

# SWROGA News

A Publication of the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association [www.SWROGA.org](http://www.SWROGA.org)

30 Affiliated Societies

Fall 2008

Volume 40, Issue 3

Message from Mavis:

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the SWROGA Meeting coming up soon. For details, see the information on the web ([www.swroga.org](http://www.swroga.org)) or in this newsletter.

I know that the Red River Orchid Society has made some great plans. Let's show good support and be there.

To my knowledge, we still need hosts for the 2009 and 2010 Fall shows, so if your society is interested, please send me a letter requesting to be hosts. Thanks, see you soon.

Mavis Klehm

## ITEMS NEEDED FOR SWROGA RAFFLE AND AUCTION

The Red River Orchid Society is hosting the Fall SWROGA Meeting and Show in Wichita Falls, Texas, November 7-9, 2008. As usual the Affiliated Societies Committee will be conducting an auction and raffle to raise monies for SWROGA activities.

Items are needed for these events. Orchid items, including plants, are desirable but other items are also acceptable.

Please notify Doris McGraw ([omie3122@aol.com](mailto:omie3122@aol.com)) or call 318-640-4732 about the items. This will make it easier to make a record of each item, and have them ready at the meeting. You may bring the items with you when attending the meeting, or send them to Doris McGraw, 3820 Lafayette Drive, Pineville, LA 71360.

Since 1959

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** - Any change of address, please notify Carolyn McCabe, Treasurer, 16351 Banner Road, Lexington, OK 73051. (405-899-4228; [orchids@mbo.net](mailto:orchids@mbo.net))

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“We print all the news that fits”

Treasurer's Corner  
August 15, 2008

Following are the financial activities since the Treasurer's Corner dated June 6, 2008 and as of August 15, 2008:

Operating Fund Receipts:

1. Interest earned	\$ 36.42
2. Newsletter Advertising	\$ 230.00
3. Red River OS Raffle presales	\$ 50.00
4. Slide Rental	\$ 15.00

Total Operating Fund Receipts: \$ 331.42

Operating Fund Expenses:

1. American Orchid Society Subscription (2 yr.)	\$ 108.00
2. Postage for slides	\$ 9.60
3. Summer News	\$ 818.40
Total Operating Fund Expenses	\$ 936.00

Research Fund:

1. Interest earned:	\$ 36.41
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No Research Fund expenses were incurred.

Trophy Fund Receipts:

1. Interest earned:	\$ 716.24
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Trophy Fund Expenses:

1. Red River Orchid Society	\$ 1,260.00
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SWROGA Funds on hand as of close of business June 6, 2008:

General	\$ 15,705.03
Research	\$ 9,471.92
Trophy	\$ 75,838.82
Total	\$ 101,015.77

**Your SWROGA treasurer,  
Carolyn McCabe**

**Continuing List of Orchid Shows Within SWROGA**

For more recent information check the SWROGA website at [www.swroga.org](http://www.swroga.org)

<b>2008 Dates</b>	<b>Host(s)</b>	<b>Event Location</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>
October 24-26	Northeast Louisiana Orchid Society Show  Judging will be at 8 am on Saturday	Pecanland Mall 4700 Millhaven Rd Monroe, LA	Carlyn L. Cole P. O. Box 638 Jigger, LA 71249 <a href="mailto:joecole@3g.quik.com">joecole@3g.quik.com</a> 318-723-4737
October 31 – November 2	Kansas Orchid Society  Judging will be at 8 am on Saturday	Botanica The Wichita Gardens 701 N. Amidon Street Wichita, KS 67203	Karlene Sanborn 1925 SW Mustang Road El Dorado, KS 67042 <a href="mailto:ksanborn@prairieorchids.com">ksanborn@prairieorchids.com</a> 316-321-0822
November 7-9	Red River Orchid Society  <u>hosting SWROGA</u>	Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel 401 Broad St. Wichita Falls, TX 76301	M.C. Porter, Co-Chair P. O. Box 4316 Wichita Falls, TX 76308 <a href="mailto:Mccporter@aol.com">Mccporter@aol.com</a>
<b>2009 Dates</b>	<b>Host(s)</b>	<b>Event Location</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>
April 17 - 19	Fort Worth Orchid Society Show  <a href="http://www.fworchidsociety.org/">http://www.fworchidsociety.org/</a>	Fort Worth Botanical Garden 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd Fort Worth, TX 76107	Mary Baker (817) 341-1760
April 22-26	Houston Orchid Society Show & AOS Members Meeting & SWROGA & IPA & Orchid Digest Corp.  <a href="http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/show/show09/show09.html">www.houstonorchidsociety.org/show/show09/show09.html</a>	Hilton Houston North 12400 Greenspoint Drive Houston TX 77060	Melba & Jim Butler 1907 Windy Ridge Katy, TX 77450 <a href="mailto:melbajim@sbcglobal.net">melbajim@sbcglobal.net</a> 281-492-1437

