orchid conservation in New Hampshire, Peru and Ecuador are her particular interests

Members **M-Z** please please us with some goodies. There will be raffles, friends, summer tale-swapping, books, and any horticultural items/orchid plants are welcome to be sold or swapped.

World's smallest Orchid (so far)



these are millimeters!

American botanist Lou Jost, one of the world's leading [orchid](#) hunters, has discovered the smallest orchid in the world among the roots of a larger plant in a nature reserve in [Bolivia, South America](#). The 2.1mm wide flowers have transparent petals, which are only one cell thick. The finding tops the previous record of *Platystele jungermannioides* with 2.5mm flowers.

Lou Jost discovered the new species accidentally, looking at a bigger plant from the [Cerro Candelaria](#) reserve in the eastern [Andes](#). The reserve was created by a British organisation [World Land Trust](#) in partnership with [Fundacion EcoMinga](#), for which the discoverer works. In fact, [Ecuador](#) is the place of discovery of more than 1,000 new species of orchids in the past century.

"I found it among the roots of another plant that I had collected, another small orchid which I took back to grow in my greenhouse to get it to flower. A few months later I saw that down among the roots was a tiny little plant that I realised was more interesting than the bigger orchid. Looking at the flower is often the best way to be able to identify which species of orchid you've got hold of – and can tell you whether you're looking at an unknown species or not." he said.

The finding was identified as belonging to genus [Platystele](#), like the previous record holder, and is the 60th new species of orchid that Dr Jost had discovered in the past decade.

My lifelong memory is that autumn is a peaceful, beautiful time. Every fall I read Keats's Ode To Autumn.

For the last twelve years I have looked forward to the joys orchids have brought me also in autumn. Namely, the regathering of like souls who enjoy spending time together.

So, welcome, all.

When I joined CAIOS in 2000, my orchid education began from the ground up, using the CAIOS library. I used Orchid 101 tapes, beginner books and took lots of notes.

My attention was and is glued to speakers at meetings, but especially to Maurice Sussman and Tom Gregg at the ends of meetings- our show and tell time; or bring and brag as my Kindergarten-teacher-friend used to say.

The tapes and books did, in fact, lay a very good foundation. They continue to answer my questions today, and to give pleasure in their expertise and artistry. I admit that I do go to the computer now, but many of our books are "golden oldies" and most don't exist on the computer.

The entire CAIOS library will be on exhibit during our September and October meetings. Look into our library's broad offerings as well as into your own interests. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Sign out a few items for autumn perusing.

Radiata Bark is here! The New Zealand *Pinus radiata* Orchid Bark, "Orchiata", is now at Yr Editor's home and is available at its cost of \$25 per bag. The informational website is <http://besgrow.com/orchiata> and Yr Ed. will bring any wanted to any meeting or make arrangements 508 540-2054. Four sizes -

#1. "Classic" 1/4",

#2. "Power" 1/4-1/2",

#3. "Power Plus" 1/2-3/4" and

#4. "Super" 1". The best sizes seem to be the #'s 2. And #3.

Various members are trying it out. It seems to be very rot resistant and long lived, but is new to all of us. Read up on it on Google and give it a try and Yr. Ed a call

Sobralia altissima "the Tallest Orchid"

Original publication in *Orchids*, 68(11): 1112 (Nov. 1999). A newly published species, based on collections made by M. Leon M., Feb. 18, 1999, from 2800-2900 m, Huancavelica Dept., Tadjacaya Province, Huachocolpa District, Inquilpata, Peru (175 miles SE of Lima). The photo at left by Erica Morón de Abad depicts a plant from Pampa Hermosa (Wasa-Wassi) in the San Ramón (Central zone) of Peru. This area of high mountain forest is perpetually cool.

This species has earned the distinction as the "world's tallest orchid," growing up to 44 ft (13.4 m) tall. More typically it grows to 16.5 ft high in open, sunny areas and 23-26 ft in areas under a low tree canopy. The name "altissima" derives from the Latin "altus," referring to the long stems.

Three to four apical racemes of flowers, each with 8-9 buds, are borne atop the tall, woody canes with stiff, ribbed leaves. It grows terrestrially in "rocky, black organic soil covered by a thick mantle of sphagnumlike moss" (Collantes & Leon). The local people call this flower *Inquil* or *Inkill* in the Quechua language, which means "bearer of a tongue" because of the wide, flat lip. Flowers last for two weeks on the plant and one week as a cut flower.

The flowers have a natural horizontal and vertical spread of 12-15 cm. The overall color is an intense purplish-red with white-tipped sepals and petals. The flowers are very fleshy and long-lasting, with hard substance, similar to other southern Andean, high-altitude species such as *Sob. boliviensis* Schlechter, *Sob. dichotoma* Ruiz and Pavon, and *Sob. mandonii* Rchb.f.

Remember! American Orchid Society Judging is held Monthly, on first Saturdays at the TOWER HILL BOTANICAL GARDEN, BOYLSTON, MASS, NEAR WORCESTER. 10:30 AM is for presentations. Brown bag or deli sandwich from nearby farm stand or cafe at Tower Hill. Afternoon, see/join AOS judging. See and walk the beautiful grounds, gorgeous views, Autumn leaves, no floods, big Orangerie and new Limonea Greenhouses! and garden/gift store. Learn by listening + seeing quality plants critiqued by judges. –under 2 hours from Falmouth-Rt 495N to Rt 290W, off at Center/Churchill St, go L. nearly to end, Sign on Rt, Get in free, just say “Orchids” at gate. (11 French Drive, Boylston, MA 01505 - 508 869-6111)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

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