

# SWROGA News

A Publication of the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association

34 Affiliated Societies

Winter 2001

Volume 33, Issue 4

## SUPER SHOW, CORPUS CHRISTI

By Kathy Wright

The great 2001 Orchid Odyssey is over but will not be soon forgotten by the attendees. The show chairs, Herman and Nina Johnson, certainly outdid themselves leading the South Texas Orchid Society to a most successful fun time. The wonderful facilities and super cooperative hotel staff helped to make this a grand success. Much credit for the show's success is given to the members of the South Texas Orchid Society who pitched in wholeheartedly to plan and execute this event. Our extreme thanks to Herman, Nina, and the Society for making this a memorable and great time for a Journey to the Sparkling City by the Sea. Lectures by Dr. Yin-Tung Wang of Texas A&M, Steve McNerney of Stewart Orchids, and Dr. Robert Dressler, Missouri Botanical Garden, were the highlight of the educational activities. Attendees at the lecture series were also treated to the rare treat of a ceremony by the entire Board of Trustees in which Dr. Dressler was presented the AOS Gold Medal for exceptional service to orchids. Award trophies and ribbons were presented on Thursday, and after the mayor and other dignitaries officially cut the ribbon, the preview party went into full swing.

## After the Show is Over!

On behalf of the South Texas Orchid Society, we would like to thank all the SWROGA societies who participated and helped to make our 2001 Orchid Odyssey a success. The AOS Trustees Meeting and SWROGA Show was held in Corpus Christi, Tx., Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2001, at the Omni Bayfront Hotel. Many of you sent donations to help with the trophies, over and above what SWROGA sends to underwrite trophies. This allowed us to have extra special artistic designed plates. In fact the trophy donated to the AOS auction sold for \$250.00! We appreciate those of you who came and especially so many of you who put in the beautiful exhibits. You did yourself proud because we know the effort and time it takes to bring an exhibit from out of town. Special thanks to Carol Granier and Ann Levy who helped with our exhibit, when we were all so busy with other responsibilities. Due to events affecting our nation, the registrations were down from expectations, but from the notes and letters we have received from our guests, those who were here seemed to have a wonderful time. Some of our vendors completely sold out and others said they wished they had brought more plants. We feel hosting the AOS Trustees and the other affiliates was good for our local society and we encourage any of you, if you have the chance, to do the same in the future.

We are looking forward to Houston next fall. Thanks again for your support.

Herman and Nina Johnson, Co-Chairs

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**Spring Issue Deadline  
January 18, 2002**

Happy Holidays!  
Happy Holidays!

Since 1959

## **SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ORCHID GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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*"We print all the news that fits"*

# President's Message

Well...even though this is the “Winter Edition” of SWROGA NEWS, at the time of this writing, winter hasn't yet put in much of an appearance around Shreveport! Here it is mid- December and we've yet to have a real freeze! The ornamental pear trees are now turning, though, and the sycamores and dogwoods that still have leaves are pretty, too.

As far as orchids go, Mickey has closed up the greenhouse anyway, and these dreary days we are having aren't doing much for bloom production. Hope you have lots more blooms in your greenhouse than we do in ours.

Those of you who missed Corpus Christi missed a great SWROGA and AOS meeting and show and some marvelous hospitality. I've never met a more cheerful, cooperative group than Nina Johnson and her crew. We had a great time. The committee meetings as well as the Saturday meeting of the directors and members were well attended. Please see the minutes elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

SWROGA has initiated a new service for member societies – a Continuing Show List. This will be a service provided by the Affiliated Societies Committee. Again, see the details elsewhere in this issue.

Have you visited the SWROGA web site recently? There's some great stuff there. We'd like you to go to the site and then let us know what you think about it. Tom Mulholland, our webmaster, puts a lot of effort into the site and he, as well as I, would like your feedback.

As always, too, I would be glad to have your comments on any other SWROGA-related issues. Merry Christmas and a Very Happy 2002!

Lena Parker

## GREATER NORTH TEXAS ORCHID SOCIETY

By Kathy Wright, SWROGA Historian

The history of the Greater North Texas Orchid Society (GNTOS) goes wa-a-a-ay back! The seeds of GNTOS were planted in the Dallas, TX area in the mid-1940's. At that time, there were only three serious orchid growers in Dallas: Eli Sanger of Sanger Brothers, Dallas' biggest department store at that time; builder Roy Munger, still remembered for Munger Place and Munger Street; and Percy Larkin. Margie Corn, a garden columnist, was the only source for orchid information they could find. She gave their names to a Mrs. Moses, who operated Hardy's Seed Company. Through Mrs. Moses' efforts, a group with a common orchid interest met each other. Mr. and Mrs. Polhemus, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carter, Homer Baldwin, Percy Larkin and a young man from Waxahachie, Mr. Castalanus, started a group and chose “The North Texas Orchid Society” as their name. Percy Larkin served as the first president.

GNTOS voted to affiliate with AOS, becoming the seventh society to affiliate with the national organization. Their first show was held November 12, 1950, at the March Kaiser-Frazier Automobile agency on Ross Avenue. Invitations were sent to all the major growers around the country to get exhibits and attendees. The second show, a year later, was held at Lambert Gardens and was named “The International Orchid Show”. This show was the first NTOS effort to be an AOS-judged show.

The Greater North Texas Orchid Society was formed in January 1954, as the result of the amalgamation of the Dallas Orchid Society and the North Texas Orchid Society. The new group was formed as a nucleus for a larger and potentially greater society with an enthusiastic membership. The society is one of the first 13 affiliated with SWROGA. Annual fall shows continued through 1960. GNTOS hosted the second SWROGA show and meetings November 3-5, 1961, at the Exchange Bank and Trust in Dallas. The society has also hosted the following seven SWROGA show and meeting dates: #14, March 1-3, 1968; #24, March 29 – April 1, 1973; #36, March 9-11, 1979; #48, May 31-June 2, 1985; #52, March 6-8, 1987; #60, March 22-24, 1991; and #75, November 13-15, 1998.

GNTOS even put in an orchid show at the State Fair of Texas (one of the nation's largest state fairs) one year. Homer Baldwin was in charge. Somewhere between Dallas and Ft. Worth was some wonderful rock. A whole bunch of GNTOS members went over and brought stones back – they were iron rust colored and most of them were cupped. From these rocks, the group built a huge waterfall. It was a first rate exhibit made possible by the budget provided by the society. Can you believe, it took about 60 tons of rock for the exhibit? GNTOS meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Dallas Water Utilities Building, 8915 Adlora Lane in Dallas. The doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 8:00 PM. The society celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001. Their membership runs between 100 to 150 members. Eleven current members have belonged to the society members for at least 25 consecutive years and have been awarded “Silver Member” status.