**SWROGA News deadlines**

**SWROGA News Ad rates**

<b>Vol./Issue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>		<b>1 Quarter</b>	<b>2 Quarters</b>	<b>3 Quarters</b>	<b>4 Quarters</b>
40, #3	Fall 2008 (before Fall SWROGA Show)	Aug. 15, 2008	Full Page * (9-1/2"x7-1/4")	\$140	\$170	\$200	\$230
40, #4	Winter 2008 (after Fall SWROGA Show)	December 1, 2008	Half Page (9-1/2"x3-1/2") (6-3/4"x4-3/4")	\$80	\$100	\$120	\$140
41, # 1	Spring 2009 (before Spring SWROGA Show)	February 1, 2009	Quarter Page 4-1/2"x4"	\$45	\$65	\$85	\$105
41, # 2	Summer 2009 (after Spring SWROGA Show)	To be decided	Eighth Page 3-1/2"x2-1/2"	\$25	\$45	\$65	\$85

## WRIGHT THINKING FALL 2008

ERRATA: Once in awhile I get carried away! Last issue, I stated Wardian Cases were invented by Thomas Ward. Truth is, Wardian Cases were invented by Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward. Sneaky good part is, it gave me a chance to make my friend Admiral Tom Ward look like 200 years old. Not often a private in the rear rank can do THAT! My apologies to all, especially Tom.

Never intimidated, let me now continue with the romance of the orchid hobby. As one Past President of AOS observed, Ed never lets the facts get in the way of a good story. So it is, for the story of Vanda Sanderiana is about as good as orchid stories get. Let me warn the reader, however, that print pages and editor patience tend to run out about the same time, so if this story gets divided into more than one issue, you'll just have to bear with us. Now here, gathered from many sources with thanks:

### The Story of Vanda Sanderiana

We may fancy the emotions of dashing Carl Roebelin, a plant collector for the Sander nurseries, on first seeing Vanda Sanderiana - the earliest of articulate mortals so favored. Even today, a first view of those enormous flowers, ten or more upon a stalk - lilac above, pale cinnamon below, covered with a network of lines - is a memorable sensation. His amazement and delight were not diluted by anticipation, for no rumor of the marvel had gone forth. Roebelin was traveling 'on spec' for once. In 1879, Frederick Sander learned that the Philippine Government was about to establish a mail service from Manila to Mindanao. Often had he surveyed the great island longingly from his armchair at St. Albans, assured that treasures must await the first botanists to collect there. Although the Spaniards had long held settlements upon the coast, and claimed sovereignty over the whole, there had hitherto been no regular means of communication with a port whence steamers sailed for Europe. A collector would be at the mercy of chance for transmitting his plants, after spending at least a thousand pounds in their acquisition. That was out of the question, but establishment of a line of steamers to Manila transformed the situation. Forthwith Roebelin was dispatched, to find what he could.

