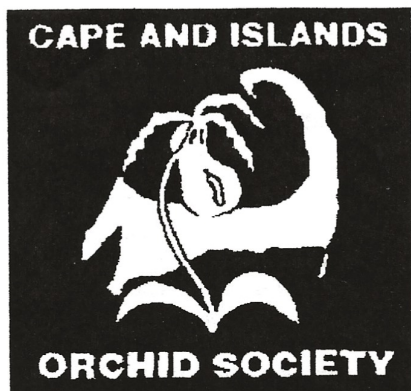


Newsletter # 165, December 2003



Come one, come all - to the CAIOS Annual Solstice Party

Join the fun, bring good cheer and victuals for a Warm and Tasty time. Lift your spirits with pleasure in our friendships and the beautiful flowers we all share. The Season to be jolly is here so let us prepare a feast as our gift to each other.



NEWSLETTER - TOM GREGG 26 POND RD. FALMOUTH, MA. 02540

Cape & Islands Orchid Society

- President Richard Batchelor 548-2221
Vice-Pres Tina Balog 540-5006
Past Pres Todd Drummy 548-2344
Secretary Cathy Fewore 540-2600
Membership Jim Talin 362-8144
Treasurer Peter Smith 428-2957
Programs Dick Batchelor 548-2221
Directors Gail Barnett 477-1394
Ron Stewart 690-2006
Publicity Gail Barnett again! 477-1394
Library, raffles Marty Tulloch 563-2327
Newsletter Tom Gregg 540-2054



Sunday, December 14, 2003 at 1:00 PM at the Admin. Building of the Barnstable County Fairgrounds on Rt. 151 in Falmouth. Members A to E -- salads, F to O -- main dish, finger food and P to Z -- desserts. Bring plates and tools for what you bring plz. Show table, raffles and anyone may sell, trade or give away plants or orchid - related items. It's a good time to just catch up and swap orchid or grandchild info with your friends. Go for a big Show Table, wrap plants for frost. Enjoy!

Membership address: c/o Jim Talin, 947 Rt.6A, Yarmouthport, MA 02675
Correspondence: c/o Gregg, 26 Pond Rd. Falmouth, MA 02540

Our Webpage: http://members.aol.com/caios/CAIOS/main.htm

When Last we met: The auction was a good time for bargain-hunters and grossed about \$2700. This will keep CAIOS solvent for another year, so, thanks to all who came and bid and bought. Thanks to all the Orchid Sellers(see Auction list for their addresses for catalogues) without which we couldn't run the Society and feed our orchoholism habit.

We Did it! At the Ocean State Orchid Society Show, CAIOS received a first for Exhibit and - the American Orchid Society Show Trophy! The setting by Liz Wolff and her band of workers was "Orchids, A Magnificent Obsession" theme. The display featured a black backdrop and a purple curtain with a gold tie-back. Other props included a Victorian chair, candle stand and footstool, with mirror, bell-pull, champagne bottle, 2 flute glasses, man's boater hat, a ladies flowery hat and an antique orchid book on the stand, open to a colorful Cattleya. Doers and undoers: Liz Wolff, Freda Kenna, Ernie LeBlanc, Ellie Phillips + Yr Ed., Bill & Monika Wildman, Ron Stewart, Tina, Mike Lincoln, Ed Bonacci. If I forgot anyone, please forgive and let me know. I have a good 8 x 10 picture if anyone is interested (508 540-2054). --

Ribbon Winners and their awards:

- 1. Cathy Fewore Best Vandaceous in show(Medallion!) Aerangis distincta
2. " " 1st- Aerangis sp, hybr. " "
3. Bill & Monika Wildman 1st- Miltonia integeneric Colmanara Wildcat
4. David Sutherland 1st- Miltoniopsis M.Teresa Helena Lima
5. Ed Bonacci 1st- Catt alliance exc B, L, C. Schomburgkia lyonsii
6. " " 1st- Catt, hybr, lav, mauve Catt. Porcia 'Cannizarro'
7. " " 2nd- Catt Hybr, other colors Blc(Coed X Lc Minesoda 'Myas')
8. Mike Lincoln 2nd- Phrag bessese hybr Phrag Don Wimber
9. " " 2nd- Phrag hybr, other Phrag Urgandiae (longifolium X lindleyanum)

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|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10. | Tom Gregg | 2nd- Brassia hybr | Miltassia Seattle Sunset 'Yellu' |
| 11. | " " | 2nd- Oncid hybr, integeneric | Wilsonara Jean DuPont 'Clown Loach' |
| 12. | " " | 2nd- Catt alliance, miniature | Sc Crystelle Smith |
| 13. | " " | 3rd- Catt hybr other colors | Sc Crystelle Smith |
| 14. | " " | 3rd- Catt hybr, red/red shades | Blc Dennis Kone |
| 15. | " " | 3rd- Catt hybr, yellow/orange | Lc Amber glow X Ann Follis |