At the site of the present Dallas metroplex, the first Anglo-American settler built a single log cabin in 1841. Two years later, the town consisted of two log cabins. By the mid-1870's, Dallas had become a thriving business city and market center. This was primarily due to several immigrations of skilled and cultural groups of French, German, Swiss, English and other Europeans. Today, the population of Dallas is over a million people. The city is the Southwest's largest banking center, leader in wholesale businesses, second in the nation for insurance company home offices. It is also third in the nation in terms of “million dollar” companies and second in convention business. No wonder it is known as “Big D”. There are so many wonderful things to see and do in Dallas. When you visit, contact the Convention Center for information. Be sure to plan your visit to include a society meeting – lots of orchids on display and lots of hospitality to enjoy.

Historian Note: My sincere thanks to the late Homer Baldwin, Ronnie and Jerry Brandenburg, Ann Harrington and Ruth Wright for their much-needed assistance.

**81<sup>st</sup> SWROGA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING FALL 2001**

Combined Board of Directors and Membership  
Saturday, November 3, 2001 --- Corpus Christi, Texas

SWROGA President, Lena Parker, called the meeting to order. SWROGA Registrar, Katherine Burns, confirmed determination of Quorum. Meeting proceeded with the President's message of greeting followed by a request for a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes as printed in the *SWROGA NEWS*. Lois Dauelsberg made the motion with a second by Julius Klehm. Motion carried.

Carolyn McCabe, SWROGA Treasurer, presented a report of the Financial status of SWROGA Funds as of March 31, 2001 & September 30, 2001:

	<u>As of 3/31/01</u>	<u>As of 9/30/01</u>		
General funds including CD .....	\$ 22,661.58	\$ 21,366.29		
(Includes earned interest)				
Trophy Funds.....	\$ 35,827.56	\$ 37,482.33		
(Includes earned interest)				
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 58,489.14</u>	<u>\$ 58,848.62</u>		
<table border="1"><tr><td>Net Overall Gain:</td><td>\$ 359.48</td></tr></table>			Net Overall Gain:	\$ 359.48
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Carolyn also gave the Financial Committee Report. Due to the low interest rates, the committee recommends that no outside donations be made at this time. Further, Carolyn reported that she sent \$730.00 to the South Texas Orchid Society to cover the cost of SWROGA Funded Trophies. A check in the amount \$4,500.00 was sent to American Orchid Society for the AOS Headquarters and Development Fund which was collected at the previous meeting in Monroe, LA. In addition, the committee decided that an additional complete set of financial records would reside with the Auditor to help preserve the records.

Carolyn presented all SWROGA Directors and Officers with a packet that contained a prototype directory of the SWROGA Membership. This contains a list of affiliated societies, their officers and an alphabetized membership within SWROGA as provided to the SWROGA Registrar prior to printing. Also, a letter was enclosed to the society to make corrections and/or additions as needed for 2002 membership dues & rosters. Cost of printing this type of directory was \$1.40 per copy. It was recommended by the finance committee that a cost of \$1.50 per copy annually be included in the budget should the Directors consider this directory appropriate. The motion by Lloyd Burns stated that the cost of two copies of the *SWROGA Directory* for each affiliated society and that of the SWROGA Officers be included in the budget of 2002-2003. Several seconds were heard from the floor. Motion passed. Carolyn stated that the funds were available in the 2002 budget. Discussion included that any additional requests for copies would be at a cost of \$2.50 to cover cost of printing and shipping. If any society wished to make their own additional copies for their own membership, they could have them copied at the society's expense with the permission of the Financial Committee. Carolyn requested that directory changes and dues be sent to her by January 31, 2002 in order to have the updated information available for printing. As a reminder, the By-law requires that if dues are not received before the next SWROGA Meeting on March 2, 2002 the society will be considered delinquent and no longer a member in good standing. The new directory will go to printer on February 15, 2002. It is costly to receive the returned *SWROGA NEWS*, so send any changes as soon as they occur to the Registrar, with a copy to the News Editor (to ensure that the current mailing will be correct).

Carolyn presented a brief oral report of a lower, but balanced budget. Wally Boersma made an additional comment that the treasurer's job is an awesome responsibility and that Carolyn should commended for her outstanding job. A round of applause was given. A motion was made and seconded for acceptance of the Treasurers Report and that of the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Melba Butler, acting chairperson, presented the Affiliated Societies Committee report. Melba reported the already approved dates for up coming shows (Spring 2002, Jefferson Orchid Society, New Orleans, LA & Fall 2002, Houston Orchid Society, Houston TX.) More show info can be found elsewhere in the *SWROGA NEWS*. A vote was taken for approving additional shows for Spring 2003 hosted by the Baton Rouge Orchid Society in Baton Rouge, LA and Spring 2004 hosted by Kansas Orchid Society in Wichita, KS. Melba announced that the Affiliated Societies had been asked by the SWROGA president to establish a new service for SWROGA societies – a Continuing List of orchid shows within SWROGA. The reasoning behind this request is as follows: SWROGA encompasses five AOS judging centers. Each of these centers approves dates for orchid shows only for societies associated with that center; therefore, it is possible that societies can unknowingly schedule shows on the same date. Some societies would like to be able to check with one person to see what shows are scheduled within SWROGA on a certain date before they ask their center for a show date. The Affiliated Societies Committee agreed that maintaining one list of shows throughout SWROGA would be a good service for

**the committee to offer. Melba Butler offered to be the person to establish and keep up this list. The SWROGA president will announce the service in the next SWROGA NEWS.**

Motion to approve the committee report was made, seconded and passed.

**Byron McGraw of the By-Laws and Procedures Committee presented a brief report that a new Procedures Manuel will be made available for distribution at the Spring 2002 Meeting. A copy of the proposed changes will be printed in the SWROGA NEWS. Affiliated Societies are asked to send your comments back to him as early as possible.**

Motion to approve the report as presented was made, seconded and approved.

**Ervin Granier of the Conservation Committee reported that they are still working on the Identity of Orchids Native to SWROGA. Currently, there are about one hundred eleven (111) identified. Most of which they have photographs or drawing available with descriptions for most of the native orchids in the SWROGA Region. Sources have included books, personal files, and the Internet.** Motion to accept the Conservation report was made, seconded and passed.

**Ninette Maples presented the report from the Program and Educational Committee. Ninette reported that all previous goals have been met or completed. A new goal and ambitious project is to sponsor a program within the public schools to educate, increase enthusiasm and encourage the development of young minds concerning orchid growing. It is hoped to establish a fund to promote this interest. There is a need for members of SWROGA to provide new slide programs, detailing the latest thinking on culture and the development of new trends.**

Motion to accept the Committee report was made. Seconded and accepted.