He landed at the capital, Mindanao; and the Spaniards - civil, military, even ecclesiastic - received him cordially. Any visitor was no less than a phenomenon to them. Roebelin found plenty of good things round the glorious bay of Illana. He then learned with surprise that the Spaniards did not even profess to have authority beyond a narrow strip here and there upon the coast. The interior was occupied by savages, numerous and warlike, Papuan by race, or crossed with the Philippine Malay. Though they are not systematically hostile to white men. Roebelin saw little chance of exploring the country. Then he heard of a 'red Phalaenopsis,' on the north coast, a legendary wonder, that must have its own chronicle by and by. Seduced especially by this report, Roebelin sailed in a native craft to Surigao, a small but thriving settlement, which ranks second in importance only to the capital. People there were well acquainted with Phalaenopsis, but they knew nothing of a red one: some of them, however, talked in vague ecstasy of an orchid with flowers as big as a dinner plate to be found on the banks of Lake Magindanao, a vast sheet of water in the middle of the island. They did not agree about the shape, or color, or anything else relating to it: but such a plant must be well worth collecting. It was not dangerous to ascend the river, under due precautions, nor to land at certain points on the lake. Such points were inhabited by the Subano tribe, who lived in hourly peril from their neighbors, the Bagabos, against whom they begged Spanish protection.

The expedition, therefore, would be comparatively safe, if a guide and interpreter could be found. And here Roebelin was lucky. A small trader who had debts to collect among the Subanos offered his sampan, with a crew, on reasonable terms, and proposed to go himself. He was Sam

Choon, the son of a Chinese merchant from Singapore, by a native wife, who spoke intelligible English. The crew also had some Chinese blood, and Roebelin gathered that they were partners of Sam Choon, his dragoman, in a very small way. I have no adventures to tell of the journey upward. It lasted a good many days. Roebelin secured few plants, for this part is inhabited by Bagabos and Sam Choon would not land in the forest. At length they reached Lake Magindanao, the inland sea. The day was fine, and they pushed across, but presently small round clouds began to mount over the blue hills. Thicker and thicker they rose. A pleasant wind swelled the surface of the lake, but those clouds far above moved continually faster. Roebelin called attention to them, but Sam Choon ignored both the weather and Roebelin's concern. Suddenly, just in sight of port, a tremendous squall caught them - one of those sudden outbursts which make fresh water sailing so perilous in the Tropics. The wind swooped down like a hurricane from every quarter at once, as it seemed. For a moment the lake lay still, hissing, beaten down by the blow; then it rose in solid bulk like waves of the ocean. In a very few minutes, the squall passed on but it had swamped the sampan. They were so near the land, however, that the Subanos, hastening to the rescue, met them half way in the surf, escorted them to shore, laughing and hallooing, and returned to dive for the cargo. Most of it was recovered safely.

The Subanos do not build houses in the water, like so many of their kin. They prefer the safety of high trees. It is not by any means so effectual, but such, they would say, was the custom of their ancestors. At this village the houses were perched not less than fifty feet in the air, standing on solid platforms. Still, if the inhabitants are thus secured against attack, on the other hand - each family living by itself up aloft - an enemy on the ground would be free to conduct his operations at leisure. So the unmarried men and a proportion of the warriors occupy a stout building raised only enough to keep out reptiles. Here also the chief sits by day, and public business is done. The visitors were taken thither.