From E-mail:

1. **Original Message** ----- From: Linda and Bill To: <mailto:theaos@aos.org>
 Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2003 4:25 PM Subject: GCK Dunsterville "Good Morning! I have a mint condition copy of Orquideas de Venezuela - a "coffee table" size publication by Compania Shell de Venezuela - 1960 I consists of a 10 double sided introduction in Spanish, printed on heavy stock and 18 full color mounted prints of Dunsterville's renderings of orchids. This is a delightful folio for an orchid aficionado and I would like to sell it. Please advise." Linda Lafferty laugh@capecod.com

2. **An about to be new member and friend of Marty Tullochs wants to grow Zygos, and to buy some. Does anyone wish to go in on an order large enough to be discounted. Contact - "Ernie Luikart" <elulkart@capecod.net>**

3. **FOR those interested -- Mass Orchid Society Gala Holiday Party December 9 at the Waltham Field Station. Come and share your holiday spirit with MOS. A thru E - Salads, F thru R-Appetizers, N thru Z - Desserts**

"Undergrounds orchids on the edge": by Kingsley Dixon, *Plant Talk*, p. 34-5; Jan 2003. "In June 2002, a 13-year-old boy, Evan Currall, made what must be one of the most astonishing botanical finds of the year. While bushwalking near the town of Buladelah, New South Wales, Australia, he discovered eight young flowering heads of one of the world's most remarkable plant - The Eastern Australian Underground Orchid (*Rhizanthella slateri*). When Evan first uncovered the orchid he thought it looked like a beautiful jewel with the distinctive white and purple translucent bracts and flowers appearing like magic from the leaf litter of the forest floor. Evan had guessed correctly that he had made an important discovery for science, and confirmation of the find was quick. The orchid had been first described from Buladelah, not far from the rediscovery site, but many searches since then had failed to uncover it.

A source of great botanical and scientific interest, the discovery has now opened an exciting new chapter in attempts to understand the biology of the species and promises to provide the first clues on how to conserve this rare and cryptic species. Sadly, the discovery also coincided with the siting of a new highway — directly over the site! Saving this remarkable rare species from the bulldozer has brought together the local community and orchid enthusiasts in a battle to secure a unique find.

The species is one of two in the genus, the other one being the Western Australian Underground Orchid (*Rhizanthella gardneri*). These plants have taken their troglodytic existence to such an extreme of evolutionary development that they are unique in many respects. The western species has all parts including the flower head buried in soil, and there is rarely any indication on the surface that an orchid is in full bloom below. The eastern species is less cryptic and may flower just in or below the leaf litter. Just how these plants operate under such apparent ecological deprivations has been much studied.

The first discovery of the underground orchids caused great excitement. After farmer Jack Trott turned up the first species in 1928 near the Western Australian wheatbelt town of Corrigin, the botanical and natural history worlds were abuzz with excitement — so much so that a wax model of the western species toured Britain soon after the original discovery was made. The eastern species was discovered a few years later, in 1932. Up to that point orchids had been known as living high up in trees or in fields or woods but here we had two species, growing at opposite ends of the Australian continent, that had reversed the order of nature and had literally gone underground. Using maps of probable habitats, in two years of dedicated searching in the early 1980's, volunteers from the WA native Orchid study and Conservation Group and elsewhere discovered over 150 flowering heads of the western species. Importantly, a number of new locations turned up, resulting in conservation efforts to protect the species. Today the western species is known from two nodes - the central wheatbelt in and around the discovery site Near Corrigin, and three locations 300 km south.

The opportunistic way these orchids were discovered has made it difficult to study their unique ecology and biology. Research on the western species speeded up after a link was discovered between the orchid and the root system of a local shrub, the broom honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca uncinata*). The remarkable relationship between orchid, mycorrhizal fungus and broom honey-myrtle, a botanical 'menage a trois', enabled likely habitat to be evaluated more rapidly by mapping the distribution of the broom honey- myrtle. As a result, some new nature reserves have been created to protect the species. Unfortunately for teams of enthusiasts searching for the orchid, the broom honey-myrtle is one of the more common and widespread *Melaleuca* species in Australia. A single orchid specimen requires careful and backbreaking scouring of the ground, usually on all fours. In the right location, and with good luck, an underground orchid can be found in just eight hours of searching! Surveys since 2000 confirm that the western underground orchid is just hanging on, surviving only in a few handkerchief-sized reserves which are under threat from drought, salt encroachment and decline in the health of the broom honey-myrtle. However the eastern species is more problematical with no clear link to a habitat type nor to indicator plants.

you hope to put in the show, and we'll have someone who can help you look up their classification, and help you with the plant registration slips. Do this even if you are not sure the plant will be ready; it is easy to eliminate the registration. On the other hand, it helps the registration process immensely to have plants registered early.