**Lloyd Burns reported from the Show Schedule & Trophy Committee that they are indebted to individuals or groups who have already furnished trophies through out the years. Hosting societies for SWROGA Shows are asked to notify the Show Committee chair, Lloyd Burns, if they do not receive money for a trophy listed in the SWROGA Show Schedule. The donor of said trophy will be contacted to see whether or not they desire to continue giving the trophy. In displaying the winners of trophies, societies are requested to make cards showing both the name and donor of each trophy.**

**In classification of plants for the show schedule is a sentence that reads “where a plant could conceivably be put in more than one class, the exhibitor shall enter it in the first applicable class listed”. SWROGA has available an index of genera classification. Please make note of this.**

**Progress is being made to have the show schedule available via email for better distribution as needed in addition of the current method.**

**As a reminder, SWROGA requires that special lighting for judging be made available at each show.**

Motion to accept the report from the Show Schedule & Trophy Committee was made, seconded and passed.

**Patsy Boersma, chairperson of the Publication Committee reported that after an audit of the mailing list was taken, there were somewhat less returns on the SWROGA NEWS. Pasty reiterated that it is costly to have issues returned that have been undeliverable due improper addresses. Wally Boersma suggested that each society could send their current mailing list to the Editor & Registrar as a checklist. Please let the Registrar (Katherine Burns) know of any changes as soon as they are known. Jim Butler is in charge of the advertising and space will be provided for as many paid ads as possible.**

**However, any ad should not overshadow the news and articles. One half page of space will be reserved for any updates to websites.** Motion to accept the report from the Publication Committee was made, seconded and passed.

**Lois Dauelsberg, from the Nominating Committee (other members, Wilton Guillory and Berneice Miller) presented the proposed slate of 2002-2004 SWROGA Officers. No vote taken. Slate reads as:**

<b>President (already elected)</b>	<b>John Kramer</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Roneida (Ronnie) Brandenburg</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Burrel Gambel</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mavis Klehm</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carolyn McCabe</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Amanda Saar</b>

**These will be voted on at the Spring 2002 meeting.**

**Julius Klehm of the Ad-Hoc Committee for updating the publication of “How to Host a SWROGA Show” reported that he had not completed all the update. He hopes to have completed this revision by the next meeting. Report was accepted.**

**Lloyd Burns reported that an audit of the mailing list was done. Report accepted.**

**Kathy Wright, Historian, reported the history of the Greater North Texas Orchid Society in Dallas is ready for publication and the Shreveport Orchid Society is the only current SWROGA society that has not reported their history to the Historian. Two new societies in Laredo and McAllen have not yet reported their society’s history. Kathy gave thanks to Fred Strothmann for providing 12 past SWROGA Show Schedules very recently. The committee will be most appreciative**

of copies or originals of any show that you may have in your archives. Copies will be made of the originals and returned if you so desire.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Historian Report.

Ed Wright gave a report of Show Tag Committee, stating that sale of show tags has been slower than normal for this year. Year to date a total of 5,500 show tags have been shipped leaving a balance of 6,000 tags. Reorder will need to be made by Spring 2002 to insure to have enough on hand. Ed reminded that SWROGA show tags are prepackaged in units of 500 tags only. This amount seems to meet the most needs and it gives a standard pack that is mailed easily in Priority Mail cartons supplied by the Post Office. This packaging helps keep the tags in good order for use in the shows. If there is a problem with this prepackaging, they are open for suggestions. Motion was made by Lloyd Burns to keep the 500-count package, seconded by Julius Klehm. Motion carried. Report accepted.

Registrar, Katherine Burns requested that societies send a copy of their newsletter to the Registrar so that she will be able to incorporate their new members into the mailing list. If, there is no society newsletter, which contains the list of new members, please just enclose the names in an envelope to her. Report accepted.

AOS Rep, Mavis Klehm, gave a report that a letter was received from Lee Cooke, Executive Director of American Orchid Society thanking SWROGA for their generous donation to AOS for the support of the AOS Headquarters & Development Fund. Their new focus in needed funds is for the completion of the Green Houses and Gardens on the grounds. A gala is planned for this January 19, 2002 (a Black Tie event) at a cost of \$250.00 per person. This event is called "Orchids Under the Stars". Contact AOS for an invitation to attend. You will not want to miss this event.

A new award is being offered by AOS called The Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award (DASSA). It will be given in recognition of sustained, outstanding contributions in areas of service and support in the field of orchidology. Applications are being accepted for the Furness Foundation/AOS Graduate Fellowship. It is a fixed sum per year for any given individual who meets the requirement.

As a reminder, your society's AOS Rep must be a member of AOS to qualify for this position. AOS Reps get a monthly newsletter informing them of things going on which can be passed on to your membership at meetings or in your own newsletter.

Report accepted.

Lena recognized representatives of AOS Headquarters and asked if they had any thing they wanted to say at this time. Lee Cooke gave thanks for SWROGA stepping up first to the plate with a generous donation to develop of the new headquarters with their pledge of \$10,000.00. When visiting the AOS Headquarters be sure to visit the Donor Wall and look the SWROGA Plaque. Lena gave personal thanks for all in SWROGA who helped make this donation possible. Roger Brown reported that he had accepted a check for \$5,000.00 from the Kansas Orchid Society and that it was very much appreciated.

Other items: Lena asked for discussion on the possible establishment of a new fund for education and possibly research to which individuals could donate in honor of others, or for any other reason. After discussion from the floor, Mickey moved that we sit up a committee to review this idea. Seconded by John Kramer. Motion Carried. This committee will be named and published in the *SWROGA NEWS*.

Ann Levy reported that the SWROGA Show in New Orleans. That it will be held at the Radisson Hotel and no banquet is planned. The Auction is planned for 4:30 to 5:00 PM with possible light refreshments available. This would leave enough time to make dinner plans elsewhere. REMINDER: there will be only one hour between the last scheduled meeting and the Auction. In case the weather is cold and protection is needed for your plants there will be a room available on Thursday for storage of plants only should you need additional space before set up.

Ed Wright talked about the SWROGA Estate Planning Task Force had been set up for disposal of orchids & things of orchid interests that are in someone's estate. Task force members were: Lloyd Burns (chairman), Fred Strothmann, John Craig (deceased), Lois Dauelsberg, Ed Horton, John Kramer, Lois Greer, & Nina Rach. The work done by this committee was submitted in a report to the AOS Conservation Committee. At this AOS Trustees Meeting this report was included as an attachment to that committee's document outlining proposed procedures for disposal for orchid related items contained in an estate. It has gone to AOS as a recommendation for national policy.

Patsy Boersma reported that there would be a workshop held with the Dallas Judging Center at Marshall TX on February 9, 2002.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,  
Mavis Klehm, Acting Secretary



**Orchids in the Past!** Preparation of the orchids for ladies' night at a Marshall Browns baseball game in 1949 in Marshall, Texas.