When Roebelin had dried his clothes the afternoon was too far advanced for exploration. The crew of the sampan chattered and disputed at the top of their shrill voices as case after case was brought in dripping, and examined. But Sam Choon found time in the midst of his anxieties to warn Roebelin against quitting the cleared area. 'Bagabos come now, they say,' he shouted. But the noise and the fuss and the smell were past bearing. Roebelin took his arms and strolled out till supper was ready. I do not know what he discovered. On returning he found a serious palaver, the savages arguing coolly, the Chinaman raving. Sam Choon rushed up, begging him to act as umpire; and whilst eating his supper Roebelin learned the question in dispute. Sam Choon, as we know, had debts to collect in this village, for cloth and European goods, to be paid in jungle produce - honey, wax gums, and so forth. The Subanos did not deny their liability. Nor did they assert that they could not pay. Their contention was simply that the merchandise had been charged at a figure beyond the market rate. Another Chinese had paid them a visit, and sold the same wares at a lower price. They proposed to return Sam Choon's goods unused, and to pay for anything they could not restore on this reduced scale. Sam Choon could not dispute that his rival's cloth was equally good; it bore the same trademark, and those keen eyes were as well able to judge quality as his own. But the trader everywhere has his own code of morals. These articles for which the Subanos were indebted had been examined, and the price had been discussed at leisure; an honest man cannot break his word. Such diverse views were not to be reconciled. Roebelin took a practical course. He asked whether it could possibly be worthwhile to quarrel with these customers for the sake of a very few dollars? At the lower rate there would be a profit of many hundred per cent. But Sam Choon, threatened with a loss in business was not to be moved by discussions of logic.

So the dispute raged at the Council fire, for the crew also were interested. Suddenly there was a roar. Several of the crew rushed across to Sam Choon and shouted great news. Roebelin understood afterwards. The caitiff who had undersold them was in the village at that moment! Whilst they jabbered in high excitement another roar burst out. One of the men, handling the rival's cloth, found a private mark - the mark of his 'Hoey.' And it was that to which they all belonged. The Hoey may be described as a trade guild; but it is much more. Each of these countless associations is

attached to one of the great secret societies, generally the T'ien T'i Hung, which has thousands of members. By an oath which expressly names father, son, and brother, the initiated swear to kill any of their fellows who shall wrong a member of the Hoey. This unspeakable villain who sold cheap had wronged them all! He must die! They pressed upon the chief in a body, demanding the traitor. All had arms and brandished them. Probably the Subanos would not have surrendered a guest on any terms, but this demonstration provoked them. In howling tumult they dispersed, seized their own weapons, and formed a battle line. The war cry was not yet raised, but spears were leveled by furious hands. The issue depended on any chance movement. Suddenly from a distance came a cow horn's muffled bellow, full of threat. The Subanos paused, turned, and then rushed away shouting. Roebelin caught a word, familiar by this time, 'Bagabos.' He started to follow, but Sam Choon seized his arm. 'They put ranjows,' he said breathlessly. 'You cut foot, you die!' And in the moonlight Roebelin saw boys running hither and thither with an armful of bamboo spikes sharp as knives at each end. which they drove into the earth. Men unacquainted with the plan of this defense can only stand aside when ranjows are laid down.

Roebelin waited with the Chinese, who were tame and quiet enough now. The Subanos had all vanished in the forest, which rose, misty and still, across the clearing. Hours they watched, expecting each moment to hear the yell of savage fight. But no sound reached them. At length a long line of dusky figures emerged, with arms and ornaments sparkling in the moonlight; it was half the warriors returning. They still showed sullenness toward Sam Choon, but the chief took Roebelin by the hand, led him to the foot of a tree upon which stood the largest house, and smilingly showed him the way up. It was not a pleasant climb. The ladder, a notched trunk, dripped with dew; and was old and rotten besides. Roebelin went up gingerly; the chief returned with a torch to light his steps before he had gone half way. But the interior was comfortable enough - far above the mosquito realm anyhow. Roebelin felt that an indefinite number of eyes were watching from the darkness as he made his simple preparations for turning in; but he saw none of them, and heard only a rustling. 'What a day I've had' he thought, and fell asleep.