The Preview Dinner party is a gala affair, and we hope to make it even more interesting with a guest speaker this year. Ron Midgett will entertain us with stories about orchid collectors who had the "Orchid Fever". Mardee Verdina is taking reservations; see the information elsewhere.

The Sea Crest is making rooms available for CAIOS show participants at the special rate of \$74 a night plus MA tax. Some of our members who have longer drives have found that staying overnight makes it easier for them to participate in more of the show activities. You must make your reservation with the Sea Crest (508)-540-9400 by December 20, and tell them that you want the CAIOS show rate, to take advantage of this offer.

Finally, publicity is well under way. Gail Barnett has the media ready to publicize our show. Watch for an orchid show special on Cape Cod Community Cable. We are counting on you for poster distribution and talking up the show with friends and neighbors.

Show theme – Orchid Fever – catch the fever !! This is one fever you want to share !!

Members: Free show tickets are included in the newsletter, 1 for individuals and 2 for households.

It's time to start thinking about the CAIOS orchid show and the great preview dinner on Friday January 23, 2003. This year the price is be \$30.00 per person and we have some great upgraded entrees to choose from: Herb-crusted Roast Sirloin with wild mushroom and shallot pan gravy. Poached Filet of Salmon with Lemon-chive beurre blanc and Seasonal Vegetarian. Also included is the Sea Crest's great clam chowder, tossed garden greens and topped off with New York Style Cheesecake topped with strawberries and whipped cream. Yuuuuummy!!!! So clip the coupon below and send it in with your check and choice of entrees. It must be received by January 17 or you don't get to attend. Sorry, rules are rules. Preview/Happy Hour starts at 5:30 pm, dinner will be served at 7pm, followed by a short program. Sales open at 8:30pm.

January Meeting : Welcome back Eric Christenson, PhD, on January 11, topic to be announced. He's one of the world's top taxonomists and a great speaker - 1:30 PM at the Fairgrounds Building as usual, weather permitting

Motto --Orchids Grow Wild Where CAIOS Reigns

A South Australian scientist, Dr Jack Warcup, was first to achieve flowering of the western species in cultivation, using cultures of a special "helper" Fungus (mycorrhiza) isolated from wild plants combined with orchid seed, he successfully germinated the orchid in partnership with the seedlings of the broom honey-myrtle, germination and flowering just 18 months later.

A rescue bid for the western underground orchid is now underway in a unique partnership between the Millenium Seed Bank of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the federally funded Endangered Species Program, and Perth's Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Kings Park scientists will undertake DNA fingerprinting and long-term seed-banking of the orchid's precious and limited seed. The aim is to establish a captive breeding population of the orchid to act as a seed orchard to ensure the long-term security of the species.

The conservation status of the newly discovered eastern underground orchid is less certain. The species is even more enigmatic than the western counterpart some 3500 km away! It flowers in late winter to early spring and is only known from isolated and sporadic finds from Jervis Bay to the central coast of New South Wales. Analysis of its DNA will determine the probable origin and kinship between the two species and with the rest of the orchid family. Were these orchids once widespread when the Australian continent was covered in rain-forest some 10 million years ago? And did the desertification of the interior cause the separation and ultimately drive the evolution of these the two species?

Many other questions remain to be answered about these jewels of the Australian bush. With both species now the subject of intensive research, the mysterious and hidden world of two of Australia's most unusual plants will begin to be unravelled. Saving the largest colony of the eastern underground orchid at Buladelah is vital to ensuring that both the western and eastern species are conserved in meaningful reserves. Without the Buladelah plants, science will have to wait for another chance discovery of this remarkable species"

Orchid Show * * * ORCHID FEVER * * * Orchid Show

* CAIOS orchid show – open to the public Saturday January 24 and Sunday January 25 *

The 15th annual CAIOS orchid show is coming up soon, just in time to head off the post-holiday letdown blues. Our own CAIOS display committee of Liz Wolff, Jo Mayzel, Lee Drescher, Virginia Barry, Gail Barnett and Eleanor Phillips has a display design that will show off your plants marvelously. In addition to our own exhibit, seven orchid societies and thirteen vendors will be creating stunning orchid displays. The newly formed Central New England Orchid Society will have a display, and we have two new vendors –Orchidphile, which offers specialty phalaeonopsis, and Frosty Hollow Orchids, owned by our members Wendy Oliver and Chris Arenberg from Martha's Vineyard. In addition, there will be several individual displays.

The show calendar and volunteer needs:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Show framing – | Wednesday, January 21 | (need a few people to help with construction) |
| Display setup – | Thursday, January 22 | (display setup, plant labeling, plant registration) |
| AOS Judging and Preview Dinner | January 23 | (clerk for AOS judging) |
| Show open to the public – | January 24 and 25 | (man the entrance table and raffle table, teardown at 5 |