## ***“Orchids on Parade”***

**Orchid Show & Sale**

**Central Louisiana  
Orchid Society**

**Alexandria Mall  
Alexandria, Louisiana**

**February 22-24, 2002**

**Judging Saturday Morning**

**Wilton Guillory WGuill@aol.com**

## **Orchid Society of Jefferson**

**Spring SWROGA Show**

**“A Gift of Orchids”**

**March 1, 2 & 3, 2002**

**Kenner, Louisiana**

**Radisson Hotel on Veterans Blvd**

**Show Chairperson: Mrs. Ann Levy**

**7713 Wilson St.**

**Harahan, La 70123**

**Alevy94241@aol.com**

## **SO YOU WANT AN AOS AWARD**

**(Secret, Rarely Revealed Information)**

The following are the observations and opinions of the author who is a new probationary AOS judge. Any similarity to persons living or deceased is purely accidental. At this point it might be appropriate to say something that most people don't realize. Orchid judges, even accredited judges, are regular human beings just like every one else. They are tired after long trips to shows, can get sleepy after a judges luncheon, and judging at night, which should be outlawed, can tax even the hardest of individuals. As with any group who judge anything, there are individuals who are more demanding and harder on anything they judge. An interesting observation is that judges who rarely or don't ever bring plants for judging or no longer actively grow orchids are usually the hardest judges. However, of the organizations I have been involved with, I have never seen a finer group of individuals. They are dedicated and enjoy what they do. All judges and clerks volunteer their services, for most at considerable expense to themselves, and for the love of the hobby. They will always attempt to follow the AOS Judges Handbook to the letter.

If you want to get a good sense of orchids that can actually get awarded, get on a ribbon judging team at an orchid show. This is one of the best training grounds that exist. The variety of plants you can see is outstanding. With the proper finesse you can probably get on the team of your choice. There is a certain judge from San Antonio, who will remain nameless, that has seen more U.S. Presidents than most of us. If possible, his is one ribbon judging team you want to be on. The pace is slow, educational, and encourages questions from all on the team. You will learn more on his judging team than at most workshops. The other side of the coin is a judge from Atlanta, who will also remain nameless, that tells his team that there will be no questions till we finish and no going back to look again at any plant because we want to get through with this as soon as possible. So the differences are limitless and the learning opportunities are there.

There is not many more exciting or heart beating experiences than when a team of AOS judges sets your blooming orchid plant in front of them to be evaluated for an AOS AWARD. You can try to barely notice or appear to be somewhat indifferent, but you cannot deny the rush of adrenaline. The team will hover around, look, poke, measure, stroke, sniff, and even research your plant. Quite often the plant will be brought outside to view in natural daylight. It will be looked at even closer, poked, stroked, and sniffed even more. At this point you are not any closer to the sacred AOS AWARD than if your plant was still sitting in your greenhouse. Then if lightning strikes, one of the certified judges just might be impressed enough to say, "**I want to point score this plant.**" At this point you can start to jump and dance, because you are almost there. You have an almost 90% certainty that you will get an AOS AWARD. However before you get to this point and if your orchid is award quality or even borderline, there are some things you should be aware of to push the odds in your favor.

1. **Orchid shows** are one of most difficult places to get an AOS AWARD. If you realize that there are between 200 to 500 plants registered and all are looking for immortality in the Awards Quarterly. There is a finite amount of time and patience that human beings can endure at one judging session. Your odds are about 1 to 100.
2. **Night judging** as stated above should be avoided like the plague. Human beings get tired at night, want to finish, and even with the best of intentions some quality plants simply don't get the time or consideration they deserve. Odds are approximately 1 to 250.
3. **Workshops** are a better place to get the odds in your favor. Usually there are not a large number of plants and if time is not a factor, a quality plant has a better chance. Odds are 1 to 50.
4. **Judging Centers**-Here is where the action is. If you have a worthy plant a judging center is the place to get an award. The plants are thoroughly researched, photographs of the parents or similar grex awards are looked up. The national odds are 1 to 5. In other words if you bring five good plants to judging, the odds are that one will get awarded.



As a new judge, student or probationary, you are assigned two advisors who work with you, evaluate your assignments, and advise you. I have had two of the best. One is and AOS trustee and the other has become one of my best friends. Their counsel has been invaluable. Every time I judge with one of these people I gain new insight and knowledge. What I am saying is don't be afraid to ask the judges questions. Find out and understand their views of the judging process.

Growing orchids is one of the most enjoyable hobbies one can have. You have to do it to understand the addiction. You must, however, get your plants out of your greenhouse because I am not aware of anyone who has received an AOS AWARD while their plant was in their greenhouse. Get those five plants to a judging center. You might be surprised what happens.

Wilton Guillory, DDS

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### See You in New Orleans

The Orchid Society of Jefferson had its beginnings in 1963. Norman Leibovitz, Al Clements and Helen Lee were the three people who started the club by asking their many friends to join and bring friends. Our first meetings were held in the various members' homes. The person holding the meeting displayed their plants for members at the meeting. Our first public showing was held in a school gym. There was no judging, just a beautiful arrangement of all our flowers in bloom. Friends from all over came to see our collection.

Later years we voted to become AOS members. With our learning about judging we went forward to become better and better growers. To our benefit we joined SWROGA. Since its concept this club has gone forward and become well known for its good growers and participation.

Today we have fifty members. We are still learning how to grow orchids. At least twelve members of the society have won AOS awards, some many AOS awards, for their plants and flowers.

It is our pleasure to host the spring SWROGA show. As you probably know or have heard the New Orleans area is unique. As one example we do not have the normal direction of North, South, East and West. We give directions as the River or Pontchartrain Lake, or New Orleans side or Kenner. In some areas we have to go east to get to the west bank and west to get to the east bank. When you cross the Huey Long Bridge you have to pull in your fenders. It's narrow!

This is a great place to visit. City Park is finishing a new beautiful conservatory. There is a well-known museum in the park. Of course, everyone knows we have the French Quarter. I hope you get to visit this wonderful, historic and beautiful area. There is so much to do and see in the surrounding area - the old beautiful homes on St. Charles Ave., Audubon Park Zoo, D-Day Museum, the Aquarium of Americas with the I-Max Theater, maybe a ride on the Mississippi River on a paddle wheel - just to mention a few. If you have time to go fishing, there are fishing guides that guarantee you will catch fish, just thirty minutes from the hotel.

Bring your appetite with you. We have some of the best restaurants, large and small, expensive and not so expensive, in the world. There are almost more restaurants than people. We do eat out a lot. The crawfish should be in full season. Hope to see you in March.

Ann Levy, Chairman

**Check out the SWROGA website at [www.SWROGA.org](http://www.SWROGA.org)**

## WRIGHT THINKING

By Ed Wright

As so often happens, WT space is devoted this time to current events. As publication deadlines approach, a massive cold wave is covering most of SWROGA with an unusually early and unusually severe blanket of arctic air. In addition to long johns and caps with earflaps, lets haul out the orchid rescue advice. In cold, icy weather, the first greenhouse concern must be the heating system. If you checked heaters in the early days of Indian summer, they are mechanically ready for the heavy demands of freezing weather. The thing they are not ready for is power failure – as when freezing rain coats, sags and snaps the lines that bring power to our homes. Modern heaters simply shut down when power interruptions occur.