It was a roar and a rush like the crack of doom which woke him; shrieking and shouting, clang of things that fell, boom of great waves, and thunder such as mortal never heard dominating all. A multitude of naked bodies stumbled over him and fell, a struggling screaming heap. In an instant they were gone. He started up, but pitched headlong. The floor rolled elastic as a springboard. It was black night. Dimly he saw clearer patches where a flying wretch, tossed against the wall of sticks, had broken it down. But the dust veiled them like a curtain. Gasping, on hands and knees, Roebelin sought the doorway. Again and again, even thus, he fell upon his side. And all the while that thundering din resounded. He understood now. It was a great earthquake! At length the doorway was found; holding on cautiously, Roebelin felt for the ladder. It was gone - broken in the rush. Of the time that followed I can not speak. There were no more shocks. Slowly the sky whitened. Roebelin looked over the wreck that had been his quarters - not a creature was there, dead or living. Great gaps showed in the floor and in the roof. Through one of these, against the rosy clouds, he saw a wreath of giant flowers, lilac and cinnamon, clinging to the tree above. It was Vanda Sanderiana! But that plant and the others collected at the same time never reached Europe. Upon returning to Surigao with his treasures, Roebelin found little beyond heaps of rubbish on the site. Earthquakes have a home in Mindanao. But that of 1880 was the most awful on record as yet. Roebelin was forced to sit on the remains of the dock and watch all his hard won collection die. Two years later, he returned and brought home his prizes.

Moral: do your collecting at R. F. Orchids.

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## SWROGA Show Hosts Needed!!!!!!

The Affiliated Societies Committee is asking for your help. Host Societies are needed for the Fall Show and Meeting of 2010 and the Spring and Fall shows for later years.

The process is easy:

Write to President Klehm asking to host the Fall show of your choice AFTER getting approval of your dates from the Chair of your AOS Judging Center. Get your letter in soon so that it can be acted upon at the Fall meeting in Wichita Falls on November 7-9, 2008.

Include the following information in your letter:

- 1) a statement of the approximate time of the show and the city in which it is to be hosted.
- 2) A statement that your Society understands that it must abide by the rules, regulations, and schedule of the Show Committee currently and as may be may be amended.
- 3) A statement acknowledging that the Society has no authority to bind SWROGA in any manner pertaining to the show and the Society assumes full and complete responsibility for all expenses, debts, claims and liabilities in connection with the show.

Don't forget that SWROGA is your organization and it needs you to be successful!!

## Come Join The Fun



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November 7, 8, 9  
Wichita Falls, Tx**

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## WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

### *Meiracyllium wendlandii* Rchb.f.

Subfamily: Epidendroideae

Tribe: Epidendreae

Subtribe: Meiracyllinae

Pronunciation: my-ra-SIL-ee-um wend-LAND-ee-eye

Meaning of name: The genus name comes from the Greek word *meirakyllion* meaning little fellow or stripling; describing the low, creeping growth habit of this small plant. The species name honors Herr Wendland, the orchid gardener for the Herrenhauser-Gardens in Hanover, Germany, who collected this plant in 1857 in Guatemala.

Synonym: possibly *Meiracyllium gemma* Rchb.f.

Habitat: Mexico and Guatemala, but uncommon in both countries.

*Meiracyllium* is a member of the *Cattleya* Alliance, the *Encyclia* Clade and is related to *Euchile*.

It is generally recognized that the genus *Meiracyllium* consists of only two species, *trinasutum* and *wendlandii* since *gemma* is considered to be the same plant as *wendlandii*. *Wendlandii* and *gemma* grow on opposite sides of Mexico. Most taxonomists agree these two plants are sufficiently alike to be within the range of speciation. In 1866 Reichenbach described *Meiracyllium wendlandii* from a plant collected in Guatemala. In 1895 he described *Meiracyllium gemma* from a cultivated plant that was supposed to come from Mexico. There is an interesting article concerning these two species in the *Orchid Digest*, July, August, and September 2003, issue. Rogers McVaugh chose to make *gemma* synonymous with *wendlandii* in his 1985 book *Flora Novo-Galliciana, A Descriptive Account of the Vascular Plants of Western Mexico*.