For years, we have collected an assortment of unvented space heaters. These we keep in readiness for a cold weather power failure. They can be hooked up in thirty minutes and will keep the greenhouse above freezing for as long as necessary. Do they emit fumes? Sure, but they also emit heat. Harmful fumes are reduced to a minimum if burners and air channels are kept clean. We do this sort of maintenance in the heat of summer, knowing fall will be a busier time. With burner flames adjusted to clear blue, few fumes are formed. Our target is to keep the greenhouse above freezing, not necessarily to provide an ideal growing situation.

Another approach is to store lawn sprinklers in the greenhouse – one for each hose connection. As long as water will flow, your plants can't freeze so hook up the sprinklers, turn them on and run for the door! Leave the sprinklers on until power is restored or ambient temperatures creep up to 40 degrees F or so. Once normal heating can resume, turn on every fan possible to dry out free water very quickly. When the plants are reasonably dry, spray them all with a fungicide like Physan 20. If water stands in crowns or as droplets on leaves, it can be encouraged to drain by spraying plants with a mild soap solution. A half teaspoonful of dishwashing soap per gallon of water makes a good spray for this use.

Condensation is often a problem during cold weather. Beware of the King Syndrome! The King Syndrome is what causes water droplets to fall precisely into the crown of a Phalaenopsis. There it stays – and rots. Reduce this problem by spraying the inside surface of the greenhouse roof with a soapy water solution of one teaspoonful of liquid dishwashing soap to a gallon of water. Soap reduces surface tension and causes water to “sheet” out and run off, rather than collect as droplets and drip. Repeat the soapy water application every two or three weeks, as the condensing water will remove it. This solution will not hurt plants so the spray process can be done with abandon.

When things go right, heaters can still have problems. Most of them are caused by failure to provide fresh air to the heater. Combustion burns a lot of air, and the residue goes up the stack and out of the greenhouse. This volume of air must be made up from outside air. An efficient way to do this is to run a piece of downspout (the kind that drains rain gutter water to ground) through the greenhouse wall and directly to the heater. Put an elbow on the outside end to keep water out and put a piece of screen wire over the open (down) end of the elbow to keep bugs out. Run this “air pipe” as near the heater as possible so all that cold, outside air will go into combustion and out the stack, not into the greenhouse.

Finally, put some pans and buckets of water around the greenhouse. All that condensation water we worry about comes from inside the greenhouse: from the floor, from the air or (if no alternative source is provided) from the plants. Don't let cold air, hard working heaters and condensation rob your plants. Make free water available in any container that will hold it. Your plants will smile!

### CONTINUING LIST OF ORCHID SHOWS WITHIN SWROGA

(A service of the SWROGA Affiliated Societies Committee)

Beginning in 2002, Affiliated Societies Committee member Melba Butler will be keeping a list of all orchid shows approved by the five AOS judging centers within SWROGA – the Alamo Center, the Dallas Center, the Great Plains Center, the Houston Center and the Rocky Mountain Center. Melba will be contacting the centers monthly for an update so that her list can be kept as complete as possible.

Melba will have this information available on a form. Anybody who would like a copy of this form can contact Melba. Both her e-mail address and her mailing address are listed on the inside front cover of SWROGA NEWS. If orchid societies contact Melba before asking for approval for a date, conflicts with nearby societies can hopefully be avoided, thus allowing everybody who would like to attend shows in both locations to be able to do so.

# THE SWROGA LEXICON

BY

GLENDIA McINTOSH

NAME: *Sedirea japonica*.

PRONUNCIATION: see-DEER-ee-ah jay-PON-ee-cah.

DERIVATION OF NAME: The genus name, *Sedirea*, is *Aerides* spelled backward which indicates a close connection between the genera. In 1974 Garay and Sweet reclassified the genus *Aerides*, but *japonica* did not fit the generic description. So *Sedirea* was created as a monotypic genus to accommodate the species *japonica*. A second species was added by Eric Christenson in 1985, *Sedirea subparishii*, from Mainland China. *Subparishii* is not readily available for private collections. *Sedirea* differs from *Aerides* in having an elongated column with a short foot, and a lip that is not continuous with the column foot but articulated with it. The species name indicates that the type species was collected in Japan.

SYNONYMS: *Aerides japonica*, *Angraecum japonicum*.

DESCRIPTION: A small epiphyte with short stems bearing 5-7 leathery leaves which have bluntly bilobed tips, 8-15 cm long, 2-3 cm wide. Vigorous plants produce lateral shoots and form clumps in the manner of *Tuberolabium*. Inflorescence 1-several, 2-12 flowered, arching-pendent, slightly longer than the leaves. Flowers fragrant, fleshy, 2.5 cm across; dorsal sepal with red purple bar near base, lateral sepals white with red purple bars in basal half; petals whitish; lip white with pink spots on midlobe, yellow central stripe overlaid with bright red purple nearly coalescing spots; spur yellowish. Dorsal sepal obovate, concave with

## Sedirea japonica



reflexed margins, 13-15 mm long, 4-5 mm wide; lateral sepals deflexed, oblong-elliptic, obtuse, 13-15 mm long, 5 mm wide. Petals elliptic, obtuse, somewhat porrect, 13-15 mm long, 4-5 mm wide. Lip obscurely 3-lobed, 1.5-2 cm long, 1 cm wide; side lobes incurved, subquadrate to triangular, very small; midlobe spatulate, rounded apex with undulate-cripsed margins; spur strongly incurved, narrowly conical. Column elongate, 1 cm long, incurved in apical half. Column foot short.

This is a charming strongly fragrant miniature that seems easy to grow at first with intermediate conditions, medium bright light and even watering all year long. It needs a medium that retains some moisture. Be careful not to let this plant get completely dry since it is impossible to recover the plant when the leaves shrivel and roots are lost. *Sedirea japonica* has been found to be a short lived plant in cultivation, and plants that flower for four or five seasons are rare. This plant does set seed easily. If you grow this plant, raise seedlings to perpetuate your *Sedirea* treasure, and to share with friends.

## Treasurer's Corner

The Society Directors in attendance picked up a packet for their Society's Treasurer. Packets not picked up were mailed to the Society Presidents for distribution to their Treasurer. In the packet is a 2001 SWROGA Directory along with a letter to the Treasurer with instructions for submitting 2002 dues, 2002 membership list, and 2002 Officer's Form. The Directory contains a copy of the SWROGA Bylaws, a complete list with names and address of all SWROGA Officers/Committee Members, names and addresses of all society members and a complete list of all society officers as submitted by each society's treasurer in 2001.

The Directors voted to fund a copy of the 2002 SWROGA Directory. A copy will be provided for each Society's President and Treasurer and SWROGA Officers/Committee Chairs. The directory will go to the printer on February 15, 2002, and will be distributed at the Spring SWROGA General Meeting in Louisiana on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. **So that each society is represented accurately in the directory, it is of the utmost importance that the dues and membership lists be submitted to the SWROGA Treasurer no later than January 31, 2002.** Additional copies of the Directory can be ordered at a cost of \$3.50. The order must be submitted along with the 2002 membership list and dues. Photo copying of the Directories is authorized and Electronic copy can be provided via e-mail on request. It is in Microsoft Word Office 2000 format.

The Affiliated Societies' Silent Auction, held in Corpus Christi, increased our trophy fund in the amount of \$407.00.

### Approved 2002 Budget

#### Projected General Fund Receipts

Membership Dues	\$ 4,400.00
Newsletter Advertising	500.00
Show Tags	600.00
Show Registrations	200.00
Programs and Education (Slide Shows)	50.00
Interest	450.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
	\$ 6,300.00

#### Projected General Fund Disbursements

Newsletter	\$ 5,000.00
Show Tags	600.00
Administrative	
President	50.00
Secretary	50.00
Treasurer (postage & 2002 Directory)	250.00
Newsletter Editor and Registrar	100.00
Committees	
Affil. Societies	20.00
Financial	20.00
By-laws & Judiciary	20.00
Programs & Education	50.00
Show	20.00
Miscellaneous	140.00
	\$ 6,300.00

#### Projected Trophy Fund Receipts:

Interest Income	\$ 2,200.00
Show Raffles/Auctions	1,000.00
	\$ 3,200.00

#### Projected Trophy Fund Disbursements:

SWROGA Show Trophy Assistance	\$ 1,460.00
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#### SWROGA Funds as of November 19, 2001

General	\$ 21,372.56
Trophy	\$ 37,889.33
Total	\$ 59,261.89

## Web Site Update

Many new changes have occurred surrounding the SWROGA website. Some of the changes are easy to see, and some are not. Here is a summary of the events:

1. ***The SWROGA web site has a new home!*** The address has not changed and is still [www.swroga.org](http://www.swroga.org). The previous hosting site required embedding of advertisements or a small pop up screen with advertisements. This was annoying to some surfers, and slowed access time for other surfers. Now, a company that does not employ embedded or pop up advertisements hosts the SWROGA web site! The means that access times will be FASTER and there will no longer be annoying advertisements! For the co web masters, (SGE and TJM), we have quicker upload times that are streamlined and occur at a fraction of the time. Our new host also allows for rather interesting information gathering on the web surfers that visit our site.
  - a. To date, we have had **1621** visits since **12/29/1999!**
  - b. We can view the distribution of traffic by Continent (from the period of September 1, 2001 to December 2, 2001.) ***Yes SWROGA is now international!***

### Breakdown of Traffic by Continent

North America	with	518 sessions.	(80.43 % of traffic)
South America	with	0.00 sessions.	(0.00 % of traffic)
Europe	with	13 sessions.	(2.02 % of traffic)
Asia	with	6 sessions.	(0.93 % of traffic)
Australia & Oceania	with	0.00 sessions.	(0.00 % of traffic)
Africa	with	0.00 sessions.	(0.00 % of traffic)

2. ***Many of the Pages have been updated.*** This means that some of the pages may look a little different, but the content has either been rearranged, or has been either divided into separate pages or combined into a single page. Examples include
  - a. **Officers** – Now a separate page
  - b. **Committees** – Now a separate page
  - c. **Continuing Functions** – Now a separate page
  - d. **AOS Judging Centers** – Now a separate page
  - e. **AOS Meetings** – Now a separate page
  - f. **Links** – Added small pictures to the hotlinks. This page is one of the most colorful.
  - g. **Native Species** – This has been completely revamped as per Ervin Granier. All states are listed in a single spreadsheet at the top of the page, and the complete listing of the 111 native species of orchids in SWROGA is listed down the page. A small camera icon is next to the name of the individual orchids if a picture is available for viewing. Lastly, the reference from which Ervin Granier derived his research is noted in the Legend at the bottom of the page. We are very thankful for Dr. Slater's permission to use his textbook on the native orchid of Arkansas. A copy of his letter can also be found at the end of the Native Species listing.
  - h. **Newsletter** - divided into separate articles for quicker access times.
3. ***Change of Address?*** Is your address current? There is now a very easy to update your address for the SWROGA Newsletter – an electronic change of address form! Go to the index page of the SWROGA web site and click on the bottom left of the page that discusses the change of address. You will be taken to a very simple (but complete) change of address form. Simply fill in all of the boxes or drop down menus and press the submit button. It is that easy and the Registrar, Katherine Burns, will have you updated information so you will not miss important mailings.
4. ***Is your society planning a show?***  
If so, you will need Plant Schedule forms (depending on the Spring or Fall time of the show) as well as other useful information. While you can simply find all this information on the web site, Lloyd Burns has approved a group of electronic files that contain all the necessary information for your upcoming show. You can go to the Plant Schedule page and access the electronic file request form that asks for some simple information so the co web masters can send

you the files. Currently, you can either request Microsoft Word or simple TEXT files. If you have special needs, please be sure to describe your needs in the comment section of the form.

There you have it. These are most of the changes and improvements on which we have been working so as to improve your web site. Should anyone have any suggestions or comments, please email us at [sge@brightok.net](mailto:sge@brightok.net), or phone 580-226-7290. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Eagle, R.S.  
Tom Mulhollan, MD  
Co web masters for SWOGA

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## **Oncidium Alliance Judging Workshop**

Sponsored by the Dallas Judging Center

**Saturday, February 9, 2002**

Michelson Museum of Art  
216 North Bolivar  
Marshall, Texas 75670

**Speakers: Anita Aldrich, Glenda McIntosh, and Howard Liebman**

Register on line @ [www.djc-aos.org](http://www.djc-aos.org)

### ***“Orchids in Bloom”***

#### **Heart O’ Texas Orchid Society Show and Sale**

**March 22 – 24, 2002**

**Zilker Botanic Gardens  
2200 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas**

Dave Levine, Show Chairman  
512-502-1145  
[dlevine1@earthlink.net](mailto:dlevine1@earthlink.net)

### **Baton Rouge Orchid Society**

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> Show & Sale**

**July 12 – 14, 2002**

**Baton Rouge Garden Center  
7950 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

John B. Huner, Show Chairman  
11350 Mollylea Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815  
225-767-2234 (days)  
225-275-7419 (nights)  
[jbhuner@msn.com](mailto:jbhuner@msn.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Oncidium Alliance Judging Workshop**

February 9, 2002  
Michelson Museum of Art  
216 North Bolivar  
Marshall, Texas 75670  
Wilton Guillory WGuill@aol.com  
Patsy Boersma pboersma@shreve.net

### **Orchids on Parade**

February 22-24, 2002  
Central Louisiana Orchid Society  
Alexandria, Louisiana  
Alexandria Mall  
Wilton Guillory WGuill@aol.com

### **SWROGA Meeting and Show**

March 1 -3, 2002  
Orchid Society of Jefferson  
Gretna, Louisiana  
Radison Hotel  
Veterans Blvd. Metairie, Louisiana  
AnnLevy  
504-737-5180  
alevy94241@aol.com