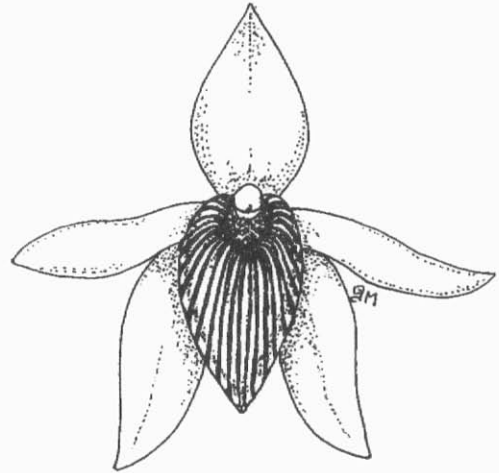
The following description is taken from the ODC article *The "Nothing-Something" Meiracyllium Wendlandii with a Column Similar to that of Sarcoglottis Rosulata* by Natalie M. Warford.

**Plant** miniature, forming creeping mats. **Roots** whitish, round, sinuous. **Pseudobulbs** absent, new growths arising from a rhizome as secondary stems at 1 cm. intervals. **Leaf** solitary, rigid, fleshy, slightly rugose, obtuse-acuminate, conduplicate at base; 4.5-5 x 1.5-2 cm; dark reddish green on top surface, reddish beneath. **Inflorescence** from apex of new stem and the conduplicate base of the leaf, 4.5-5 cm tall; flowers open almost simultaneously. **Floral bracts** acuminate, papery; 1.5 cm x 3 mm; dark brown. **Flowers** small, colorful; 2-2.5 cm across, lasting 2-3 weeks if not pollinated; sepals and petals rich rose or pale pink; lip deep magenta with darker stripes. **Pedicellate ovary** smooth, sulcate; 1.5-2 cm long; greenish pink. **Dorsal sepal** oblanceolate-acuminate, 1.5 cm x 9 mm. **Lateral sepals** similar to dorsal sepal but oblique and somewhat narrower; 1.2 cm x 4 mm. **Petals** more narrow than sepals; narrow at the base, widening at the acuminate apex, 1.3 cm x 2 mm. **Lip** sessile, forming a mentum at the saccate base and then reflexed to a sharply acuminate apex, 1.2 cm x 8 mm when spread. **Column** cylindric, sessile, long pointed at the apex, 4.5 x 1 mm; pale green tinted pinkish at the base.

The spicy cinnamon candy aroma flowers, which are pollinated by Euglossine bees, appear in the March in the hot lowlands around Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. McVaugh gives the flowering period as October-December, with April for the flowering of the Guatemala plants.

There have been only two AOS award given to *Meiracyllium wendlandii*. Both were granted to Dr. John Kramer for his clone 'Kim Kramer' a CBR and a CCM of 82 points. There were 103 flowers, 45 buds on 31 inflorescences. Many GNTOS members have met Dr. John Kramer, an AOS Judge from Tulsa, Oklahoma, since he frequently judges shows in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

If you want to grow this miniature plant, you would do well to mount it on a plaque and to place the plant near the pad system in the greenhouse. This plant needs frequent mistings, lots of air movement, and partial shade.





The Affiliated Societies Committee is raffling the pictured set of White Orchid Silver plate (circa post 1950) at the next SWROGA Show to be held in Wichita Falls, TX. The set includes 56 pieces, authenticity documentation and an anti-tarnish box: 8 knives; 8 forks; 8 salad forks; 24 tea spoons; 1 pierced serving spoon; 2 large serving spoons; 1 meat fork; 2 butter knives; 1 sugar shell; and 1 jelly server.

The drawing will be on Saturday night, November 8th. The tickets are \$5.00 each or six (6) for \$25.00. YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. The set will be shipped to the winner at no additional charge.

One-half of the proceeds will go to the Red River Orchid Society for hosting the show, the other half will go into the SWROGA operating fund. If you would like to purchase tickets, simply send a check to Carolyn McCabe at 16351 Banner Road, Lexington, OK 73051, for the amount of tickets you want. Carolyn will fill out the tickets for you, enter them in the drawing, and mail your numbered ticket stubs to you. The winner will be notified by telephone, if not present at the time of the drawing, and will also be published on the SWROGA website at <http://www.swroga.org>.

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