### **Orchids in Bloom**

March 22-24, 2002  
Heart O' Texas Orchid Society  
Zilker Botanic Gardens  
2200 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas  
Dave Levine 512-502-1145  
dlevine1@earthlink.net

### **Orchid Show and Sale**

July 12-14, 2002  
Baton Rouge Orchid Society  
Baton Rouge Garden Center  
7950 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
John Huner 225-7672234(H) 225-275-7419(W)  
jbhuner@msn.com

***Spring Issue Deadline  
January 18, 2002***

## An Orchid Trek in Venezuela's Gran Sabana

Text and photos by Nina Rach

The Gran Sabana of southeastern Venezuela is a very beautiful, remote plateau at the edge of civilization. It's covered by extensive, rolling grass savannas from which arise the famous table mountains, locally branded "tepuis," the most famous of which are Roraima ("The Lost World" of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and Auyantepui (site of Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall in the world, plummeting 3212 ft). There are tropical forests skirting the base of many of the tepuis, and throughout the Sabana are riverine forests and "morichales," seasonally flooded stands of sedges and native moriche palms (*Mauritia flexuosa*) which provide oil, sugar, and shade. The climate of the Gran Sabana is mild and very agreeable, partly due to the altitude of 2200-2500' (700-800m), and the continual fresh, buoyant winds. In short, a very promising orchid habitat.

The Gran Sabana occupies about half of Canaima National Park, which was established in 1962. In 1975, Canaima was tripled in size to 30,000km<sup>2</sup>, making it the largest national park in the world (slightly larger than Maryland and about the size of Belgium). In 1994, Canaima N.P. became a World Heritage Site, in recognition of the extraordinary scenery, geology, and biology. How could we resist the urge to visit such a place?



At the beginning of October, immediately following the 37th Miranda State Orchid Society show in Caracas, seven intrepid Venezuelan orchid enthusiasts climbed into SUV's and made the day-long drive between Caracas and Puerto Ordaz, a bustling manufacturing city strategically located along the Orinoco River, in eastern Venezuela. The other five of us boarded an Aeropostal jet for a slightly easier trip, via Margarita Island. We crossed the Orinoco in the final part of our descent into Puerto Ordaz, just after cruising through dramatic sunset thunderstorms. Watching the sun set on one side of the Orinoco and the moon rise on the other, was memorable! The heavily-laden cars and their drivers and copilots (Dr. Jorge Morales, Dr. Pedro & Miriam Barreto, Silivo Piccinato, Eugenio Uzcategui, and Giancarlo & Flora Marchioretto) were waiting for us at the airport. Jana Morales, who had chaperoned our Aeropostal group, was reunited with husband Jorge. Rounding out the group were Renate Schmidt (AOS judge from FL), Greg Allikas (AOS Photographer & Webmaster from FL), and my husband Marc Bik and me from Houston. We continued on in the dark to the large town of Upata, where we stayed the night at the spacious Hotel Andrea after dining on "bifsteak" at La Fontana D'Orazio.

After consuming small cups of cafe marron and pastries, we drove off in the light morning drizzle toward the Gran Sabana. Along the way, we drove through chaparral - extensive areas of oil palms ("palo de aceite") and scrubby trees ("chapparros") under 15 feet tall, with occasional patches of taller forest. This area is host to *Schomburgkia crispata*, *Catasetum macrocarpum*, and various epidendrums. Yuca/cassava (cassave) is a staple food, and we stopped to buy roadside goods baked in mahogany-fired ovens (cassava pie, choriato), naiboa, dulce de coco, and fresh cheese around the town of Guasipati.

A little further along, in a town called Tumeremo we admired a large tree heavily laden with very big clumps of schomburgkias, and then filled the SUV tanks for a relatively "pricey" 80 Bolivares (Bs.)/liter (equivalent \$0.40/gal). We continued on to the rugged little frontier gold town of El Callao (near "El Dorado"). Surface miners ("Garinpeiros") bring



their finds here to sell, and there are a multitude of tiny stores selling heavy 18k jewelry as well as the native nuggets. Like most towns throughout Venezuela, it has a town square called "Plaza Bolivar." No orchids here, though.

We began the ascent up the plateau at KM marker 88 just out of San Isidro (last available fuel), the traditional start of the Gran Sabana ("Grand Savannah"). The winding road is called "La Escalera" (the staircase,) and it passes through lush, moist forest, laden with epiphytes and roadside terrestrials and frequent small waterfalls. I would have liked to walk the entire distance. This road is the only paved road in the Gran Sabana, and it runs roughly north-south, paralleling the Guyana border.

Near the top of La Escalera, we stopped at the Piedra de la Virgen ("virgin rock" at Km 98.5, which withstood all efforts to blast it out of the way), and in addition to the statue of the Virgin surrounded by offerings from other wayfarers, we saw scaphyglottis, epidendrums, encyclias, and other epiphytes. We were told that phragmipediums and sobralias were also plentiful here, but we did not linger long. However, we finally took a lengthy tailgate lunch stop at some small cascades before KM 114, and were treated to a venerable cornucopia of orchids - even big patches of phragmipedium growing on leaf and moss-covered rock benches under light tree cover. We saw *Sobralia candida* (epiphytic, in shade), *Scaphyglottis violacea*, *Elleanthus graminifolia*, encyclias, epidendrums, and brassias with spikes a meter tall. We were approaching nirvana.

About a mile up the road we came to a small, cliffy area of bright white sandstone and sandy soil. We were first attracted to the clumps of *Epidendrum ibaguense* blooming in various shades of pink on 0.5m (18-in) inflorescences. There were robust plants of *Eriopsis biloba* and a sobralia species with wide, leathery leaves growing terrestrially in the lichen-covered sandy substrate. Around KM 120, just before Salto de Danto, we saw beautiful clumps of *Epidendrum secundum* along the roadside, growing amidst tall ferns, with branched inflorescences of dark-lavender, closely bunched flowers. We reached the first National Guard station on the plateau at KM 123. These stations are found on every major road throughout Venezuela, and every vehicle is expected to stop, announce their travel plans to the guards, and perhaps sign a large ledger. All vehicles are also subject to search. It was a great relief to have our Venezuelan hosts chat with the Guardsmen; it would be a daunting task to attempt this in rudimentary Spanish.

Just beyond the guard station, an epiphany awaited us. We had our first glimpse of the vast blooming fields of white *Sobralia liliastrum*, amidst sandy, rocky grassland. The plants grew 1-1.5 m (3-5-ft) tall, topped with large white flowers with golden streaks on the lip. Heaven for any sobralia lover (like me!). Growing in with the sobralias were blooming plants of *Epidendrum carpophorum*, which grows upright to about two feet tall, with large flowers reminiscent of *Epi. nocturnum*. There were also clumps of the dark purple *Epi. ibaguense*. We could see the outline of Etari tepui on the right (to the west). It was all quite a sight. Our main reference throughout the trip was the three volume "Orchids of Venezuela" illustrated field guide, originally published by Dunsterville and Garay in 1979. We were using the newly published second edition (2000), with minor edits by Romero and Carnevali.

We crossed the Apongua River (which we would visit further upstream later on in the week), and had another reconnaissance stop at the intersection of the road to Kavanayen, before Km 154. Here we saw many different colors of *Epi. ibaguense*, along with *Cyrtopodiums* and *Catasetum discolor*. By 5:00, we reached our destination for the evening, at Rapidos de Kamoiran, KM 171. With a little more than an hour before the daylight disappeared, we explored the savannah on the west side of the road and found beautiful, tall inflorescences of orange *Eriopsis biloba*, *Epi. secundum*, and white/green *Encyclia carpophorum*.

It cools quickly at night on the plateau. Waking up our first morning in the Gran Sabana was very pleasant indeed. We saw a great amount of dew on the savannah plants, and identified *Koellensteinia kellneriana* Rchb.f., with pale yellow flowers, and gazed rapturously at a very great number of clumps of lavender/magenta *Sobralia stenophylla* among the rocks in the river. Our first stop down the road was precipitated by the appearance of the brightly-colored, full flowers of *Epistephium hernandii* Garay. They were dark lavender with a white blotch in the center of the lip and a white hairy callus. This species was first described in AOS Bull. 30:498 in 1961. At the same location we also found *eriopsis*, *epidendrums*, *sobralias* and *catasetums* blooming.

At Km 197, we saw our first native cattleyas - the lavender *C. jenmanii*. The native Pemon Indians are the only people permitted to collect indigenous plants in the national park, and one can see baskets or pots of cattleyas and other orchids hanging around homesteads in almost every one of the widely scattered villages. At this particular village, they also sold carvings made from a very attractive local striped siltstone, jewelry carved from local red jasper, as well as jars of local piquant sauces, made from either termites, ants, or mixed ("mixta"). I suspected that the USDA would not approve of me importing those particular items, so I didn't bring any back.

We proceeded on to Kama-meru Falls at Km 201, a beautiful curtain falls, 55m high. Here we saw more white *Sobralia liliastrum*, white, pink and purple epidendrums, catasetums, and *Eriopsis biloba*. As we headed south, we saw vast rolling plains of grassland, frequently punctuated by the "morichales," and dramatic flat-topped tepuis in the distance. We stopped again at dusk when we spotted *Catasetum longifolium* and *Vanilla palmarum* growing upon moriche palms, before continuing into the town of Santa Elena. We settled into a lovely ecotourist camp called "Yakoo" and enjoyed the twinkling lights of the Santa Elena Valley.

(To be continued...)

In the meantime, you can follow up and read the following:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1912) *The Lost World*. [reprinted many times since!]

Any book or article by G.C.K. Dunsterville, or works by Dunsterville & Leslie Garay.

U. George (1989) "Venezuela's Islands in Time," in: *National Geographic Magazine*, May 1989, pp. 526-561.

William LaVarre (1935) *Gold, Diamonds & Orchids: Explorer in Guianan Jungles*. New York: Revell.



*Sob. liliastrum*



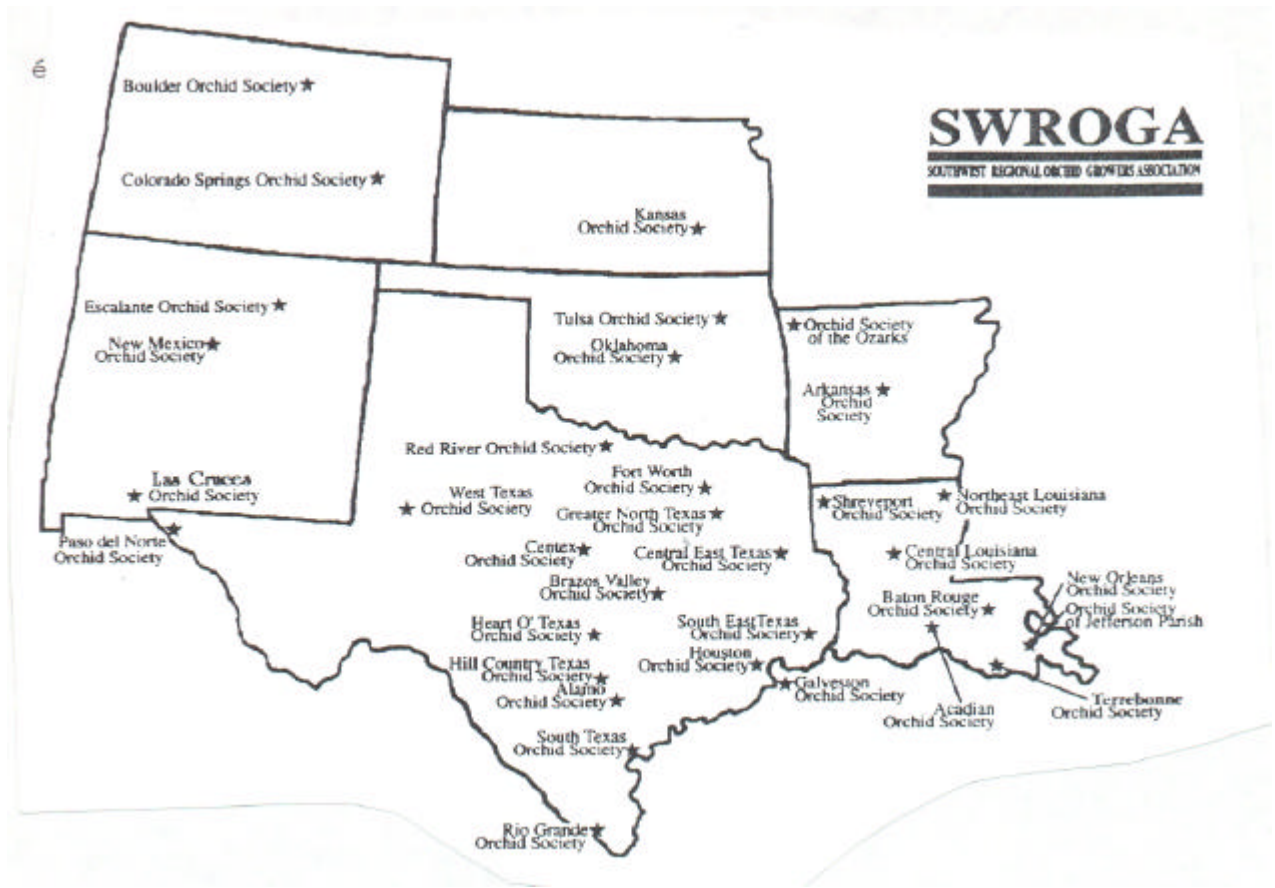
*Ctsm. discolor*

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***Merry Christmas  
and Happy Holidays to you and yours!  
May God bless you and keep you through  
2002!***

***Your editor, Patsy Boersma***

oakhill



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